

BAMBO LWAMI by S.R Mamba

BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 1

"What?" I scream "you are leaving me?"

"Yes, I'm so done with you Zamokuhle Khumalo, I'm DONE"

"I said I'm sorry" I say

"Yes you said sorry all these times, you cheat and then say sorry, you hit me and say sorry, I just don't retaliate when you hit me because I'm not a women abuser" he says.

"Oh please" I say with a slight laugh, "don't you dare come to me with those stories, you know I am what I am because of you"

"Don't turn this on me"

."I was a 'naive' girl, have you forgotten" I make sure to invert naive using my finger.

"I've had enough of you" he says.

"Uzobuya Kimi I tell you" he laughs.

"Oh pshh I've found a better person for myself"

"Oh, so that's what this is all about? I knew there was a woman behind all this"

"Mxm"

"Don't suck your teeth, I can't believe that I was falling for the fact that I am the one who pushed you away"

"Yeah, I'm better off with her, than with you"

"Okay, Themba, it's fine leave me" this stung, I know I fucked up, but he made me do all the things I did.

"I'm leaving vele" he takes his bags and walks out, I sink on the couch.

"I hope you find umuntu ozomuphatha kahle, because that's clearly not me" he says after

taking his last load of bags and leaves me, I can't believe he actually really left me.

Tears burn my eyes, but I refuse to let them fall, they won't. In actual truth he has never done anything to me, it was just my naiveness, because I was cheated on once, I believed that every guy I'd be with would cheat.

I cheated almost each time and then when he found out, I pinned everything on him, so I guess sleeping with his friend was actually his breaking point. I appreciated his presence, he was my cheerleader, keeping up to my father's standards is really hard, no lies, but he made sure that he cheered me on.

I understand now that he was tired hence he also cheated on me too. From now on I'm focusing on I'll focus on doing better in my father's hospital, I'm a 28 year old gynaecologist and I think there are still things that need to be implemented at my father's hospital.

At home we weren't allowed to be anything besides doctors so I guess I didn't look at any field with interest because both my parents and sister are doctors.

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"Damn sisi what's up?" That is Nobuhle, my sister, she must not annoy me, not today

"Nothing!" I say as coldly as I can "why didn't you knock?" I ask

"Hawu?"

"You should teach yourselves manners" I say "if awukwazi go and pleas with your grandmother's chickens they might give you manners" she laughs out loud, irritating me more.

"You are full of jokes sometimes" she says.

"Have you forgotten about Mpilo's soccer match?" Oh fuck how could I?

"Flip, I totally forgot" I say running around like a headless chicken. I just change into sweaters and comfortable sneakers. She drives, I feel like she drives slow, I keep glancing at her.

"I'm driving today, and it will be cautious" God, I keep hitting my fingers on my thigh, had they make a sound they would have made that 'tik tok tik tok' sound.

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We just arrived at the home, he looks excited, which betters my mood, I hate that I can't adopt him now.

"Mommy" he says running toward me, he gives me warm hug and smile.

"Sthandwa Sami" I say.

"I thought you weren't coming, I'll score a goal for you " I smile, he knows how to cheer me up.

"Thank you, play fair, and Don't injure yourself" I warn him then kiss his forehead. I loved this child the minute I saw him, four years ago, we were here for the 60 minutes thing, on the 18th of July. I was very grumpy my father forced us, when we arrived here I saw him, he was a really beautiful child. Apparently his mother left him next to a dump site so one of the good Samaritans brought him here. I loved him and came here regularly, even now as he is four he is still under the influence of me being his mother.

I don't know why they didn't make him a certificate, that's the only reason why I can't adopt him. I will one day adopt him though.

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The game just ended, they lost but he played so well, and I kept screaming.

"Am I coming this weekend?" Mpilo asks

"Of course you are, thank you for my goal" I kiss his cheek, he smiles.

"Anything for my mother" my heart melts.

We spent few minutes with him and now it's time for me to go back home, back to reality that I got dumped.

"Bye bye Sthandwa Sami" I kiss his lips

"Bye mommy" he says. Nobuhle and I leave.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 2

This break-up really took a turn on me, but I need to get up and dust myself so that I can move on.

I'm coming back from the home, to see mpilo and he is doing just fine. As soon as I get he I take a warm one hour bath.

I just finished bathing I wear my pyjamas, I'm not gonna do anything after this I'll just order-in. As soon as my head hits the pillow I drift off.

There's an irritating knock on the door, they have the nerve to wake me up I wonder who that is.

I mumble as I go open, upon opening I scream in excitement, it's my friend Bongiwe, gosh when last did I see her, she's also screaming.

"Bitch" hayike, I'm not American I won't be called that.

"Hayi hayi I'm oe or mngani or friend, see there are plenty of nice names you could call me" I say.

"You haven't changed" she says with a head shake, giggling.

"What are you doing here?"

"I came here as soon as possible, when you told me that you were hurting" I'm flattered "go and wear something comfy, there's this club I'm taking you to"

"A club so early?"

"It's in Johannesburg, so we'll have to leave now to get there at 8" I sigh and go to the bedroom.

I don't understand the life of going to clubs on a Thursday night, I never will, she is wild, I'm reserved when it comes to those. I know very

well that I can't say no so I just put on my black tracksuit, and sneakers, not forgetting a weave. I get back to the small dining room of my apartment, she's tapping her feet meaning she's impatient.

"You really do take your time when changing huh?" I just laugh

"I'm a lady" I say, she shakes her head

"A Lady does not break people's hearts, you need to get time when you have healed to apologise to Your ex boyfriend because you broke that man" I sigh and nod.

The drive is nice, filled with laughter and smiles, I'm so happy we just arrived at her house, took an Uber to the club, yes she lives in Johannesburg..

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The name of the club is really weird, "Kwa Guqa" who names the name of their clubs that? Hhay I give up on black people.

We have just arrived, and what I see here is beauty, the colours blend nicely together, wow I've never seen something like this.

What makes me question this is that you have to fill in forms, to state almost everything about you, whether you are married or not, whether you will be a regular customer or not, and whether you will be able to keep the events happening here a secret or not, that's really eyebrow raising. I wrote that I will not be a regular customer, and agreed to the terms and conditions, in here you are not allowed to say your name randomly, you are actually not allowed to ask people's names. They give us masks and we go to the building.

"I'll be around, don't wait up on me" she leaves,
wow!

As I'm walking around, hhaybo people have sex while others are looking? Wow! I walk faster there's so much screaming and moaning in this club, it's weird it's not even a club it's a sex hell. I get to a quieter place, I need to wash my eyes with sunlight liquid because what I saw is unsawable.

I look around like a lost sheep, I'm not comfortable and I need to stay for atleast an hour.

"Your fist time here?" A deep voice says. I nod my head vigorously, and wipe my sweat. "Come I'll show you around" I'm bored anyways, we walk around with him telling me the name of the rooms,. Which I forgot, I'm never coming back here again.

"This is the dark room" he says, he is tall but I'm not short so, my head is levelled with his shoulders. "Come as'ngene" sigh.

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This is really a dark room, but luckily there's no one here inside. He closes the door and I swallow, I'm so nervous, and this time it's not an act, I used to act nervous with all my exes hence they used to call me 'naive' I used to pretend to be sweet.

Today? It's different, I'm not one to be fazed by a man's presence, but this one? By just talking I could fall on my knees and praise him.

"Do you want me to make you feel good, Ms first time?" He asks. I nod and then remember that it's dark here.

"Ye.. yes" I speak for the First time. Gosh what am I doing.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 3

I'm still nervous, I've been like this, I've always been in control. He grabs my waist and grinds himself on me.

"If this is what your voice does to me, then I wonder what you pussy would do" I'm feeling his hard-on. I don't want to say anything because if anything were to come out of my mouth it would be moans.

He pushes me backwards and I fall on something that's really fluffy and comfortable, I

didn't come here for that though. He seems to really know this room, I mean it's dark in here.

"Lift up your arms" he says, I do as I'm told, I've never been this quiet in my life, I'm always talking like a bubble gum but today? I'm quiet.

"You smell so nice" he says.

I'm fully undressed now, he uses his hands to open my legs, he inserts 2 two fingers, I'm wet so it's not a problem, Themba and I weren't have sex these past 3 months so I think I am back to the virgin team.

He thrusts the fingers faster, my toes curl and I moan trying not to release.

"Yeyy, you will release" he says and taps my clit two times, yerrr my toes curl again my legs straighten and I release my squirt screaming "that's my girl"

I catch my breath and all of a sudden i feel my face lightening, oh he just took my mask off, two

seconds later I feel his warm breath on my face.

His lips capture mine, he can kiss so well, we only stop when we are both out of breath, the mint that I smell in him is best. I'm still lying on the fluffy thing I cannot see, his hands are wrapped around my naked waist, mine are here on his smooth face that has a beard.

"Was it nice?" He asks

"Yes it was."

"What's your name?"

"Zamo, Zamokuhle"

"That's a beautiful name Lwandluluhle" Gosh.

"Thank you" this is the longest I have spoken.

"Wear your mask, let's leave I'll get you a driver" I nod, he doesn't see me, oh well...

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I have them my Pretoria address, this driver took me to my apartment, it was a two hour drive, he was driving slow, gosh! I texted Nobuhle on my way home telling her to call me so I can fill her in.

I don't need food, I got fed by two fingers, and I was fed well, I shake my head this is a disappointment I'm this excited just about two fingers? Hewu. I bath and sleep after locking my door.

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It's time to go to work, I'm so not in the mood to go look at dirty and stinking vaginas, okay that's a bit harsh, I really love my job but I'm in no

mood to be examining people today, I'm not feeling good, at all.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 4

It's finally weekend, okay let me emphasize: it's Saturday morning, and I'm fetching my wonderful son, it's really nice having to spend time with him, but I always cry when he leaves, it's worth it.

I'm done crying over men, I'm never doing that again, but ke I need to be laid, even if it means I get a male prostitute, okay I'm never doing that.

I'm on my way to the home, and I feel my car, I'm driving so fast my adrenaline rush is at its

peek, I'm the type that if you cause an accident, you die.

There are cars behind me, some are trying to catch up to my speed, it's really not that high, I'm just at 140. Shit, there's a car that is going across, I quickly hit the brakes. I manage to stop, but it seems like I'm in bad luck today because someone bumps into my car at the back.

I quickly get out of my car, he also gets out of his car. He looks decent but can't he drive?

"Bhuti do you know how much my car costs?" I mean it's not expensive that much compared to his, he drives a BMW 7 series and I drive what an A-class limosoune that I pay monthly

"It wasn't my fault it was yours" I know his voice, this is the guy that degraded me, imagine Zamokuhle the girl whose obsession started with a finger!

"Don't talk shit" I say, he mustn't

"Hey, don't cuss, please!" His voice is low but it carries so much authority, like I can just ask him to use his fingers on me now.

"Or what you gonna do?" this fake American accent will make me seem serious, may he please speak about his fingers?

"I'll take you to..." He looks at his ringing phone, say it please, say your climax "to jail" fuck it.

"I need my car fixed bhuti please", I say as rude as I can

"You will fix my car, who in the world drives at 140 I have a much stronger case than your, there's somewhere I need to be, so let's talk about the arrangements through the phone, give me your phone" I unlock it and give it to him, his phone rings after he taps on my phone. He gets on his car and drives off to park on the side, his is not that damaged

I call the car insurance company and inform them of the accident, I send them the location of where I'm at. I wait for my ride, I requested, I'm looking at him smoking, he looks stressed, I think it's about the car.

I feel bad, so I go to him. He is looking at me when I get closer to him.

"Hey, uh I'm sorry" he gives me a small smile and a nod.

"It's fine you'll fix my car then life will go on" like I will but I just nod.

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I just got here, He left when he was certain that I was okay, his brother fetched him and immediately made a joke about his crashed car, they must be a weird family.

Anyways I forgot to ask his name. He looks so incredibly handsome with his bald and lips that were darkened by his smoking ways, I wish I could tell him how that is dangerous but he seems to be in it so deep.

My baby is so excited to be leaving. His happiness is evident in his eyes. We pass by McDonald's we buy food and then head home, upon our arrival we find Two Finger waiting on the door, he narrows his eyes at me.

"What are you doing here are you following me?" He asks

"Me? What are you doing here?"

"I'm here for the Zamo" he says I laugh.

"Oh? Zamo and I share this apartment, come inside we'll wait for her" he nods

"Thank you!" He is joking around with Mpilo with Mpilo as we get inside, he'll wait for Zamo

shame, kanti he doesn't even know how I look or sound like? Hhay!

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 5

So I'm waiting patiently with him, 2 hours has passed, we shared my food, I'm still hungry.

"Hawu kanti when is she arriving" he is impatient.

"Aii I don't know, maybe she's here" he snaps his eyebrows frowning "maybe I am Zamokuhle" he chuckles until he notices that I'm serious.

"Weee impela I have been cursed" hawu

"What do you mean you been cursed, boy aren't you tired?"

"I'm tired mommy" Two Finger quickly looks at him.

"Hawu you are turning your back on me now?" Mpilo laughs

"No I'm not, mommy I'm not tired"

"So your back turns on me?" I ask

"Yes!" He says with so much enthusiasm, clap once he just met this guy two minutes ago.

"Nazoke mfanam" he takes him and put him on his lap. "I have a 6-month-old" he says, I can see sadness in that, and all I think of is the mother.

"Oh" I say.

"She died, my boy is growing so well but I feel bad" thank God she's dead, although it may sound cruel but If she wasn't I wouldn't get to meet Two Finger.

"Oh, I'm sorry" I'm not "why do you feel bad"

"She died while giving birth to him, I don't know what I'll tell him when he asks about his mother, ngapha it's his maternal grandparents fighting for his custody" he sighs

"That's unfair" I say, it really is

"Right? I mean I didn't have much time with her, it 7 to 8 months, she gives birth prematurely and then dies, then these people fight me for my child's custody, bayanginyela mina ngizoba buyisela eLesotho ngama crocodiles abo" I laugh, he is so dumb

"So what are you planning to do"

"We have a court appearance Monday" I nod. We are busy chatting but he hasn't told me his name.

"Okay" I say with a nod. "What's your name Two" if he doesn't tell me I'll continue calling him Two

Finger

"Hhaybo what Two? Nkosi kungani njalo mina nohlanya nje? Sakhile Mthembu is the name ntokazi" he says, this one really puzzles me he says many things that don't even link in one.

"Ohlanya bani?"

