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## **Introduction**

Continuation from part 1

Insert 50

2 years later.

“Qhawekazi, Bhambatha!!”- I screamed as I saw the mess that was on the floor near them. I don't even know what happened but I know Zano was the one who gave these children so many toys now my lounge was messy.

“Relax and come cook, your husband will be here soon.”- Zano said and I laughed. We were making dinner for Fezile, we were

preparing to meet his new fiancé and Zano wasn't that happy. I wasn't happy too but I loved that she also had to feel what I felt when I had to meet her for the first time. A lot has happened in the past two years and our lives have been great and very dramatic as always. Zanothando gave birth to a handsome baby boy, trust me it took a very long time for me to accept him and accept that I didn't give him his first son but I got over it soon after. My daughter was enough and Fezile has never made me feel that he loves his son more. Azukise and Dimpho have a cute baby girl together, Bathandwa Kamogelo Mjoli and Samantha is married to Daluxolo now. A lot has happened but still, Sphetho hasn't changed his mind about love and he still believes he will never fall inlove. I went back to work as soon as Qhawekazi turned 6 months old and being CEO has been challenging but with the husband I have, he has been supporting me throughout and made my job a whole lot easier. Namaslay has been doing great and I opened another branch in Ulundi. Everything is been well and I couldn't as for a better life.

“I think I heard his car parking.”- I said to Zano and we both hurried and stood by the door.

“I'm nervous”- Zano “Me too.”- I said.

I got the shock of my life when Fezile walked in with a white woman. I couldn't hold in my laughter and he looked at me with a bad eye

“Ladies, meet my fiancée, Maggie Staffords.”- he said with a smile on his face.

“Tell me you're joking.”- Zano “I wish I was.”- Fezile

I did say my life was complicated and interesting. Fezile never ceases to amaze me at all times.

“I love her as much as I love you all.”- He said, he had a very big smile on his face, I still wanted to laugh because I was in disbelief, the look on Zano's face also just kept me amused.

“Okay, lets go to the dinning area.”- I said and they followed me. We took our seats, Maggie stood confused where to sit. She wanted to sit next to her man but she couldn't. I sit next to Fezile on his right hand side, I'm his first right hand helper and Zano sits on the left. I guess Maggie has to sit near Zano. She finally decides to sit next to me, I also wouldn't sit next to Zanothando. She looks like she's going to strangle her. The awkwardness in this room is thick, I drink my wine and look at Fezile.

“Maggie, next to you is my first wife Anelisa Mhlongo and across you is my second wife, Zanothando Mhlongo.”- Fezile said

“Pleased to meet you both.”- Maggie said and I smiled at her. I dished up for Fezile while everyone else also dished up for themselves, I wasn't really hungry so I dished up a little for

myself. We were eating in awkward silence, I truly didn't expect Fezile to bring home a white woman. I'm not against it and all but I'm shocked, I never knew he was into interracial relationships.

"So how did the two of you meet?" - Zanothando asked

"It was my friends birthday party, her husband works closely with Fezile so he was there too. I was having a bad day and he was good company and we became friends." - Maggie said

"Mmmmh." - I said and Fezile glared at me, I don't know why he always expects me to be nice to his wives. They're not my wives!

"You knew he was married?" - Zano asked

"Yes." - Maggie said.

"And you had no problem dating a married man?" - she asked

"Yes, just like you had no problem dating a married man." - Maggie said and I laughed, that was indeed a great comeback.

"Ladies I think that conversation is very unnecessary right now and may we please speak about something else." - Fezile said, since when is he so well spoken? Ay Siyabonga Maggie!

They both remain silent and I just laugh a little and excuse myself, I went to check up on the kids.

“Hey my babies!”- I said and Bhambatha laughed while jumping up and down, he is very energetic and always wants to be babied. Their nanny was with them but he wanted to leave with me, I had to carry them both and go back to the dining area.

“Awu ingane zami, Qhawekazi ka baba”- Fezile said as he took Qhawekazi

she's more of a daddies little girl than she is a mommies little girl.

Baba, who is this?”- Qhawekazi asked as she pointed at Maggie, trust her to ask such questions. She's always very observant and inquisitive.

“It's your mother.”- Fezile said, Bhambatha was already glued to Maggie. This boy loves attention, he is playing with her long hair and she looks happy. She doesn't seem like a bad person at all, I just hope she knows how to speak IsiZulu because I'm not going to be speaking English with her all the time. Zano has been silent all this time, she's angry and jealous but I understand her. It is exactly how I felt when Fezile brought her into my home. We have dessert together and we all relax by the lounge, I honestly want them to leave already so I can sleep peacefully. Even till this day I don't like playing host, I always want my house to myself and mind my own business.

“So how long have you been together?”- I asked Maggie because Fezile never wants to answer that question, I think he never wants you to know how long he has been unfaithful to you for.

“A year and half.”- Maggie, Zanothando will have a really high blood pressure today.

“Where are you from?”- I asked

“Cape Town but I've been staying here for the past 4 years.”- Maggie “Your family is in Cape Town?”- I asked

“No, uhm I don't know my biological family.”- She said and looked down, I didn't want to ask more questions because it seemed to be a sensitive subject.

“I think I should be going home now, I don't like driving when its too late. Thank you very much for the lovely evening.”- Maggie said and stood up. We said our goodbyes and her husband to be walked her out.

“I hate her.”- Zano

Hate is a big word for someone you barely even know, you're just upset that she didn't take your nonsense and she stated facts.”- I said

I've come to understand Zanothando and her personality, she likes attention, gets jealous, talks a lot and always looks for

something to complain about. I don't know how Fezile keeps up with her but he loves her regardless. She packs her things, takes her son and heads to her house. I liked how we all lived far apart, whenever we're in Ulundi I'm always annoyed because I see Zanothando each and everyday and it's a constant reminder when Fezile isn't in my bed that he is with her. It's been two years but it never gets easy at all. We argue, we fight, I never want to see Zano again but we end up having to work together in family functions and this man of ours always brings us together and reprimands us. Honestly it wouldn't have even reached two years if it wasn't for Fezile, he is a good leader and a good husband to the both of us and soon he will be a husband to the three of us. A lot will change since there's an addition, the nights he spends with me will decrease and so does the time we spend together. I bathed Qhawekazi and put her to sleep in her room, it is joint with my bedroom. I don't want her far away from me. Fezile walks in and kisses my forehead

“Weren't you leaving with her?”- I asked

“No.”- Fezile

“Why are you here?”- I asked

“Do I need a reason to spend the night with my wife?”- He asked me while looking very confused, I was actually annoyed that he was here.

“I thought maybe you can spend the night with her or go comfort Zano since she was very angry when she left.”- I said and folded my arms

“I want to be with you and why do I get the feeling that Zano isn't the only one that's angry?”- Fezile

“I don't know what you're talking about.”- I said and poured myself a glass of wine, I keep wine in my room for such days.

“Talk to me MaMpofana, what is the matter?”- Fezile asked as he sat next to me and held my hand. I would be lying if I said he has ever made me feel unloved and unwanted, he always loves me and cares about how I feel and my forever changing moods.

“Do you love her?”- I asked

“Yes I love her, a lot.”- he said, this man is too honest. Couldn't he atleast lie? It's not easy to hear your husband say he loves another woman.

“The love I have for her changes nothing about the love I have for you. I hope you know that and always keep that in mind Anelisa.”- Fezile

“I know Njomane wam.”- I said

“Good, now let's get some sleep. We have to be at work tomorrow.”- Fezile said as he carried me to the bed.



“I love you Thambo lami lekhentakhi.”- he said “I love you too  
Njomane wami.”- I said

2

“Fezile!”- I screamed out his name and dug my nails on his bare back as he made love to me. I could feel him inside of me as he thrust and made my blood boil. I could never ever get enough of this man, before I was married I always wondered if married couples don't get bored or tired of each other and their sex life but it never gets boring. Two years is a long time to keep having sex with one man and some people get bored but trust me, it is amazing. Most marriages fall apart because of boring bedroom life, It's always advisable to keep things exciting and romantic in the bedroom so you never get bored or used to it. Always be willing to try new things and be spontaneous. We both reached climax at the same time and showered together

“Do you have plans for lunch?”- I asked Fezile, It's been a while since we went out for lunch together. It's been a while since we even went out on a date.

“Yes, I have a lunch date with Maggie.”- he said and I nodded.

“Why are you asking?”- he asked

“Just asking, I'm meeting Dimpho and Sam for lunch.”- I said, that was such a big lie. I didn't want to bring up the fact that I wanted to have lunch with him, he spent the night with me so I have to accept that he will be with someone else during lunch. It isn't like the old days where I could be with him all the time.

“Anelisa.”- he called out my name and I looked at him

“You haven't been yourself lately and I'm getting worried.”-  
Fezile

“No need to worry yourself Njomane I'm fine.”- I said and he hugged me. I wanted to scream and cry, maybe just cuddle in bed all day with him but we both had to go to work. He left first and I fed Qhawekazi her breakfast first, I don't know why she woke up so early today. After feeding her I had to take her to her playroom so I would be able to leave while she's distracted, she still cries a lot if she sees me leaving without her. I got to work and my P.A read my schedule for the day, I looked around my office and something felt really strange.

“What is wrong with this office today Anita?”- I asked my PA  
“Nothing why?”- she said

“Never mind.”- I said to her as I realized what was missing, Fezile didn't send me any flowers today. This is the first time since he started sending me flowers every morning that I don't find flowers in my office.

I'm hurt angry and sad but maybe it slipped his mind or the delivery guy is late. If only we still worked in the same building, I would be in his office right now screaming my lungs out. I continued with my work and went to my meetings, during lunch I ordered in and locked myself in the office. How I wish I

was really having lunch with Dimphe and Samantha but they're both not available. There was a knock on my door and it was Mongi, I felt relieved and very excited to see him

"You look bored." - Mongi

"So bored! But at least you're here now." - I said

"Is it true that Fezile has a white girlfriend?" - Mongi

"It's his fiancé, soon to be your sister in law and yes it is true." - I said and he laughed. Apparently she will be welcomed into the family this weekend, like me too she didn't want a white wedding. She actually didn't want to big wedding at all. She will be welcomed into the family and there will just be an official signing and lunch

"At least we won't have to be looking for extravagant outfits." - I said "I think she's boring, who wouldn't want a wedding?" - Mongi

"Maybe she likes keeping things very simple." - I said defending her, Mongi can build up a whole idea of you in his head and convinces himself that you're actually like that and then he will not like you because of what he has thought of you.

"I'll give her a chance, anyways I have to get back to work before Sphetho calls me and is on my neck. He is very stiff these days I don't know what is going on with him.

“I wonder what it is.”- I said as I walked him out. We came across a very angry Zanothando, she was carrying Bhambatha and she looked very furious. Mongi left me alone to deal with her, I took Bhambatha and we walked to my office. She had a bottle of water and sat down trying to calm herself down.

“And then, what is the matter with you?”- I asked “Where is Fezile?”- she asked

“He mentioned something about having a lunch date with Maggie.”- I said and she laughed sarcastically

“Fezile will drive me crazy I'm telling you, so he missed our sons doctors appointment to have lunch with that woman!”- she shouted

“That woman is going to be his wife by next week so you have to start acknowledging that and respecting her. It was wrong of him to do so and you will address it with him and do not blame Maggie.”- I said

“Anelisa

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I don't have a good heart like you do and I won't force myself to accept and like Maggie.”- Zano

“I have no comment.”- I said and played with my cute son while I listened to his mother complaining about Fezile not having

time for her. She might've been exaggerating but it was totally wrong of Fezile to miss the appointment.

“He is sleeping at your house tonight so maybe you must talk to him about it.”- I suggested to Zano.

“He isn't, he is heading home in preparations for the wedding. Apparently his father and uncles summoned him.”- Zano

“I didn't know about that.”- I said

“I didn't know too, MaMthembu mentioned it to me when she called earlier.”- Zano said, did I mention how MaMthembu and Zanothando are suddenly the best of friends? I guess they realized they had the same character traits and that made them stick together like paper and glue. This issue with Fezile was also getting to me and I had to address it before it escalated. When Zano left I also left my office and headed to Fezile's workplace.

“Is Mr Mhlongo in?”- I asked the receptionist

“Uhm yes but he is busy with someone and he said no one should come to his office.”- she said

“A client?”- I asked

“No.”- she said and that was enough for me to know I could go to his office, whoever it is will have to wait. She tried stopping me but the look I gave her sent her back to her desk, I opened

the door in his office and he was with Maggie. Why am I not shocked? They were busy kissing and didn't even notice my presence, I cleared my throat and they were startled.

“Anelisa...”- Maggie said and I glared at her

“It's Mrs Mhlongo to you, leave I want to talk to my husband.”- I said

“You do not have to be rude MaMpofana.”- Fezile said and that annoyed me even more.

“You're still standing here?”- I asked and she took her bag and left.

“Be home when I get there, I won't speak to you in this place. It wrecks of sex.”- I said annoyed and left. He followed me to the parking lot and I drove off to his house, it was much closer.

“I don't understand why you and Zanothando are being so mean to Maggie, you don't even know her and you're not giving her a chance.”- Fezile

“She's not married to us and we don't have to give her any chance. Njomane I understand the both of you are still excited since you're going to be newly weds and you're in the honeymoon phase but all of that shouldn't make our marriages suffer.”- I said

“I'm not, I was with you last night like it was supposed to be and I have been there for the both of you.” - Fezile said feeling frustrated.

“When last did you take me on a date or we go out for lunch?” - I asked and he was thinking pensively.

“Anelisa...I..” - Fezile stuttered

“Don't call out my name. Since when do I not receive flowers everyday in the morning in my office and you don't call constantly to check up on me? Fezile you didn't even bother to tell me and Zano that you're leaving tonight heading to Ulundi. Njomane you even missed Bhambatha's doctors appointment, I see all you've been doing is spending time with Maggie and forgetting that you also have two other families. We really congratulate you and have nothing against seeing you happy but it becomes a problem when it means our homes will be broken. I decided to talk to you and let you be aware of the damage your actions may do and for you to do something about it before things get out of control. Ukhumbule mina angilahlwanga langisuka khona, ngiyazi noZanothando akalahlwanga.” - I said and walked upstairs to his room, I needed a box of my shoes that was in his closet.

“Thambo lami lekhentakhi...” - he said as I looked at his closet in disbelief.



“She stays here?” - I asked and he nodded

“Wow.”

“It is just until her house is ready sthandwa sam.” - Fezile

“Where are my things?” - I asked The guest room...” - Fezile. I took a deep breath in and told myself I wouldn't be angry over all of this. I will be calm, very calm.

“I'm sorry Anelisa.” - he said

“Just know I didn't sign up for this, just keep that in mind.” - I said and left. I didn't even have the energy to go to that guest room and get my shoes. I wanted to be out of this house as soon as I could. I could hear his footsteps, he was following me and I don't know why because he wasn't saying anything. I got into the car and he stood by the window

“MaMpfana, I'll make things right. I'll make it up to you.” - he said

“You need to see Zanothando before you leave, she's very angry where she is.” - I said and drove off without saying goodbye. He needed to step up and be the man he promised to be, things have been great and I wouldn't want to have to see anyone of us leave him because of this escalating. I also wanted to be with him before he leaves but I decided to be selfless, Zanothando doesn't have the understanding that I have and I felt he needed to see his son since he is not well. Being selfless,

its hard work but at the end of the day it is for a good course. Atleast it will keep this household peaceful for a while.

I parked my car and walked to the main door, my princess was playing with her nanny outside and she had the biggest smile when she saw me. She stood up and ran but she passed me, I was really confused until I realized Fezile was right behind me and she threw herself at him. I rolled my eyes and laughed, Fezile Mhlongo never listens. He is just a man that does his own things and I've really just given up on making him listen.

“What are you doing here? You should be with Zanothando.”- I said and he held my waist, Qhawekazi was holding onto both our legs and screaming for attention. Her dad can't even put her down for a minute.

“I came to see my daughter and my wife”- he said and kissed me then carried Qhawekazi. I decided not to question him anymore and let him be. He didn't stay for long but the little time we had with him was worth every minute.

“Senghembe ke mkami(I'm leaving now my wife) Take care of yourself and our Qhawekazi. I love you both.”- he said and kissed us.

“Uhambe kahle Njomane. We love you too.”- I said

“Byeee Baba”- Qhawekazi said as she jumped up and down.

3

We were parked so far from the gate, we had to walk to the main gate to get access and I was so annoyed. First of all I was very late and I didn't attend the little matrimonial ceremony they had yesterday, Zano was there so I didn't see the need for me to be there. I was carrying my little daughter when she saw the other kids she rushed off.

"I thought this was a small wedding with only family members"- I said to Xola

"Apparently the community members wanted to see this white woman marrying into our family, it's the first time it happens and they all want to witness it all. We can't exactly chase them all out."- Xola said and I was very irritated, it was just going to be a long day.

"I don't even know why I came here."- I said

"To support your husband, you know my brother wouldn't enjoy his day if you're not here."- Xola and I nodded, she was right though. I came to support him and as the first wife I had duties to fulfil. I went inside the main house and greeted everyone, I was actually looking for MaChala. It had been a while since I saw her and I was missing her and I wanted to get her opinion on this matter. I found her helping Maggie dress up

and it reminded me of the time she helped me. I smiled and looked at Maggie, she was beautiful and looked very humble. I wondered what attracted my husband to her and I decided to give her a chance to get to know her and be civil with each other. Although I felt a certain way towards her, I felt she was going to be the apple of Fezile's eye or things were still like this because of the wedding bliss.

“You look beautiful Anelisa, thank you for coming.”- Maggie said and I nodded, this would be harder than I thought. I didn't even know what to say to her

“Fezile wasn't pleased with not seeing you here yesterday, he felt a lot was missing without your presence.”- Maggie said

“It's not easy seeing your husband vowing to love and provide for another woman so I decided to stay away. I hope the ceremony went well.”- I said

It was good.”- Maggie said and MaChala kept on winking at me, I wonder what is it that she wanted to say. I just needed to wait till we were alone. I helped them out a bit and went to Fezile's room in the main house. He was there with Fezile, Daluxolo and Andile.

“Sanibona”- I greeted as I stood by the door and looked at my husband, he looked handsome in ibheshu nembadanda. Andile and Dalu excused us, he closed the door and held my waist. His

eyes shined so bright when he looked at me and I saw so much love in his eyes

“Thank you for being here, I know you don't like being here Anelisa but I'm really grateful.”- he said

“I have to be here, for you.”- I said and he kissed me, the way he kissed me reminded me of the first kiss we shared. Although things between us were still complicated back then but there was always a connection. I loved every minute of the passionate kiss we shared and so did he

“They won't notice if I'm just 15 minutes late right?”- Fezile said with a naughty smirk

“No stop, infact lets get out of here before things escalate. Today we have to respect Maggie.”- I said and we laughed, I know his naughty mind is filled with dirty ideas now.

“Ngiyakuthanda Anelisa.”- he said, the way he said it was so sincere. He was assuring me and reminding me that he loved me and I should never doubt that. He may have two other wives now but I should never forget or doubt the way he feels about me. I kissed him on the cheek on more time and walked out, the guests were seated and I welcomed Maggie's family and showed them to their seats. They were all just young ladies and one guy, I figured they might be her siblings or cousins. I sat next to MaChala while Qhawekazi was sitting on top of me.

“Ma, do you know anything about Maggie's family? I mean her parents and elders.”- I asked MaChala

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I was really curious since she never spoke much about family.

“Apparently she has no family, these are her friends and are the closest people she could call her friends.”- MaChala said

“And the lobolo negotiations?”- I asked

“I also have no idea how that took place.”-MaChala said and we then focused on the wedding. It was beautiful and filled with love. I wasn't very keen on watching everything and so I spent most of my time helping with the cooking in the kitchen. Fezile had already saw that I was here to support him so there was no need for me to sit and watch the entire event.

“We should start dishing up, please set up the tables MaMpofana.”- MaMnguni said, I was very tired and I wished I could just go sleep but I had duties to fulfil.

“Anelisa, you're being called in the tent. Apparently you're part of the programme and have to say a few words on behalf of your family.”- Smomo

“You've got to be kidding me!”- I shouted

“I'm serious, now come.”- she said and I followed her feeling very upset and annoyed. I didn't understand why I wasn't

informed about this and why was I even on the freaking programme. I went to the stretch tent and stood by the front, I looked at everyone who had their eyes on me and I didn't even know where to begin.

“I greet you all. It is not easy to stand here today and speak on behalf of my family because today my husband is taking his third wife. It is not easy to watch your husband say he loves another woman and watch him being happy with another woman. A lot of thoughts cross your mind and you feel a whole lot of emotions. I remember at first I had a lot of doubts and fears in my mind, I still do have those but it gets better with time. The day you realize and accept his vision and understand that it is all for the betterment of the family and its name, you become more accepting of the situation or rather I say the arrangement of a polygamous marriage. As the first wife, I want to say I welcome you into my family Maggie. Not only will you be my sister wife but I trust you will also be a good wife to my husband and a mother to our kids. I hope when things get rough you will stand by us and not look back, I hope you will enjoy your marriage and help me assist my husband into achieving what he wants and accomplishing the vision he has for his family. Njomane, thank you for the wonderful event we had today and I trust you will love and care for Maggie the same way you love and care for me and Zanothando. We are here because we love you and trust in you. I pray that God

gives you the strength to lead all three of us and be a good man to your family. To everyone who came to support this union and our family, we thank you for coming. May God bless you all in abundance, thank you.”- I said and walked away.

After having to do that all I wanted was to be alone, I wished to he cooped up in my house cuddling with my daughter and watching movies all night but I had to be here and be the wife I vowed to be. I helped with the dishing up and I was glad how quick it went. People were happy, they were fed and given lots to drink so I didn't see any more reason for me to be here. I looked for Qhawekazi and she was happily playing with other kids and the nanny was watching them

“Please bring her to my house when she doesn't want to play anymore.”- I said to the nanny and headed to my house. I sat peacefully at the lounge and watched television, my peace didn't last long though because Zanothando knocked on my door and walked in looking frustrated

“What is wrong with you?”- I asked her, honestly I wasn't interested I just wanted her to say whatever it is she wanted to say and leave. She said down and looked at me while holding a piece of paper in her hand



“I know it might sound crazy but I really have a bad feeling about Maggie and I can't get over it.”- Zano said

“So?”- I asked

“I organized this number, it's a private investigator and I want him to do a background check on Maggie, just to put my suspicious gut feeling at ease.”- Zano, this woman is crazier than I thought. Why on earth would she do this?

“No one did a background check on you when you married Fezile.”- I said

“Because there's nothing suspicious about me and you are you.”- Zano

“Then leave me out of it. You are just driven by jealousy and the more you let it control you is the bitter you will become Zanothando. Leave her alone and focus on your own marriage, you didn't come to my household to do little schemes and background checks on people just because of your insecurity. If Fezile were to find out about this he wouldn't be pleased at all.”- I said

“Well I don't care what you say.”- Zano

“Then why are you here? And please don't tell me you thought that I was going to take part in your stupid plan...” I looked at her and she blinked twice. “You're crazy Zanothando.”- I said and giggled in disbelief.

“Fezile shouldn't know about this.”- Zano “Are you asking me or telling me?”- I asked “Please.”- Zano

“I don't keep secrets from my husband.”- I said and showed her to the door, she was really irritating me and her insecurities were getting the best of her. I wasn't going to tell Fezile, I'm not crazy and dramatic. Finally Qhawekazi decided to grace me with her presence, we bathed together, I fed her and we went to sleep. It had been a long exhausting day and all we needed was a good night sleep.

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4

Good morning family.”- I said as sat next to Smomo on the family breakfast table, we don't usually eat breakfast together but today MaMnguni went all out so we had to adhere to her orders and have a proper family breakfast.

“Where are the newlyweds?”- asked Xola, we all shrugged not knowing where they were. After a few minutes they walked in holding hands

and giggling none stop. They sat together and I looked at them, I shall not speak.

“Have you forgotten your place on the family table Fezile?”- Bab'Mhlongo asked sternly. Fezile seemed to remember, cleared his throat and came to sit next to me.

“Good morning, I hope you all slept well.”- Maggie said. There was a brief conversation, we were all listening to Andile's stupid dream. It was the first time I've ever heard him talk so much and we could all tell he was still very drunk.

“What dream did you have because you didn't even sleep last night?”- Sphetho asked him with a smirk on his face. They argued and argued endlessly, I was glad they were here otherwise this breakfast would've been so odd and awkward.

“So Maggie are you ready for your honeymoon?”- MaChala asked

“Honeymoon?”- Zanothando and I asked at the same time. Maggie smiled and nodded, the stares we gave Fezile. He continued eating his breakfast like nothing is wrong and deep inside I was fuming, I did say I didn't want to be here anymore. Fezile was acting like a little love- struck teenager and it was very clear that this woman had just become my husbands favourite and his precious dime. I wasn't going to take that and sure as hell wouldn't come second best.

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“I understand you're both in a happy bubble and it was your wedding and all but its too much now Fezile and it is destroying two of your other homes. Fezile you're a man, a man with integrity, dignity and a man who has three wives and you should start acting like it. I am your wife and I am not supposed to tell you this but dude man up! You need to man up and control this arrangement of yours in a well manner and fair order because your actions are what will cause disputes and resentment. I am your first wife and I didn't get any honeymoon, Zanothando is your second wife and she didn't get any honeymoon so what is so special about her that she'll get one when we didn't? There will be no honeymoon for you and her until you get your priorities straight and if you cannot do this and are failing to acknowledge that you have three wives whom you should handle accordingly then forget it and stop this before it gets out of your control. Siyeke isithembu uma sizokwehlula Njomane.”- I said and took my car keys and drove off.

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The doctor kept pressing my stomach and afterwards I was cleaned up, I bathed and changed into hospital clothes.

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"I don't know how to say this and there's no better way to say this but I'm very sorry, you lost your baby and..." - Dr

“Baby?”- Fezile asked, I could see the tears forming in his eyes and he tried very hard to hold them back. I was still in shock, I needed more clarity and apparently I was three weeks pregnant and I just lost my baby due to stress and unhealthy eating.

“But Dr I was on my monthly cycle about a week or two ago.”- I said

“It is normal for things to go that way, we need to examine you and get your womb checked out. We'll be keeping you in for the night and tomorrow morning we will proceed. Please leave when visiting hours are over Mr Mhlongo, my patient needs to rest.”- Dr

“I won't be long.”- Fezile said to the doctor and he excused us. He looked at me without uttering any word, I don't know what was going on in his mind but I really wished I could read it. A part of me knew that he wouldn't express anything he feels, that he would block it all up and only be concerned about me.

“How are you feeling?”- Fezile asked and he held my hand, I was grateful he was showing a little affection.

“I'm still trying to process it all and believe that it, it feels like a dream. How are you feeling?”- I asked

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“Talk to me Fezile.”- I begged

“The doctor said you should rest Anelisa, is there anything you'll need before I go?”- he asked, not even looking at me in the eye. I shook my head in disagreement and he kissed my forehead then he left. Just like that, he was gone. I don't like this side of him at all, I know he blames himself and he keeps wondering how he could've protected me from this pain but what he doesn't want to understand is that this is not his fault. We both didn't know I was pregnant and the miscarriage was beyond our control, he cannot protect me from such things. Even if I explain this to him he will still not understand, he will still feel there's something he could've done to prevent this from happening. I'm in disbelief honestly, yes we weren't using protection or any prevention method because we're obviously married and willing to have more kids but there weren't any

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“No, just do not tell him I'm here okay.”- I said as I took my baby and headed to my room. I made sure not to wake her up, I just wanted to fall asleep with her in my arms tonight.

I needed her comfort. “Anelisa! Anelisa!”

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“My baby! Qhawekazi!!”- I screamed and sat up only to find Fezile looking at me with the most upset face.

“Where is my baby Fezile?”- I asked

“In her bed where she is supposed to be and you're supposed to be at the hospital.”- he said calmly, he was angry but also too calm and that isn't good at all. “Tell me Anelisa, are you insane?”- he asked and I shook my head in disagreement.

“The doctor says you need to rest, I leave you at the hospital feeling very sure that you are safe and well rested and sure that you will be getting the best treatment you need but no! My wife decides otherwise, she decides to escape at the hospital, for what reason? I would really love to know. “- Fezile.

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“You can't talk anymore Anelisa?” - he asked

“I can, I wanted to sleep with my child and get some comfort because my husband has decided to shut me out.” - I said

“Don't make this about us Anelisa, you escaped in the middle of the night! What if something had happened to you?” - he said

“Well nothing happened and I'm here now.” - I said

“I'm talking you back to the hospital right now.” - he said, this man must be crazy. I held onto the continental pillow and screamed, I don't even know where the tears came from but hey, they were right on time. I cried hysterically, surely by then he confirmed that indeed he has a crazy wife.

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Mhlongo and the head of this house, you won't chase me out of my house.)"- he said

"Then I will leave."- I screamed as he closed the door and locked it. Honestly, I've had too much drama for one night. All I wanted was to sleep, it was in the early wee hours of the morning but I still had sleep that would last me till midday.

4

Good morning family.”- I said as sat next to Smomo on the family breakfast table, we don't usually eat breakfast together but today MaMnguni went all out so we had to adhere to her orders and have a proper family breakfast.

“Where are the newly weds?”- asked Xola, we all shrugged not knowing where they were. After a few minutes they walked in holding hands

and giggling none stop. They sat together and I looked at them, I shall not speak.

“Have you forgotten your place on the family table Fezile?”- Bab'Mhlongo asked sternly. Fezile seemed to remember, cleared his throat and came to sit next to me.

“Good morning, I hope you all slept well.”- Maggie said. There was a brief conversation, we were all listening to Andile's stupid dream. It was the first time I've ever heard him talk so much and we could all tell he was still very drunk.

“What dream did you have because you didn't even sleep last night?”- Sphetho asked him with a smirk on his face. They argued and argued endlessly, I was glad they were here otherwise this breakfast would've been so odd and awkward.

“So Maggie are you ready for your honeymoon?”- MaChala asked

“Honeymoon?”- Zanothando and I asked at the same time. Maggie smiled and nodded, the stares we gave Fezile. He continued eating his breakfast like nothing is wrong and deep inside I was fuming, I did say I didn't want to be here anymore. Fezile was acting like a little love- struck teenager and it was very clear that this woman had just become my husbands favourite and his precious dime. I wasn't going to take that and sure as hell wouldn't come second best.

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5

I wanted to wake up and go pee but I couldn't, I opened my eyes, only to find Fezile holding me like his dear life depends on me. I was very annoyed but also happy that he was with me. I missed the mornings where I'd wake up and he'd be in my bed, I'd sit and watch him sleep. Appreciate his manly handsome face, especially the jaws. I'd watch him breath in and out and wonder how I lucky I am to be loved by him. I would love to do all that right now but I need to be in the bathroom before I mess this entire bed up.

I quickly pulled myself off his hold and went to the bathroom, did my business and while I was washing my hands I looked at the mirror. My body was normal, nothing out of the ordinary and my stomach was normal. I looked at it and imagined myself pregnant again, with Qhawekazi I looked horrible! Maybe this time would've been better, maybe have a little glow? I wiped off the tears that were running out of

my eyes, I didn't mean to cry but it really hurt now. I guess it is only now that I was accepting it and really believing that I had a miscarriage.

“Come back to bed Thambo lami lekhentakhi.”- he said as he kissed my shoulder, turned me around and wiped off my tears. He held my hand and walked back to bed with me

“You could've just carried me.”- I said playfully, surprisingly so, my man decides to whip me off my feet and walk back to the bathroom then carry me back to the bed. I couldn't stop laughing at his nonsense, honestly that was unnecessary but it made me laugh, something I haven't done in a while.

“I love you Mrs Mhlongo, more than you'll ever think I do.”- Fezile “Really?”- I asked while I kissed him

“Definitely. I'm sorry for being angry last night, I know you needed me to comfort you but I just didn't know how to.”- Fezile explained

“It is okay, we'll get through this together Fezile. You need to allow us to go through things together.”- I said

“I'll do my best but for now you need to bath and get ready, we need to go to the hospital.”- Fezile

“Please don't take me back there.”- I pleaded

“The doctor needs to see you and I won't leave you there, I can't risk having you escape again.”- Fezile said sarcastically. I rolled my eyes and we cuddled for a while.

“We have to go to Ulundi so you can be cleansed and give Lethokuhle a proper send off.”- Fezile

“Lethokuhle? But I didn't want anyone to know about what happened, not even my family or yours.”- I said frustrated

“I'm sorry Sthandwa sam but it has to happen, Lethokuhle needs to rest peacefully. The baby will need a name so I named her Lethokuhle, she will be our guardian angel and bring good things to us.”- he said with a faint smile. “She would've been beautiful like you and Qhawekazi.”- he said and that made me cry so much. I laid on him and let it all out.

After crying for what seemed like an eternity, I finally kept calm and he suggested we take a shower together.

“We can't, I'm still bleeding.”- I said “I don't care.”- Fezile.

“Okay now you're crazy babe

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no, I'm not comfortable with that. I'll finish up soon.”- I said and went to the bathroom, my hubby followed me to the bathroom like a lost puppy and I let him be. He was still emotional about the situation we found ourselves in and he felt very guilty. He felt the need to always be around me thinking he is protecting me but he doesn't understand that he will never be able to protect me from such things. I took a quick shower and when I was done with everything, I laid in bed while he packed clothes for me.

“Fezile, I want to see Qhawekazi.”- I said

“She's at my house with Zano and Maggie, you'll see her in Ulundi. They're travelling together,”- He said

“And you trust Zano with Maggie alone? Zano will strangle your wife.”- I said while laughing

“I spoke to the both of them, let's just say they'll be peace.”- he said sounding not so confident about it.

“For now.”- I said

“Let's go, I don't want to keep the doctor waiting and we also still need to travel to Ulundi.”- Fezile

We headed to the hospital, honestly I wasn't looking forward to any events of the day and the next coming days. All I wanted to do was go to work and spend time with my daughter but that seemed like it wasn't going to happen anytime soon.

“And so we have the escaper back,”- the doctor joked, it actually wasn't funny but I faked a smile. I did all the necessary procedures and received my medicine. It took a few hours and I was already exhausted, I know I'll be fast asleep all the way to Ulundi.

We left the hospital and went to get some food and snacks for the road then started travelling.

“Have you informed the family?”- I asked

“I did and your family too, surely they're on their way to Ulundi or they've arrived already.”- he said

“When did you do all this?”- I asked “Last night.”- Fezile

I just nodded.

I honestly didn't want anyone to know about the miscarriage, I didn't want anyone feeling sorry for me and looking at me with eyes of pity. I had enough of everyone treating me like a fragile person when I was raped and I certainly don't want to be treated that way ever again.

“Eat up so you can drink your medicine.”- Fezile “I'm not hungry.”- I said

He pulled over on the side of the road.

“What are you doing?”- I asked and he didn't respond. This man was about to feed me, actually he was feeding me. I was forced to eat, even when I was in tears.

“Uyathanda ukutetema MaMpofana, but I love you anyways and you're going to finish this food.”- he said.

I obliged, finished the food and took my meds. The pain of eating yet you have no appetite!

I decided to sleep before I was forced into doing other things I didn't want to do.

“Wake up Maka Qhawekazi, we've arrived.”

I woke up and was so irritated when I saw the family standing on the driveway waiting for us, my mother and all my sisters were here and so was Samantha. Why did they all have to

come? I have no idea! But I know I'm not in the mood for any of them right now.

“Be nice.”- he said, surely he saw my facial expression.

He held my hand as we walked towards them, my mother was crying and so was MaMthembu, I couldn't take it. I just couldn't.

I said a lousy greeting, took my Qhawekazi from Maggie and went to my house. I heard them calling my name but Fezile told them to let me be.

I didn't need sorrow, comforting and whatever it is they wanted to offer.

I just needed my baby.

6

There was a knock on the door and it was Samantha, she had that face of "I'm about to tell you your shit."

"Not now Samantha."- I said

"I won't nurse your moods you know I won't. Get up and bath, you look like a mess. I'm taking Qhawekazi, she needs to breath you've been suffocating her in here since last night. The pity party is over now."- Samantha

"Yes Ma'am,"- I said sarcastically and did as instructed. When I left my room I found Fezile sleeping on the couch, why did he sleep here? I know I locked the room but he has two other houses in this yard. I woke him up

"You're awake Thambo lami lekhentakhi."- he said

"Yes I am and why are you sleeping on the couch?"- I asked

"I wanted to be around you, you locked our room so I figured I should just sleep on the couch."-Fezile

"Why didn't you go to Zano or Maggie? That couch is painful."- I said "As I said, I wanted to be around you."- Fezile.

I kissed him and he went to shower, after he was decent we went to the main house together. I remembered how rude I was yesterday and I wanted to apologize but a part of me also felt like I had no reason to apologize, I just didn't want any pity.

“Good morning.”- I greeted and took my seat in the family table. They greeted back and we all ate in silence. After breakfast I was summoned by Bab'Mhlongo to his office, I was freaked out. As much as I've been around him many times before but he is still the scary man I met 3 years ago. Its been a while hey, I honestly didn't think we would even last that long when Fezile and I started having our no strings attached thing.

“Bab'Mhlongo.”- I said as I took a seat.

“I know you and I have never had the best father in law and daughter in law relationship, I didn't like you at all and I thought you were taking advantage of my son but I was wrong. I figured that out years ago but I've never mentioned it to anyone. The pain you've been through because of my family, I can never apologize enough. After everything you still stood strong and loved my son and granddaughter. I don't know how you're feeling now and I won't even ask because I doubt it will make you feel any better but I need you to know that as the Mhlongo family, we have your back. You are one of us and we will support you in everything

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I beg you not to shut us out or your family apart. Your mothers mean well and they are all concerned, let them do their duty of mothering you. Let them love you.”- he said and I was in tears already, I nodded and we spoke for a while. A very heartfelt



conversation and I really appreciated it especially since it was coming from him.

I went to join the rest of the family as they were preparing for the send off, I saw Fezile was in the kraal with his brothers and Bab'Mhlongo joined them. My mother held my hand and I smiled, that was all the comforting I needed. I wasn't going to talk about it, it wasn't going to help but I also wasn't going to shut them out anymore.

“Why are we cooking so much food?”- I asked

“The elders of the family are coming too.”- MaChala

“You can cook Pap?”- I asked Maggie as I saw her struggling a bit, I'm not the best but it isn't done that way. I laughed at her and decided to help out, Fezile should really stop picking the ones that can't cook. Maybe he has a thing for girls that can't cook cause Zanothando is also just as bad as I am.

“Thank you; I had no idea I was doing it wrong. Thought I followed all the instructions Google gave me.”- she said and laughed.

“Maybe we should go to cooking classes, all three of us and maybe we can learn a thing or two because I'm not much of a cook either.”- I suggested and walked away. I was being nice but I wasn't going to be all buddy buddy with her.

Everyone was ready for the ceremony, it wasn't much to do. I was cleansed and they spoke to their ancestors to welcome Lethokuhle's spirit. It was sad honestly but not enough to make me cry, I had no more tears to cry. I've cried too many times and this time I refused to be an emotional wreck, I just wanted to move on.

After all was said and done we served lunch and I wanted to go rest, of cause my precious husband followed me to check if I'm okay.

"I love being babied but its time you babied the others too." - I giggled as I kissed him

"You're my number 1 baby, I have to always smother you with some love. Get some rest, I'll wake you up after 4 hours." - he said

"What's happening after 4 hours?" - I asked

"You're eating." - Fezile

"Yes Daddy." - I said and rolled my eyes.

I love him and the love we share is enough to make me feel a whole lot better.

## Zanothando's POV

It was a Saturday morning when I decided to have the day all to myself and my friends. I needed a break from work and all the problems of life, I needed a stress free day.

As always, not everything will go as planned.

My day decided to take a stupid turn and have the most exhausting morning. While I was driving to go meet up with my friends, whom we were meeting up with in Port Shepstone my car decided to have a flat tire on a very empty road. I was stranded, I didn't know anyone, no cell phone network and I knew nothing about fixing a flat tire.

“Argh please don't do this to me, I need this day of relaxation!!”- I screamed at my phone. I was moving around like a crazy person and the most frustrating part is that no cars were passing by, how was that even possible? Gosh I swear the universe is against me, I know I'm not the kindest person on earth but this is very cruel.

“Maybe if I sit on top of my car I'll get cell reception.”- I said to myself and literally attempted to climb on. It was a struggle but I managed.

“Yes!!!”- I screamed and dialled my brothers number. Straight to voicemail!!

“What are you doing?”

The way I screamed, I literally got so frightened by this big man standing next to my car. He was looking at me like I'm insane, his eyes gave off his thoughts very easily. They were cute eyes actually but now, how was I going to explain why I'm seated on top of my car?

“Flat tire.”- I said while pointing at my phone.

“A flat tire on your phone?”- he said sarcastically.

“Really how stupid can you be? I made a damn mistake.”- I say feeling annoyed.

“Also disrespectful.”- he said

“Are you going to help me or what?”- I asked

“I don't have to help you.”- he said, then why did he stop by?  
Wasting my time

“Leave then.”- I said and shooed him off.

The guy really left, oh my God! I can't believe him, and then they say men are gentlemen. Never, not when men like him still exist. I should've gave him the middle finger honestly. The cars that were passing by didn't bother to stop and help me at all. I got off and took my spare wheel, maybe I can try doing something. I don't even know how to use all these tools in my boot.

A car stopped by and it was him again, with a friend this time. I hadn't even noticed his car and that he was dressed in a pretty expensive suit, maybe he borrowed it.

“Are you here to tell me I'm disrespectful again cause if you are you might as well just leave.”- I said

“Lady, I don't have time for your nonsense. My friend here felt bad for you so he will help you.”- he said

“Atleast he is a gentleman

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thank you dear friend.”- I said and they looked at each other and shook their heads. My phone rang while they were fixing the tire, really? Now I have network.

“Babe, hey! I know I'm running late but I had a little incident, got a flat tire.”- I explained to my friend Abongwe.