"Lutho" he says. "I need to go back home, I miss my son" he says, he seems to love his son.

"Are you going back to Johannesburg?" He shakes his head no and looks at Mpilo who is peacefully sleeping in his arms, he is such a natural.

"We are booked in a hotel" I'm now up and wearing shoes.

"What the hell Two Finger, you left a child alone, not even a child ingane encane" I don't know what the difference between a child and ingane

is but this is make sure that he sees that he
fucked up.

"Wait, listen..."

"Kuka leyo ngane sihambe now!" I scream.

He obeys, I seem to have problems after
problems, I forgot that I don't have a car.

"I want a car in this second Sakhile, I don't know
where you'll find it but I want it" he laughs, gosh
why is he so calm about this?

"I came with my brother's car, and you are
damned if you think I'll allow you to drive" gosh.

"Just make sure we get there as soon as
possible" he leads us to the car.

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Sakhile seems unfazed at all he was driving like a walking tortoise, imagine. We just got here and he is taking his own damn time, the child might be crying his lungs out wherever he is.

We finally get to the room where they are booked into, he opens and guess who I'm met by, I'm met by an old man, and a very young girl who has Sakhile's features, they don't really look alike but they have the same skin tone and their noses and eyes. Sakhile looks beautiful, not handsome beautiful because he looks like a masculine woman. His beard helps, a lot.

"Sanibonani" I say, why didn't he tell me that the child has company.

"Nguye lo umakoti?" The old man says, Sakhile nods

"Yes, and personality is the same as of Bontle's" he says, what does he mean? They laugh.

"Hello girl" the lady says "I'm his sister,
Ntombikayise-Sijabulile. Your sister-in-law" she
says, she's so beautiful. Sakhile just laid Mpilo on
the room, I'm leaving I don't why he put him in
the bedroom,. Really. And this one I'm not her
sister-in-law I just got dumped , I still need to
heal

"Nice to meet you, I'm Zamokuhle" baba instruct
me to sit down after I shake his hand, Gosh he is
so handsome.

"Ungowakwabani ndodakazi" he says

"I'm a Khumalo sir" I say.

"Baba, call me baba" I nod

"Yebo baba" I say.

"I'm his father" he says I nod. I already knew that
he is.

"Ngiyathokoza ukukwazi baba" he grins.

"This one is the one mfanawam" Sakhile nods.

"I figured" they are talking like. I'm not here, mxm.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 6

I'm a light sleeper, I'm woken by baby sounds, he is not sleeping nor crying, he is just awake. I take him into my arms, I gently cradle him, and make his formula for him.

Yesterday I thought I would leave but I just stayed for the sake of the baby, Nduduzo. I just couldn't walk away from him, i slept with him and Mpilo in the same room.

After drinking his milk, he seems sleepy so I sit on a rocking chair so he can sleep, I also sing a

lullaby, it's bad.

He just slept and I'm thinking of taking a bath so that I can ask Sakhile to take me home.

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"Can you come fetch later mommy?" Gosh this child, who does he know, here. He is putting me in a tight spot because we are in the table when he asks this, they all are here looking at me expecting a response.

"Uhm, Sakhile is that fine?" I am praying he says no.

"Yeah, it's cool with me" he is smiling, Two Finger bores me, first I asked him to drop me off he told me that I needed to eat first, .

"Okay" I say nodding.

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I am heading back home now, Sakhile is dropping me off, Maskandi is softly playing on the radio. I'm looking outside the car because I can't stand how slow he is driving. I feel like he does this on purpose.

"And tadaaa we are here" this is what I mean, I get off the car and get on the elevator, takes me to my floor and I get inside "okay I'm sorry" he is on my heels.

"Please leave me alone, Sakhile you cornered me into sitting with your family, I'm not your wife" I didn't know I was angry at that till now.

"I'm sorry" he says.

"Mxm, please leave and drop off my child at 6"

"We still need to talk about you fixing my car" he says grabbing my hand and holding on to my waist. My breath hitches, his touch always leaves me brainless.

"What about your car?" I never back down, I'm trying as hard as I can to sound firm. He brings his face an inch closer to mine, his breath hits me

"You need to fix my car"

"I'm not fixing your damn car" it comes out as a whisper. He smiles and places his lips on mine, soft just like how I felt them the last time. Our lips are moving in sync, our tongues are racing.

"Mm" I moan and he stops kissing me, he just kissed me deeply, I'm yearning for more.

"Goodbye" it feels like he will never say it again.

"Say you will see me later rather" I tell him

"Okay, I will see you later " he says and leaves, I sink on the chair thinking about the kiss, damn first it was his fingers now it's his kisses.

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SIBONGAKONKE

"Bonga" he says, hurt is evident in his eyes "what is this doing here?" I look down, I can't tell him, I know his insecurities, this will crash it. "What are these dildos and vibrators doing here"

"It was gifted to me" I lie.

"And you use them" gosh.

"It was once, I'm sorry" he roughly rubs his head and leaves, Tumelo is overreacting.

I mean he knows that he isn't able to make me cum, like before. This thing started when his wife

told him how much of a small penis he had, of which was a lie. His sex game was an A before we met her at the mall and she told him how he couldn't make her reach her climax, so I think whenever we have sex he thinks about it, that's why his dick softens even before he cums.

He and I have been together for 3 years, he saved me from the streets, as soon as my parents died in a car accident I became an addict, he was my saviour in shining armor. We dated after he was sure that I was okay, I owe this guy my life.

I need to go to the shops, I rock my summer dress and sandals and head to my car. I got my license last year, and this car was my birthday present from Tumelo.

I just arrived at the mall, as I'm busy trying to take snacks from the shelf I feel someone standing behind me and a hand that takes what I was taking.

"I saw you struggling, here you go" I'm short, and it's a problem.

"Thank you" I say turning, he is so dark, pitch black! He stares at me like he is looking for something in my eyes "hi, thank you"he is not letting go of the snack.

"Oh, sorry " he says giving me the snacks, I've never seen a dark guy like this! Gosh.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 7

SIBONGAKONKE MSOMI

I've been gone for over two hours, I'm tired of window shopping now, I go back to my car and

drive home. When I get home, I can't get inside because it is locked.

"Baby" I speak first because clearly he doesn't want to.

"Ya"

"Are you inside?" I'm getting a very cold shoulder.

"Ya" yohh! What is up with him now.

"Please open up" he chuckles.

"I just opened come in" phew, after parking my car in the garage I practice a few breathing exercises and then head inside.

Upon opening the door I see him sitting with a bottle of beer in his hand, he looks at me, I don't know if it's disgust that I see in his eyes or it's something else.

"Where were you?" He asks.

"From the mall" I say, he shakes his head.

"Mmhm" he says and stands, he looks at me

"you think I'm a fool?" He asks I shake my head

no, he nods and walks away, what the hell just happened? I'm really confused.

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ZAMOKUHLE KHUMALO

I'm blushing on my phone while at work, Sakhile is a gentleman, no lies he makes me laugh and mad all at once, he just texted me a message that reads:

"Can you be my tswape so I can take you out" I laugh, he is so stupid

"Yes, I'd love to" he sends one laughing and one heart emoji. I leave it at read, and look at my

appointments and attend the ones that were present.

I'm going to lunch with my guy friend, Sello, this one is a breath of fresh air I tell you.

"How's your love life right now" I take a mouthful bite of my burger and chew slow in order to avoid questions, after chewing I take a long noisy sip of my coffee "and?"

"It's fine, I guess" I say he nods.

"Mmhm" he says.

"Yeah, how's your mother" I ask.

"You are trying so hard to escape this conversation of your love life, I heard you weren't in any relationship anymore" again big bite! I know he wants me.

"Yeah" I say after preciously chewing my food, He is a great guy but he is not two finger, two finger tames me even before I say anything.

"Uhm, so?" I clear my throat.

"Uhm, I forgot that I have an appointment in two minutes" I say and take out a hundred rand and leave it on the table.

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QONDANI MTHEMBU

He gets home, it's awfully quiet today, his father is a drunkard, he looks at his father shaking his head before sitting down and shaking his head.

People mistake him for an assassin, and in real truth he isn't, he is just a lawyer it's just that he took his great-grandfather's complexion, he is very dark other than that he looks just like the Mthembus the difference is the complexion.

He is very traditional, hence amabhandi he has on his arms, he believes in umuthi and ancestors a lot, his family accept him, it's understandable he grew up in their homelands, although they are traditional too, but he tends to over do it.

He saw a diamond today, he wants to know her, he is determined. He has always had to fend himself, focus on school and doing better for himself just like his uncle, he wants to focus on getting a woman now.

He rests himself on the bed, before dialing Sakhile, they are the closest between them all.

"Bafo" Sakhile

" How are you Bafo?"

"Complaining doesn't help, how are you"

"I'm good bafo, what's wrong"

"Nothing is wrong... Okay I saw a woman, the problem is that she had a wedding band"

"That's a no go zone"

"But I love her"

"What do you know about love Qondani, you are 27"

"I'm old enough"

"Bazoku bulala, try to unlove her" he keeps his silence, Sakhile sighs "okay, try her bafo and hear what she says don't be too much on her yezwan"

"Yes I hear you"

"Okay. Look my taxi is full we'll talk later"

"Okay then" he hangs up, sigh!

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CHAPTER 8

SIBONGAKONKE MSOMI

I want to go back to school, I'm thinking of passing that to Tumelo, so I'm cooking supper for him now, his favorite ujeqe nosu. I'm short of rajah, so I take my keys, unfortunately here we don't have local shops we it's a private estate, so I have to choose between going to ShopRite and Spar.

As I'm driving, like a nerd, constantly checking rearview mirror, there's a black sports car following me, I hope it's not enemies or some sort, being with a business man is really tiring sometimes because you have to keep looking over your shoulder.

My heart is beating really fast, my hands are shaking. My eyes teary, this is what I hate about stress, I just cannot deal with it. I get rash just above the eye.

By God's grace, I got safely at Spa. I pray before going out because the black car is parked not so far from mine, I'm confronting whoever it is.

He is familiar I don't remember where I saw him, but his dark skin is what I recognize first.

"Why are you following me, who sent you to me? Don't you know the rule of following people you should at least be a meter away from me" He gets off the car.

"Hi, to answer your question, my heart sent you from me, and what if I didn't want to hide the fact that I was following you" he shrugs

"Please stop following me, or else we'll both be in trouble" Tumelo Pitso is very jealous.

"I doubt" he shrugs, I walk away.

"I really love you"

"That's a deep word don't you think?"

"No it's not" he is a nuisance! Gosh!

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After taking the spices I needed I went straight home, I decided to keep quiet while he confessed his undying love for me.

The door bangs so hard that I startle, He has anger issues but this? This is not how he does things though, if it's one of those days he goes to the gym.

"Are you bitching around now?" What?

"Excuse me?" I need somebody to hear this for me.

"I asked you very well to tell me if you were or weren't making me a fool? You said no, so what is this that you call? Huh? I think you tend to forget that I made you"

"What is this about?" I shouldn't be this calm

"Who was that black ass you were talking to ko Spar?"

"I don't know his name, he was following me so I went up to him to.." there's a slap sound, my ears go deaf for a minute! Wait what? He just slapped me.

"Oh my God baby, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to... You see the things you make me do" I nod with a tear falling, he has never ever done this, maybe something wrong happened.

"I swear I didn't cheat I'm sorry"

"Please don't ever do me like that, I love you"

"I love you too" I know I pushed him to this point, I shouldn't have spoken to that guy.

"I promise I won't ever lay my hands on you, I'm never gonna do it again"

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ZAMOKUHLE KHUMALO

We are meeting up today at the Blue Crane, I suggested it because I've never taken myself there, growing up my parents were stingy so I think I took it from them.

I don't want to be fancy so I wear my jeans, hoody and sneakers. I've never had a problem with my height but today I do, I feel weird. I look like a man!

"Knock knock" he is already inside.

"What if I was naked"

"I would have loved to see whatever naked was"
he says I roll my eyes.

"Do I look okay?"

"You look perfect, I just need to be your girlfriend
for the day, because you are dressed as a man"
I sigh.

"Thank you" I sit down.

"Hey, what's wrong?"

"I feel sad" I tell him.

"What what's wrong?" He is now worried.

"Mpilo, he can't stay with me"

"Why? Is it your parents?"

"I can't adopt him"

"Is he not yours?" I shake my head no.

"Why can't you adopt him?" He asks, I narrate the story to him "I'm sorry, we can stay in today" woah and lose out on the expensive food that I won't pay for? Once in a lifetime opportunity this one.

"Yohh, asambe" he smiles and off we go.

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BAMBO LWAM

CHAPTER 9

SAKHILE MTHEMBU

They are having a meal he doesn't know of, yes he's seen them on TV but that doesn't mean that he has eaten them. He looks at his plate he tried one prawn, no this is not for him.

"Aren't you eating" there's a resisting humour in her face.

"No, I want meat not these" he shakes his head, and ups his hand for service.

"Bafo, don't you have real meat–inyama?" He asks as soon as the waiter gets near, and surprisingly Zamo is not embarrassed she is just amused!

"We have beef"

"Inyama ebomvu– beef– please I want that" I don't know what up with this translating English to isiZulu and vice versa.

"Coming right up" he thanks the waiter but stops him before he leaves.

"Will I have to pay for this" the waiter's shoulders drops, why are these uneducated men brought into urbanised places, this weighs her down

actually. Zamo sees how drained the girl and intervenes.

"Yes, you will pay, thank you you can bring his order"

"I didn't eat though, we don't do this at the rank" she laughs.

"This is not the rank"

"Mxm" he says.

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They really had a great day, he enjoyed, at least her mood was revived and rejuvenated. He parks at the lot, and doesn't unlock the car.

"Ngiyak'thanda" he says out of the blue, she's tongue tied, she doesn't know what to say "from

the day that we interacted, but..." Why does the statement have a but?

"But what? You have a wife?" Why does she lose her sanity so fast? He needs to fuck her so that she doesn't change personality this much.

"Listen to me, I have a chosen wife that I don't know of, she was chosen by the ancestors. That's the reason why Ndu's mother died, she wasn't meant for me and the ancestors saw her as a threat, I don't want that to happen to you..."

"Open this fucking door" she can't listen to this bullshit. Sakhile sighs, he needs to take this tigeress. She wants to leave she doesn't want to cry in his presence, she just realized how much inlove she is with this guy.

"Look at me" she doesn't, she looks outside, her hands tighten forming a fist. She needs something to throw against something, there's neither of those.