“Are you okay now? Did you fix the tire?”- she asked

“Me, fix a tire? No thank you my hands are too cute for that nonsense. Anyways some guys are helping me out here so it should be fine if they even know what they're doing.”- I said

“I forget you're a spoilt brat and rude, be kind to those men now and be safe. Call me when everything is sorted out.”-

Abongwe

I ended the call and it seemed like they were done to.

“It seems we do know what we're doing Miss??”- the friend asked

“Miss Zanothando Khwalo.”- I said and didn't shake his hand; it was dirty so I couldn't.

“I told you she's disrespectful.”- the grumpy man said “The hand is dirty what do you expect.”- I said

“I'm Azukise Mjoli and that's my friend Fezile Mhlongo. It was good to meet you and travel safely.”- Azukise said.

I took my wallet and gave them a few R100 notes and they laughed at me.

“What? Do you need more?”- I asked

“We don't want your money Miss Khwalo, you've disrespected us enough. A little advice for you, keep your shitty brat behaviour at home.”- Fezile said Ouch! That was mean.

“Are you the only child, born in a rich family?”- Azukise asked

“I'm the last, the only daughter too and we're comfortable.”- I said

“That's what rich kids say, comfortable. It explains your personality.”- Azukise said and they walked away.

Oh well, atleast my tire is fixed and I can go.

I drove off and finally made it to my destination. My friends were already waiting for me and we made our way to the BnB they booked, it wasn't that extravagant but it was cute and cosy.

"I need champagne, I've had the worst morning."- I said and poured myself a full glass of champagne and gulped it in one go

"Relax."- Abongwe said

"You don't understand, he called me a shitty spoiled brat!"- I said

"What's new there? You always get that, it's not like its not true and you know that."- Lindelwa, my other friend said.

I knew I was one but somehow I took offence when it came from him, it sounded more real and it hurt more. Argh! Why am I letting his opinion of me matter? I don't even know the guy.

"Am I that bad?"- I asked

"You're really bad but we're used to you. Strangers are not, it could help if you toned it down a bit."- Abongwe

Wow.

So much for having a relaxed day, now I have to feel guilty of my normal personality. We spent the day gossiping, eating and had a very lovely spa treatment

It was everything I needed after my morning.

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Zanothando!! Come for breakfast!”- my brother screamed in my ear knowing very well that I was hungover. I shouldn't have come home, I should've just went to my apartment. I went downstairs and breakfast looked lovely but the eggs had a very bad smell

“Argh they make me want to puke!”- I said

“I'm sorry Miss Zanothando is there anything wrong with the eggs, I could redo them?”- Gloria said

“Oh no don't mind her, the eggs are just fine ma thank you.”- my brother, Zamani said and I rolled my eyes at him.

“It's just the two of us again?”- I asked

“Yes MaKhwalo.”- Zamani

My father was at work, there's never a day that he decides to rest and that is why we were so blessed. Mr Khwalo is a famous business man, into international trade and also he is somehow a part owner of the harbour. My mother died when I was 2 years old, I don't really remember her much but I do have pictures of her. It's just been the three of us since forever, yes my father has been in many relationships that we knew of but never ever saw those women. He never remarried, all he focused on was working and giving us a better life.



He has succeeded at that, as much as he is also never around that much. When he is, he really makes up for the lost time. I'm a daddy's little girl and I'm proud but since yesterday I've been rethinking about my behaviour.

"Am I that bad?"- I asked Zamani

"What are you on about?"- he asked and I told him everything that happened yesterday.

"Oh that, I've told you a thousand times before that you're not very kind. I mean you're very mean, you hurt people and look down on others."- Zamani

"No I don't!"- I defend myself

"Why does Gloria call you Miss when she's old enough to be your mother?"- he asked

"She's a cook, an employee in this house not my mother."- I said

"That's it, you lack respect. I didn't say she's your mother but I said she is old enough to be your mother and just because she works here doesn't mean you should disrespect her and call her by name."- Zamani

"Whatever."- I said

I was over this conversation.

I took my phone and called my father's PA, apparently my father was not even in the country so there was no need for me to go to work. I worked in the PR Department as a manager, I could easily dodge work when my father is not around but when he is I always have to be at work.

"Going to work?"- Zamani asked

"No."- I said

He packed up his briefcase and left for work, he had to go. His job was more demanding than mine and my father calls him 24/7. He runs the company when dad is not around, he is pretty much more of a CEO than dad is nowadays.

I freshened up and chilled around the house with nothing to do, I saw Gloria dressing up and taking her car keys.

"Gloria where are you going? Uhm I mean Mam'Gloria"- I said, it sounded so foreign.

"I'm going grocery shopping."- Gloria "Oh don't worry I'll do it."- I offered

"Really? You

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do groceries?"- she asked

"Yes."- I took the list from her, this should be easy.

“Okay Miss Zanothando, I'll do the laundry while you do groceries.”- she said.

Great!

I took my car keys and left, then I remembered I don't even know where to get these. I called her

“Trouble already?”- she asked

“Uhm, where do I buy these?”- I asked

“The closest Woolworths, Checkers and Pick ‘n Pay you can find.”- she said

Oh, I can just go to Pavilion.

I started at Checkers, uhm, okay where do I get these now? I walked around looking for the cleaning stuff around here, where is this nonsense. I think this is going to annoy me! I looked around I needed bleach, but there was so many bleaches here and I didn't even understand what was different. I took whichever and continued doing this hard work, it was really harder than I thought but I wasn't going to give up.

After getting the things I needed here, I went to the till. I literally stood there for the longest time, I wonder why aren't they taking these things out?

“Sorry sisi, why are you standing there and not taking the groceries out the trolley?”- the cashier asked

“What do you mean? Isn't that your job?”- I asked

“Ay ngiyalingwa!”- she shouted She's embarrassing me.

“Don't worry about her, she's not used to these things.”- a manly voice spoke behind me. It had to be him!

“Unload the grocery Zanothando.”- he said and I did as I was told. He paid for them and I looked at him

“I don't need you to pay my bills.”- I said “I know.”- Fezile

I'm literally never doing any groceries ever again, really I'm not. I pushed my trolley to the parking lot while he followed behind me

“Why are you following me!”- I shouted

“Excuse you, I'm parked here too.”- he said

“Whatever.”- I said

“You don't have to be this rude you know, it doesn't suit you. A beautiful woman should have manners that match her beauty.”- Fezile

“Is that your way of flirting with me? You're not on my league Mr.”- I said

“Get your facts straight, You're not on my league not the other way around.”- he said and walked away.

Am I not wounded?

What the hell? Who does he think he is?

I got home, I was very angry and Gloria also wasn't pleased with me. "I didn't know it was that hard."- I said

"You've wasted my time."- she said and left

Seems like all I can do is just be a spoilt brat, it works out just fine for me.

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A week later, I was on my way to meet up with Fezile. Don't even ask me how it got to that... okay I'll tell you anyways.

I still have no idea where the man got my number but he has been calling every day for the past week and we've been talking, a lot. I know its just been a week but I've come to enjoy his company a lot, more than I thought I actually would. He sent me an address where we'd meet, I think it is his house. I'm a bit anxious about meeting him but I'm also excited. I drove in his driveway and he was waiting for me, he was in a weird outfit I think they call this overall "Ngyasebenza" I wonder what is wrong with this man.

"And then?"- I asked when I saw tools and tires

"I'm about to teach you how to change a tire."-he said with so much confidence. I couldn't help but laugh at him, he was serious? He really was.

"I just did my nails, I can't be doing such things."- I said

"Your nails will never save you if you had a flat tire in a deserted area."- Fezile; the man was serious and as funny as it was, it was for a good course.

"Change into this overall so you don't mess up your clothes. You can use the first room you find."- Fezile said and I walked into his house, it was beautiful and cosy. It had a very homely

and womanly feel to it and I figured maybe his mother helped him with the interior. I found a room and quickly changed then headed back out to the driveway.

“How do I look?”- I asked and did a 360 turn

“Oily,”- he said and laughed. This guy is just something else...

He started telling me the instructions and I listened really carefully but all he said just seemed to flush away from my brain.

“Start again please.”- I asked and he repeated the instructions

“I think I got it.”- I said

“Good then, get to work.”- he said and sat down.

“You're not going to help?”- I asked

“I won't always be there when you have a flat tire.”- he said

He was right but a little help would do. I struggled a lot in the beginning but he kept on reminding me on what to do next which helped a lot cause I fixed a tire. I was so happy, I kept jumping up and down like a little baby. It's not something to be that excited about but I felt like I've accomplished a lot. I was really happy

“See, it wasn't hard at all.”- he said

“Thank you very much for the lesson.”- I said

We packed things up while having a random conversation about sport, my father made me a sports person so I was well informed as he was.

“There's a bathroom in every room, you may take a shower and freshen up if you want to. I'll go take a shower too.”- he said and I went to the room I used to change. There was a beautiful bathroom there with clean fresh towels, bathing oils and salts, lotions you name it. I did say his house has a womanly touch, I doubt a man would buy these and set them up accordingly.

After freshening up I put my perfume on, always in the bag and went to the lounge. I made myself comfortable while I waited for him, what was

taking him so long? He came back looking clean, fresh and very handsome.

“Sorry for keeping you waiting I was on an important call.”- he said

“I thought you're the type that spends hours in the mirror.”- I said and he laughed, we chilled and watched tv for a while and then he said we should go. I didn't know where we're going and I didn't ask any questions

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I trusted him and I knew he wouldn't harm me. Even if he does, my father would make sure he spends the rest of his life in jail.



He took me to a fancy restaurant, I've never been there and I loved it already.

"I hope you like sea food."- Fezile "I'm a lover for sea food."- I said

I realized we had a lot in common, as much as we were two different people with two different personalities we had the same interests.

"So tell me, who is Miss Khwalo?"- Fezile

"I think you know everything now, besides the fact that I cannot cook. Basically I can't do any domestic work."- I said and he laughed at me

"You better get those butter hands working because you will be washing my laundry soon."- Fezile, he must be insane.

"While we still have laundromats and washing machines, I will never."- I said

"We'll see about that."- he said and laughed. I choked on my drink when I noticed a ring on his finger.

"Are you okay?"- he asked, he didn't see me looking at his ring.

"Yes I'm fine, I was just imagining myself doing laundry. I dismally failed when I had to do groceries so I doubt I'll be any good in washing

clothes.”- I lied. How come I didn't see this ring all this time? The man is married? Or maybe his wife died and he still doesn't want to take off his ring, oh gosh, I feel so sorry for him.

“You seem distracted.”- Fezile

“Sorry, what were you saying?”- I asked

“Are you a jealous person?”-he asked

“Yes, yes I am.”- I said

I'm a very jealous person especially when I'm not given the attention I feel I deserve I get very jealous.

“I think everything that I am and my character is because of how I grew up. I am my fathers only princess and his last born, he made me the centre of attention and spoilt me rotten. I think he was doing that so I don't feel the gap of not having a mother, atleast my older brother knew our mother and had time with her. He has memories of her and I don't.”- I said

“How old were you when she passed on?”- Fezile asked “I was 2, well almost two.”- I said

“My mother passed away too some years ago, I miss her everyday but its life. We have to accept that people come and go.”- Fezile

“I'm sorry.”- I said

Another thing we had in common, we both knew the pain of not having a mother. It's sad that he misses her everyday, I don't miss her honestly because I have nothing I remember her for and that makes me feel guilty at times but I can't change the way I feel.

“But I have other mothers so I never feel any gap. MaChala instantly become my mom when she passed away and took really good care of me, she still does.

“Your mothers sisters?”- I asked

“Sister wives, my father has many wives.”- he said “Oh.”- I said

We finished up and went back to his house, while he was busy taking an important business call I took a walk around the house. He has a really beautiful house and it shows that he is a wealthy man. I've never had a thing for wealthy men because none of them actually had more money than I did but he, he was right when he said I'm not in his league.

There was something that caught my attention, it was wedding pictures. There was this big photo of a beautiful lady, she had big bright eyes wearing a traditional attire and she looked like she was looking at something while he had tears in her eyes. Her picture was very captivating, maybe she's the deceased wife. I wonder what happened to her.

“She's beautiful isn't she?”- he said standing behind me, he had a big smile on his face and you could see his eyes were filled with so much love.

“She is, what happened to her?”- I asked “What do you mean?”- he asked

“I saw the ring on your finger and this shows that she was your wife. I figured she passed on since she's not here and you're busy pursuing me.”- I said

The way he laughed at me, I felt so stupid. Why was he laughing? He held my hand and we walked to the lounge.

“What I'm about to tell you shouldn't freak you out or anything but it will help you decide. I'm an honest man and I'm going to tell you my intentions about you from the get go and I won't hide anything from you. I love you, a lot and I know you'll say its to early for me to love you but I know what I feel and I'm a man who knows what he wants.”- he said

I was getting nervous, I had no idea what he was going to say to me.

“The woman on that photo is my wife, Anelisa Mhlongo and she is not dead. She is very much alive and we're happily married.”- he said

“So you want me to be your side chick? You've got to be crazy.”-I said feeling totally disgusted. Who is he? Does he know who I am? This man is disrespecting me.

“I don't want to make you my side chick, I need your love. As I told you, my father has many wives and I too have to follow in his footsteps and it is something I gladly want to do. I love you and I plan to make you my wife in due time.”- Fezile, this man is crazy.

“You must be crazy Fezile, this is crazy. I'm leaving.”- I said and took my bag

“I'm telling you this so you can decide, I'm giving you a week and if you decide you want to leave me and not be with me, I'll accept your decision. I love you and I'd really love to make your surname Mhlongo.”- Fezile

“Goodbye Fezile, don't call me again.”- I said and left.

I was puzzled, so much that I hit my head on a wall which I didn't even see.

“You're not in a good state to drive, let me drive you home.”- Fezile offered.

“How are you going to get back?”- I asked “Uber.”- Fezile

Argh why didn't I think of that? He took my car keys and drove me home. He requested an uber and we waited for it.

“That's my ride, take care MaKhwalo wami.”- he said and kissed my forehead then left. I had tears in my eyes and I honestly don't know what is it that I was crying for. My heart felt so much pain, it was like I was having my first break up. Why? I don't know but I know that it is because of the heavy feelings I had already developed for him.

I went inside the house, thankful that no one was around I went to my room and buried myself in bed. I couldn't even fall asleep

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his words kept on echoing in my head. Gloria came in to put my laundry and I followed her back to the laundry room.

“Ma'Gloria, do you know any successful polygamous marriage?”- I asked

“I do but they are never easy.”- Gloria “Why do you say so?”- I asked

“Come, follow me to the garden.”- Gloria; I followed her to the garden and she poured something to drink for us.

“A polygamous marriage was usually done back in our days and by our grandfather's, I remember my uncle had 7 wives. There was always drama and fights but if a man can provide and has money to take care of each household than he is more than welcome to take many wives. It was a way to show your wealth and to enlarge your family so your family name never ever parishes.”- Gloria

“What type of drama?”- I asked

“Lets make an example of you, you're used to being alone and being given undivided attention and your personality is of a snob, you have a lot of jealousy and are very disrespectful. Then lets take your friend, Abongwe, very humble, funny, loving and kind but also she doesn't take nonsense. You are both married to one man, your personalities will clash and you will always be fighting, that creates a lot of drama. Sometimes you will feel your husband loves Abongwe more, or Abongwe will feel he loves you more when all of that isn't true but because you are both married to one man, you will find excuses that will make you fight. It is a natural thing.”- Gloria

“We live in the same house?”- I asked

“No, a man should never put his wives under one roof. Each woman must have her own house for the sake of peace and it is recommended that the houses must be far apart. You would be hurt at night when you see him across the yard going to sleep with the other wife, it is much better when you're far away and can't see them.”- Gloria said

“But even if you stay far apart, you still know that he is with the other wife when he is not with you.”- I said

“But you don't see anything and a real man will never let a day pass without seeing each and every one of you so that you don't feel the gap or you don't feel neglected. You might find that he is in his own house, not sleeping with either of you.”- Gloria

“It all just sounds complicated.”- I said

“True love is complicated little one, it takes compromise and knowing what you want and what you feel.”- Gloria said

“I'm not talking about me, I'm asking for a friend.”- I quickly defended myself

“Those teary eyes say a lot my child, it does happen that you fall inlove with a married man and you are lucky when he wants to make you his wife. A man who tells you his clear intentions about you is a true and honest man.”- Gloria

“He said he loves his wife.”- I said



“And he loves her, he wasn't lying. Just like he loves you wholeheartedly.”- Gloria

“I'm going to sleep ma, this is too much for me.”- I said “Think carefully.”- Gloria said and we went separate ways.

I can't believe it's been four days and he hasn't called me, not even a single text. It is like he has just forgotten I exist, I'd be lying if I said I wasn't hurt because I really was and why was I hurt? I also do not understand because I should be happy. I told him to never ever call me again and he hasn't, which should be good because it means he is forgetting about his nonsense and we can all just move on. But a huge part of me misses him a lot, I miss him lame jokes and the endless calls. You would've never known that he has a wife, the time he had for me, when does he spend time with his wife? And the late night calls, where is she when he does that? And the time I was at their home, where was she? I did say the house had a womanly touch to it, everything screamed a feminine touch and I wonder what she would say if she found out I was there.

Perhaps she knows that her husband will take another wife, why on earth would any woman agree to that? I know we'd fight hell and back

and maybe I would even file for divorce. Sharing a man? I highly doubt I could do that. But here I am, missing a married man. Indeed life is just unpredictable.

It wasn't supposed to be this way, I imagined meeting my soulmate and we would live happily ever after. Just the two of us and no one else but I guess life doesn't go the way we want.

I went to work, finally and it was hectic. I think I should never skip days because I always come back to a lot of work, the receptionist came in and told me I had a delivery. I was so excited thinking it was from Fezile but it was a bunch of flowers from my loving brother, I don't even know why I thought it was Fezile when he has never even bought me flowers. I don't even think he is the romantic type, our first proper date was a tire puncture practice and that doesn't really give me hope that he is a romantic. I took the flowers and went to my office, I was sulking and no longer in the mood for working and so I packed my things and went home.

“You look exhausted, what seems to be the matter?” - Gloria asked.

“I want to stay away from him but I miss him, I want to hear his voice.” - I said feeling frustrated.

“If you miss him, call him.” - Gloria

“What? Ma, never. I won't do that, he has to call me.” - I said

“Pride will make you lose a wonderful and honest man who was going to make an honest woman out of you and make you happy. Don't let pride stand in your way of happiness. You love him and he loves you, that is all that matters for now.” - Gloria said, everything this woman says always makes sense but my

stubborn mind says no. I won't do that because I am Zanothando Khwalo and I have levels.

Funny how those stupid levels make me feel so lonely.

I called Abongwe so we could chill but she ditched me for her husband, most of my friends are either married

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engaged or in serious relationships and I am the friend who is always single because I believe no one is good enough for me. These days I've come to realize that my personality hasn't been helping me at all but it has just been bringing me down and delaying me. If I wasn't so bratty and uptight, I wouldn't have only been with men after my wealth and the one time I find a man who doesn't need a penny of my money, he is married.

Life really sucks when it wants to.

I know what I was doing was very wrong but I couldn't help myself, social media is the best platform to find someone and stalk then. I searched on Facebook and she didn't have an account. I then searched on Instagram and my heart broke into pieces when I saw what a beautiful woman she was and how happy she looked. There were many pictures of her and Fezile and they looked beautiful together and indeed they were happily married. Why does Fezile want to ruin such a beautiful thing? I can't help but notice how handsome he is, he is taller

than her and looks at her like she is the only woman in the world. Indeed there is a lot that confused me and I needed clarity.

I found myself typing and deleting text messages on WhatsApp, I was unsure of what to do but I know I wanted to speak to him.

“Let me just go to his house.”- I said

Oh noo, I can't come unannounced, what if the wife is home? I can't risk that, I don't want to be beaten up like some side chick. I then decided to call him

“MaKhwalo, ukahle?”- he asked, he didn't even say hello. His voice sounded so deep and charming, I swear I had tears in my eyes. When did I get so emotional? I swear this man has turned me into a weakling.

“Hi..”- I said, I wanted to say more but I couldn't even say a complete sentence. Maybe I was mute for 2 minutes, just listening to him breath.

“I miss you.”- I said, there I said it. It wasn't my intention but I just put it out there, I really missed him.

“I'll be by your street corner in 10mins.”- he said “Why will you park there?”- I asked

“I can't be disrespectful to your fathers territory by picking you up from his gate, that's not what a man should do in another

mans property.”- he said and I rolled my eyes. This hectic Zulu man with his respect theories, I can't deal. Now I have to walk from my home to the corner? That's just absurd.

I packed a small bag and told Gloria I was leaving, in exactly 10 mins he called telling me he isn't a patient man.

“Ma, I'm leaving now.”- I told Gloria

“Wise decision.”- she said and I laughed, she doesn't even know Fezile but she is in full support of his nonsense. I walked, trust me it wasn't any fun. I don't even remember the last time I walked, I'm always driving or driven somewhere.

“You took your own time.”- Fezile commented as I got in the car “You parked 6houses away Fezile, that is too much.”- I said

“Kuningi ekumele ngikwenzile la,”- he said and shook his head, I don't know what he meant but hopefully it wasn't meant for me. I got

butterflies in my stomach when he held my hand as he drove to his house.