"Sakhile Mthembu!"she screams. He quickly opens she storms off, he sighs.

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"Bafo vula" he just got to Joburg and this is the nearest place to Joburg, this one too looks out of place.

"Bafo you look like shit" Sakhile says before it is said to him, first come first serve.

"Thank you, I saw her yesterday and I touched her"

"Oh that's nice"

"She said she didn't love me" hectic.

"She told me to fuck off" Sakhile, okay now it's time to weigh who has the biggest problems of all.

"I want to kill that guy whom she loves" deep

"I want to murder the ancestors" -Sakhile,
Qondani laughs! Okay now that the mood has
been set, they can talk.

"Bafo you said you touched her" he nods "where
was your muthi" he means amabhande and all.

"I had the belts on" Gosh.

"Why did you do that, you know the ancestors
will feel as if that guy is a threat to you and they
will strike"

"I know, and she might be in danger too
because we don't know in what way they will
strike" Sakhile sighs, he takes the beer in
Qondani's hand and gulps it down.

"That was... aiii"

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ZAMOKUHLE KHUMALO

Everything is turned upside down, I'm a crying mess, I don't know if I'll ever be able to move on, I love him so much.

I adopted this habit of venting my anger by throwing things and smashing them when I was raped by my teacher in the right grade and couldn't tell anyone.

Not even my parents know this, it's only me and both my sisters, I need to call them.

I tap on the conference call button.

"Zee" -Nobuhle says.

"Baby" that's my older sister, Ayabonga

"I'm sad" I say "I relapsed"

"Do you need us to come there?"- Ayabonga

"Yes, please" I plead

"I'm on my way" we talk more and hang up.

Since I broke up with Themba, which is two months, I haven't had the urge to throw things around but now, gosh I feel like doing more than that!

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 10

KWANELE ZONDI

She is heavily pregnant, she is always stressed, and it's not good for the baby. She looks at him lying in bed, he is the best thing that has ever happened to her. Although he also contributes to the stress but she loves him to death.

He stirs a bit before opening his eyes, they meet hers. He is presenting emotionally more than physically. He smiles at his wife showing his dimple, she smiles too.

"Good morning Sthandwa Sami" he says

"Good morning baby" she is feeling pains, like it's time for her to deliver but she is putting a strong facade, it's not healthy.

"Are you hungry?" She shakes her head no, it's funny how he is always attacked for asking questions like is she hungry or not but he still asks anyway. Today marks the first day that he asks this and she's not offended.

"Uyang'thokozisa mama, I'm not lying you really make me happy" she smiles.

"You make me happy too, baby"

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They both get off of the bed, they brush their teeth, this has become their routine, since she marked the ninth month Sibonelo took a leave off at work and on the taxi rank, that's him he is a very supportive human being, he swore to the almighty that if he is given someone to love he will do it wholeheartedly, and now God has given him, he is fulfilling his promises to God.

He also went to his father's grave and told him that he has forgiven him fully, which is also a lie. He loves his father, but is still mad at him.

She said she wasn't hungry and true to her words she hasn't eaten. Sibonelo is now worried, first it's the issue of her not giving birth on time, they are heading to ten months and still she's not birthing, and now it's her not eating.

"Baby what is happening?" -Sibonelo

" Nothing, why"

"You are playing with your food, baby" just as he says this words her waters break.

"Baby, it's time, I'll go start the car, in the meantime go and take my things" isn't it supposed to be the other way around? Either way he takes the things that were already packed.

She gets in the left seat, not starting the engine, he comes running. He is not panicking that much, he brings life to the engine and drives off.

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The doctors were shouting at her, saying that she was supposed to be there yesterday night. She didn't pay attention to the pains she had.

She just gave birth to two conjoined, this case is a weird case, they both have two hands and

feet, the only thing they seem to share is their heart, hence their jointed fronts, which is puts both of them at risk, the doctors are panicked they have never had a case like this, she is still unconscious due to the cesarian. They are yet to tell the husband.

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ZAMOKUHLE KHUMALO

My sisters are on my case, I don't know ehy they think I didn't give Sakhile some time to explain to me. But he told me indirectly that I wasn't his chosen one.

We are sitting down here with my sisters , they are looking so creepy and questionable, they have been quiet all along.

There is a knock on the door, Nobuhle quickly stands and runs to the door, there's something

they are hiding.

"Sanibonani" and then this one? Oh now I see why they were creepy all along.

"Sbali sethu" -Ayabonga, he blushes if it was any other day vi would have laughed at him blushing but today is not any other day, I'm angry at him and his ancestors!

"Sisi do you have any solid food?" -Nobuhle, oh now they want to make food for him using my food?

"No, there's no food" I say and go to my room, I don't know why they called him, and how they got his details, nx. I must have given them his numbers yesterday when they drugged my drinks, okay I'm exaggerating I was drunk yesterday!

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 11

SIBONELESIHLE ZONDI

He is super excited for his baby's arrival, he thought he should buy his wife something to thank her, he hasn't went back to the hospital. They told him about the cesarian but he left before his baby was brought to this world.

As he is going through the children's store there's an old lady staring at him, he goes to her.

"Sawubona mama"

"Mmm so much anger my child" she is sighing nonstop.

"Excuse me ma" he is always respectful.

"You will suffer because of your anger, your child will suffer because of you, your ancestors are willing to forgive you, save the one with a with a birthmark, he will live but if you save the other one he won't survive because he is not strong enough" she says and leaves, gosh what was that about?

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He just arrived at the hospital and the doctor broke the news to him, he is not understanding at all.

"Why the fuck didn't you tell us? You should have at least seen" he is fuming, he has to choose between killing one of his kids, this will be hard, he won't be able to live with himself.

"We are sorry sir, they share a heart so it was really hard to tell" he sighs, it's understandable. The words of that lady are replaying in his head.

He needs to see his wife, all this has happened because of him. he wonders how he'll get through this! How will he look her in the eye knowing very well that he caused this upon himself and brought this pain to her.

Getting in the ward, he finds her staring at the ceiling. He looks at her, her face is hard.

"My love" there's a lump forming in his throat.

"Oh hi, how are you feeling?"

"No how are you feeling?"

"One of my babies have to die so I'm feeling very happy" she's sarcastic.

"I'm sorry"

"What are you sorry for?"

"I met an old lady today and she told me to let go of my anger, this all happened because of me"

"How many times have I told you to let go of you anger towards your parents Sibonelesihle Thandwethu Zondi huh?"

"I'm sorry"

"Will that give the other one a heart?"

"Ngiyaxolisa, I'm sorry baby"

"Don't baby me, please don't. Leave I never want to see you again" he shakes his head no.

"I said leave, leave Sibonelo!"

"Please don't leave me"

"You chose this yourself Sibonelo" still he won't cry. "HAMBA" She screams she doesn't care about him at all, he can go and hang himself.

"Just... Just save the one with a birthmark please" he says leaving.

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Upon arriving at his dark room, he undresses himself and changes to his shorts, he is walking around.

"Baba" he doesn't want to cry, he doesn't want to God knows but he still believes that God lives hence he wants to talk to him first "Father I know I am not the perfect person, I'm not even close to it. Please forgive me for wronging you. I was just a child but they didn't spare me Nkosi yam, they hurt them in front of me and made me clean their mess, after that baba they hurt me in the worst way, God, I've never blamed you for any of it, but God she has never, ever done anything to hurt you please spare her God end

her pain." He gets down on his knees "I'm willing to sacrifice my life for you to heal her Almighty." He takes the razor and slits his wrist.

"Bafo" Phelo shouts. How the hell did that one know that he is here. "Bafo she needs you more than ever if you do this to her she will never forgive you, do you think it's worth it" all that is left is Sibonelo pulling the trigger because the gun is already on his head "does she deserve losing a baby and you" Kwanele told him everything and he knew that he would come here. His finger pulls the trigger, woah how the hell didn't he notice that his gun is empty. Phelo jumps on him

"You are so selfish, I'm even ashamed to call you my brother" Phelo is now under Sibonelo, he obviously fought back.

"I have always fought for my position in everyone's life except yours, I'm sorry. your

words hurt me Bafo, I love you. Please never say that again"

"Mxm, let's go home, you'll clean up this shit you did to me" Sibonelo carries him to his car and drives off.

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SIBONGAKONKE MSOMI

We are happy, I'm happy that he is home more often. We are currently sitting and watching TV, we are cuddling. He gets a call from a Andile and asks to answer it I nod, this is weird he always answers in front of me, why does he need to leave the room?

He gets back after 15 minutes and sits, he is not as warm as he was.

"Baby?"

"Hey" he looks at me

"I would like to go back to school, since I have nothing to do" okay this is not how I planned to approach him.

"Why?"

"Because I'd like my independency"

"Can't you go back after giving me a baby?" I'm not popping any babies

"A baby?" How did we even get there

"Yes Lerato lala, I want children" gosh

"But a child will be a distraction nje"

"It's that or nothing sweetheart, I want children, and if you don't plan to give me, I'll go somewhere else" fuck him, I stand but I'm roughly grabbed by him.

"Don't you dare leave when I'm talking to you"

"You are hurting me Tumelo!"

"Nx" he takes his car and leaves. This happened so fast, from education to babies? Really? Aii, I wonder where he is going!

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 12

ZAMOKUHLE KHUMALO

Sakhile and I had went to a sangoma, thinking we'd find answers but they told us that no, Sakhile will feel it, and just like that I was determined to take the risk of my life.

I'm scare, really, I don't want to end up dying. But I'd kill myself more if I were to see Sakhile happy

with another woman.

Anyways today is the last day of the court appearance about Nduduzo, like personally I feel like these people are really dumb because how could they think of taking the child from his father, I mean they could have just asked for visits and everything but not full custody.

I will be there, I'm supporting my boyfriend and son, okay I'm being too much but what else can I say? I'll be his mother if his father and were to take our relationship to the next level.

We just finished taking desperate baths. I'm in Johannesburg, gosh when I saw his house for the first time I was dumbstruck it is so beautiful I love it. We are downstairs, Nduduzo is on my lap I'm feeding him now, his father is busy trying to feed me too.

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It was really pointless for the Mokoenas to fight them, Sakhile won the case. I mean he has his child fresh. I am standing outside, some lady comes to me.

"Hello ousinyana"

"Hi" I say coldly, she cannot call "girly" I mean not all Zulu people don't understand sesotho!

"What do you think you'll achieve here? Taking my sisters husband and her son?" Hawu what does she mean her sister is dead nje.

"Your sister is dead and I found myself a beautiful son and husband"

"You are so ahead of yourself, Sakhile is always with me when you are stuck in Pretoria" how does she know that I live in Pretoria?

"Ohh really now?" I say

"Yes girl, anyways take care of my man's black dick since I'm going to Paris, I'll be back though" I swear I'm not hitting her on purpose, I just saw myself jumping in her, she's full of shit, and no I'm not fighting because she is sleeping with him. I'm fighting because she is disrespecting me.

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SIBONGAKONKE MSOMI

It was a moment of weakness, I swear it was, I didn't mean to be in his home, but he begged as usual. He said we'd chill and watch movies so I agreed, and promised myself that it will never happen again.

We just got here and I'm chilling watching TV as he is making snacks for the both of us. He sits

down next to me, I'm very uncomfortable. His cologne fills my nostrils.

This movie makes things more uncomfortable because they are now kissing, and my bean jumping. I sigh a heavy sigh.

"Can you please pause it? I need water" I say he nods.

I feel hands snaking my waist as I'm pouring water into the glass.

"What are you doing Qondani" I ask when he turns me, his fresh breath hits my face every passing second making my knees jiggle.

"I want to kiss you so badly, ngifuna ukuqabula mama" I stare at him, and next thing our lips are smashing, hungrily, our clothes fly out as we are still kissing. He puts me on the counter.

He kisses my neck and comes down to my pussy, he lays a kiss down there. I feel tingles

down my spine. He frees his dick and gosh what I see is what I like, and strangely I'm not even guilty that I'm liking what I see.

He opens my legs wide and enters me slowly and tenderly putting his mouth around my nipples, I'm moaning, this is nice.

"Ngiyakuthanda, u really love you" he is moving, his voice sounds strained "I didn't want to do this, God knows. But I just wanted to feel you since this will be our last time together" he says moving in circles.

He takes off of the counter and holds me tightly, he is fucking me so nice, I can't remember the last time I had it so go with Tumelo.

He is now thrusting faster, I'm enjoying this so much.

"Ahhhhh" I'm cumming, he lays me on the couch and hits one spot so hard that my toes curl, he

puts his thumb on my clit, and all the pee that I was holding is released.

"Good" he say, I'll embarrassed after this for now I'm focusing on my screaming. One, two thrusts and he groans like a beast and collapses.

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I'm in bed, wait how, when did I get home, I look on my left, and Jesus, I see Qondani's tall body on the bed. No no, I'll be in trouble.

I sneak out of the bed and request an Uber, I'm going home I don't know where I'll say I was, I'm praying as I'm waiting for the car to arrive, shit I messed up.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 13

SIBONGAKONKE MSOMI

I have nothing to excuse myself with, no plan at all, I've never been a cheater so I don't know what I'll say.

I'm still on my way home, leaving Qondani's place was a job and a half, I can't walk properly because I have a sore vagina.

Getting in a dark home is really strange, it's not locked or anything of that sort. I try to sneak in as I'm still limping sneaking the lights suddenly go on, I freeze and look around, there sits Tumelo on the couch with a glass of whiskey and cigar in both his hands

I'm tongue stuck, it's like a cat got my tongue. I clear my throat to have a way for the lies that will be passing through it.

"Baby" my voice high pitched.

"Hey babe" he is calm, I swear there's something going on in his head.

"How are you" I'm standing with my legs crossed, I feel like he can almost see through me that there has been rock hard giant snake that has gone through my vagina and managed to make me cum.

"Atamela baby, why are you standing so far, come closer" gosh, I count to three then dismally fail to walk to him, but I get to him anyways. He stands and meets me halfway.

One hot slap lands on my cheek, my hand goes involuntarily to the burning cheek, another one lands on the other cheek and the other hand goes to it. I'm now holding my cheeks like a bored child in a maths class after break.

"You are disrespecting me, wena sefebe" his hands goes to my neck, I'm struggling to

breathe with him strangling me, I'm choking.

When his hands let go I fall, he starts cussing and kicking me in my stomach, I'm in so much pain. I'm numb but I can feel something sharp burning my skin, he is using a sharp objects to write on my thigh. I'm screaming in agony.