At that moment, nothing else and no one else mattered.

I remembered when we were parked in the driveway and he held my bag that this was his home with his wife. What if she was inside? I doubt he would be that crazy enough to bring me to his home while the wife is there.

“I'm not coming in your wife's home, I'm not doing that. Its her house and I should respect it.”- I said

“And you say that now? You're something else Thando but don't worry yourself, my wife has her own house. I stay here alone.”- he said and I was more confused.

“You stay in separate houses?”- I asked

“Yes but now she's at my home in Ulundi.”-he said

“Why?”- I asked

“Come inside and I'll explain, I don't want to have this conversation outside.”- he said and I followed him inside.

“Sthandwa sam, you came on time. I'm very hungry please cook for me, Xola bought me groceries but I haven't put them to use.”-Fezile

“Xola?”- I asked; it could be his girlfriend or fiancé. “Sister.”- Fezile

“Anyways, I can't cook. I've never cooked before.”- I said and he looked at me feeling defeated. He can't expect me to be like his wife and cook for him, I'm not wife material.

“Why am I always attracted to the ones that can't cook? My wife is not much of a cook too, she tries but it tastes horrible.”- he said and I laughed at him, his eyes sparkle a lot when he talks about her. There's no doubt that he's in love with her.

He ordered pizza and set the table when it was delivered

“I usually just eat out of the box but hey I love the set up option too.”- I said and he laughed

“I have my own weird disorders and this is one of them.”- he said and we sat down and ate.

“You're from Ulundi?”- I asked, I wanted to go back to the conversation we were having earlier.

“Yes I am and Anelisa is with my family there, she should be back in a months time or two. I go home every weekend so I can be with her, she's not used to my family yet.”- he said

“How come? Surely you've been married for a while now and she should be used to them.”- I said

“It's complicated. We've actually been married for a month.”- he said and I literally choked. A month! Just a month? I'm shocked.



“And you're already cheating.”- I said

“Expanding my family, a polygamous man doesn't cheat but he expands the family. I figured I should do it as quickly as possible so it can give you both time to get along and help me build my home.”- he said: woah, he was getting ahead of himself a bit.

“I won't be your wife.”- I said and he looked annoyed or was it anger?

“Then why are you here Zanothando?”- he asked and that question puzzled me too. Why was I here?

“Finish of your food so we can have a proper conversation.”- he said and walked away. I wasn't even hungry anymore, I cleared the table and washed the dishes

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well I rinsed them to be more specific. I watched tv while I waited for him to come back from wherever he was around this house.

He came back and sat next to me then held my hand.

“Zanothando Khwalo, when I told you my intentions about you I wasn't lying and when I told you I love you, I wasn't joking either. I told you I'd give you a week, to think this through and I did leave you alone, when you called telling me you miss me. It gave me the impression that you've thought about it and want

to be with me, Zanothando, I'm old and definitely not getting any younger. I don't have time to waste or play games. The long dating games are not for me, I know what I need and it is you but if I can't have you then its fine you may go and I'll be fine with your decision. I don't want you to feel pressured into anything you're not ready for so that is why I will let you go and hopefully one day you will come back to me and be ready for us. But for now, I can't be playing games.”- he said

Was this man breaking up with me before we were even officially together? I was in tears and my heart was broken, why does love have to hurt so much? Why does he have to hurt me so much? I understand everything he has said and I get where he is coming from, I love his honesty and all but I'm just scared. I know I want to be with him, I have no doubt about that but this whole arrangement makes me feel scared and nervous.

“Fezile, I love you but I'm just scared that things wont..”- I couldn't even finish my sentence because Fezile was all over me in a second. We've been spending so much time together but this is the first time we kiss. His lips were tender and sweet and it felt like we just belonged

together. I don't understand why I was even emotional through the kiss but I felt the connection between us and the spark. My entire body was tingly and his kiss left me wanting more and more of him.

Behave yourself Zanothando!

“What was that for?”- I asked as I blushed.

“I'm sorry, I got carried away when you said you love me and that is all that matters Thando. I love you and you love me, I'll make this work and you're allowed to have your fears but I can assure you, you have nothing to be scared of.”- he said and I nodded. I had no words anymore and I knew I was ready to just dive into this risky relationship. Whatever challenges we face we'll deal with them along the way, all I know is that I want to be in this mans arms for the rest of my life.

Two weeks later

“Fezile you've been promising yet you're not sticking to your promises, you promised we'll go on our weekend away. I've been postponing the bookings for the past two weeks now.” - I complained as I walked into his house office.

“I had to go home but this weekend, we will definitely go and never have plans for the weekend. They're reserved for Anelisa.” - Fezile said and I rolled my eyes. I did say this man sharing thing wasn't for me, now I have to adjust my plans so he can be with his wife. Anyways, I should be fair in future. The man is always with me every week day.

We've been together officially, for two weeks now and I've never been this happy. He pays attention to me, listens to every stupid thing I say and we enjoy each others company a lot. I never ever feel that he has another woman, gosh if I didn't know I'd swear I'm the only one in his

life. I've been spending a lot of time in his house, I'd say I've indirectly moved in because I have a lot of things here. I hope the wife doesn't visit him because there will be trouble.

I've tried forgetting about the wife issue but I'm reminded of it every time I see his ring, I once asked him to take off his ring when I'm with him and he blew off. We had our first fight there,

his exact words were "I'm not hiding my marriage or ashamed of it and you should accept it." It was just a suggestion but it caused a lot of trouble, I guess it is about time that I accept things the way they are. I went into this knowing he is married and I should adjust.

"I won't be here tonight, I have to be home. My father is coming back home."-I said and he nodded.

"I have to go to work now, I'll see you before you go home right?"- he asked and I nodded. I fixed his tie and we kissed for a while, I always feel his boner whenever we get intimate and I wish we could go deeper but I have to behave myself, honestly its been hard. I wonder when he'll make a move though. He looks like a man who knows his business, his big sexy body can't just be for nothing and the man down there can't be just for decoration. After he left for work, I cleaned around and drove home. Gloria was singing and dancing in the house while cleaning.

"Someone's in a good mood."- I said and laughed at her.

"And there is the prodigal daughter, it's supposed to be son but you've decided to take my position. "- Zamani said and I rolled my eyes at him. He was annoying, he didn't go to work because dad is coming back. Dad usually makes a big fuss when he comes home and we're not there ready to welcome him home, we made him get used to it so we have to

suffer for our sins. We treat him like a king just like he treats us like his prince and princess.

“I'm making your fathers favourite food, come help me Zamani.”- Gloria said

“I wanna help too.”- I said and they both laughed at me.

“What do you know about cooking and since when do you even have interest? First you disappear, then you're interested in cooking? Something is definitely wrong with you and something tells me it has to do with a man, right ma?”- Zamani says and Gloria shuts him up, thank God she's on my side this time. We've grown fonder of each other and I respect her a lot now, unlike before. I could say I'm trying to change from the bratty Zanothando to a more humble Zanothando.

“I just wanna cook for my dad, that shouldn't be too much to ask for.”-I said and smiled.

We started cooking, well they did more of the cooking and I did more of the chopping and taking notes. I wasn't going to be all hands on when it was my first time trying to learn. We spent the rest of the day together

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laughing, talking and eating. I've been missing out on a lot when it was right in front of me, I mean Mam'Gloria has been the mother figure I needed and I've been ignoring that but

never will I take her for granted. We heard cars pull over and that indicated that daddy was home, I was very happy. I did say I'm a daddies girl

“Bab'Khwalo!” - I screamed and hugged him, we had our father and daughter moment.

“You look different.” - Dad said and I laughed, was it that obvious that I'm happier and inlove?

“Nothing has changed, you're just imagining things.” - I said

We went inside the house, I couldn't help but notice the smile on Gloria's face when Dad greeted her. Maybe they really get along.

“Was the trip successful?” - Zamani asked; and there they go, straight to talking about business. He followed Dad to his room while Gloria and I finished up cooking and cleaning up the kitchen. My phone rang and it was Fezile, oh gosh, I said I was going to see him before I went home. Dad is home now, argh what am I going to do now?

“Fezile.” - I answered

“Where are you? I thought I'd find you here.” - he said and I explained that I went home, he wanted to see me and I had to make a plan.

“Go, I'll tell your father I sent you to get me something. Just don't take too long and come back carrying something, I don't know what you'll buy.”- Gloria said, she's such a life saver. I quickly drove to his house and he was already sulking, gosh I was with him the entire week and the morning. He has to survive just a few hours without me.

“I've missed you.”- he said

“I missed you too Mr Mhlongo, however I don't have much time. I have to be home now, my cover will blow if I stay long.”- I said

““I have to marry you soon so your father can't take you away from me, I want you here all the time.”-he said; he is such a cry baby when he wants to. He received a call from Anelisa, I saw that as my ticket to kiss him and say goodbye

“Answer the phone, byeee!!”- I said and grabbed two bottles of wine and left. I'll say I went to buy wine, that's it. When I got in the house, Dad was in the kitchen laughing with Gloria. Are they always this close?

“I'm back with the wine Ma, I hope I didn't take long.”- I said

“You call her ma? What has been happening while I was away? What did you do to my daughter?”- Dad asked

“I learnt respect and being more humble daddy.”- I said and he smiled, he was really happy and so was I.



We sat as a family on the dinner table, Gloria joining us and we had a lovely supper. I couldn't be more happier than I am now, I wonder how it will be when I'm having supper with my own family. I'm most definitely looking forward to it. Maybe marriage wouldn't be such a bad idea.

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“I don’t like being late Zanothando, you've been in that bathroom for the past hour.”- Fezile complained.

I was still doing my make up, I needed to look beautiful and feel beautiful. Once I was done with everything I came out and he rolled his eyes.

“I don't understand why putting paint on your face takes so long, I don't even understand why you put it in the first place.”- he said, sometimes I can't put up with his ignorant Zulu self. I just keep quiet and not answer, you'd swear Fezile and I have been together for years judging from the way I just know him now. He is what you call an open book yet his actions are unpredictable.

“We can go now.”-I said

He took my bags and we left, we first had to pass by his friends house. Apparently he is a friend and a business partner. We went to the friends house and it was glorious, it was one of those top billing houses.

“Is he some billionaire?”- I asked and he laughed

“Azukise likes the extravagant and fancy things so his house has to reflect him. I really loved his house, I stayed in the car as Fezile spoke to him and a woman whom I figured was his wife. She was cute, not that beautiful but had a really nice body.

We left after a while and went to our vacation destination, I booked a private BNB for us. I wanted some private time for the both of us in Sandton so he can relax after a busy week, he doesn't really know where we're going, he was just happy to pay. I put the destination on the GPS and he drove off. Along the way he kept on stopping, which irritated me cause I wanted to get to JHB now but he had other plans

“Why do we keep stopping?” - I asked

“You don't just travel straight to your destination, you have to stop and see other places, take pictures and be adventurous. I hope we'll be doing hiking and bungee jumping wherever we're going.” - he said

“Hell no.” - I said and he looked at me with wide eyes. “Then where are we going?” - he asked

“A peaceful BNB, we'll have a Jacuzzi to ourselves, champagne, spa treatment, manicures and pedicures then we'll go have dinner at a 5 star restaurant and...” - he cut me off

“Why?” - he asked

“What do you mean why? It's a romantic getaway.” - I said and he went to the car. I don't know if he was disappointed or what but he wasn't pleased.

“I'm guessing you're not an adventurous person?” - he asked

“Definitely not.” - I said and he nodded.

Suddenly we were both not looking forward to this trip and he wasn't keen on making any more stops, he played very boring music and I felt like sleeping.

"I'm sorry," - he said

"What are you apologizing for?" - I asked

"I'm just used to adventure and what Anelisa and I always do when we're travelling, its become a norm to me and I should've understood that you're different and not expect you to be the same. I'm willing to try and be less adventurous and do things your way." - he said and I finally understood why he reacted this way. I guess this is the first thing we don't have in common

"It's okay, can we change the music now?" - I asked

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though he had a huge frown on his face, he agreed.

He had to know that he wasn't with Anelisa and get used to my likes and wants, imagine if he arranged this trip. I'd be suffering in hiking and all that nonsense, I do not have that energy. We played my music and did things my way, I guess it's also difficult for him too. Adjusting to something you're not used to and dealing with two totally different women but it is all his fault. He wanted this arrangement so he should be willing to go through every challenge he'll come across.

We reached our destination, aah the smell of Johannesburg hitting my nostrils was so good. I really loved this place, if it was up to me I'd be moving here. Maybe he wouldn't mind moving right, let me ask and test the waters.

After packing our bags and ordering our food, we relaxed on the couch and I took the chance.

“Can we move to Sandton?”- I asked

“I think you've lost your mind, if you don't want to be in Durban you can always stay in Ulundi.”- he said. He must be crazy, where the hell is that? I'd never do that.

“You know we could've done this at home.”- he said and I was just pissed off already. I just stood up and filled a coffee cup with wine, I needed some alcohol in me to deal with Fezile.

“What are you doing Zanothando?”- he asked calmly

“You have eyes, I'm sure you can see if not ask your perfect wife to help you.”- I said and that triggered him, a lot.

“And what does my wife have to do with us?”- he asked and I rolled my eyes and walked away but I was quickly whisked back and my cup fell. I was shocked, he was fuming and I got scared, really scared.

“There's a lot of talking we need to do, sit down and don't piss me off.”- he said and I obliged, I wasn't going to go against him when he was this angry.

“Zanothando, I am a man, do you understand that?”- he said and I nodded and he told me to speak.

“Yes I understand Fezile.”- I said while nodding

“Not just any man but your man and that should mean something to you, it should mean a lot to you. I tolerated your disrespect and you speaking to me any how for a while because that was just how you've been all your life and you've been adjusting to a little less bratty attitude but I've let you be far too long. I am a man and I need to be respected. I've never been disrespectful to you because I know what respect means to me and you should learn a lesson or two. Am I clear?”- he said

“Yes.”- I said

“And I don't want to ever hear you speaking ill of my wife, you do not know her and she doesn't know you so keep her name out of your mouth and there will be peace between us, understood? You're with me and not her, whatever we have together here has absolutely nothing to do with her and so do not involve her or compare anything we have with hers and I will do the same.”- he said

"I'm sorry and I understand."- I said

"Good."- he said and walked away and went to the room.

So much for a romantic night I had planned out.

I'll just finish this bottle and indulge in some greasy food to nurse my heart ache.

The bedroom door opened and I looked at him.

"And I will definitely not have a drunkard for a wife, forget it."- he said and closed the door again. In my mind I was going to say well I'm not your wife and drink the whole bottle but I decided not to make him more angry.

I guess watching movies will do.

The next day I decided to wake up and apologize with a very big greasy breakfast, it wasn't prepared by me but the effort mattered. The fight was hectic last night and we even slept in different rooms, which was really sad since we're supposed to be on a romantic getaway.

“Good morning Mhlongo.”-I said and smiled

“MaKhwalo.”- he said and kissed my forehead; a kiss, that’s a good sign maybe he isn't angry anymore.

“I hope you're hungry, I organized some breakfast.”- I said and he thanked me and I dished up for him. We ate in comfortable silence until he said something that caught me off-guard

“How long is your father in town for? I need to set a proper date for my uncles to go to your home and he must be available.”- he said

“What?”- I asked as I coughed. Proper date for what? What was he talking about? Was this his way of proposing? Does this man know what he is saying?

“I didn't stutter Zanothando.”- he said

“I know but isn't it a bit too soon, I mean we just met Fezile and we haven't been together for that long and now we're getting



married. I love you a lot but aren't we taking things a bit too fast?" - I asked

"Why should we take things slow? I thought you were happy and sure about us so why have any doubts? What we don't know about each other we'll know in the long run, I was serious when I said I want to marry you so check your father's schedule for the next coming month." - Fezile said and I laughed, I was in disbelief. Where does this man come from and from what century is he from? A man must propose, not what he just did.

Fezile, I really give up.

"Is this your absurd way of proposing?" - I asked

"Yes my love, I guess it is." - he said and we laughed together.

"I will find out, in the meantime, think of another cute way to propose Mr Mhlongo." - I said and he nodded

Today was way better than yesterday, I listened to him while he spoke about his family and the things I needed to know how to do before going to his home. There was a lot but I hoped Gloria would be able to

help me, I had to start by learning how to carry a bucket and then try cooking these meals he mentioned. Isigwaqane or something like that, I can't even pronounce it I wonder how will I be able to even cook it.

“I have to wear skirts and have head wraps?”-I asked

“Yes MaKhwalo.”- he said and I was already not looking forward to the Bhundu life.

“What do you have planned for us today?”-he asked

“I planned to go shopping, you can join me and later we can watch movies while in the Jacuzzi.”- I said

“Sounds good, I hope the shopping won't take long.”- he said and I winked, it was going to take the whole day.

He begun sulking as soon as we got to Mall Of Africa, he complained about how full it was and he doesn't like such crowded places.

“I did say stay at home babe but you wanted to come with.”- I said

“And let these men looking at you get a chance to talk to you, not happening. “- he said. Well he had to be strong because I was about to go on a shopping spree like I always do when I'm here. He enjoyed watching me try on clothes and ask for his opinion, he had a little good taste and some clothes he picked looked hideous. We'd go shop after shop and he complained each and every time.

I saw him eyeing a long black dress, it had an open back and it looked really beautiful but it wasn't my style. He kept on talking

to me but I could see his heart was on that dress, I knew immediately that he wanted to get it for Anelisa

“Babe, I'm going to fit these. I'll take a while.”- I said and walked to the fitting rooms, I wasn't fitting anything. I peeked and saw him speaking to the sales manager and purchasing the dress

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what he was doing was

really cute and romantic but I also wished he was doing it for me. Maybe he wanted to make up for not going home this weekend, I shouldn't have did this. The weekends are meant for him to be home, I hope I didn't get him into any trouble.

After he was done, I pretended to be finishing up and paid for a few clothes. My heart wasn't even here anymore, I just wanted to leave.

“We can go, I'm tired now.”- I said

“Thank God”- he said and we left. On the way back home we were just silent, only the music filled the atmosphere. I was amazed by the setup that was at the lounge, from rose petals, to candles, food platters, movies, chocolate boxes and flowers. I couldn't help but just cry and he stood behind me with a huge smile on his face.

“I can be romantic, you just judged me too quickly.”- he said jokingly. “This is amazing Fezile.”- I said

“Like you are, you're amazing, beautiful, annoying and loving.”- he said “You didn't have to say annoying.”- I complained

“My uncle once told me to always tell a woman how exactly she is and how you feel about her, he said be honest and don't leave out a single trait so she may never think she's perfect because no one is perfect. It's the imperfections you tend to love a lot cause maybe I'd love you less if you were not annoying and always miss perfect.”- he said

“That was actually great advice, he sounds like a wise man.”- I said

“He is, he is a very romantic and loving man and a ladies man too, I wouldn't be shocked if he took his 11th wife anytime soon.”- he said

“Woah! That's too many wives.”- I said

“There is no such as too many wives but hey, let's forget about that and focus on us.”- he said and I loved the sound of that. We took a shower and put on our fluffy white gowns and sleepers then relaxed by the lovely set up.

“Which movie first?”- he asked

“Five Feet Apart.”- I said excitedly, I'd seen a thriller before and always said I'd watch it.

After watching the movie and me pouring my tears out because of how sad the movie was, he did something so cute and unexpected at the moment.

He gave me a box of tissue and I thanked him, strangely the tissues were written. I opened them and they were written will you marry me? I cried, I screamed and looked at him, he had a beautiful diamond ring in his hand.

“Marry me.”-he said

“I will, yes I will.”- I said and kissed him. “Ngyabonga MaKhwalo.”- he said “Kubonga mina Mhlongo.”- I said

And so, within just a month I was engaged to the polygamous man. It all just seems surreal, it happened quickly but it also doesn't feel rushed. It feels like this is the way it was supposed to happen and this was my fate.

As much as I'm scared, I have no doubt that I'm doing the right thing. We came back from our romantic getaway two days ago, though things didn't go as planned but everything was just amazing. I still wondered

why he hasn't made any sexual move on me but I guess he is waiting for the right time. I've been hiding the ring in my bag from my father but today I've decided to let him know. I first wanted to tell Ma'Gloria so she can help me tell dad, they seem close so she'll manage to help me.

She was watching tv while I made her some biscuits and something to drink.

“And what did I do to deserve this or what do you want?”- she asked and I smiled then sat next to her.

“Ma, I need you to help me tell Dad I'm getting married.”- I said

“Wow, this Mhlongo guy is not wasting anytime. He proposed already, where is the ring?”- she asked and I showed her, she was very happy for me she even teared up. She's very emotional, she had me crying too.

“Okay I'm seeing tears so I'm running away.”- Zamani said and took his car keys. He was disturbing our sweet emotional moment, we laughed at ourselves and she held my hand.

“I will definitely help you, I know he won't be happy but we'll do our best.”- Gloria.

Dad came home after a few hours, he didn't seem like he was in the best of moods.