"No one will ever touch you after this" he says!
Oh God what have I done.

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I close my eyes as soon as I open them, I have a throbbing headache. I try again slowly, the light is bright. My head is also stiff, I cannot believe I was hit so much by a man I thought loved me

"You are awake" he says "you see what you made me do?" Okay now this is my fault.

This is how they all sound like, abusers. He needs to get therapy. He might have gone through something as a child.

"You hit me" I whisper.

"I'm sorry" he says "I will never do that again
Lerato laka" he says.

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ZINE JWARA

He empties his load inside her, he lays on her right, they are catching their breaths. She enjoys him as much as he enjoys her.

"Thank you" he says.

"No thank you" she says smiling.

They are not dating, they both agreed that it will be a no strings attached relationship, but now it is taking an unexpected turn, unwanted feelings are being developed.

She checks the time, it will now be her knock off time.

"I have to go, Busani will be home now" she says, he nods chuckling.

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Busani is now boring her, she wants someone like her, who understands these medical things, not a taxi driver.

Meeting Dr Lebohang he became her close friend, and one day they went out to watch movies and they kissed. That's how it started.

She is now a driver, Busani brought her a mini Cooper, it's really nice. They haven't moved in together but they make sure to visit each other regularly.

She gets inside the house, it's damn clean. He smiles upon seeing her but she's not so interested.

"Muntu wami" he says, she gives him her cheek when he attempts kissing her, this is how it has been lately, he has been getting a cold shoulder.

"Hi" he doesn't pay attention to it.

"I cooked" he says, she's now taking off her shoes.

"I ate something on my way back" he nods

"I was hoping we could talk"

"Okay" it's probably about the boring topic of babies, he should forget.

"I think we should go to the clinic because we've been trying and..." Gosh she's had enough about this

"You probably are infertile" she snaps

"Woah what? What makes you think that you are not infertile.

"Because I checked duhh" she is rolling her eyes, this is what also makes her dislike him, he is so out of place, he is slow

"Uhm okay" he is swallowing, "I'm needed somewhere, I'll see you" he takes his car and walks off, she throws herself on the couch, good riddance!

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BAMBO LWAMI

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 14

KWANELE ZONDI

She is looking at her non-stop-crying-son she doesn't understand why he cries so much. It's

like he doesn't want or love her. She puts him on her chest shushing him.

He doesn't stop, it almost seems like it makes him worse. She does not give up though. As she is busy walking around—in pain due to the surgery—the most hated husband in the whole world appears.

He stares at her, he doesn't look like he wasn't coping, it looks like he was coping very well which pisses her off.

"Mm it's nice, you look so handsome and well put together" she says he just keeps his silence still staring at her. "Your son is really handful and I'm looking like shit, but you? Ahh it's nice being Sibonelesihle Thandolwethu Zondi"

"Ufunani kumina ngampela? You want me to wear my problems on my face?" He is really frustrated.

"No, but.."

"But nothing Kwanele! I can't believe how selfish you are! You are really blaming me for what they did? They knew very well why I was angry but they still decided to blame me?nawe futhi? I'm really really drained so please!" It does make sense but it doesn't change the fact that he murdered her child.

She is silently watching him, for the first time Kwanele does not have a come back, not forgetting the crying master on her chest.

"Can I hold him" he asks, she won't be that babymama that refuses to give the father of her children a chance to love his children so she gives him the crying child. He shushes him, and strangely the child wuietems, wow children can be betrayers sometimes!

Sibonelo smiles at the light he is he sees, his first son, not the only but first. His full happiness, someone who will never leave him just like Phelo.

"Kukhanya Luneluthando Zondi" he says smiling, Kwanele also smiles these are sweet name, really.

"That's a really nice name" he smiles, she goes to the bathroom to freshen up, it's funny how he just shutvhis small pie hole when his father arrived.

"Kukhanya kwababa" she hears him say, her heart melts.

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ZAMOKUHLE KHUMALO

"You slept with her?" I ask, he looks away? What the hell? He really slept with his dead girlfriend's sister. "You did that?"

"Do you think I'd do that?"

"I mean..."

"Okay, have a good day at work" he says, sigh. He is now the angry one! I get off the car, and get on my office finding Sello in my office doorstep, this one should not even bother to bother me because I'll tell him where to get off.

"Ntwana, I found a girl" ahh this one finds a girl everyday of his life, I'm up for the gossip though.

He tells about how wild the girl is and how beautiful she is, I'm glad I listened to him because I now feel better, and my first patient can be attended.

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I thought he wouldn't come to fetch me, but he did. I'm surprised he is not really a pouting type.

I kiss his cheek, he probably has cooled down now, I'm now planning to apologise.

"I'm sorry for not trusting you"

"Apology accepted, I love you baby" I smile, Sakhile likes saying I'm a special case but in all honesty nguye ohlanyayo. "I have a surprise for you baby" he says. So he was planning a surprise for me when he was angry at me, I peck his lips "you want to kill me now" he exclaims, I laugh. He is so dramatic.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 15

KWANELE ZONDI

She's looking at him, he is everything a woman could ever ask for, a great father, great

husband, and a great brother.

All that has ever happened was blamed on him because there was no one to blame besides him, but in all honesty, Sibonelesihle never did anything if only he had his father in his life, he wouldn't be such an angry boy.

He is busy playing with his son, while she's packing her clothes. Phelo is also here, playing chauffeur for the day.

"Baba ka Kukhanya" his head snaps so fast at that voice, he smiles at her it's a sad smile.

"Ma ka Khanya"

"I'm done, we can leave now" he nods, she informed him that she will be going to her home for sometime but now that she has thought thoroughly about it, she realizes that she was just upset, she never meant any of those things she said.

They make their way to the car, Sibonelo is really attached to his son. Phelo is suddenly a good boy, he opens the door for her, she gets inside and the baby is handed over to her, but he starts crying. She wants to cry too, Sibonelo first over to them and takes the baby when he is settled in the backseat.

"Kukhanya, listen my boy, umawakho Lona, she carries you for nine plus months" she giggles "if you hurt her, everyone in this world will have easy access into hurting her, just give her a chance to be your mother" he smiles at her "give him time"

A sensitive topic is that they need to name the dead child and bury him, she's not looking forward to letting go, but at the same time, they have no choice but to let go, so that they can focus on their other baby.

"Drive home, I'm tired I want to rest, Phelo" by home she means at their home, no questions

are asked.

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They just arrived home, Kukhanya is put to bed by his father. She is sitting in the dining room, waiting for her baby daddy to come downstairs, he looks really good, a walk that seems to be calculated, wearing sweatpants doesn't help because it prints out... Okay no that's not what she should be thinking of.

He finally sits down, there's a moment of staring, the sadness in his eyes is very clear, she has been selfish this whole time how could she have not seen or noticed that. He smiles at her, she returns it.

"Ngikukhumbule, I really miss you" he says.

"I miss you too" she says "I'm sorry for your loss, I'm sorry for blaming you. I'm sorry for everything, I want to be there for you" he stands and walks to the other side of the room.

"I'm sorry for your loss baby" he doesn't want to be vulnerable, he lost his baby, and now he's turning this to her, she has acknowledged that fact that she lost a baby.

"How have things been going" she also follows him, she wraps her arms around his waist.

"Things have not been good Sthandwa Sami" he says sighing.

"Let's bury our child, sizobaright I promise you" he nods.

"I hope so too baby"

"Have you thought of any names?"

"Thandiwe" he says, she also loves the name.

"I love it" he turns, he hugs her, her t-shirt is getting wet, at least they are getting somewhere

"I killed him" not him too.

"No you did not, you didn't kill him" she says trying to assure him.

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ZAMOKUHLE KHUMALO

The best boyfriend I've ever had has to be Sakhile, he is just wonderful he does things I never thought he'd do for me.

As I was waiting for my present last week, I was a little disappointed upon seeing my two babies coming my way, I had thought it was something else, I squealed in joy anyways.

What I wasn't prepared for was being given the papers of Mpilo, it was documents. "Mpilo Mthembu", I was overwhelmed.

We spent the whole day playing games, well it was actually me and Sakhile playing games because Mpilo was playing with his brother.

Mpilo will now be moving in with his father and brother, they both will come to me weekends and during the holidays.

We have decided that every Saturday we will be having our date nights, he might be a taxi driver but they also sacrifice for their children and babymamas.

I'm still thinking of revisiting the thing of his club, but next time.

I like how Sakhile gets along with my sisters, it's really great.

Today I'm meeting up with my parents, I'm going to visit them, I miss them so much. I just wore a pair of sweatsuit and sneakers, that I'd my uniform.

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"Sanibonani ekhaya" I come bearing gift, I have to phela abanye abafazi bayakuvalela izinto with their hearts, okay that's joke.

Anyways they look excited to see me, I hug both of them, my parents are living the life of being white people, I see.

My mother prepared scones and tea for us, we are sitting in the shade, enjoying her delicious scones.

"Mama, baba I found a boyfriend" I slipped, but I would have to tell them sooner or later

"Oh? So quickly?" -dad I nod smiling.

"Yes, I couldn't wait, he is such a wonderful loving person, I love him" I do.

"I've never heard you use that word" -mom

"Same here my wife" they giggle I roll my eyes.

"What is he? A doctor too?" -dad, I choke on my biscuit.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 16

MBALIYEZWE KHONZA

Being a rural girl is nothing but a joke, I've always been ashamed of my background. I've been living with my grandmother for as long as I

remember, I love that woman to death, I'd live for her.

I don't know any of my parents, they were said to have been found dead with in a toddler inside the car, that was said to be me, she took me in and loved me like her own child, hence I love her this much.

I am not the only child here at home, I have a sister that left me and my grandma because apparently she chose me over her, which is a total lie because Gogo did everything she could to give her the education she is failing to support her with. She is a teacher wherever she is failing to come back home and help Gogo and I.

"We MBALIYEZWE" gosh I'm still morning dreaming, she doesn't have to call me so early. I pretend to not have heard her, it's still half past four, I still have 30 minutes to spare until it's five am.

Guilt conscious has me up within five minutes, I thought I was not waking up but hey my granny could be in need, and the fact that I'm sick doesn't help the situation at all. The walk to her room is not that long, but it's longer than normal because I'm still sleepy.

Hamba uyemfuleni, I want water. Gosh not this again, she has lost it, again? I wonder what is really happening with her, she always cries and tells us that she sees things, I sometimes think that it's old age, she had started to hallucinate because of old age.

"Kusemnyama ngaphandle gogo, I'll go when the clock hits 5" she shakes her head no. She likes crying when these hallucinations start, I'm just glad and grateful to God that she is not being.

"They are here to take me, stop them" she is now crying, everytime this topic comes up, I assume that she is talking about the doctors that

wanted to send her away to the institution of mad people, I straight up refused, ayikho indlovu esindwa umboko wayo.

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I managed to calm my granny down, I don't understand how everything changed to this, she was a really fit woman, I don't know how it happened, it still puzzles me. It sometimes weighs me down.

I'm on my way to the river, I'm going to collect water, sigh, if you are 21 and still here in this place, you are bound to be going up and down the river collecting water.

"Fakhi madolo" I interrupt him even before he finishes the sentence.

"Awuke ukhule Phindile" we both laugh, she is my best friend, we walk home talking here and there. Gogo is asleep.

"I'm going back next week" she informs, I can't help but feel a bit jealous, she is living her life in Joburg.

"I'll miss you" I say.

"I will miss you too" she says, sigh.

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ZAMOKUHLE KHUMALO

My parents ruined my day, I thought it would be the best day when I finally tell them who my boyfriend is. After choking on my food I told them about Sakhile they tried throwing fits, I had none of it because Sakhile is a big part of my

life. It wouldn't make sense fighting the underground gang and also fight the living gang. No it's really off.

I told them how tired I was of taking everything that they ordered me, it was about time I chose myself. They told me that I will regret it, if being with Sakhile is a mistake, then it's a mistake I'm willing to make and learn from.

I continued eating their scones— there's no good baker like my mother so I wouldn't leave their scones like that— and drank their coffee and then thanked them for their hospitality and left.

No one chose my father for my mother and vice versa, so why should I have a boyfriend that will meet their expectations, my parents are really selfish.

Getting into my apartment, it's already dark outside, it lit so I don't understand, in times like this I wish I had a gun. I pray while walking

inside. I find both my sisters in the kitchen, I almost had two heart attacks.

"Hawu kanti yinina" I say, almost sighing in relief.

"Yebo yithina" -Nobuhle.

"How did you get inside?" I ask, they are experts of invading other people's privacies!

"I'm now a witch I changed us to flies form" - Ayabonga. Mxm my sister is dumb.

"Yohh I want to kill my mom and dad" they laugh. This is how we always start a conversation about our parents.

"What did they do now?" -Aya

"They want me to marry a doctor! Imagine how boring life would be"

"Hhay abazali bakho are too controlling, though I thank them for my husband but still" -Aya

"Hawu ngeke, mina nje I also want umageza" – Nobuhle, we laugh. Talk about lightening the mood.

We tell Nobuhle to bring glasses and wine for us, perks of also being an older sibling, we are drunkards. We are discussing Sakhile and Aya's husband over our drinking session. I missed them so much.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 17

KWANELE ZONDI

Letting go is never a easy thing to do, more especially if the person you are letting go of was somehow connected to you, in this case the person she is letting go of was inside her. She

had a few hours spent with Thandiwe. Thandiwe is normally a girl's name, but in this case it was given to a boy, because it meant everything that could not be said. Thandiwe was loved, although he was given to the ancestors as a sacrifice for happiness and forgiveness but he was loved.

The naming ceremony went well, they went back to eBhubesini, Bab'Zondi led everything because he is the only old male left in the Zondi family. It was an intimate and Private ceremony, they don't have added family so it was just the 6 of them.

Kukhanya is one week old, he doesn't cry as frequently as he did at first since his father spoke to him, there are improvements here and there. She is enjoying being with her child, but this is not at all taking the stress she has weighing her away. She honestly feels like an orphan while her parents are alive. They did not

show up to the naming ceremony of her child although they were invited– they shouldn't have been invited at the first place, this was not a joyous occasion, they should have come on their own without any persuasion.

Today was the burial, she has been hoping that they would come but nothing, there was no support from her side of the family. This is hard for her, maybe it's time for her to confront her family, after the six months period, no that's too long she'll go there still mourning her child.

"Ucabangan?" He always wants to know what's on her her mind.