“Khwalo.”- Gloria said

“Not now my love, not now.”- he said and I opened my eyes in shock. My love? Khwalo? What is going on here? I looked at the both of them after they realized I was actually here.

“Gloria and I are together and have been for the longest time

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you're old so you can deal with it and we don't owe you any explanation.”- he said and went to his room with Gloria following him. I was shocked,

dumbstruck and any other emotion related to shock that you can think of. Why wasn't I told that they've been together all this while? Surely Zamani knew about this, that's why he calls her ma and they got along do much. He has known that she is with dad all this time, that's why Dad and Gloria get along so much. I can't believe this!!!

Argh!!!

I don't know if I'm angry or not but I am. I'm not angry about them being together but I'm angry because I wasn't told.

Gloria came back and I went straight to her

“But Gloria, we've been so close these days and you didn't bother telling me about your relationship with Dad.”- I said

“I wanted to tell you but he didn't want me to tell you and so it wasn't my place to not respect his decisions with his kids.

“Wow, how long?”- I asked

“13 years.”- she said and I just felt like my whole life has been a lie, they've been doing this under my nose. I'm 24, that means it's been happening since I was 11. Gosh I wasn't even a teenager yet, they had so much time to tell me.

“I'm beyond shocked and I've figured Zamani knew about this. So since we spilling out secrets today when are we telling him about my engagement?”- I asked and she had her eyes

“What?”- I asked and looked behind me.

My father was standing behind me, fuming. I slowly walked away and stood behind Gloria. She is his girlfriend, surely she knows how to soften him up.

“What engagement?”- he asked



“Take a seat please, we have something important to tell you.”- Gloria said and he took a seat. He listens to her? Okay, it might go smoother than I thought.

“Baba, Zanothando has met someone and they are very much inlove and he wishes to marry her.”- Gloria

“Oh he can keep wishing because that won't happen.”- he said

“What Mah means is that he has proposed and we're getting married.”- I said

“With who's permission? Return his ring because that won't happen. Who the hell does he think he is?”- he said and walked away.

I'm hurt.

He was being very selfish and nursing his foul mood. I let him be just for today but I will not let this go, he will give me his permission. Like it or not, I am getting married to Fezile and nothing or no one will stop me.

“Fezile? I can't hear you.”- I said and when I answered the phone, he called but didn't speak. I guess it was just a mistake. I don't even want to imagine that it was his wife, he went home for the weekend and it is also his brothers birthday.

My father has been ignoring me all week and honestly it is exhausting but I decided to give him some time to cool off, which Fezile wasn't so happy about.

I made breakfast and headed to work, since I suddenly know about Gloria and Dads relationship they've been keeping it in the open. Here I am making my own breakfast while they are in bed cuddling. I had an early meeting to attend to but it was cancelled because my father said so, so much for waking up and rushing to work.

“Your father is on the phone, pick up.”- His PA said “Mr Khwalo?”- I answered

“I need you to attend a conference in Drakensburg, everything you need has been packed. Your driver is ready to take you.” He said and ended the call.

Why was he doing this? When have I represented the company in other places? Dad is just doing this out of spite but I will not let him get to me. I took my bag and waited for the driver. When he came, we drove off and I asked no questions. I tried

calling Fezile but I couldn't get a hold of him, I don't like it when he doesn't answer my calls. Maybe the party is occupying him or the wife.

I decided to just sleep because I had nothing to do, my driver isn't much of a talker so he cannot be any company.

I woke up after a few hours and I was sleeping on a couch, we're here already? My things were all packed and there was a great smell of food, it must be the helper. I looked for my phone and it was on the charger, whoever did this was heaven sent. I had several missed calls from Fezile, gosh why would he call so many times.

"Where are you?" - he said as soon as he answered

"Drakensburg, Dad shipped me all the way to Drakensburg for a work conference." - I said

"Oh." - he said, he didn't sound right. "Are you okay?" - I asked

"I'll tell you when I get there." - he said, he sounded like he had been crying. Now I was very worried, I wonder what is going on. I greeted the helper and asked her to cook more food, I had a guest coming over. I

texted Fezile sending him my location. After a few hours he was already parked in the driveway, drunk.

I had never seen him drunk before and knowing he drove all the way to Drakensburg like this makes me cringe. I'm grateful that him and the car are still in one piece.

"Fezile, how could you be so careless?" - I asked feeling so frustrated. He just hugged me and started crying, he was pretty heavy but I managed to walk with him till we got to the lounge.

"Why are you crying? What happened?" - I asked but I got no answer and so I let him be. He's cries become softer and he drank the water I gave him, honestly I was annoyed and scared at the same time. Whatever happened must've hit him hard, I don't think he is the type that drinks to get so drunk.

"He, he..." - he said and kept quiet

"He did what? And who is he?" - I asked

He stood up and went to the bathroom. This was going to be a long night.

"Do you have olives?" - he asked calmly and I went to the kitchen and looked for them, luckily I had a jar.

He ate a few

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even though it didn't seem like he was enjoying them but he was sobering up.

“Now will you tell me what is happening?”- I asked

“Sure, let's take a seat.”- he said and we went back to the lounge, we sat down and tears were all over his eyes.

“You know today we were having my brothers party, Aphiwe and so we had the party and in the midst of that all, my other brothers and I

decided to do a little shopping just to add on the alcohol and food then Aphiwe stayed behind so he can freshen up for the party. Little did we all know that he had his own selfish plans. Aphiwe... he... he...”- he said and paused. I was so curious already, literally my hands were even shaking.

“He raped Anelisa.”- he said and I froze. My heart was beating so fast and I couldn't help but cry, how can that happen? I didn't even know what to say, all I was thinking about is how she could be feeling right now. I know I would not even cope, maybe I would've killed myself already. How can your own brother in law do that to you?

“I'm so sorry Fezile.”- I said, I didn't even want to imagine how he felt right now. To have your own wife raped by your brother and you weren't even there to help her. It must hurt him so much especially because it is something that can't be undone.

“Where is Aphiwe now, was he arrested? “- I asked “He is dead.”-he said cold heartedly

“Fezile! You killed him?”-I asked in shock, I didn't want to hear that he was capable of murder.

“I wish I did. My little brother Sphetho, he walked in while Aphiwe was raping her and he shot her, he died right on top of her which traumatized her more.”- he said and that hurt me even more, no woman deserves to go through such cruelty. Death was too easy on Aphiwe, he deserved to be punished brutally. My heart is aching and I understand how he feels, it is just too sad to see him this way. I held his hand and tried to comfort him but it wasn't helping.

“How is she now?”- I asked

“She's not Anelisa, she may be alive but I know she is dead inside.”- he said. She needs to go to see therapists and try getting some help with the trauma. I suggested it to Fezile but he knows his wife, he knew she wouldn't want to do all of that.

“I don't even know what to say to her or if she feels safe enough if I touch her. A man broke her, not just any man but my brother. Someone we all trusted and someone who looks like me, what if she just sees him when she looks at me? I should've protected her.”-he said

“Fezile you cannot blame yourself, you didn't know it was going to happen. You're not Aphiwe and you'll never be Aphiwe. Just give her time to calm down and be there for her. “- I said

"I should go."- he said

"You can't drive now, it's very late and you're intoxicated."- I said

"I'm fine Zanothando, I have to be there when she wakes up. She needs me, I need to be around her. I need to protect her."- he said and there was no way of convincing him otherwise. As much as I wanted him all to myself but I had to understand that she needed him and he is her husband before he is my fiancé.

He took his keys, hugged me even though it was just a cold hug and left without even kissing me.

It hurt how hurt he was, he was just a walking ghost and I prayed for his safety as he travelled back home. I wasn't going to sleep peacefully tonight until I heard from him and I couldn't stop thinking about what happened, as women we are never safe even with our in-laws.

It has been a week since the incident happened, I'd be lying if I said things have been good between Fezile and I. It has been horrible and I

doubt it will be better anytime soon. He called earlier this week asking me to put the wedding issue on hold and I understood, Anelisa is going through a lot and adding our wedding will make things worse. From there he has never called and I've never bothered calling him, I gave him the space he needed but I really missed him. I was trying by all means to keep on understanding but it was hard. I've even found joy in working these days and I spent more days in Drakensburg before coming back to Durban. I stay at my flat now, being at home to watch Dad and Gloria get all cosy isn't any fun especially since I've been missing some love too.

I called Abongwe to come keep me company and she came in a few minutes with food and wine, exactly what I needed.

"You look depressed."- she said

"I'm a woman who fell inlove with a married man and now he has to attend to his wife and I'm left here sucking my toes."- I said

"Leave his damn ass and since when are you with a married man?"- Abongwe asked and I realized how much my life has



been revolving around my relationship and I haven't been with my friends for a while now and have never even updated them about my life. I told her everything and she was shocked, I know. No one would really expect me, Zanothando, to agree to polygamy.

“But at least he is not available because of a valid reason. If tables were turned and you were Anelisa, you'd want him with you at all times. If you were Fezile you'd be with your wife because she needs you. I'm not saying you don't need him but look at the situation carefully, compared to Anelisa right now, you don't need him at all. Allow the man to be with his wife and go through this rough patch with her.”- Abongwe

“I know but I also didn't ask for this and I shouldn't suffer.”-I said

“You're not suffering but you're being the self-centred Zanothando you've always been.”- she said and she was right.

“I know. Anyways let's stop talking about this, it's making me feel bad already.”- I said and we watched some movies and she told me about all her drama with her husband. Marriage seems cute and all in pictures but everything just seems difficult in the long run. I was starting to doubt if I even wanted to get married and I'm grateful we were delaying things which would give me enough time to think if I was making a good decision or not.

I was checking status's on WhatsApp and he uploaded a picture of Anelisa. She looked as beautiful as always and happy, she really didn't deserve what happened to her. His location changed, he was in Durban. Why didn't he tell me?

After a few hours Abongwe had to leave, I was left all alone. Bored, lonely and angry. I tried holding myself

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I tried warning my inner selfish and crazy Zanothando but she didn't listen. I called him and he didn't answer, that triggered me more. I took my car keys and drove to his place, there was a car on the driveway but it wasn't his. Maybe it was Anelisa's, she couldn't be here. They don't stay together remember? I told myself and went ahead and knocked, I didn't want to barge in just in case she was there too. A tall but young guy opened, he looked so much like Fezile but a bit skinnier and darker.

“Hi, is Fezile here?”-I asked

“And you are?”- he asked, he had a really husky voice.

“I am Zanothando Khwalo, I need to speak to Fezile.”- I said

“Couldn't it wait till tomorrow?”-he asked

Gosh! Who is this guy and why is he playing security here? He was annoying me and it wasn't going to end well.

“Is Fezile home or not? Simple question that needs a simple answer not the nonsense you're asking me now. If you want to play security go do it somewhere else.”-I said

“I asked you a simple question that needs a simple answer, not disrespect. Fezile is home but he is occupied and doesn't want to see anyone so you can go and come back tomorrow.”- he said and I rolled my eyes at him.

“Fezile!! Fezile!!”- I screamed

“Didn't your parents teach you manners? You just scream like that in someone's house? You loose Durban girls have no morals whatsoever.”- he said. I heard footsteps and it was Fezile asking what was going on, finally.

“It's some rude and disrespectful woman who wants to talk to you.”- he said

“Zano, what are you doing here? Sphetho, you should've let her in.”- Fezile said

“You said you don't want to be disturbed. You didn't tell me a rude woman is allowed to disturb you.”-Sphetho said.

“Respect Sphetho.”-Fezile said

“Brother, I respect people who respect me.”- Sphetho said and walked away. The name sounded familiar.

Oh, it's the murderer. No wonder he is so cold. I don't like him already.

“Why didn't you tell me you're back?”- I asked

“I came back today and I'm not in a good space right now. I'm sorry but I'm not good company and I don't want to stress you with my problems.”-he said

“We're engaged Fezile!”- I said

“I know, my wife left me. They took her away from me and I cannot function! I need a way to see her and get her back, I can never be with you and be happy when she is so far from me and I cannot hold her in my arms. I will never even be able to hold you. I'm sorry for doing this to you but I'm being honest.”- he said

“Bye Fezile, go be with your precious wife.”-I said and threw his ring at him. I wasn't going to tolerate this nonsense.

I will never be second best.

A month later.

I cried myself to sleep for days and days, I didn't want to eat and I didn't leave my flat. My father, Abongwe and Zamani tried getting me out of my flat but I didn't want to. At times I wouldn't even open the door for them because I didn't want to see anyone, I couldn't function at all.

It had been a month since I saw him, the night I threw his ring back at him and never looked back. He never called me, never texted me or even came to check up on me. He just disappeared.

He made me fall so deeply inlove with him and then he disappeared. I wanted to hate him so many times because he has just cut me off but it seems like each and everyday I love him more and more. I didn't know loving someone would be so painful and sometimes I blame myself for how everything happened.

Today I decided to pick myself up, well mother nature decided for me and I was forced to bath and be clean. After looking at my messy self in the mirror, I decided that it was enough and I had to stop feeling sorry for myself. I made the bed and cleaned the house, I think it was the first time I ever cleaned so much and so thoroughly ever in my life. I felt proud of myself

honestly. My stomach was grumbling and I was tired of eating takeaways, I called Mam Gloria, I haven't spoken to her in a while. She was nice as always and offered to bring me food, I waited for an hour and she was here, with Zamani.

“He didn't want to stay behind.”-Gloria said when I looked at her for an explanation

“And you're not kicking me out, I'm tired of you shutting everyone out like we broke that heart of yours.”- Zamani said and I threw a pillow at him, this is why I didn't want him here in the first place.

“So, how have you been?”- Gloria asked and I just wanted to cry and burry myself in her arms, well I did so and she comforted me while stupid Zamani watched tv.

“He left me Mah.”- I said

“What happened?”- she asked and I told her everything, from the rape till the last day I saw him.

“Sounds like he didn't leave you but you left him, you decided not to be patient and understanding then you left thinking he will follow you like a lost puppy but he didn't and that's what hurting you.”- Gloria

“I don't understand you Zanothando, I don't know if your selfishness leads you into doing such thing. What couldn't you understand when the guy simply stated he needed to he to be

with his wife, she was raped for crying out loud, by his brother! That alone is messed up and cannot be fixed in just a day, a week or even a month. She is broken

beyond repairs, he wasn't there to protect her and surely she blames him, trust is broken there and it needs to be mended. Their marriage has fallen apart, he told he they took his wife away from him which is probably the wives family because they might blame him. Anelisa was at his household because of him

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she met Aphiwe because of him and Aphiwe was his brother. The same brother who died right on top of Anelisa, which is also some messed up trauma she is going through. I don't know what more do you want to hear that can convince you enough that you needed to take a step back and give them the time you need because if tables were turned, you'd want him with you too. Be selfless, for once in your life!" - Zamani said and he walked away, why was this upsetting him so much? Was I that wrong?

"Your brother is right Zanothando, the man wasn't going to be trying to fix his marriage and broken wife and also be chasing you too. Honey, it is not your fault and if you feel you don't deserve this it is fine but you chose this. You said yes to a married man and you went straight into a polygamous arrangement and I told you it is not easy and it will never be

easy. This situation needs you to compromise, be a woman understanding what another woman is going through. You will never survive in that marriage if you're not willing to compromise, sacrifice and be accepting. All you needed was to be there for Fezile, not create more problems for him.”-Gloria

“I've been that bad?”- I asked

“Yes. You have no experience in such relationships and your character and way of thinking doesn't help either but you're old now Zanothando and you need to change your ways or else you will loose Fezile and be bitter your entire life. He loves you and you know that, you're a much better version of Zanothando when you're with him and all he needs is just patience.

“I'll call him and apologize for my behaviour, no I'll send him a text message instead.

“Do that now while I'm watching you.”- Gloria

I took my phone and texted.

“Sawbona Mhlongo, I wanted to check on you. I hope you are well and I hope Anelisa is well too. In all honesty, Fezile I wanted to apologize for my behaviour and selfishness. Instead of understanding what you and Anelisa were going through, I let my pride and selfishness get in the way and ruined things when I should've been supporting and patient. And for that I



apologize and I hope when everything has settled down we can be able to talk and sort things out. I'm sorry.

Love MaKhwalo.”

“See that was sweet and short, it was easy too. You need to just let go of the selfishness and be a better woman for yourself and for him. This is your fiancé and you need to love and support him.”- Gloria said

My phone rang and I was so happy, when last did I even get a call from Fezile? I literally wanted to cry when I heard his voice.

“Are you well MaKhwalo?”- he asked “Yes, yes I am and you?”- I asked

“I'm coping. I saw your message and there is no need for you to apologize. I shouldn't have neglected you but things have been tough on my side and I don't want you to be caught up in everything however things will be back to normal soon and hopefully you will take your ring back.”- he said and laughed a little.

“Ofcourse I will, how is Anelisa?”- I asked

“She's better, things were tough but it's getting better. She's pregnant.”- he said; damn. Thing's just got so much worse

“Aphiwe?”- I asked, I was even afraid to mention the name.

“Yes but we're going to be fine, atleast she's not away from me anymore so that's better.”- he said

“I'm sorry and I hope you will work things out.”- I said

“And I will work things out with you MaKhwalo, I'll see you in two days. Goodbye.”- he said and ended the call.

“Atleast that went okay, she's pregnant Mah.”- I said and she just cried

“See how much they've been going through and you were crying because you want attention. Oh the poor child, God should give her all the strength she needs. You need to pray for her.”- she said

Whuuu, I wanted to say a not so good comment but I kept it to myself so she wouldn't judge me any further.

I was already wishing the two days had passed and I was with my Fezile already.

I've missed him.

“Good morning, I decided to spoil my woman and bring you breakfast in bed.”- Fezile said and I smiled. I rushed to the bathroom and washed my hands and face then had my lovely greasy breakfast.

“All of this for me?”- I asked

“I noticed you've lost some weight and that is because of me so I am bringing that weight back. Eat up.”- he said and walked away. He was being very romantic and considerate, we were working on our

relationship and it was good so far. He came back yesterday and we talked a lot about what has been going on. A lot of what he said about letting me go was a lot of what Zamani said. He explained he couldn't be chasing after me and my selfish ways while he had to pick up his falling marriage. I could tell he hasn't fully recovered and I knew it was still going to take a while for him to recover, if he ever will.

Once I was done eating, I went downstairs to the kitchen and washed the dishes. Yes I wash dishes now with my own two hands and I clean. He was watching me with a smile on his face all this time

“What are you looking at?”- I asked

“There's been a lot of progress with you, I'm happy.”- he said and kissed my forehead; so being domesticated has earned me forehead kisses, this is lovely.

“I ran a bath for you, with bubbles and your weird bath oils.”- he said

I was being pampered today and I was enjoying every minute of it. I was shocked when he took it off his clothes and got into the bathtub with me. I was nervous, we've never really been this intimate before. I laid my back on him and he kept on brushing my breasts, that made me feel so aroused but I had to behave myself.

He started kissing my neck and gosh!! My body was giving up on me, I've never felt this way in so long. He had his hands all over my body, opened up my legs and brushed my thighs all the way to my clit, I kept on biting my lip and holding onto him for dear life. I turned and looked at him, his eyes were burning with desire and so was I. I kissed him and he held my butt, the bathroom floor was surely as wet as I am.

“Let's take this somewhere else.”- he said and I giggled. We dried each other up and he carried me to the bedroom. I thought he was going to lay me on the bed but no, I was pinned to the wall. He kissed me

everywhere he could and I got the shock of my life when he lifted me up and had my legs wrapped around his shoulders and he was kissing my honeypot. I kept on mumbling his name and I was losing my breath

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gosh I was in cloud 9 or even beyond. He put me down and laid me on the bed, his eyes were all over me as he attacked my neck and squeezed my boobs

“Ngiyakuthanda MaKhwalo omuhle.”- he said.

I could feel his penis grinding on me, he rubbed it on my clit and it was throbbing. The sensation I felt, the burning desire and the need for him inside of me increased. I felt it slowly come in, I whispered his name and closed my eyes

“Look at me.”- he said and I obliged

He thrust deep and with each deep thrust I felt his love, my body was shivering and I kept on holding him tightly. We made love and it is something I have never felt before. I literally had tears in my eyes, everything was just worth waiting for and I had no words to describe how I felt but I knew I just loved him even more.

We both reached climax and it was amazing, it was more than anything I have ever imagined in my life.

"I love you." I said to Fezile "I love you too."- Fezile said

We laid on the bed cuddling together, I felt loved and I was at my happiest place.

"So how many kids will we have? I want many many kids."- Fezile "I only want one child."- I said and he laughed at me

"You must be crazy, you know I want more than 20 children so it means you must bare me more than 5 children."- Fezile said; he was insane, very insane because he wasn't going to get that. I've seen how painful giving birth is on videos and I've heard about it, I won't go through that more than 5 times.

"3 is fine then"- I said and he still wasn't happy about that. He has another wife who will give him all of those babies not me.

"I want to send my uncle's to your home soon, I don't want to delay things any further."- he said and I smiled, I was at my happiest. Everything was falling into place again and I loved it.

"I will talk to my father and get back to you."- I said and he we had an agreement that I only had a week to convince him. I hope it will be enough to convince that stubborn man.

"Does she know about us?"- I asked

"Yes, I told her last night and she wasn't happy as expected but she gave us permission to go on and get married. She knew it would happen but not so soon but she understood."- he said

“I hope things will go smoothly.”- I said

“They will, don't worry. Everything will be okay MaKhwalo.”-he assured me and I trusted him.

This was our life now and I was looking forward to getting married. I had a lot of preparations to do and I had to call my friends so they can start assisting me. I was getting married!!

Well Dad had to give us his blessings first.

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2 weeks later.

I kept on walking around the house not knowing what to do or how to even feel. I was waiting for Abongwe to come fetch me so we can go looking for an outfit for me to wear tonight. Fezile decided to put me in the corner and tell me this morning that tonight I'm going to meet Anelisa. We're going over to her house, she's cooking dinner and apparently she's looking forward to meeting me, which I figured was just a lie judging by Fezile's tone. I think he was setting the both of us up but maybe meeting before the wedding could help.

"You have ants in your pants?" - Dad asked when he saw me walking around the house.

"No Baba, I'm just waiting for Abongwe. She's taking her own time." - I said

"So, where is that boy of yours?" - he asked "Work." - I said

"Tell him I want to see him in an hour, in my office. I'm off to work." - he said and I nodded.

I wondered what he wanted to see him for, he already agreed that his family can come this weekend and I hope he isn't going to change his mind now. I texted Fezile telling him and he said he will go see him, I hope everything goes well between them. I



need to focus on tonight, I don't want to be stressing about them.

Abongwe finally arrived and we drove off to Gateway. "So are you excited about tonight?" - Abongwe asked.

"Not really excited but I'm very nervous. I don't know what type of person she is, Fezile always says she's a good woman with a good heart and ofcourse he will say so cause she's his wife. I just don't know what to expect and to make matters worse, Dad is meeting Fezile today." - I said

"What? How?" - Abongwe asked

"Fezile will go to his office, he that's where Dad wanted to meet up. I just hope he comes back in one piece and we're still getting married or else I'll cry till I die. What do you think I should wear? Something formal or casual? Do you think I should even dress up? From the pictures I've seen, she's a very great dresser and Fezile has told me that she's also a part time fashion designer and she owns Namaslay." - I said

"What!! She owns Namaslay? Oh my word, then you better dress up because she is a fashion guru and will definitely look at what you wear. Lets look for something, simple yet sexy. Something of her level, clothing wise." - I said

"And money wise, she's very successful." - I said

"And so are you." - Abongwe.

“Because of my father, she worked from scratch.” - I said

“Okay, don't compare yourself to her. We're here to look for something to wear not compare ourselves to some Anelisa we don't even know.” - Abongwe said and she was right. I shouldn't compare myself to her. She is her own woman and so am I, we just happen to share the same dick. We shopped around and bought a lot of clothes, I'd just have to choose from them later. We had lunch and discussed everything we had done for the wedding preparations. Everything was going well so far and the wedding planner made things a whole lot easier for us. While we were having lunch Fezile called me, gosh seeing that the call was from him made me so nervous.

“Fezile, are you okay?” - I asked

“I'm good and yourself? Where are you?” - he asked “Gateway with Abongwe. How did it go?” - I asked

“Went well, they had a lot to discuss with me and everything was settled.” - he said

“They? Who is they? What did they discuss with you?” - I asked, I needed details and he wasn't being generous with them.

“Your father and brother, it is between men my love you don't need to know about it. I'll pick you up at 7, don't be late please.” - he said and ended the call.

Argh!

I'll have to ask Zamani for the details because my man here doesn't want to tell me.

We finished up and I headed to my flat, called Zamani over and he came with some snacks.

“So what happened today?”-I asked

“I should've known you called me to get news from me, nothing much. Dad just talked to him, threatened him and he is a good man. He is also well spoken and knows what he wants, he is rich so no doubt he can take care of you and dad was satisfied. I could say they got along well, mostly because father had been trying to get into business with him. You know how your father is but I'm glad Fezile didn't give him the easy way, he told him he has to follow procedure and there will be no short cuts just because we'll be in laws, business is business. That scored him more points.”- Zamani said and I was happy.

Fezile is a man of honesty and integrity, he wouldn't make things easy for them just because I'm marrying him. I was very happy and proud that things went well and that meant everything would also go smoothly this weekend.

Fezile was very punctual, at exactly 7pm he was at the door telling me to finish up. I was just wearing my shoes and doing final touches on my make up. I was wearing a black strapless jumpsuit with gold heels and gold studs.

“You look amazing MaKhwalo.”- he said and carried my bag, I feel like Fezile is the only guy I know that comfortably and voluntarily carries a woman's bag. He always does that, even in public.

“We're going to her house?”- I asked when I noticed the route he took wasn't going to his house.

“Yes.”- Fezile said

he also sounded very nervous. I guess Anelisa's opinion of me really mattered. We got to the house and it was amazing from the outside, it made me wonder how it looked in the inside. I could tell it was built from scratch because of the details it has. I liked that it was brown, I love the colour brown. Fezile didn't even knock, okay why would he knock when this is practically his home too. We walked inside and she was standing at the lounge with her arms folded. She didn't even have a smile on her face, she only smiled when Fezile cleared his throat. She was wearing a green dress, very unique and had some traditional features. Her pregnancy bump was abit visible now, she was simple and beautiful, even had no make up on.

“Hi.”- she whispered. “Hi.”- I replied.

It was really awkward and the weird smile on Fezile's face was making things worse.

“Anelisa, meet the love of my life Zanothando Khwalo soon to be Mhlongo.”- Fezile said, aah so cute. He just called me the love of his life, in front of his wife. I have no doubt that this man loves me.

“Hi, I'm Mrs Mhlongo, Mrs Anelisa Mhlongo.”- she said emphasizing the Mrs Mhlongo, relax honey I know.

“And she is my amazing wife.”- he said and she had a fake grin, I guess she can't really pretend because you could easily tell that her smiles were fake.

“Pleased to finally meet my sister wife, I've heard a lot about you.”- I said, I was being honest and marking the fact that she is my sister wife.

“I wish I could say the same. Shall we move to the dinning room please?”- she said. Ouch! I looked at Fezile and he glared at her.

“I bought you a gift, I hope you like it.”-she said and gave it to me. Oh my word, I'm so embarrassed. I forgot to buy her a gift. We sat down and she only dished up for her husband, I guess I had to fend for myself.

“Thank you Thambo lami lekhentakhi, this looks amazing.”- he had a smirk on his face and she looked like she was about to laugh, maybe they are the type that has inside jokes. Why does he call her Thambo lami lekhentakhi, how is that romantic in any way? They kept on smiling at each other and it was very

visible that they were so inlove. I wanted this dinner to be over already before jealousy gets the best of me. Fezile asked me about my day and we had our own conversation, he looked at me with eyes filled with love but they are no where near the way he looks at Anelisa.

“MaMpofana, how was your day?”- he asked “It was fine.”- Anelisa

“Fezile told me you're the owner of Namaslay designs, I really love your work and I was hoping one of your designers would make my wedding dress.”- I said, I did look at her designs online and I really loved them even the dress she was wearing displayed her love for fashion.

“Thank you, I could give you their numbers and you can contact them.”- she said, I was excited about that.

“Maybe you could design it yourself babe.”- Fezile said and she kicked him under the table. I guess she doesn't really like me.

“The food is lovely, thank you. I wish I knew how to cook, maybe I would cook such great food.”- Zano, I said so the awkwardness could end. It was okay if she didn't want to do my dress, there are a whole lot of other better designers I knew.

We had a brief conversation all together and we laughed here and there, I could tell that she was actually a nice person but she was also mean. She really tried liking me and faking it but I

could tell she doesn't like me and I didn't either. Fezile and I cleared the table and went to the kitchen while she was texting on her phone.

"You don't want anything else? More dessert?" - Fezile asked and I said no.

"She doesn't like me and I don't like her either." - I told Fezile.

"It was still your first time together babe, give it a chance. You'll both grow fonder of each other, give it a chance." - he said

"I will try. I want to leave now, I have an early morning tomorrow." I said and we went back to the dining table so I could say my goodbyes to Anelisa.

"Thank you very much for the lovely evening Anelisa, the food was very lovely. However I must leave now, I have an early morning tomorrow." - I said

"Bye." - she said; damn she is mean. Let me annoy her more.

"I hope to see you again soon." - I said with a huge smile on my face. I took the gift and left. Fezile drove me home and quickly went back to his wife.

Today was just something else.

I guess these days all I have to feel is nerves, I've been nervous since having to meet Anelisa, to the lobola negotiations and today, I had to meet Fezile's family.

The lobola negotiations were very successful, my father and uncles were very happy and I heard the Mhlongo's gave them everything they wanted in one go. So traditionally, I was already Mrs Mhlongo.

I packed my bag, we were going to Ulundi for a two days and I was very nervous.

“MaKhwalo, are you ready?”- Fezile asked. I had moved in with him but he did say it was just for a few weeks. I had to decided if I wanted my house built from scratch or buy a house so I opted for buying a house. My flat was out of the options, it all has to do with him being the provider.

“I am ready babe let's go.”- I said and he took my bags to the car.

“Gosh, you packed like you're moving for the entire year. You look beautiful by the way.”- he said and I smiled. I was rocking my makoti outfit, I was wearing a long blue skirt, black long sleeve t-shirt and blue head wrap.

He played his boring music along the way, I've got used to it already and maybe one day I will enjoy it. The stops still irritate



me but they are good because they come with some food and snacks, otherwise, I hate them.

“Anelisa said she is making the dress, I was also shocked that she changed her mind about it. She said it’s the traditional one though so I hope you don't mind.”-Fezile said

“Oh, I should thank her. Maybe she is just being nice, I do love her clothes so I have no doubt it will look perfect.”-I said and I was actually happy that she was doing the dress, I had contacted one of her designers and he was doing my white wedding dress and that’s probably where she got my measurements to do the traditional dress.

When he arrived at Fezile’s home, I was so nervous and he kept on telling me to calm down. He's a family man so I really hoped that they would like me, already there is one brother that hates me so I hope there won't be more family members that will hate me. There were a lot of houses in the yard and there was still more houses being built at the backyard, they indeed had a very huge portion of land for just one household.

“Mhlongo, Njomane, Bhebhe!”- Fezile said as we entered the house.

“We are at the lounge my son.”- someone said and we walked to the lounge.

“Sanibona Mah.”- Fezile greeted the three woman who were sitting together watching television, they must be he's fathers wives.

“Sanibona.”- I whispered and they answered. “Where is everyone else MaMnguni?”- Fezile asked

“They should be here in a few minutes, I don't know what nonsense Mongi was showing your siblings in his room.”- MaMnguni answered and indeed a very large crowd came in, they were having a very heated debate and there was a whole lot of noise.

“Oh you've arrived Bhuti, how are you?”- one of the girls asked and everyone took a seat.

“I'm good Smomo, well my dear mothers and siblings. I came with someone today, a woman close to my heart and will be joining this family. This is my second wife, Zanothando.”- Fezile said with pride and joy.

The mothers ululated and I laughed while greeting each of them, there was MaChala

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MaMnguni and MaMthembu. I wondered if they all got along like best friend's, if they were always like this or not. There was a lot of questions in my mind but I wasn't going to ask, well not yet. I was introduced to the sisters and the brothers, Sphetho

just looked at me. What did I expect? He hates me. But I'm not here to be liked by him or please him. We watched television while having a brief conversation, Andile called his brother and they all went out leaving me with the woman of the family.

“So does Sis Anelisa know you already?”-Smomo asked “Yes, we've met once.”- I said.

“Let's go cook, Zanothando right?”- she asked and I nodded then followed them to the kitchen. So they call Anelisa, Sisi and I'm called by name? Wow. Well Anelisa is a bit older than me but still. Maybe I'm their age that's why they call me by name.

“Just so you know, I can't cook so I won't be of any help. Maybe I can chop things or something.”- I said

“I could tell by those butter fingers and long nails, better learn something quickly because you'll be cooking, cleaning, fetching water, planting and a whole lot of other duties. We won't be around to help you in any way.”- Xola said and I was offended, I didn't have butter

fingers and my nails are cute. Gosh, I'm sensing a lot of attitude from her.

“I know you, you don't remember me?”- Xola asked and I shook my head.

“I don't remember you.”- I said

“I knocked you over by mistake at Keys, then you decided to cause a scene because you're Mrs rich princess and poured your drink on my face. Does it ring a bell?”- she said and I wanted to bury myself 6feet under. Oh my gosh! I remember her, I looked down and I didn't know what to say. I apologized but it wasn't going to help, that's why she has an attitude towards me. How am I going to fix this?

“I'm very sorry Xola, that was very rude of me.”- I said

“It was, just like you were rude to Bhut'Sphetho.”- she said and walked away.

“Relax, she'll be fine. In a few months or years, she's very good at holding grudges and hating. So avoid her at all times.”- Smomo said and I nodded.

She started cooking and I helped where I could, she wasn't bad at all. She was kind and talkative, I liked her. Fezile walked in and asked where Xola was, apparently they get along a lot. It made me feel worse.

“Let's go meet my father, he is home now.”- Fezile said and the nerves came back again. I followed him as we walked to his fathers office, the father didn't even look that old. He looked a lot like Fezile and he had a husky voice like Sphetho who was also in the office. I hope he didn't feed his father any lies about me.

“Sawbona baba.”- I greeted and he told me to sit down.

“Sawbona MaKhwalo, its good to finally meet you. I've heard a lot about you.”- He said; good things I hope. I cannot have another family member hating me too. We spoke for a while and he welcomed me into his family. I went back to the kitchen and the wives were there, MaMthembu seemed really fond of me and we were all laughing together. It wasn't as bad as I thought it would be and as the day went by, I felt really at home.

I noticed Sphetho is always with his father, Mongi is everywhere and Andile, I don't know what to say about him but he is strange and is always with Fezile. They seemed like a strong unit and they were all weird in their own way.

I looked at myself in the mirror as I had my wedding gown on, I looked amazing and I had never imagined myself in a wedding gown or even getting married. Growing up I was never the type that would dream about a big fairy tale wedding, wear princess gowns and think about prince charming. My father bought me toy cars and guns, thinking carefully now, I was always just a boy. My father was raising two boys until Gloria came along and turned me into a girl. I guess she's always been my mother but didn't really show it that much or I didn't pay attention to the things she did for me. And now, she was standing behind me with tears in her eyes. She's so emotional and I laughed at her.

“Do you think she would be happy?”- I asked

“I know she would be happy, it's every woman's dream to see her daughter getting married. I know she's looking over at you with a smile on her face, giving you her blessings.”- Gloria said and I nodded.

I've never really thought about my mother, but today I did and wondered how she would be feeling. It is the first time I wish for her presence but having Gloria here fills my heart with great joy. She's the mother figure I never had.

“Do you remember when I had my period for the first time?”-I asked Gloria and she laughed.

“Don't even remind me of that mess. Gosh, your father was so stressed.”- Gloria

I woke up and there was a lot of blood on my bed, I remained silent for a while and then I screamed. Gloria wasn't at work that day, my dad came rushing in and when he saw the blood he literally ran away. Zamani threw a bucket of water on my bed and everything was just a mess until Gloria came, dad called her. When she came, everything was sorted out and she taught me everything I had to know. Even taught my father how to help me, what to buy for me and what tablets to drink for the period pains.

“I'm sorry for never appreciating your presence, lately a lot of my past actions have come back to haunt me but I'm willing to make everything right.”- I said

“You were just a lost child, it is okay. As long as you're growing and realizing your mistakes and correcting them. Just focus on yourself and your marriage, be happy my child because you deserve it.”- Gloria said

My friends came in looking stunning in their bridesmaids dresses, Abongwe was my maid of honour. Gloria said a little prayer before we left heading to the wedding venue.

“Did any of you see Fezile?” - I asked

“I did

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he was very early and you're very late.” - Abongwe said and that is so like Fezile, that man is too punctual.

When I walked down the aisle with my father holding my hand and Zamani was playing the piano. I felt very emotional, Fezile was standing there with a big smile on his face. He was wearing a white tux, he's best man was Andile and groomsmen were Azukise, Sphetho, Mongi and Lungelo, whom I was told is a family relative. He's cousin I think

Dad handed me over to Fezile, that moment was so significant to me mostly because my dad cried, I know letting go of his one and only princess.

“You look beautiful MaKhwalo.” - he said.

Indeed I looked amazing, the designer outdid himself on this dress. I was wearing an A-line strapless dress, mermaid fit with sparkles. It had everything I wanted and more. I loved it.

The wedding proceeded and it was time for the vows.

“Fezile, you irritated me from the day I met you and little did I know that I was meeting my soulmate. We haven't been together for a long time but the time I've been with you has



made me feel that I want to spend the rest of my life with you. It hasn't been easy, tough decisions had to be made but they were all worth it. I love you and I will love you till the end of time. Thank you for seeing me worthy of being your wife and being your right hand helper.”- I said and Abongwe wiped off my tears, life saver I tell you.

“I don't have many words but I want to thank you for trusting me with your heart and trusting that a man like me is worthy of your time and love. As I irritated you from the day we met, you've annoyed me the most but when I'm away from you I miss that annoyance so much. I vow to love, cherish and provide for you till death do us part. I know if I

don't, your father promised to kill me.”- he said and we all laughed. I'm glad he knows that my father will not hesitate to kill him.

Everything went well and we were officially husband and wife.

Nothing sounded better than officially being called Mrs Mhlongo. I changed to another dress for the reception ceremony, everyone from Fezile's family was here besides Anelisa

“Where is Anelisa?”- I asked Fezile and I could see he wasn't happy that she wasn't here.

“She didn't come.”- he said

I don't blame her, I also wouldn't want to see my husband marrying another woman. I would stop that damn wedding or cry throughout the whole ceremony.

We proceeded with the wedding and it was amazing, I had the best time of my life and I was looking forward to the traditional wedding tomorrow.

I only had two hours of sleep and I was very exhausted but the show had to go on. I had to be welcomed into the Mhlongo yard before the sun rose, imagine how bizarre is that. After I was welcomed into the Mhlongo household, I was showed to my house. Yes, I had my own house in the yard too. I threw myself on the bed and slept, I really needed some sleep or else I wouldn't even enjoy this wedding.

I was woken up by Xola after a few hours, she still hates my gut but she's civil with me.

“My mothers will be here soon to help you get dressed, freshen up. You wouldn't want to make a bad impression on your damn wedding day.”- she said and I took a shower. Indeed the mothers came and helped me

wear the traditional attire. The skirt was pretty heavy, I think it is called isidwaba or something.

I looked good though.

“Has Anelisa arrived? This wedding can't go on without her.”- MaChala asked

“No, she's not here and not picking up anyone's calls. Fezile has been trying to call her all morning.”- Xola said.

“What do you mean the wedding can't go on without her?”-I asked

“She's the first wife and she's supposed to welcome you into her family and pass on the doek then help you dress up. If that is not done then you're not even going to be considered as Fezile's second wife.”- MaMnguni explained and I wanted to cry.

Anelisa can just ruin this for me by not showing up, she can't do that.

She doesn't like me, so she can do it just to spite me.

I'm so stressed.

But she wouldn't stand in the way of her husband's happiness.

“We can start so we don't delay the guests and hope Anelisa will show up.”- MaMthembu said and I agreed with that but the embarrassment we'll have if she doesn't show up. It's making my stomach cringe.

When we went out MaChala spotted her car, she was here.

Thank God.

“She's in the kitchen helping with the cooking.”- Smomo said as she came from the house. The singing started and everyone was happy and merry besides Fezile, he kept on looking around. I guess he hasn't seen her.

Andile led the song and they were doing their manly traditional dance, god, I can't dance, I've never done this before ever in my life and they were so perfect.

“Pick up your leg or something, stop embarrassing me.”- Abongwe said, she was perfect and I was horrible.

It was very much fun when I was dancing with Fezile but I couldn't help but feel he was very distracted.

“You look like a real makoti.”- he said and we both laughed.

“And you look like my real Zulu man.”- I said

It was time for me to go change, Xola fetched me and we went to my house. Anelisa was there too wearing what they call Isijal'mani.

“You look beautiful.”- I said “Thanks you too.”- she said.

I guess she wasn't really much of a talker or she wasn't in the best of moods today so I let her be. The dress she made for me was really beautiful, it fit me perfectly and she gave me her doek.

“Let's go.”- she said. Her voice was husky and when she walked me to Fezile, she was in tears. It made me feel really bad

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she was really hurt and I can't even imagine how it felt.

“Ngadla mina umfoka Njomane!”- Fezile shouted and the people ululated. She handed over my hand to Fezile, when she wanted to walk away Fezile held her hand and wiped off her tears.

“Ngiyabonga MaMpofana.”- he said and she nodded then ran away. Fezile was hurt, really hurt. If it was up to him he would be running after her but I was here now. He made his decision and it is what it is.

We danced together and he's father spoke a few words of encouragement and wisdom. It was just a celebratory ceremony now and time for everyone to dance. Anelisa was standing far from us watching us, Fezile walked towards her and I sat down. He dragged her to the centre and danced around her.