"I'm thinking of my baby" she says with a slight sigh.

"Ngiyaxolisa yezwa" he takes her hand and squeezes it. They are not in a great space as yet but they are getting there. They won't be forcing

anything, she believes that everything should happen on its own pace and so does he.

"Awentanga lutfo, but it's fine" she says.

They are in his parents' house, the place they respect no matter what, he might be angry at his father but that doesn't mean disrespect.

"Are you considering forgiving them" he looks at her with an eyebrow raised "truly, I know you haven't" she adds.

"Empeleni Khona Themba lam, it's not easy, at all. But I'm willing to tell my father how I feel and maybe from there I'll start healing" he says.

"Thank you" she pecks his lips, he smiles and nods his head.

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No phone call, no message there's nothing from her family, it's late now she had thought that they would at least contact her, nothing.

"Hello" she says answering after the fourth ring.

"Why didn't you show up today? I needed your support"

"We thought there was no need for us to come, usuganile wena angitsi"

"Lomendvo angitikhetselanga, I was forced into this" she's really hurt by her mother's statement

"I thought you would be okay"

"You thought I would be okay? Without my family when I have just lost my child? Kungani ningenta kanjena?" There's silence, she just hangs up. She wants to mourn her child in peace, so she will just let this slide for sometime.

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SIBONGAKONKE MSOMI

I'm feeling a lot more better now, he doesn't lock me in anymore, but one thing I know is that he wants me to fuck up, just once and he'll react.

Most people usually talk about leaving abusive men, but actually it's not as easy as it is made to be. Today I'm planning on not doing anything, I'm planning on just sitting here at home. I want to see his reaction when he finally comes home.

I run water, I need a very long bath while sipping wine because I'm stressed and I have found myself finding closure in drinking wine. After bathing I wear my mini dress and slippers, I'm not up for breakfast so I just dive into my wine, I'm watching TV, no scratch that TV is watching me busy daydreaming about Qondani who has

been ringing my phone quite a few times this week.

I've been ignoring it, you know what they say about people who are professionals when it comes to the bedroom life, you cannot say no to them when they start speaking.

As I'm busy drowning into my sadness– being caught up in an abusive relationship while being this you is really not a good thing– I am disturbed by a knock, who could it be? We are never visited without being let know, people that come here are mostly Tumelo's family and business partners and they always make sure to let us know that they are coming and I know for a fact that it is not Tumelo because he never knocks. I head to the door with my wine in my hands. Upon opening the door my heart sinks to my feet, because I know that him being here won't do us good.

"MaMsoni" the first thing he utters.

"What do you want?"

"Wena, I want you"

"I'm taken already, leave Qondani"

"No, I don't want to leave, please." No this is not good, at all.

"Please, he might hurt you" I say

"Come with me then, asambe" he grabs my hand, I flinch I haven't healed completely "I'm sorry, come with me, you will be back in just thirty minutes"

"This should be the last time I'm talking to you" I can't believe I'm leaving with him, this might get me in trouble, I can only pray that Tumelo comes back let's today.

We walk out to his car, I see that he is in love with black cars, it's an Audi a charcoal black one, he opens the door for me, in the other encounter with him, he never opened the car

door for me, I wonder what is special about today.

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We are driving in silence, no music is playing he has never been so quiet since I've known him, he is a talkative person, I wonder what is wrong with him. We get to a hilly place and he parks his car, he steps out. My heart is beating fast, I'm scared my thoughts are running wild. He opens the door for me and takes my hand.

He picks me up and puts me on the trunk of the car, he so sits the view from up here is really beautiful, I wonder how it is at night.

"He hits you" he says not looking at me. "You don't even bother yourself to call me."

"I'm sorry" this sounds like the fittest thing to say, how does he know that Tumelo hits me, I would ask that but he wouldn't tell me, I know that!

"'I'm sorry' uzokbuyisa kumina Uma esekubulele?"

"I didn't know what to do, I felt like I betrayed him so I had to endure that as a punishment"

"Buya uzohlala nami, or ngizomvulela icala." He says.

"No, I'm not getting him arrested no am I living with you"

"I have the proof I need, I can get him behind bars, and with all these illegal dealings he is doing he can go down for a long time" I know I don't want him to go to jail, he has done a lot for me. But now what's with these illegal dealings?

"What illegal dealings?"

"The Choice is in your hand, I don't want to end up losing you, whichever way you choose uyogcina usengalweni zam so choose wisely, I know you love me too"

"Can I at least think about this? I'll text you"

"Okay, that's fine with me" he gets down and gets in-between my thighs and plants a kiss on my lips. He ups my one sleeve and looks at the bruise on my arm.

"Nx, kuyeyisa lokhu"

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.BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 18

ZAMOKUHLE KHUMALO

They informed me that there's a today at the Mthembus, I know I need to do makoti duties

today, or at least look like one. I'm probably gonna be quiet the whole, something that never happens. I'm yet to meet the wife and girlfriends, I've already met the sister and one brother, who is said to be the first born, Busani, I'm meeting the rest of the brothers too.

"You'll be fine, you don't have to be like them" he says, okay this means that they are different.

"Yeah I know"

I have just taken a bath, I'm ready to leave after rocking my long baby dress and a yellow doek, I feel presentable. Sakhile has no stress in the world he is playing candy crush, the sounds of the candy crushing is on max and that man keeps on saying 'delicious, sweet' I'm standing and looking at him, if only he could lift his head and look at me just once, he doesn't, so I speak up.

"Sengiready"

"Okay" he looks at me once, he doesn't look at me again. I pray God strikes with lightning, I deserve compliments here and there.

"Don't I look good?"

"You do bambo lwam, always" aiisuka

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They are good people, I like them but I'm still not comfortable with them, so I'm in my shell, I'm not looking forward to any conversation, one brother and his wife are not here yet, I want to see them, I can't wait. Zine still looks like she isn't here to stay though. There's a car driving in

"Hello family!" She says, she's glowing, I swear she's pregnant. My gut and sixth eye tells me, I know she doesn't know because she's jumping for a glass of one after settling next to me, I love her scent

"You look beautiful, and you smell nice"

"You look beautiful" I smile and thank her, she's giving me her attention unlike the Zine who is busy on her phone, she's been busy on it. Busani keeps glancing at her, His look is very cold. Let me just enjoy myself, I'm not here for people's lives, who am I fooling? Shaking my head.

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SIBONGAKONKE MSOMI

I let him kiss me because there's something I feel for him, is it love? No. I'm probably confused, or I'm hurt that I'm being neaten by the person I thought cared for me the most, I was with a man for the first time since I was born with him. He was the first man to taste my lips, he was the first man I got naked willingly for. I don't know

how I'll move on, I sometimes feel like if it wasn't for him I wouldn't been alive. I'm grateful for him, I'll forever be. There's a lump forming in my throat, I try to swallow it, but I can't my tongue is really leaving some distasteful taste in my mouth.

"Qondani I can't choose" I say. I can't believe he is being so heartless can't he understand that I love this guy? I get off of the car's boot and run to a place far From the car and squirt, I knew I'd do this I'm vomiting. I feel really weak, like I'll die in this moment. He is behind me, rubbing my back, like he cares, but in all honesty he doesn't, he wants me to leave Tumelo so that I can be all his, it's never happening. "I'm not leaving him, I love him"

"Okay I'll make you leave him, ngenkani"

"Some sibone, I don't know what makes you think I love you, I don't uyangicika nje"

"That's what you say, but is that what your heart tells you?" He is too tall for this, it doesn't at all suit him.

"I want to go home" I say

"Home is my home, this man hits you, he doesn't deserve you"

"And you do?"

"Yes I'd like to believe that I do deserve a woman to make my house a home, a woman who I'd come home to every night, I need a woman who'd love me, and I know that I'll love you ngokuphelele, without being fucked by men" the last words, what does he mean?

"What do you mean 'fucked by men'?" I ask.

"I mean just that! You said you wanted to go home, woza asambe ngikuyisa kwahliziyo ngise" he says. He is angry and I don't give a penny about it. All I'm thinking about is Tumelo

having sex with men. I am not homophobic but what the hell? Is it even true? I follow him, he is walking to his car, he takes a bottle of water and gives me, I take it and rinse my mouth before climbing into the already-started-car. He puts in umaskandi and he i think the volume is on max because I can't even hear myself think, I stare at him while he is driving, yena he looks good, but in order to see that you need to look at him intently. He stops right in front of the gate, he is making sure that if Tumelo is here he sees the car.

"If something happens to me, I'll never forgive you" I say that climbing off the car, I'm angry I don't who I'm angry at, but I'm fuming. He is not here, his car is not in the driveway nor in the garage.

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He just arrived, I don't know if it's because of what Qondani told me but I'm starting to notice a change of his walk, he is walking like his arse is in pain, he looks at me funnily.

"Keng?" He asks smiling "do you like what you see?" Like hell I do, I feel like puking just by looking at him.

"You are gay?" I'm making a statement more than I am questioning.

"What no!" I'm sipping my wine, I take the gun I hid behind the pillow, it's time it works "what are you doing with a gun?"

"I'm the one asking questions, sit the fuck down and answer my questions" I say pointing it to him, he takes the instructions ive given out and sits his arse down, I'm disgusted by him, God how did I not see this?

"I'm sorry, but I'm not gay" he says

"You are, and quite frankly I'm not moved because I am leaving, I found a man, a true man" I say, his face expression turns to what I don't like "a man who is not a woman abuser" I add "and he also makes me cum" he comes closer, but I seem to not be able to pull the trigger, everything happens so fast, the gun is in his hands now. He rips my clothes, they are now torn

"You are not going anywhere, you leave me? You leave in a casket" he says, he will kill me, he has the means. He opens my thigh, in my inner thighs there's something written– it all comes back now, he wrote this whole he was beating me. It's written 'good for booty calls' this is the worst he has ever done to me. I might as well die.

"I'm leaving you, ngiyeke"

"Then we both die my love, Till Death Do Us Apart" he says with a stupid smug. One bullet,

it's all that it takes to get me on my knees, I feel my soul leaving my body before another gunshot is heard by me.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 19

QONDANI MTHEMBU

He was just informed that Sibongakonke has been taken to the hospital, she has been shot, but she's not dead. He was with his brothers, still is, they were enjoying the time of their lives, he gave her an alternative, he didn't want to force her out, okay maybe he did, but there's a reason behind all that, a valid one at that. He knew that someday something like this would have happened, Tumelo was a coward, a person who

abused a woman because he could not be himself. Yes he was afraid of being judged, but Sibonga being there made people lay their heads down, while he had his way with other men. How could this lead him to shooting her though? They say he shot her and shot himself, when Qondani's men heard gunshots they rushed off to the house, called an ambulance, Sibonga had a weak pulse, but they made sure that even if Tumelo had a slight chance of living they take it by shooting and hiding the body. He is frozen on the chair, the first one to notice is his eldest brother, Busani.

"Yey, Qondani" Busani says, the others notice too. Busani looks at the vodka he is holding and splashes it on him, water was too far.

"Busani, ngotshwala pho? Alcohol Really?" - Sakhile.

"Water was too far, bafo yindaba?"-Busani

"He shot her" all the boys know who. They all stand if anyone of them is hurt, they all are

ready for war. They have all taken things too light, and that led to them losing the woman who was about to be their stepmother, Mam'Sbo. Yes, they avenged Bontle, but the son of the murderer wanted to avenge his father's death, he then plotted and came on the day of the wedding of Zwelethu, they shot ubaba and her, he survived and she lost her life. They struck back but didn't kill anyone, they just made sure that the message was heard.

"No angiyi, I'm not showing up there, I warned her" he says, the girls are all watching in awe, Azile is the only informed one the other two are lost, the news seemed to get Zine's attention because her phone is now put away.

"Uyasibhedela, what are you? A coward?" -Zwe

"No, the guards took care of everything, even damage control. They made it look like a robbery" he says.

"She needs you there with her" -Sakhile

"She was shot in the head bafo, chances are

that she might die."

"Yingakhoke you are needed because she might hold on when she feels you" -Zwe, he is the most affectionate one.

"Okay" -Qondani, he rises From his chair.

"You can stay, ngizohamba naye" -Busani.

"You are leaving me behind?" -Zine

"Angithi you are busy with your phone, awungixege mina" Zamo sips her wine, this family is a great family.

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They just arrived at the hospital, the drive was really quiet, they were both drowned in their sorrows, Qondani- the obvious fear of losing his love that he didn't have at the very first place, he hopes that she lives. They are sitting on a bench, Busani's one hand is wrapped wrapped around Qondani's shoulder, Qondani head is on Busani's

shoulder, they might be men, but they are brothers first, they are affectionate towards each other, they won't let the death of one of them be the thing that makes them love each other, they believe that *umumntu ukthanda esephila, hayi ethuneni*. Qondani is heaving sighs here and there, popping his fingers.

"Bhuti what's happening?" -Qondani

"Ngani" he is acting dumb, but Qondani is willing to push it.

"You are not okay, and I've been noticing that" a heavy sigh is heaved, meaning this is not just an issue, but it's a big issue.

"uZine is acting up, I don't understand her these days, it's like she has become a stranger"

"How so?" Therapist Qondani asks, still resting his head on the patient's shoulder.

"She doesn't want me to touch her, she is always tired, which tires me. You saw how she was today? Blushing on her phone?" Okay this needs his whole attention he brother is hurting.

"Yeah" he says lifting his head, but Busani puts it back where it was.

"Yes lekhanda lakho la, kanti ulalela ngekhandanda? As I was still saying, I think there's someone else but I haven't had time to look into it, The rank has much bigger problems" he says

"Give me your blessings, I'll try to keep my head sane by checking her"

"Okay, but don't stress yourself"-Busani, how can he not, if this girl is fucking someone behind his brother's back kuzinuka kungabolanga.

The doctor appears, they were let in because Qondani lied and said that he is her fiance, he looks really depressed.

"Ms Msomi?"

"Yes, what happened? Is she fine"

"We were able to stabilize her, the bullet did some damages, she fell on her head so she might suffer a partial loss of memory" he nods.

"Wasn't she shot in the head?" -Busani

"No, she was shot near her heart, the bullet

dodged her heart " oh.

"Thank you doctor" -Busani, the doctor leaves

"hayi you are a true lawyer, ungambulala

umuntu Bafo"

"I wasn't lying, I also thought I heard them saying

that she was shot ekhanda.