“Kuth’ angigiye!”- he shouted

“Giya!!”- he's brothers shouted back and they were laughing together. He started dancing around Anelisa until she danced too, she was laughing a lot and I could tell she was happy. I was happy too, she had been crying a lot today so she needed to laugh. I couldn't help but notice how happy Sphetho is when Anelisa is around, I guess he is really fond of her. I just accepted that he will never like me.

I was getting jealous, it was my day after all so I stood next to them and she walked away. Mongi was gossiping with her and they laughed. I hope it isn't about me. We all moved to the stretch tent so we can have lunch, I wanted this day over already. I was feeling really really hot and I needed to shower.

“Today was beautiful.”- Fezile said

“Yes it was, thank you for today.”- I said and we kissed.

All of a sudden police vans came rushing in and there was a lot of chaos.

“What is going on?”- I asked when Fezile stood up and walked towards Azukise.

“Call Anelisa.”- he said to Samantha who went running to the house. I kept on asking what was going on but he paid no attention to my question. The police cuffed him and Azukise, I swear my whole world came crashing down.

“Let me speak to my wife first!!”- he shouted at the police. Yes let him speak to me. He walked towards Anelisa, that drove me crazy.

“Njomane, what is going on?”- she asked so calmly. How could she be so calm when her husband is being arrested? Fezile better not be some criminal or I'm leaving his damn ass.

They spoke for a while and she kept on nodding like he was giving her instructions and they also spoke to Azukise's wife, Dimpho. The police took them and they left. There was mayhem after the police vans left the yard and Mongi was telling the guests to take food and leave. I went to change and looked for Anelisa. She had to explain what was going on .

“Why is my husband being arrested Anelisa!!”- I shouted, I was tired of not getting answers and my wedding day was ruined!

“Lalela la WeNtombazane ndin, you do not talk to me like that do you understand? You and I are not mates and definitely not friends so you do not get to speak to me the way you just did. He is my husband too and I'm just as concerned as you are. I'm sorry it had to ruin your day but I also do not know what is going on. Now get out of my way and stay here until I come back, am I clear?”- Anelisa said

“I'm coming with you, I need to see my man.”- I said

“You don't listen do you? I said you will stay here until I come back. Your stubborn attitude might work with Fezile but not with me, I won't repeat myself again. If Fezile wanted you to see him and help him, he would've come to you right? Now he didn't so stay in your lane.”- she said and walked away. That hurt, a lot.

To say I was angry would be an understatement.



“Go get some rest MaKhwalo. We will inform you if we have any new information.” - MaChala said and I went to my house

I kept on getting calls from my family and I switched off my phone. I didn't want to talk to anyone.

So much for a happily ever after.

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The next morning, Anelisa came back and packed her bags. I followed her to the lounge where the rest of the family was. I hated having to follow her and ask her for clarity because she was being a bitch about it, totally.

“How is he?” - I asked

“He is fine. They're being moved to Westville Prison tomorrow.” - Dimpho answered because Anelisa wasn't answering me

“A word please Bab’Mhlongo.” - Anelisa said and they walked to the office. Why were they having private meetings while we all wanted to know what was going on?

“Anyone else who knows anything?” - I asked

“If we did we would've informed you. Relax.” - Mongi said  
Honestly everyone was upsetting me.

They came back and she was leaving with the brothers. “I'm coming with you.” - I said

“Where are you going? You're staying here, this is your home for the next three months. I guess Fezile forgot to tell you that piece of information.” - Xola said

“I am not doing that nonsense!” - I said

“These are orders from your husband and if you wish to seek clarity call him and don't make your mess ours. Stay here as you're supposed to.”- Anelisa said

“They are right makoti, you are supposed to be here and perform your wifely duties.”- Bab'Mhlongo said and I wanted to scream and throw everything on the floor.

I was really mad.

This isn't the life I imagined for myself! I decided to just calm down and let things be, no one was going to tell me anything and no one was going to treat me like an equal. All I had to do was just sit and wait.

“Prepare lunch makoti.”- MaMthembu said and I looked puzzled. Did she just say I should cook?

“ I can't cook.”- I said

“What is it with Fezile and woman who cannot cook? I give up on this boy.”- Bab' Mhlongo said

“Follow me MaKhwalo.”- MaChala said and we went to the kitchen. Of all the times I've spoken to her, she seems to be the most calm wife.

“You know, that anger, jealousy and fume you have will not making things easy for you in this marriage. In fact it will ruin your marriage.”- she said

“I don't know what you are talking about.”- I said

“You know exactly what I am talking about. Mark my words

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jealously will ruin your marriage and you will never ever have peace. Now let me teach you how to cook and maybe a lesson or two about such marriages.”- she said and ordered me to take vegetables and get a bucket of water. It was pretty heavy but I managed.

“It will kill you especially because you are the second wife, you came here and there was already Anelisa. We know her, we've been through a lot with her and we love her. We get along with her more because we don't know you yet. The more time you spend here is the more we will get to know you and we will love you as much as we love her. You're quick to see that so and so doesn't like you and you're jealous because they like Anelisa which is something you shouldn't fuss over because she's been here longer than you. If you're always going to compare, you will be bitter and have a heavy heart. It will lead you to doing things you didn't intend on doing but you were driven by a heavy heart. You're young, smart and beautiful and Fezile loves you that's why you are here. Focus on your own marriage and not on his with Anelisa or you will never have peace. Trust me when I say that, I know how it is in our world.”- she said and I nodded, I had nothing to say to her so I focused

on the cooking. I didn't like the way she was looking at me but I guess she was right.

“How do I accept being second best?”-I asked

“There’s no such thing as being second best. Fezile loves you as much as he loves Anelisa.”- MaChala

“That's a lie, have you seen the way he looks at Anelisa? It's like she is the only one that exists.”- I said

“He looks at you the same way, you just cannot see it because you're so focused on Anelisa and identifying how he is with her. He will never be the Fezile he is with Anelisa to you just like he will never be the Fezile he is with you to Anelisa. You have different marriages and been through different situations that is why I said do not compare. Trust me when I say you will dig your own grave if you keep on comparing and being jealous.”- she said

She made a lot of sense and I thought a lot about what she said. We continued cooking and I learned a lot from her.

It was easy for her to say all everything she said but it wasn't going to be easy to do but I was going to do my best. I had to make this work because I really loved Fezile.

A month later

It's been a month since I've been staying in the bhundus, honestly it has been the worst experience of my life and I cannot deal with staying here anymore. We do hard labour, the cooking, the cleaning, the washing, the fetching of water and everything hard you could think of. I've even got pimples on my face and I'm darker. I honestly hate it here.

Fezile comes every weekend without fail and that is the only time I enjoy being here. Last night he came back with Anelisa, much to my annoyance but at least he spent the night with me. I woke up and he wasn't in bed as usual, him and Andile always jog to the mountains early in the morning.

After freshening up I joined them in the kitchen, they were busy fussing over Anelisa and her pregnancy.

“Yes and I'm hoping Njomane gets what he wants, he wants a boy.”- Anelisa said with a huge smile on her face

“Well I'm sure he will be happy to have his first heir.”-

MaMnguni

“It won't really be his heir, we all know that the baby is Aphiwe's and it will be his heir. I'll give Fezile his heir unlike you, I think you probably cheated on him and lied about the rape. I mean we all weren't there right.”- I said

“Excuse me.”- she said and walked away

“Truth hurts”- I mumbled and in no time she slapped me and she was ontop of strangling the life out of me.

Is this woman crazy!!!!

“Call Fezile!!”- I could hear them scream but I was slowly losing my breath.

“Anelisa are you crazy!! You're going to kill her!”- Fezile said as he carried her and put her over his shoulders.

“Let go of me!!! Let me kill her!!!!”- she screamed and threw little punches on his back and I bit him, gosh, this woman was really insane.

“Are you crazy?”- Fezile asked and I smiled because he was defending me, this is my man honey.

“Why don't you first ask your precious wife what she said before you call her a bloody crazy person? Move away from here!”- MaMthembu shouted and Fezile came to me as he should, I cried so much and he held me.

“She wanted to kill me.”- I said and he looked at me

“Anelisa would never do that.”- he said and walked away. After a few minutes he called me to the lounge and Anelisa was there.

“Fezile, I don't want to be near her or else I'll kill her.”- Anelisa said “I'd love to see you try”- I said

“Shut the fuck up Zanothando!!!”- Fezile shouted and we were both shocked, this man was livid and honestly, I was a bit scared. He is supposed to be defending me

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not shouting at me.

“The both of you sit down and listen to me very carefully.”- he said and we sat down, I made sure I sat very far away from her so she doesn't strangle me.

“I should've done this the day Zanothando married into this family and I see that things wouldn't have been this way if I sat the both of you down and talked to you earlier. You are both my wives and I love the both of you very much, you are my wives and representatives of me and how I handle my family. If the both of you are always fighting each other in front of people how does that reflect on me as a man of this household? I do not expect you to be friends because I've seen that will never happen but I expect the both of you to be civil with each other and help each other build this family. The both of you are my suitable helpers and I expect you to be the best representatives of me and what I want in this home, I want peace and unity. It will be very easy for outsiders to manipulate you and make you



hate each other if they see that you are not united as a family and that will break us. I need the both of you to be civil with one another and respect each other. Zanothando, you're very disrespectful towards Anelisa and I will not tolerate it. You are always a good girl before my eyes but when you are not in my eyes you are a snake, I will not accept that. If you cannot get yourself together and stop being two faced you will pack your bags and leave my house, I love you yes I do but I do not like people who are not transparent. Anelisa is my senior wife, she deserves respect and you will give it to her. She is not your age first of all and I don't know where you're getting the audacity to disrespect her from. I know your father and Gloria and I'm sure they raised you well and taught you to respect your elders. I don't know if you're under the impression of that I married you because I didn't love her enough or I wasn't satisfied but you should know you're wrong if you have that mentality and you should get rid of it. She is enough for me and I love her very much and there wasn't anything missing that you had to fill in. You are here because I love you and I want a big family. You are here to assist her and work with her to build this home. And if you cannot do that then

say it so you may pack your bags and go home because I will not tolerate you disrespecting her. Do you understand?" - Fezile said and I was shocked. So he would send me packing because of her?

“Yes I understand and I am very sorry for what I said and how I've been behaving towards you Anelisa. I'm very sorry and I hope you will forgive me.”- I said for the sake of peace.

“Keep hoping.”- Anelisa said

“And Anelisa, you do not act like a hooligan no matter how much you've been provoked. I don't like how violent you became, I understand your reasons but I never want to see it happen ever again. I know since you met Zano you have never liked her and never gave her any chance to even be civil with you and I know you're a stubborn and difficult person but work with us here too, as I said you do not have to be the best of friends but I just need you to be civil. Do not make it hard for her and for me, you are the senior wife and I expect you to lead by example. I love you very much and you know that, but I also love Zanothando and I need you to start on working on accepting that and acknowledging her presence. I need unity and peace in my family and it starts from you and goes to her, as much as she should respect you, you should respect her. Am I clear?”- Fezile said and she nodded

“Words Anelisa, words.”- he said

“I understand Njomane.” – Anelisa said

“Good, you should also remember how much it hurts me when the two women I love dearly argue and do not get along. It's draining and

makes me loose hope that I found faith in the wrong woman to build my family with. I love you both and learn to live with that.”- he said and walked away then I followed him, they were about to leave with Anelisa and I needed to make things right.

“MaChala told me what you said, it was really insensitive of you and you really should change your attitude because it reflects me as your husband. I don't want to repeat myself?” -Fezile said and I apologized

I should really change or tone down my attitude before it ruins my marriage.

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2 years later.

To say a lot has happened in the past two years would most definitely be an understatement. A lot has happened and I don't even know where to start.

Hot news though is that my father and Gloria got married about 6 months ago, I was very happy and Dad decided to retire and handed over the company to Zamani.

Anelisa gave birth to a beautiful baby girl and she was named Qhawekazi. Aphiwe didn't let things rest peacefully, even in his grave he still managed to torment Anelisa and Fezile. They had to do a ceremony where they introduced Qhawekazi to the ancestors as Aphiwe's child and Fezile had to beg a dead man to let him raise Qhawekazi as his own. It was honestly sad to watch and see how broken the both of them were and it opened up old wounds that they had both worked very hard to move on from. That is what finally gave me a change heart, Anelisa had been through too much to also have to deal with me and my drama.

We are not the best of friends, I can't even say we are friends but we are very civil with one another. Although there are times where we will argue because of personalities clashing but

we've been good to one another and Fezile has been the happiest husband.

I, got heavily pregnant and gave birth to a charming little boy whom we named Bhambatha Yandisa Mhlongo. Him and Qhawekazi are inseparable, Anelisa and I usually take turns with having the both of them each weekend and sometimes during the week because they never want to separate. We were so irritated this one day because we had a fight and they were crying for one another, we put them in the car and drove to Fezile's house where we left them there with their father for a week. He does say that was the most challenging week of his life, he wanted kids so he had to deal with them and their tendencies.

The family has been good, Xola forgave me and we are cool with one another. Sphetho, I gave up on him long ago. As long as Anelisa is happy and safe, he's fine and he gets back to being cold-hearted. I once asked Fezile why Sphetho seemed so fond of Anelisa, apparently when it had never been this way. He actually hated her so much, almost everyone in the family hated her because they accused her of having a hand in the killing of his little brother, that shocked me a lot. Anelisa, I could never associate her with murder even though she can get very aggressive. Sphetho started feeling the need to always protect her after the Aphiwe incident, he killed his brother

because of what he did to her and he always wants to see her happy because he still blames himself for what happened. They all do. And then I finally understood and I knew that Sphetho would never like me. He had a reason for accepting Anelisa and had no reason for accepting me and I was told he was naturally like this.

“Bhambatha kodwa

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why are you switching off the television?”- I asked this naughty little boy. He is in the phase of breaking things, which is so annoying! Yet I love him so much, being a mother changed a lot about me. I become much more responsible and very hands on, before I gave birth I usually said I'll have a nanny to take care of him because I didn't

want to change diapers and all but when I held him for the first time, I just knew I was never letting him go and that is why I am the housewife that I am today.

But I totally still fail when it comes to cooking.

Fezile walked in carrying Qhawekazi who went running to Bhambatha and there was alot of noise. Today will be really chaotic.

“MaKhwalo, how are you my lovely wife?”- he asked and kissed my neck. He was busy misbehaving and I ran from him.

“There are kids here Fezile.” I said

“And they are not even paying attention to us, we could literally make another baby and they won't see a thing.”- he said and I laughed at his stupidity.

“Let's sit down and talk.”- he said and I wondered what I did wrong, he usually says those words when I did something wrong.

“So, what are your plans for tomorrow?”- he asked

“I have no plans.”- I said

“ Good because we're having a family dinner at Anelisa's house and I want you to go help her prepare.” He said, we always do these family dinners once a month in either of our houses but it wasn't the last Sunday of the month like we always do.

Tomorrow was actually a Friday.

“What is the special occasion?”- I asked “Zanothando, I'm taking a third wife.”- he said.

I couldn't believe what he was saying, my heart broke into pieces and I wanted to scream. I couldn't even respond to his nonsense honestly, I was hurt.

“After so long?”- I asked, the two years without him making any move of getting another wife gave me the impression that he

only wanted two wives and I was always going to be the last wife. I was never ready for this.

“There was a lot but feud and challenges with you and Anelisa, I wanted to let things settle down and for you to atleast establish a civil relationship and I also wanted to focus on the kids. I feel that now is the right time to expand my family and the right time for you and Anelisa to bare me more babies and for my third wife to entire the Mhlongo household and fulfil her duties. I've waited too long. It has been three to four years since I started building this family but I still have only two kids, a lot more needs to happen.”- he said and I believed he was just being crazy.

“So we are meeting this woman tomorrow?”- I asked

“Yes and I need you to be on your best behaviour.”- Fezile; best behaviour my foot.

Now I finally understand how it felt when Anelisa was told about me, now I understand why she was so mean when I first met her.

It hurts like hell.



I've been at Anelisa's house since early in the morning, we went to the mall and bought groceries for tonight's dinner which we were both going to cook, I pray that we don't burn down the house and we were now busy cleaning and decorating the dinner table. I saw all of this is very unnecessary but Mrs Mhlongo the first insisted because she was enjoying seeing me suffer.

"What are you doing?"- I asked her, she was supposedly baking but from what I saw it wasn't going to come out right. The cake just looked weird and I was sure the taste wasn't so good.

"I'm also not sure, I followed all the instructions but I guess there's something I missed."- Anelisa said

"I think you missed a whole lot of things, I'm calling a chef. He will cook and bake everything to perfection and all we have to do is just pay. I'm not slaving around for this woman."- I said

"What? I slaved around for you."- Anelisa

"Cut the act honey, I know your little secret. Dimpho cooked for you."- I said and we laughed

"Make sure you pay using Fezile's card, we'll be feeding his damn wife and it shouldn't come from our pockets."- Anelisa

Great idea, we sometimes get along when things are both in our favour. If not, we're like cat and mouse.

“Do you know who she is?” - she asked

“No, I wasn't told anything about her and I thought you knew everything.” - I said

“Not this time.” - she said

I called the Chef from Fezile's favourite restaurant, we were lucky he could come through for us and he worked his magic while we helped with the little things we could do. A lot of what we could do was drink wine

“By the time this dinner starts, the both of you will be so drunk.” - the chef said

“Which is good, I don't want to be sober when it all begins. I'd rather tackle it with an intoxicated mind.” - I said and we all laughed then Anelisa took the wine bottle and put it away.

We both freshened up and got ready for the dinner as Fezile was a very punctual man, we knew he would be here in no time. The kids had made a mess at the lounge and Anelisa shouted at them while clearing up, I had no energy for them today. They could mess up and break everything they wanted.

“I think I heard his car parking.” - Anelisa said and we went to stand by the kitchen door. Gosh I was so nervous it was like I

was meeting someone so important yet it is someone I'm yet to share a husband with or should I say someone I'm already sharing the same man with.

"I'm nervous."- I said to Anelisa

"Me too."- she said and held my hand

Fezile walked in with a white woman following him, hawu where is the wife now? I looked at him and Anelisa who wanted to laugh so much. Was I missing something? I was confused, I was really confused and before I could ask Anelisa was bursting out in laughter and Fezile glared at her. She shut up, instantly. What was going on here?

"Ladies, meet my fiancé. Maggie Staffords"- my dearest husband said. Oh my gosh

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she was the third wife. Fezile was marrying a white woman, wonders will never end.

"Tell me you're joking."- I said

"I wish I was."- Fezile

I've never ever thought of him as the type that was into interracial relationships, I was really shocked. There was nothing wrong with marrying a white woman but it really shocked me. I looked at her from

head to toe, she was beautiful and different. She didn't look like she was uptight and classy, she looked simple.

Anelisa played Mrs host and lead us to the dinning table, she had to do it on her own. I was dumbstruck and annoyed actually because Fezile kept on smiling at us when I was upset. My jealousy was dominating and I didn't like this Maggie girl, like I expected. Why would you like someone who is about to marry your husband? Anelisa didn't like me and I don't like Maggie, simple.

She struggled trying to find a place to sit, little girl thought she was going to sit next to her man. Anelisa never gives off her seat, trust me and I was glad she didn't sit next to me. She had to sit across me so I could glare at her easily. Fezile did his lousy introductions and I was just really over this dinner, we've seen her and we know her name already so we can all go home now. The awkwardness was thick, only the sound of cutlery was echoing in the room. I poured some wine and drank it in one go.

“So how did the two of you meet?”-I asked

I was really curious and she said some lousy story about meeting at a friends party. Her story didn't have any fire like mine, I mean I met Fezile in a very dramatic and memorable way and so did Anelisa. Okay I should stop comparing.

Anelisa kept the conversation going and I was just off it. "You knew he was married?" - I asked

"Yes." - Maggie said.

"And you had no problem dating a married man?" - I asked

"Yes, just like you had no problem dating a married man." - Maggie said and I was livid!

Fezile spoke but my mind wasn't even on anything he said, I wanted to literally punch this girl in the face. Luckily Anelisa went upstairs and came back with the kids, they changed the atmosphere a bit. Bhambatha upset me so much, he was glued to Maggie in an instant. This boy loves attention, I couldn't really take him from her. That would be extremely rude and I'm a changed woman.

Anelisa came with the questions again, apparently she was from Cape Town and all and what caught my attention more was how long they've been together with Fezile.

An entire year and a half!!!

I was glad she went home shortly after that little discovery, if she stayed any longer I wouldn't have been able to keep calm.

"I hate her." - I said

"Hate is a strong word for someone you barely even know. You're just upset that she didn't take your nonsense and she

stated facts.”- Anelisa, the great Samaritan said. She was annoying me and so was her husband. I took my son and strapped him in the car seat and I left. I needed my own bed and a good night sleep before I fully exploded

Today was the worst day of my life.

I never thought I would live to see the day Anelisa leaves Fezile Mhlongo, hack, I never thought it would ever happen. I still couldn't believe it when Maggie called me in the morning telling me that Anelisa was leaving, not just leaving but leaving Fezile.

She wanted out.

I quickly left Bhambatha with Abongwe and drove to Anelisa's house where the drama was taking place. Indeed she was packing her bags and Qhawekazi's things were already in her car.