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MBALIYEZWE KHONZA

I'm coming back from the river again, it's now

late, Sizo is standing next to the rock, this guy

bores me to death. He always makes it a point

to tell me how much he thinks of me as a

woman, but I grew up in front of him, I

considered him my brother all my life. I put on a

straight face, I don't want to be bothered by him

today, he has bothered me from the time I

started developing big boobs and butt. He

seems to be waiting for me, talk about 'ukungapheli amandl' how many times have I rejected this guy? Gosh how am I supposed to reject him, because I've used all the nicest lines to reject people 'i love you like my brother' and all that.

"Bamuthathile, ugogo they took her" what's he talking about?

"Who took who?" I ask.

"Those clinic people came when she was having one of her episodes, and took her I think MaSikhosana called them, and signed on your behalf" when and how did this happen, I only take an hour and a half to the river. When did she get time to do this.

The water has spilled, the bucket is broken I'm not able to stand, I let my feet fail me and fall down. After feeling satisfied with my tears shedding I up and dust myself, lomama uhlulwe umendo now she wants to ruin my life.

"We mamuSikho wabanjan, what kind of a person are you?"

"What's wrong, why are you making so much noise"

"Kuncane lokhu, I would be making a lot more noise, ukuthi ngihlonipha nje uGogo, why did you call those people?"

"Your grandma was worse"

"So? I took good care of her nje, you could not handle your marriage, so you thought it was better if you come back here and stick your big nose into our family?"

"Don't you dare disrespect me, your grandmother is a witch, I did you a good favour by taking her away from you"

"Yeyy don't call my grandmother a witch wena"

"She is, kungani ekutshontshile? Huh?"

"She never stole me, she took me from my dead parents' car".

"Hehehe! Ubuxoki, she lied to you! Why do you think your life is stuck huh? Funeka Uphile ngani

yam, your grandmother took all your lucks and gave them to your selfish sister, if you don't believe me, go to isangoma they will tell you" God I can't deal with this, it's too much lies.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 20

KWANELE ZONDI

"Mkami" he is unable to hold himself, if I let him do this, even if it's once, we would have to cleanse ourselves everyday. "Ngiyakcela I'll just park ngizojika lapho" I laugh, it's so unlike him to beg.

"Babakhe you know we can't do that, firstly this is your Father's home, secondly and most importantly We are mourning our child's death" u say and peck his lips, I walk to the bathroom

and brush my teeth, as I'm applying the toothpaste, he wraps his arm around me.

"I'm a bad father aren't I?" I laugh.

"No you are not" I say

"So ke I want to greet my other future babies" he is pouting, God.

"You are a sex addict" I say.

"I'm not I'm just addicted to you" and doesn't my heart melt.

"I'm addicted to you too" he smiles.

"But awunfuni ngenquza yakho nje" I laugh and shake my head. This guy is gonna finish me, I don't think there's ever anyone who likes sex the way he does. I'm not complaining though, I'm just wondering if oral sex is forbidden when mourning. I make a mental note to ask Phelos mother. Baba and I have become very close these days.

"We should go to indlu enkulu bafo" I tell him

"Okay oe" I smile, I never thought that I'd fall in love with this bracketed guy, yena he was very

charming but I hated him, all this hate has now become love, the love that no one will ever change that, I'm not willing to let it change anyways. MaMdletshe is here, this woman is a true definition of imbokodo, she kept this house a home for years, and I also understand why they had to lie about him losing his parents at 5 years but he actually lost his parents, imagine telling someone that your nephew lost their parents at three while you were there but couldn't protect him, because you were a manhoe, okay that's harsh, but he is beating himself up too.

"Makoti" she says smiling

"Yebo ma" I smile too, she has a light aura, not like your typical aunt-in-law "baba" I greet.

"Ndodakazi, how are you?"

"I'm good baba" I say, Phelo is a street guy, he is 25 and stress less, he isn't present for breakfast.

"Bafana" he says, this one blushes, hawu.

"Baba wam kunjani?"

"Ngiyaphila, how are you?"

"I'm good thank you, mama" her warm smile again, gosh when I grow up I want to be like her.

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I'm now with baba, we are sitting in the veranda, I love this man here, he managed to support me, and make me realize that I shouldn't be hard on my parents. There's a car pulling up at the gate. I know it it's my parents, wait they are here, all of them are here, I thought I'd be sad and angry when I see them, but instead I'm happy and I over the moon.

"Kakhulu ekhaya" that's baba

"Iyebo ninjani" they are weird towards each other, it's probably because if my dad killing his brother. I hug all of them except my older brother, he doesn't call me, he doesn't check up on me so I have a right to sulk. Baba leaves us

outside, saying he is going to inform the others, and also bring chairs because these ones say that they are fine outside because it's hot.

"Sesi I'll buy you anything you want please don't do that to me" I love at him mischievously.

"If you promise to take me out after my mourning period" he nods

"I promise"

"Why don't you atleast call bhuti, I missed you, I missed us. Small how are you?"

"I'm good sesi" I nod

"Alright"

Sibonelo brings a chair and sits himself down too then greets my father's eyes are cold.

"I don't want to lie mntfwanami I really wanted to come here, but I really didn't want to come and invade your husband's privacy, I don't think he has forgiven me" his reasoning is really what I expected. "I also forbade them from contacting you, but never, ever think that we've abandoned you" I nod my head

"I have long forgiven you baba I just don't like what you did, they are your grandchildren" - Sibonelo, he nods

"I know that futsi I just hope that she forgives me. I'd like for us to go to his grave" I'm quiet they are actually have a conversation, like a son and a father.

"Akunankinga babe" he says, I smile it's really cute when he speaks siswati. He might actually be licked by me today night.

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QONDANI MTHEMBU

He is looking at her, hoping she'd get up and tell him how much she doesn't love him. He thanks God and his ancestors that she is alive but now he is praying that she wakes up from her long sleep. He takes her hand in his and kisses it.

"Ngiyathand' impela ukuthi when you wake up I will never ever want you to be mine kodwa I don't want to lie to you, I will always love you I want you to wake up so that I can make you mine" he needs this, needs her to wake up maybe after that he will have the guts to ask his father what went wrong, what eats him up that he always finds solace in alcohol.

"They said telling about my day would be actually therapeutic, but I don't want to talk about that because it was dull today because all I have been thinking of is you" he says "I'll just tell you about what I have been up to, I have been following Zine, she's actually cheating on my brother, hee hhay unesbindi, I just pray she doesn't cross paths with me in this period because mina ngiyomhlaphaza" his hands is squeezed, no he is daydreaming, it's too early for her to wake up.

"Qondani" they said she would forget some things but she remembers him.

"Doctor!"

"No don't call them, I'm okay I still want to talk to you, where is he?"

"Uban"

"You know who I am talking about"

"The doctor said you shouldn't stress about unnecessary things" he says.

"I hope he is dead"

"Don't worry about him" the hand kiss "I'm just happy you are alive" he is too happy.

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KWANELE ZONDI

The parents are now gone we had time to talk about everything, they filled me in about their lives. Mom and dad will be renewing their vows soon, I'm happy for them, bhuti finally showed me his girlfriend, Sebentile, my childhood best

friend, hey awumati muntfu, I was always with my brother thinking that he is gay kantsi yena uyatati kutsi utidlela kamnganam.

They left at six after eating, my father and Baba are not close but they are civilised with each other, for the sake of us and their grandchildren.

I asked my mother if oral sex was a sin, she said no, I don't trust her about the zulu culture, so we'd rather do it and then cleanse, plus Kukhanya is with his grandparents in the other room so tonight is perfect.

He is lying in bed topless, Thandiwe forgive me for what I'm about to do, I've never really sucked a dick, I licked Busani's thinking I would but I didn't suck, it's a whole new experience for me. I just hope I don't get sick.

I get on the bed and plants my warm hands on his abed stomach

"And then?" He asks

"Lutfo" I say and plant kisses, trailing to his lower abdomen. I get him off his sweatpant with his

help. He is already getting hard, I love the effect I have over him.

I give him a hand job, his size is growing in my hands, he groans, I lick his tip.

"Yohh mama" he cries out, I put him in my mouth, I can't deep throat so I'll use my hand on the parts I can't fill with my mouth. I move my head up and down, so as my hand.

"Mamakhe" he groans. I move faster, but I can't keep the speed, so he holds my head and moves too. "Wuuu, I'm about to cum ", he says wanting move out of my mouth but I hold him firmly, he shoots it in my mouth groaning, it's tasteless, I swallow.

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We are lying in bed, he is catching his breath, I'm wet and horny, he keeps on rubbing my shoulder, he gets up, at least he is dressed. He

gets back and smiles a nervous smile. Getting on his knee he smiles again

"I love you, loved you the first time I saw you, you are my sanity my soulmate, would you make me the happiest man in the world and marry me?" I nod, even though we are traditionally and homeaffaircally married this is really emotional for me.

"Yes I will" I say and kiss his lips, he gets up and picks me up and then spins me around, I'm so happy.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 21

ZAMOKUHLE KHUMALO

Sakhile and my kids are visiting today, God knows that I needed to see them after the hectic week I had, it's really hard having to juggle working and moving from Johannesburg to Pretoria and vice versa, sometimes I drive even though I know that my feet are sore and I'm tired. A phone call comes through.

“Hey, baby”

"Baby meet me at The Urology hospital, Mpilo uyamongoza and he is crying about a headache " he is panicked meaning that this is serious it's not just a normal headache. I don't even bath, as tired as I am I run to my car and bring the engine to life. The drive feels long, I don't know why I'm driving so slow today. I cannot start to complain about the traffic because it's too damn long and I have no interest in playing some music today, it's really gonna drain than doing me good.

I finally arrive at the hospital but parking is hard to find, it's really packed. I almost bump into a

car as we race for a spot, I win the race. After locking my car. I run inside and tell the receptionist that I'm here for Mpilo Mthembu, I run to the passage where I find Sakhile pacing up and down with Nduduzo in his hands, I take Ndu from him.

"What happened?" I ask sitting down.

"I don't know, one thing I was driving, and they were both in the backseat, he cried of headache and then he started bleeding." I'm afraid to even utter that I think these are cancer symptoms. Umlomo uyadala so I don't want to speak something into life.

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"I'm afraid we can't declare this as something valid as we are still running tests." She say I knew they would talk about cancer that I'm really not ready to deal with, Mpilo is still a

young child, I hope our theories are incorrect. Our days will be this dull until we get the test results, how long will we even wait. We drive in silence, he also developed some feelings for Mpilo so I understand why he is acting like this. My car will be brought home by his friend, I don't know which friend because he doesn't have friends here in Pretoria.

"He can't have cancer, this is now too much, I'm starting to think that the Mthembus are cursed"

"No don't be like that baby" I say.

"It's try, how do we explain Ma Sibongile's death? Dimphos? Zwelethu's first child? No man there's something wrong ekhaya and we need to fix it as soon as possible." I think it's just in his head, there's nothing wrong nganoMthembu.

"I'm sad" I say "I can't lose him"

"I'm sad too, let's cuddle" I lie on his chest

I feel like smashing his phone against the wall because it's ringing so loud. He groans, and squints his eyes looking at it.

"Qondani ufunani?" He is bored "kuphi, no do not let him do anything stupid, Busani is not a woman beater, mbambeni" hhaybo what is happening, I'm worried.

"Baby ngiyebuya, Zine cheated and Busani is losing his mind"

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AZILAMAKHOSAZANA MTHEMBU

I'm pregnant, stressed and feeling heavy. I'm enjoying my pregnancy although at first I cried because I was scared I'd lose the baby, Zwe was, still is, supportive through all my tantrums, I thank him for that. I have decided to put all the incidents that happened me. I'm a woman now, a wife about to be a mother. Talking about mothers, I miss mine. We are always talking on the phone, she updates me about the gossip

that is around there. She opened up about her relationship with bab'Ndlovu. Apparently they are amathe nolwimi. I love that she found love and will not die a lonely old woman.

Zwe and I are the best most Mr and Mrs in the world, we are loving each other more than fighting which is really good I don't like, in fact I hate confrontations. He buys me all my cravings, I can safely say that he also enjoys this pregnancy, I'm not a handful, at all! I'm still a housewife and I'm not planning on changing my title ever.

An issue we have at hand now is the issue of Zine cheating, I wonder why, we were lying in bed before being disturbed by loud knock that was pounding on the door, Zwe went to open after playing rock paper scissors to see who will be opening, I lost but I threw tantrums here and there, he ended up going as I said. When he came back, there was a crying Zine behind him, she started telling us that she doesn't love him

anymore, she stayed because she had no choice, I still don't believe what she did, she told us that Busani strangled her, he strangled her kancane. While Still listening to her, Busani barged in followed by Qondani, they were fuming angry. Busani wanted to hit her, but Zwe stopped him.

We are now sitting down as adults trying to solve this matter.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 22

ZINE JWARA

If it wasn't for Qondani she would have long gotten away with this, this guy seems to be heartless, in his presence she shivers, she knows that Busani has a soft spot for her, she would

have used that to her advantage but this Qondani keeps getting in her way.

"Uma enihlula, I will handle her" he says, she doesn't want to even know what handling her will be like.

"Bafo wait a bit" -Zwe.

"Did she wait a bit before cheating on uBafo? Taking his money and preparing date nights? Did she?" -Qondani.

"Do anything you would like to do Bafo, but never ever physically touch a woman" -Zwe, his is always logical. He isn't the oldest but he knows how to think. She doesn't know how she got caught, they were doing this under carpet. All she knows is that she doesn't want to lose Busani.

"Why didn't you just leave?" He asks.

"I love you" no that's not the question he asked.

"Maybe you don't understand English, kungani ungangishiyanga?" He asks sternly, she has never seen him this hurt or this disappointed, he

tried getting physical, luckily Zwe was there, now he is sitting on the one sitter couch, he is looking at her with hatred in his eyes.

"I'm sorry" she says.

"Wasn't I enough, what else did he give you that I didn't?" She keeps quiet, if she says this he would hate her worse "I asked you a fucking question"

"I liked that he is a doctor" she says, she's hoping he doesn't want more reasons, Busani has no problems in the bedroom, he is wild and he can give it nicely, but the experience with Dr Lebohang was even nicer.

"Is that it" she nods, her eyes everywhere but on him, she can't look at him. "I have done nothing but love you, I asked you not to leave me from the beginning but that didn't mean that if the love was no more..." She interrupts, he is getting all the wrong ideas.

"No I love you" he laughs, it's not a pleasant laugh, it's a mocking laugh.

"No, you don't. If you loved me you would have left me. Kuphelile, you've shown me that I should never be open to love, thank you very much for loving, or acting like you did for the period that we shared" he is leaving, she is now crying hysterically.

"Yey yet shut the fuck up s'febe, you know very well that you did this to yourself" Qondani says standing up "give me my brother's car keys" he is bringing his hand forth, he is not joking around, she gives him and remains seated on the couch. "Bafo I'll come back tomorrow morning with a driver, I'm leaving it here" He says, Zwe nods.

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"If I was inhumane I would be telling you to leave my house, what you did to uBhuti was heartless, I thought you were a good person" aiii this

unemployed wannabe house wife shouldn't bore her, but she wants a place to sleep so she will close her pie hole "Bhuti is a good guy, but anyways unjani?"

"I'm fine nje, do you think he'll forgive me?"

"Eish I don't know, you should let him be though" she says, that's Never happening, she's not the first nor the last woman to cheat, Busani will have to forgive her, no matter what!

She needs to do something to earn his trust, she just hopes that Qondani stays out of her way, she meds to end things with Lebo as soon as possible.

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AZILAMAKHOSAZANA MTHEMBU

I hate what she did to bhuti, I don't even know how I'll trust her, but it's no secret that we have

become close over the months that we have known each other, but again family is family, she decided to break bhuti's heart willingly, so I cannot be with her anymore,if there some things she needs if course I'll be there but not as a friend I hope she understands that. I haven't slept, I have been tossing and turning the whole night, Zwe is not okay hence the tossing and turning. He doesn't even want to eat breakfast, I have been begging him to eat but I think he got tired of me begging so he went to lock himself up in his office, he has been there the whole day, I'm not worried that much because I know that he will talk, he'll tell me what is wrong with him. Zwe and I decided to get a helper as we will be going house hunting this month, imagine we are still living in his aunt's home, so since we will be house hunting I'm thinking of telling my mother to get me a young helper from ekhaya, I would like to help people like me. Now because helpers are said to sleep with husbands it doesn't mean

that it would happen, nakhona if it does it would mean Zwe is not faithful, which I doubt, I trust him. I take a bath my baby bump doesn't show that much, I only see it when I'm naked. I make my cereal, I'm inlove with my chocolate Sola brand cereal. I can't be without Zwelethu I'm unable to cope without him, I'm very attached to him.

One knock and I open the office door, his head is on the table, he is super stressed if he is like this, sigh!

"My rib" I say shaking him lightly.

"You are my rib, not the other way around" he says lifting his head with a sad smile.

"Same difference" he smiles

"Aii ngayikhethela mina" I laugh

"You chose for yourself indeed" I agree

"Aii kodwa" he shrugs

"Yini, you want your cows back? I think I saw someone who would like to be my Ben ten and he is super hot" I wiggle my eyebrows

"Over my dead body"

"Okay where's your gun" he laughs, that's better

"are you fine Thembalam" he nods

"I'm good" he is silent again "Thank you for being here, I noticed something yesterday" he sighs

"Busani is a broken man, and they keep breaking him furtherly" he says all of a sudden

"I'm sorry, bambo lwam" I say

"It's fine I just want him to be okay for the first time, is that too much to ask for for my brother?"

"No it's not, and trust me, he will be fine" he sighs, I lower my head and kiss his lips.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 23

MBALIYEZWE KHONZA

I still don't trust maSikho, but again she doesn't have a valid reason to lie, why would she lie, I mean umabuya emendweni so I don't think she has any reason to lie, I'll look into what she said. I'm living in my mind most of the time, wondering if I really am what I thought I was all along, u knew that I didn't have an identity but I understood because she made me believe that my parents had died. Now if I had to discover that it was all a lie I would probably lose my mind, but that won't change the fact that she raised and moulded me into the person I am. Am I even ready for the truth, I would like to think that I am old enough to tackle anything that would come my way. Now coming to terms with the fact that she stole me instead of pitying me would hurt so much but I won't ever leave her, she doesn't have anyone in this world besides me. I called my so called sister today informing her about gogo being all she said was that she doesn't care about ugogo, I couldn't listen to all

that so I hung up.

I will be visiting ugogo today, after doing my house chores, I'm actually cleaning, a clean house, I've been cleaning my sorrows away since she left and I heard what I heard from MaSikhosana.

I feel satisfied with my cleaning when umthe clock hits 10 am, I feel fit to bath. One of the reasons why I don't like the rural area is because when we bath we have to us vaskoms , aii I hate this life. I let the water wash me like I'm bathing my sins away, what sins? Sins of wanting to be a gold digger.

I rock my jeans that I believe when I wear I am slaying, it's a ripped boyfriend jeans, I rock my black top and my sandals, I brush my short brush-cut, if I had money I would grow my hair but now I don't it's hard to even buy airtime for my Mobicel that I don't even take out in public. I'm walking in the streets holding my bag tightly against my chest like there's money in. There's

no money, infact there's nothing in it, my phone is tucked under my breast, and the R22, my last money, is in my jean pocket, I'm catching a taxi, one thing about being chubby is that all these taxi drivers see you as their type, I'm in no mood to entertain them today so I wear my straight-face-mask and get inside the taxi, yohhh ngizbulele! There's a person next to me, he's trying to converse kodwa yohh his armpits are striking today, I keep snorting to avoid the smell but yohhh it's really a strike, in trying really hard to listen to him, but it's impossible. So I keep nodding my head.

This has to be my longest ride, ever, at least I've reached my destination, there's a friendly old security guard that I greet outside walk in.

"Ngane yam kunjani" she seems better.

"Ngiyaphila gogo unjani?" We hug, and take our seats.

"Ngiyaphila ngane Yami" before sighing she sighs "kunjani ekhaya?"

"Kwakuncono because we would starve together but now, it's really hard" I say

"I'm sorry my child, kuzolunga" I sigh.

"How is it gonna be alright gogo?" I question.

"Pray you'll be fine" I nod

"I hope so" I'm readying myself for the big question popup "Gogo wangidobha ngempela or wangeba" and all of a sudden she starts seeing her things

"Leave me alone, who are you?" No this was not supposed to happen like this, she had to answer the questions that I asked not this. The doctors are now sedating her, talk about drugging old people, I know that in psychiatric hospitals it's hard to keep up as a doctor but that doesn't mean that you should always drug your patients, I strongly believe that Gogo's episode was staged. I get up and walk to the taxi rank, my 22 rand was wasted, I'm tired when I get home first thing I will do is sleep because I don't even have food to eat.

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I just got home, aren't I drained? I'm getting Mam'Zungu here on the door step, Mam'Zungu and I have never been close, she is one of the elders that I always greet when I see. Her daughter and I, I won't lie I've seen her twice or thrice, they have never been here for a long time, even uMa she just came back last year.

"Sawubona ma" I greet

"Yebo ngane yam" I unlock the door

"How are you ma? Please, come inside" she follows me in.

"We are good, how are you?"

"Aiii siyancenga ma" she says.

"I'm glad, you know my child that lives at egoli" everyone knows that she's got one child, and we also know that she lives at egoli

"Yes ma I know her"

"She recently got married, hey I was so happy

my child" you see these village women brag to even the poorest people, but I smile because I'm not a jealous being, I feel like she could just get into the point though.

"I was happy too when I heard" it's true, in this village of ours people go to the city and then get pregnant or come back with HIV, Sis Azile's case is a very rare one.

"She is pregnant now and is looking for a helper, I know that you probably are looking for something better and have plans but please my child, this might be a stepping stone, please take my offer and be her helper" if she wasn't bigger than me I would lift her up and spin her, she made my day.

"Thank you ma, thank you very much I'll take it" and then it hits me, I don't have money. "When do I start" from her breast she fishes for something, oh it's notes "she gave me this, as soon as you can, I think tomorrow would be fine for you, this money is for your fare, I'll give you

her numbers", I nod "I trust you ngane Yami" she says getting up, I get up too, walking her out. When I walk back inside I do a victory dance, I'll start packing up tonight, I can't wait to get there, I'll be able to take gogo to a private psychiatric hospital, and maybe just maybe my dream of marrying a rich CEO will come true.

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SAKHILE MTHEMBU

He arrived late, his brother was already gone, Zine was already asleep, he didn't want to see her, vele, he turned and went to his brother, he knocked and knocked, when he was about to give up a drunk Busani opened the door, his heart sank when he saw dried tears, he hugged his brother tightly, with every sob his heart sank, he doesn't like it when a his brother cries. He sure will make this girl's life a living hell,

until Busani opens up to love again.

He cooked for Busani while he was napping after cooking he woke him up and they ate in silence, he washed the dishes and they watched movies, comedy to be precise and that seemed to lighten the mood.

He left the next morning, heading to Pretoria, he was worried sick about Mpilo, when he got there, they rushed to the hospital to get the test results, Zamo made things happen thanks to her being a doctor too.

Arriving at the hospital there was a queue they had to wait, but the was not that long. What pissed him off was the doctor trying to make small talks, he wasn't interested in all that.

"I know that this might have been stressful, it really stressed me too, but I am glad that all the nosebleeds and headaches he had was caused by hay fever..." The doctor had said

"Ohh Jesus, I always have known that you would never leave your cousin, whenever , I love you

too Jesus" he interrupted walking off.

He decided to wait for her in the car, she appears all smiles, she is also happy and relieved he guesses, he holds her hand and drives off.

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As soon as they get inside the apartment, he closes the door and grabs her hand, holds her waist and starts kissing her, today he wants to be inside her, he has waited for this moment for so long that he is not interested in foreplay.

"Mmm Papi" she moans in his mouth, which sends a message to his dick, it harden

"I love you" they are both breathing heavily.

"I love you more my papi" okay he has been upgraded from two fingers to Papi, he likes this.

He undresses her, she also undresses him, he could be naked and hard all day she wouldn't

be bored because she would stare, jealousy pangs are coming through when the thought of someone touching all this comes through her mind, but she pushes all this to the back of her mind.

He spanks her but, and she squeals, she is dropping wet. She is ready for his dick. He leaves trails of kisses, but when he reaches her neck, he stops there and sucks.

"Baby" she can't take this, she wants him.

"Ngingangena ngingembethe, I want to feel you skin to skin" he asks, she nods. He carries her to the bedroom and lays her on the bed. Her legs are widely opened, he position himself and slowly inserts himself in her, it's a bit tight, evidence of her not being touched for some time, this is really good.

"Ohhh Mami" he cries out, he moves, the sound of them syncing is music to his ears

"Papi" he is moving really well, he met her expectations and beyond, he is hitting in all

angles.

"Pa... pi ohhh faster" she begs he moves faster and curl her toes orgasms, he waits until she's done cumming, he starts moving again, she's powerless, she lies lifelessly while he moves inside, he thrusts faster.

"Boo...Ntleee" oh shit, shit shit shit!!!

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 23

MBALIYEZWE KHONZA

I still don't trust maSikho, but again she doesn't have a valid reason to lie, why would she lie, I mean umabuya emendweni so I don't think she has any reason to lie, I'll look into what she said. I'm living in my mind most of the time,

wondering if I really am what I thought I was all along, u knew that I didn't have an identity but I understood because she made me believe that my parents had died. Now if I had to discover that it was all a lie I would probably lose my mind, but that won't change the fact that she raised and moulded me into the person I am. Am I even ready for the truth, I would like to think that I am old enough to tackle anything that would come my way. Now coming to terms with the fact that she stole me instead of pitying me would hurt so much but I won't ever leave her, she doesn't have anyone in this world besides me. I called my so called sister today informing her about gogo being all she said was that she doesn't care about ugogo, I couldn't listen to all that so I hung up.

I will be visiting ugogo today, after doing my house chores, I'm actually cleaning, a clean house, I've been cleaning my sorrows away since she left and I heard what I heard from

MaSikhosana.

I feel satisfied with my cleaning when umthe clock hits 10 am, I feel fit to bath. One of the reasons why I don't like the rural area is because when we bath we have to us vaskoms , aii I hate this life. I let the water wash me like I'm bathing my sins away, what sins? Sins of wanting to be a gold digger.

I rock my jeans that I believe when I wear I am slaying, it's a ripped boyfriend jeans, I rock my black top and my sandals, I brush my short brush-cut, if I had money I would grow my hair but now I don't it's hard to even buy airtime for my Mobicel that I don't even take out in public. I'm walking in the streets holding my bag tightly against my chest like there's money in. There's no money, infact there's nothing in it, my phone is tucked under my breast, and the R22, my last money, is in my jean pocket, I'm catching a taxi, one thing about being chubby is that all these taxi drivers see you as their type, I'm in no mood

to entertain them today so I wear my straight-face-mask and get inside the taxi, yohhh ngizbulele! There's a person next to me, he's trying to converse kodwa yohh his armpits are striking today, I keep snorting to avoid the smell but yohhh it's really a strike, in trying really hard to listen to him, but it's impossible. So I keep nodding my head.

This has to be my longest ride, ever, at least I've reached my destination, there's a friendly old security guard that I greet outside walk in.

"Ngane yam kunjani" she seems better.

"Ngiyaphila gogo unjani?" We hug, and take our seats.

"Ngiyaphila ngane Yami" before sighing she sighs "kunjani ekhaya?"

"Kwakuncono because we would starve together but now, it's really hard" I say

"I'm sorry my child, kuzolunga" I sigh.

"How is it gonna be alright gogo?" I question.

"Pray you'll be fine" I nod

"I hope so" I'm readying myself for the big question popup "Gogo wangidobha ngempela or wangeba" and all of a sudden she starts seeing her things

"Leave me alone, who are you?" No this was not supposed to happen like this, she had to answer the questions that I asked not this. The doctors are now sedating her, talk about drugging old people, I know that in psychiatric hospitals it's hard to keep up as a doctor but that doesn't mean that you should always drug your patients, I strongly believe that Gogo's episode was staged. I get up and walk to the taxi rank, my 22 rand was wasted, I'm tired when I get home first thing I will do is sleep because I don't even have food to eat.

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I just got home, aren't I drained? I'm getting Mam'Zungu here on the door step, Mam'Zungu

and I have never been close, she is one of the elders that I always greet when I see. Her daughter and I, I won't lie I've seen her twice or thrice, they have never been here for a long time, even uMa she just came back last year.

"Sawubona ma" I greet

"Yebo ngane yam" I unlock the door

"How are you ma? Please, come inside" she follows me in.

"We are good, how are you?"

"Aiii siyancenga ma" she says.