"Anelisa, what are you doing?" - I asked

"What does it look like I'm doing?" - she said and pushed me out of the way. Maggie was standing there, she kept on making calls. Surely she was calling Fezile who is currently in Cape Town with Azukise on a business conference.

"Can't you atleast wait for Fezile to come back?" - Maggie asked

"For what? So he can beg me to stay and I look him in the eye as I break him more than we already are? No thank you." - she said. A car drove in and it was Sphetho and Andile, people from Ulundi drove here like crazy because of her drama.

“Don't even come near me Sphetho and Andile, don't!” - she said

“Let's talk Anelisa, I'm not against what you're doing. I just want to talk to you.” - Sphetho said and she nodded. I carried Qhawekazi, she was waking up and I know she wanted food.

“Where is the food?” - I asked

“Blue bag.” - Maggie said and I took the fastest and easiest thing I could find and fed her. They spent about an hour talking and I was shocked when I saw Sphetho helping her pack

“Are you crazy? You're helping her leave your brother?” - I asked

“Zanothando, not today please.” - Sphetho said and I nodded. Fezile just had to come back home and sort this out.

A lot happened in the past two months, Fezile and Maggie got married and let's just say Fezile was too caught up in his new marriage that it

caused a drift between us and between him and Anelisa but then that was sorted. I believe what made matters worse was Anelisa's miscarriage, that just broke her even more. Things were going well though, she was fine and they were both fine but one thing I've learnt about Anelisa is that you can never confirm her.



When she was done packing, she locked up her house and gave me the keys and a letter.

“I need you to give this to Fezile when he comes back, tell him I love him.” - she said

“I will, take care.” - I said and we hugged

I think this is the very first time ever since I married Fezile that I actually hugged Anelisa. I couldn't believe that I was actually crying. She said her goodbyes to Maggie and then took Qhawekazi.

“Where are you going Anelisa?” - I asked

“Kenya, I'm visiting Lisanda for a while then I'll go home.” - she said and she left. Sphetho was driving her car and Andile followed.

“Wow.” - I said

“Why are you so sad about her leaving? I've seen you always arguing I didn't know you were close.” - Maggie said

“If I were you, I would be crying too. Anelisa leaving means your marriage is on the rocks, it could even come to an end. Anelisa is Fezile's life and there is no way he will live without her. Trust me on that.” - I said

“But he has us.” - Maggie

“Did you not hear a word I said? Yes he has us and he loves us but without her, there is no us. You haven't been around long to

understand what I mean. Let's go, Fezile will want to find us together in his house when he comes back home.”- I said and we started off by fetching Bhambatha who was crying hysterically like he knew he was officially separated from Qhawekazi

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maybe he could feel it.

After a few hours Fezile came rushing in with Azukise, another one who would kill for Anelisa. I think if ever Fezile hurt Anelisa, Azukise wouldn't hesitate killing him. That's how much of a hold she has on both these men.

“What happened?”- Fezile asked and I looked at Maggie, she had to explain because she got there first.

“I went to her house to give her back the lunch tins I took yesterday, she had cooked for me but when I got there she was packing. She told me she was leaving for good, she even took of her ring and gave it to me. Then I called you and Zano to come help me, I didn't know what to do to stop her.”- Maggie said and gave the ring to Fezile.

“We tried stopping her but she was hell bent on leaving especially while you're not around. Sphetho came and they spoke for a while and he helped her leave.”- I said

“Sphetho! Of cause he would let her leave.”- he said and went upstairs. I followed him and left Azukise speaking with Maggie asking where she was heading to. Fezile was changing and I could tell that he was really hurt.

“Mhlongo, calm down and let her be. Just for a few days.”- I said

“Let her be? Let my wife leave me? I will not do that, she has to come back.”- Fezile shouted.

“She left you a letter, I think you should read it before you make any decision.”- I said and he looked at me and sat on the carpet floor and I sat next to him.

“Read it for me please.”- he said and I nodded. The letter says

“Njomane kaMgabhi eyaduka iminyakanyaka yaze yabuya ngonyaka wesine ne sthole

Esimdudukazana Makhedama Soyengwase Nina ka-Bhebhe

Bhebhe wena owabhebhela umuntu etsheni ngoba usaba amazolo. Sthandwa senhliziyo yami, I wrote you this letter because I knew I would never be able to say these words while I looked at you. I knew you'd be so heartbroken so I'd rather hurt

you when I'm miles away from you. I've decided to leave, not because you hurt me, not because you neglected me and not because I don't love you anymore but because it is the best decision for the both of us. As much as you'll be in denial but we're both broken beyond repairs and the more we pretend to be okay is the more we hurt each other. From the day Aphiwe raped me, I knew you and I will never ever be the same again. The time you had to strip off your dignity because of me and beg a dead man, I knew that things would never be the same between us and recently losing our child, that was just the last straw. I know we thought we recovered but Fezile, I can hear your cries every time you lock yourself in that office of yours. We're broken Makhedama and I need us to use this time to heal, maybe one day we will meet and fall inlove again like we did the first time we

met. You have your two other wives that love you so much and are going to give you many many beautiful children that I have failed to give you. Love them the same way you love me but hey, not more than me because no one should ever replace Ithambo lakho lekhentakhi. Ngiyakucela Njomane, don't come looking for me and trying to convince me to come back. I need this for myself and you will realize you need it too. I love you and I will always love you. Goodbye Fezile.”

I was in tears and so was he, he laid his head on my thighs and cried.

“Everything will be fine Fezile, she will be back.”- I said; that was just a lie. I didn't know if she would ever come back or not.

It all just hurt but I understood her reasons.

As expected Fezile didn't listen to Anelisa's letter, I've been arguing with him all morning but whatever I say he doesn't listen.

“Go speak to your husband, maybe he will listen to you.”- I said to Maggie

“What will I even say that will change his mind? He is leaving and no one can stop him. Azukise is going to Kenya with him.”- Maggie said

“This is all just giving me a headache, Anelisa must come back and fix her home.”- I said and went back to Fezile.

“Fezile, why are you so worked up about Anelisa when she doesn't want to be with you? We are here Njomane and you have our family to take care off.”- I said

“I love you Zanothando, I love you a lot but I can never be able to focus on you and Maggie if she is not with me. I feel incomplete and without her, I can never ever love you and you will also end up leaving me because of the way I'll be if she is not here. Even if tables were turned

and you had left me, I would be this crazy and I would be fetching you because my family is incomplete when one of you is not with me. I chose you all for a reason, the three of you were made for me and you belong to me, right here in my

heart. When one of you is missing, it cannot function.”- he said and I had tears in my eyes, he wiped them off and kissed me.

“Fezile you will lose more than just Anelisa.”- I said

“I'd rather not have all of you than not having one of you. And you seem to forget that Anelisa didn't leave alone but she also left with my daughter, I need my child home too. If she wants space

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I will give her space but not when she is miles away and I cannot see her and my child.”- he said

“Giving her space means she doesn't want to see your face Fezile.”- I said

“Fine but I want to see hers.”- he said and I literally just give upon this man. I helped him pack, what else can I do besides supporting him? After he was done Azukise came to fetch him

“Take care of my family while I'm gone MaKhwalo and I need you to stay together, here in my house okay. Maggie, I'll be back sweetheart. Take care of one another, I love you both.”- he said and kissed us goodbye.

“I need a strong drink.”- I said when he left.

“There's vodka in the kitchen, I'll get it for you.”- Maggie said It is exactly what I needed.

I drank three shots and I was much more calm. We ordered food and watched tv, Bhambatha was sleeping peacefully.

“MaChala called and she wanted to know what is going on. She was really hurt.”-Maggie said.

“Amongst all of us, she is her favourite. Enough about Anelisa, she's ruined our lives. And Fezile has shown who he loves the most, we are just here to be his incubators which I will not take part in.”- I said

“What do you mean?”- she asked

“What I mean is, when he comes back from his wife hunt. I will leave and I bet he will not be as crazy and hurt when I leave, trust me.”-I said

“So you'll just be leaving just to prove a point?”- she asked

“Maybe and to show him I'm tired of being second best.”- I said

Maybe it was the alcohol talking but there was some truth in it. I was fed up too, I wanted to be free.

“We're going to the club later, let me go sleep off this vodka so I can be fresh for the club.”- I said

I went to my room and dosed off to sleep.



Maggie didn't take me seriously but I was very serious about going to the club, I needed to distress. She didn't want to come with me and so she was going to babysit Bhambatha since she took the role of being the great Samaritan. None of my friends were available to go clubbing with me, party poopers! That wasn't going to stop me though, I was going clubbing and nothing was going to stop me

“Isn't that dress too short and revealing for a married woman?” - Maggie asked

“Do you see our husband anywhere here? Plus why would I go to the club fully covered up.” - I said and did my make up. It had been too long since I dolled up and went to party.

It was around 10pm, which was the perfect time to go clubbing in Durban. I drove off and headed too our varsity private booths we used to go to, those were really the days and I was going to have fun like I did those days. I got to the club and it was exactly the vibe I needed, the perfect vibe. I found some young girls to chill with, they weren't that much younger than me but definitely not married and mothers like me.

We were dancing our asses off and it was good to see that I still had it in me, the shots kept coming and the more I drank was the more I let loose and had a lot of fun. We took our seats and

they started smoking, I had smoked weed once before so I didn't mind smoking it again. We were high and the music was loud, what better way to enjoy the night could I want?

I forgot about all of my troubles and lived like I was young again. It had to be the best night of my life. A bunch of young, very handsome men came to our table and offered to buy us drinks. They bought drinks and the table was filled, we drank and just had a lovely conversation. There was this guy who kept on eyeing me, his name was Neo and he was pretty cute.

Zano, you're married! I reminded myself

The night went on, drinks kept coming and they started smoking cocaine. I was very hesitant, I rejected it on the first round.

The second round I was tempted and I took a sniff

One sniff become three sniffs and I stopped. Gosh the feeling was out of this world and I was up and dancing in no time.

“You're a great dancer.”- Neo said and I thanked him

We spoke about a lot of things and he was going through divorce, as much as I was heavy on drugs and intoxicated, I didn't tell him I was married. I was just a young girl tonight, a girl who just wants to have fun.

“Let's go relax

privately.”- he said

“Okay.”- I said and followed him. We went to the private rooms and we had more drinks, the conversations kept flowing and we had a lot of chemistry.

“One last sniff?”- Neo asked

“No thank you.”- I said and he smoked alone.

He was very attractive, especially when he took his coat off. I felt my clit throbbing by just looking at him. He kissed me and I kissed him back.

In no time clothes were flying all over the room and I was on top of him.

“Make me cum.”- I said

He took off my underwear and rubbed my clit, his touch was so good it sent shivers all over my body. I had no time for foreplay, I wanted him, I needed him.

I held his manhood, it wasn't as big as Fezile but I was hopeful it could work. I inserted it myself, dear lord what was I doing?

That didn't stop me.

I was grinding and riding on him like the world was coming to an end. Maybe it was because I knew I'd be dead if Fezile were to ever find out about this.

Enough about Fezile! He is chasing Anelisa and so let me be.

He turned me over and penetrated me deeply, gosh I underestimated him. He was good and giving it to me real good.

We kissed throughout and he made me feel so good, or maybe it was the drugs that added more adrenaline.

He made me cum.

I laid on him and took the cocaine, another sniff and I was ontop of him again. We went on and on all night long and it was amazing.

“Damn, you're a beast.”- Neo said when I woke up

When did I fall asleep? What was the time? Why was I still here? Oh my gosh, Zanothando what did you do?

“I have to go.”- I said

“But I thought we'll go out and have breakfast, maybe have another round before we go.”- he said

“No, this was a mistake. Bye.”- I kissed him and took all my belongings, gosh I looked like a hobo. I got into my car and took a deep breath.

“What did you do stupid Zanothando?”- I asked.

I couldn't go to Fezile's house looking like this, Maggie would just suspect something so I headed to my house so I could freshen up. After freshening up I rushed to the chemist and bought morning after pills, I took about 5, I had to be safe.

My phone had several missed calls from Fezile and Maggie. I drove to Fezile's house and I could hear Bhambatha's cry from the driveway. My poor baby.

I took him as soon as I got to the house and there was Sphetho, couldn't this day get any worse?

"Morning."- I said

"So my brother leaves and you decide to go clubbing like a whore."- Sphetho said

"Not now Sphetho, I'm not married to you and I sure damn don't answer to you."- I said and walked away.

I was too stressed to deal with him or anyone else. All I wanted to do was lock myself in my room with my son.

I felt really guilty, it ate me up everyday and I felt myself slowly falling apart inside. I needed someone to talk to, someone who I knew would go to the grave with you secret and I drove home.

“Zamani, where is Gloria?” - I asked

“In your room, I don't know what is she doing there.” - he said and I went to my room. I found her praying there, I kneeled next to her and closed my eyes.

Words couldn't come out, I couldn't talk to God and tell him about my mistakes. I mean, he saw me right? He knows what I did and he can hear all my thoughts. I spoke from the heart and I couldn't help but just cry. MaChala's words kept on echoing in my head, I remembered when she said my jealousy and heavy heart would ruin my own marriage.

She was right.

I didn't understand what she meant back then but now I know, and now it has happened.

Gloria finished praying and she was shocked to see me with her.

“When did you come in here? You look like you needed that prayer more than I did.” - she said and I just cried. She held me and let me cry till I had had enough.

“What happened?”- she asked

“I did something bad ma, something really bad that could ruin my marriage if ever Fezile found out.”- I said

“Tell me everything.”- she said and I told her everything, from Anelisa leaving till waking up at a clubs private room with a man I barely even knew. She was hurt, she was disappointed but she held my hand. It felt good to tell her, I felt a little more at ease.

“You did something very bad, degraded yourself as a married woman and truly disrespected yourself and your body. Your body is a temple of God and you should respect it. I will not judge you, I have no right but I will advise you to be honest with your husband. That man has had his problems but he has always been loving and honest to you and you also owe him that much and it is he's right to decide if he forgives you or not.”-Gloria

“What? Ma, I can't tell Fezile. Never! He will not hesitate to just throw me out of his house

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take his son and never ever will I see him. He can even kill me, I can't take that risk. I cannot end my marriage.”- I said

“You ended your marriage the moment you slept with that man and you will be laying your marriage on a bed of lies. Carrying

such a big secret is not easy Zanothando. It will eat you up everyday.”- she said

“Ma, I will not tell him. I can't, I'll rather have it eat me up everyday. I will get used to it. People cheat in marriages everyday ma and they live. I will die with this, what Fezile doesn't know won't hurt him at all.”- I said and she shook her head.

“It is your decision and I will support it but you should know that I am against it. Remember this one thing Zanothando, no secret remains hidden forever. The truth always comes out and in a very ugly way. Save yourself by telling the truth before it is too late.”- she said

“I hear you ma but I'm sorry I cannot. I will not tell him”- I said

“Okay my child.”- she said

She read me bible verses which were not making me feel any better, all I could hear in my mind were MaChala's words. We sat for a while and I had to leave.

We were heading to Ulundi, apparently Fezile wanted us all to meet there. I have never spoken to him since he left and I've been ignoring his calls.

I didn't want to talk to him, I wasn't emotionally strong enough yet. My phone rang and it was an unknown number.



“Mrs Zanothando Mhlongo speaking how may I help you?”- I answered

“You didn't tell me you were married but hey, I don't mind. Can we meet up tonight? I want to return your sexy underwear.”- Oh my gosh, it was Neo. Where did he get my number?

“Leave me alone and never call me again.”-I said

“Can we atleast talk things out, meet me at my place. I'll send you the address.”- he said

Never, I wasn't going to go there and repeat the same mistake I made. It wouldn't be a mistake anymore if I did it again. I told him to stay away from me and blocked his number. I hoped he will get the message.

I cannot afford to have him causing trouble for me, never.

I fetched Maggie and Bhambatha, she's been a sweetheart and always taking care of my son while I was a hot mess. She wasn't as bad as I thought she was, maybe if I toned it down and be more humble I would get along very well with her.

“Let's get some food for the road first.”- I said and she nodded

I wonder what we were going to Ulundi for, hopefully there will be no drama anymore.

33

We arrived at Ulundi and Fezile was there already and he wasn't with

Anelisa.

He said he just wanted to be with his family and so that is why we had

to come to Ulundi. He was taking a shower while I waited for him with

Maggie in their house, he summoned us here and I was trying to act as

normal as possible.

“Hello my beautiful wives.”- he said and kissed me then kissed Maggie.

We both didn't respond, trust me it wasn't planned.

“I understand you're both not happy with me and I deserve that. The

past week has been very hard on all of us and I had things to take care

off. As you know, MaMpofana has left and she might never be coming

back. I went to her and begged her to come home but she made me

understand and I can never stand in her way. A lot has made me realize

that I was unfair to all of you and I haven't been a good husband. I

apologize for that and I apologize for neglecting you and not treating

you fairly. Zanothando, I'm very sorry. I'm sorry for ever making you

feel you come second and I know you've done a lot of things driven by

your jealousy and that was all because of me and the way I was treating you. Maggie, you just joined our family and your stay so far

hasn't been pleasant and I apologize for that. I apologize for neglecting

you and if ever I made you feel you're not important to me, I am so

sorry. I want us to all start afresh, I want us to be better and have a

better future. That is why I want to ask if any of you feel like you want

to leave me? If so, you may do so and I will not stand in the way of your

happiness.”- Fezile said and Maggie looked at me.

I know I said I wanted to leave to prove a point but I wasn't going to do

that.

“I'm not leaving Mhlongo.”- I said

“I won't leave too.”- Maggie said

“Thank you very much for deciding to stay with me and if there is

anything you wish to tell me

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now is the time. If there's something I did

and you didn't like or if there is something you did and you feel I need

to know, let us talk openly.”- he said and my heart was beating fast.

Now is the time to tell him, but no. I wasn't going to ruin my marriage

when we were just fixing it. He said we are off to a new start and what I

did was off the past, we were gladly moving on from the past.

“Your silence means there is nothing so I guess we can all move on?”-

he asked and we nodded

“We could start by going to a family vacation, Qhawekazi will be coming

too. Anelisa agreed that we will co parents and I hope you will assist

me.”- he said

“We will assist you Fezile.”-Maggie said.

“Where are we going for the vacation?”- I asked

“I have it covered, it will be a great surprise. “- he said

“ I hope we will not be climbing mountains and crossing bridges, I'm not

about that life.

“You'll always be lazy and less adventurous and I love you just the way

you are.”-he said

“I love you too Fezile.”- I said

“Okay I'm still here stop being all smoochy in front of me”-

Maggie said

we laughed. She must not be jealous, jealousy is a toxic trait to have. It

ruins everything, trust me I know.

34

We've been on the flight for way to long and I was beginning to be very

irritable and complaining wasn't going to help me in any way.

I was just glad that these two kids have been well behaved and I didn't

have to be chasing after them, Samantha dropped Qhawekazi off.

We still had no idea where we were going but Fezile was very excited

about it, I just knew it had to be overseas since we've been flying for so

long and there is no one else to ask because it was only us in this plane.

The pilot told us to sit still and fasten our seatbelts because we were

about to land

Finally!

I changed numbers because Neo was calling me nonstop and I said a

lame excuse of my simcard breaking to Fezile and he believed me, more

lies.

“Oh my gosh!!”- I screamed.

“Fezile!!”- Maggie screamed

We were in France, Paris. The city of love and romance.

The smile of satisfaction on his face, he really outdid himself on this

one.

We were driven to the hotel and we went to our separate rooms.

Everything about this place was breath-taking and I was really happy.

Fezile was really serious about working on our marriages and becoming

a better family, I just wished things would be this great for a very long

time and we'd have less drama.

We had plans for dinner in some fancy restaurant and we freshened up,



I had a killer outfit on. These French people had to see that I had style

and class honey. My son and I wore matching colours and we took a lot

of pictures.

I went to Maggie's room and she was ready too

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so was Qhawekazi. We

took pictures and went downstairs when Fezile was already calling us

nonstop.

“You all look amazing.”- he said

“And so do you.”- I said

We had a driver who took us to the restaurant and we were taken to

our seats.

“I hope they won't serve us frogs and turtles, I want proper food.”-

Fezile; trust Fezile to say that nonsense.

I noticed him staring by the door, we all looked to the door and Anelisa

was standing there in her favourite but hideous jumpsuit. She walked

to our table and stood next to Qhawekazi.

“Is there another seat available for me?”- she asked. Fezile looked at

me and Maggie, was he seeking approval from us?

Was this really happening? When it comes to Anelisa we all know we

have no say but this time he was seeking approval.

Wow.

“Sure, there is.”- Maggie said and I stood up and moved from where I

was sitting.

“Take your seat”

She sat down next to Fezile, on his right hand side where she is supposed to be and has always been. Our family was back together

now, we were peaceful and happy.

There was a lot of joyful laughter and I couldn't ask for more.

“I'm glad you're back, MaMpofana.”- I said to her

“Thank you MaKhwalo.”- she said

“My dear wives, I booked you into a weeks cooking course. I am tired of

eating takeaways.”- Fezile said and we all argued with him.

This is how it was meant to be.

This is how it was always meant to be from the first place.

.....**The End**.....

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