"I'm glad, you know my child that lives at egoli" everyone knows that she's got one child, and we also know that she lives at egoli

"Yes ma I know her"

"She recently got married, hey I was so happy my child" you see these village women brag to even the poorest people, but I smile because I'm not a jealous being, I feel like she could just get into the point though.

"I was happy too when I heard" it's true, in this

village of ours people go to the city and then get pregnant or come back with HIV, Sis Azile's case is a very rare one.

"She is pregnant now and is looking for a helper, I know that you probably are looking for something better and have plans but please my child, this might be a stepping stone, please take my offer and be her helper" if she wasn't bigger than me I would lift her up and spin her, she made my day.

"Thank you ma, thank you very much I'll take it" and then it hits me, I don't have money. "When do I start" from her breast she fishes for something, oh it's notes "she gave me this, as soon as you can, I think tomorrow would be fine for you, this money is for your fare, I'll give you her numbers", I nod "I trust you ngane Yami" she says getting up, I get up too, walking her out. When I walk back inside I do a victory dance, I'll start packing up tonight, I can't wait to get there, I'll be able to take gogo to a private psychiatric

hospital, and maybe just maybe my dream of marrying a rich CEO will come true.

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SAKHILE MTHEMBU

He arrived late, his brother was already gone, Zine was already asleep, he didn't want to see her, vele, he turned and went to his brother, he knocked and knocked, when he was about to give up a drunk Busani opened the door, his heart sank when he saw dried tears, he hugged his brother tightly, with every sob his heart sank, he doesn't like it when a his brother cries. He sure will make this girl's life a living hell, until Busani opens up to love again.

He cooked for Busani while he was napping after cooking he woke him up and they ate in silence, he washed the dishes and they watched movies, comedy to be precise and that seemed

to lighten the mood.

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inside, he thrusts faster.

"Boo...Ntleee" oh shit, shit shit shit!!!

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 24

ZAMOKUHLE KHUMALO

Sakhile knows I love him, maybe that's why he did this to me, how can he call another woman's name while having sex with me, I don't know but I feel like this has reached and crossed all my boundaries, this is a level of disrespect I cannot tolerate.

"Get off me" I say, immediately after calling me by his dead ex's name he cussed and laid on top of me, I don't know why.

"I'm sorry" he thinks that he can solve this with a simple 'I'm sorry'? He must have drunken

something before coming here.

"Please get off me Sakhile fucking-Mthembu" she says calmly, she's struggling to breathe, saliva keeps forming in my mouth, I feel like crying but I don't want to and I know the only that will keep me from doing that is throwing things around. Sakhile slowly gets off me, I don't know what I did to deserve this, just when I thought I had healed from my break-up then this happens? No relationship is ever good, all relationships has its own problems, ups and downs, but this? Now anyone can vouch for me, this is pure disrespect.

One plate I throw at him, he moves towards me like lightning after ducking.

"I understand the fact that you are dead and all that, but don't you dare try to hit me, ever again." He says, my hands are itching, I move away from him, I move to the kitchen I throw a plate against the wall, the sound of it breaking is not doing me any better, I take my last bottle of

wine and drink from the bottle, it's also one of the useless things I've used.

I throw it against the wall to, the sound of it doesn't help. I sink down to my feet, it's the first time I cry this openly with a guy watching me.

"Why?" I ask "Do you want me to be her"

"No Sthandwa Sami I want you as you, it was just a moment of weakness" he is now in his boxers.

"I want you to leave my house, a moment of weakness? Is that really the reason", he nods

"Ehhen bambo lwami, it is" he says, I chuckle but a sharp pain comes across my chest.

"I have pills on my first.. first.. drawer... Please get me them" I ask him, he runs to the bedroom, and I sob loudly this is painful, If he knows that he didn't heal or that he still wants to be with a person like his fucking-Bontle why doesn't he leave me alone? Why doesn't he go and hunt for a person like Bontle, I'm surely not that person. He comes back and gives me the pills I had asked for. I gulp two and the water he has given

me.

"Thank you" I say. I take antidepressants, because of my first boyfriend, he raped me and I took it lightly, I didn't want to but he kept on telling me that if I don't sleep with him he'd leave me for my Friend, I hated the thought and gave in not knowing that it was a date rape, it went on and on until he mocked me about my acne, by then I was starting to feel a less beautiful, I continued staying, I became depressed and woohoo the results of an emotionally abusive relationship– anti depressants. This really triggers everything about him telling me that I won't find love.

"You've never Loved me right?"

"I do love you"

"So why, I'm failing to understand that why you have to be so cruel"

"To be honest baby..."

"Don't baby me"

"To be honest, Zamokuhle, I haven't healed from

her death so maybe that's why"

"You still love her?" He clears his throat

"Yes"

"Is that the reason why you slept with her sister?"

Don't lie because now I know that it wasn't a lie, it all makes sense" he nods his head.

"Yes that's true"

"I can't run away from you because we have kids, but I don't want to be in a relationship with you, I can't be with someone who still loves his dead ex, I can't compete with dead people" I say before standing up and walking cautious, when I get to the end of the kitchen, I turn to look at him

"I don't want to see you here in the morning" I say before going to my bedroom.

I can't seem to find sleep, I'm tossing and turning. Sakhile Mthembu was my best friend in this period of time and I had actually forgotten about my real friend, she forgot about me, too. I'd like to believe that leaving him is the best choice because wow! Wow, just wow, he was

fantasizing about dead people while on top of me, yohh.

It's morning, I don't know how I ended up being asleep because I was tossing and turning the whole night. I feel a lot better now that I slept, I check the time, it's still six am, I get off the bed and go to the bathroom to freshen up, it's a five minute shower nothing hectic, after dressing up I go make up my bed, and then go to the kitchen to make breakfast, but first I check the spare bedroom, him and I need to talk, but the bed looks like no one slept on it, sigh, I go to the kitchen, nothing. I also check the TV room there's not, oh well. I guess he must have left yesterday. I'm thankful to God that I feel better, I can eat well and enjoy my food, food is not enjoyable when stressed. I prepare my English breakfast and settle down to eat, but I'm disturbed by my door opening, I look up, sigh! He is here, he has plastics in his hands, he must have left this morning to buy breakfast, I look back at my food

and continue to eat, I'm not eating anything that is bought by him, no I won't shame.

"Good morning" he says

"Hi" he is taking a seat opposite me.

"I bought you food"

"I'm not short of anything" I say

"I see" he sighs "Mi" oh it's pills, I forgot , Jesus! I won't thank him he had to buy this, hawu. He is watching me eat, he isn't eating the food he bought, I can't help but feel worried but I'm not asking, nope. I need to text Bongwiwe, at least I remembered her.

'Hey, friend. I hope you are good, can we meet up for drinks today?' I send and patiently wait for a response because I texted while she was online. Okay, she's grey ticking me. Maybe she'll answer later.

"Who are you texting" hee, he has the nerve to even ask, shame uyajabula, serious.

"I'm texting my dead boyfriend" talking about boyfriends I need to see my ex and apologize for

how I treated him.

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Sakhile just left, now I can breathe knowing I won't be tempted to talk to him, when he was here I would sigh a lot because upon opening my mouth wanting to say something I would remember that I'm not talking to him so I'd end up sighing.

I waited for Bongwiwe's text but nothing, I'm still waiting even now, I want to believe that she will text me as soon as she's got time.

I miss my babies, and tomorrow their father will be taking them with, so I quickly change into sweaters and sneakers and drive to Nobuhle's home, I blast music and drive fast, I'm enjoying the ride, I get there within 15 minutes—it's far from where I live.

"Qonqo" I hit my knuckles multiple times on the door, she opens after a few moments.

"Good morning sis"

"What's good about this morning, where are my babies" she laughs everything is a joke to this girl

"Mommy" he says hugging me, Mpilo is such an angel.

"Hey my baby" I kiss his temple and then take Nduduzo that's laid on bed. "Hey Nana" I smile, if I said I felt better, I lied I'm now feeling a lot more better.

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MBALIYEZWE KHONZA

I've been looking out the window since I got inside this taxi, I'm anxious my dream is coming almost to true, this is really bittersweet, on the other hand I'll finally be getting a new experience at life, on the other hand I will miss my mischievous grandma. I will be looking for

my parents she will tell me everything after I get my second cheque. The ride was really freshening all the mountains I saw for the first time, I enjoyed looking them.

I'm currently waiting for sis'Azile, I'm looking forward to seeing her at the rank. A beautiful car parks on the other side of the rank and then a guy that looks very much appealing comes my way, gosh couldn't he come when I looked a bit cleaner?

"You must be Mbali" is it written on my forehead.

"Sawubona, yebo it's Mbali" he sighs in relief.

"Okay, I'm Zwelethu, Azile's husband" yohh I'm embarrassed that I drooled over sis'Azile's husband!

"Oh nguwe bhuti" I say and stand up.

"Yes, let's leave Azile cannot wait to meet you" he says smiling.

"I can't wait to see her too" I have already met her.

We just arrived, finding a gorgeous man looking

exactly like bhut' Zwelethu with sis', Azile, if they were to tell me that they are twins I would not disagree. This one looks a bit broader and maybe one shade lighter than bhuti.

"Sanibonani" he just stares when I greet

"Hello Mbali" -sisi, she seems really nice and excited. This guy doesn't return my greetings.

"Hello" he finally answers when he sees that I'm raising my brow at him, aii he mustn't think that he owns the world.

"I'm so excited, come I will show you your room" she says getting up, she's glowing and looking very pretty she must be carrying a baby girl, we leave after the staring contest between the gorgeous guy and I.

I like my room, sisi gave me food after my room checking, I just finished eating and I'm heading to the bathroom to take a bath. After bathing I wrap a towel around my body and head to my bedroom. I lotion my body after locking the door,

I don't even bother to put clothes, I just wear my undergarments and then sleep.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 26

ZAMOKUHLE KHUMALO

1 year back, I would be throwing things at her telling her how much of a fake friend she is, I would be yelling at her, but now I'm not, there's a new Zamo, a Zamo with Sakhile is a total different Zamo to the one with no Sakhile.

I'm still standing outside the door 2 minutes later, I sigh.

"Unjani" I say, because she doesn't seem to want to talk.

"I'm good how are you"

"I'm good thank you" I nod.

"Is Themba..."

"Baby, haven't you seen... Oh hi Zee unjani?" He knows very well that I hate the name Zee, I just don't know why he uses it, it pisses me off big time, but I'll be acting cool, I don't want to point that out and then next thing 'she's jealous of our love'

"I'm here to apologise for how I have been treating you, and I want to thank you for making me see that I could be a better person, you too Bongi, thank you" I don't even want to enter. She dated him while being my boyfriend, and she dated him secretly. What would make me trust her when it comes to Sakhile. "Thank you, and goodbye" I say, this is our final goodbye to the both of them.

I feel a bit more lighter, I think this was a good step I had to take too, I feel unweighted.

"Baby" he answers on the second ring.

"How are you, I just came back from Themba's house"

"What were you doing there?" He asks

"I was just there to apologise and thank him for leaving me, because if it wasn't so, I wouldn't have had you in my life" I say

"Mmhm" he is pouting, I don't have time for that.

"How are my babies?" I ask

"They are fine, just missing you" he says.

"I miss you too, look I'm driving I'll call you later okay?"

"Okay,I love you"

"I love you more" I say and hang up, if I could just get home and sleep.

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MBALIYEZWE KHONZA

Being here for a week was just okay, until abo sisi told me that I need to give a package that I don't know off to Busani, that arrogant man!

From what I have seen I have concluded that he doesn't have a heart. I take back all the

compliments I ever showered him with in my head.

She told me to take a bath and I just did that, I'll be heading to his house just now, bhuti will drive me there.

"Sisi I'm ready to go" I say

"Haybo nawe what are you wearing?" She asks, I made sure to wear as rural as I could.

"Clothes" I say and shrug, she shakes her head and gives me a plastic bag, that has a container of food, Firstly she could have given this to Bhuti because he is driving me there anyway, I don't understand why she is sending me, maybe they want to get up to something that doesn't need me because she said I should clean when I get there, I couldn't refuse because she talked about extra cash and I'm willing to do that.

"Aiii okay, Zwe is waiting for you in the car." She says I nod. I walk to the car and get inside, he drives off the minute I get in, bhuti is a good, no

great man, him and bhut'Sah are fine, even the coldest, bhut'Qondani, is kind to me, with them I feel like they are my brothers. The problem is with Busani, he doesn't even deserve the title bhuti, he doesn't like me, I don't know why, but it doesn't matter because I don't like him anymore.

"How are you finding Johannesburg so far?"

"Ah bhuti, it's fine, I thought something was different, I enjoy being home than I do outside" I tell him, he chuckles.

"I'm glad you are finding it fine" he says, there's really nothing we ever talk besides how I'm finding Johannesburg.

We just arrived here, he doesn't even want to get inside, I get off the car and ring the intercom.

Bhuti leaves when the gate is opened. I walk into the beauty of this house, only if I had been working here, this is one beautiful greenhouse, who would have thought that a tracksuit rough voiced man with an attitude would have such a

style. I'm pinching myself as I stand in awe, this is a small heaven, it has black linings, it's all made up of glasses, this must be the reason why the security is so tight, there are high walls, you can literally see nothing from outside.

"Ufunani la? What do you want" gosh what have I ever done to this creature?

"I want my mother here"

"Let us not disrespect each other, you are trespassing" he says.

"What? I'm trespassing? Didn't your sister-in-law tell you that I am bringing this to you, ungangidini please I'm not in the mood for you and stinking attitude" I've tolerated too much of his attitude it's starting to annoy me now. I stomp my feet and get stuck when I try to look for a door "please come open this glass of yours I want to get inside" I say.

"Ufunani ngaphakathi you are not getting inside my house" he says.

"Well ke take me home" I say

"Kwa Zulu?" He is really testing me, I don't have his time.

"Yazin I won't tolerate this attitude of yours, iyacika honestly. Is it because I come from a less fortunate home? Is it because I don't have all this? Please don't bore me, if you don't like me don't go out of your way to ruin my day, everytime nje wena you ruin my days, just by your cold staring ngiya cikeka, inyoni indizela phezulu but it comes down for food and water, so no matter how much you are never, ever look down at another person please!" I say and put his food down and walk away, this one thinks he owns the world or he has shares, he must not start with me, I have parents issues so he shouldn't add on them, I'm fuming. The gate is locked yeses! I stomp my feet going back to his house but it puzzles me again, I can't find the door!

No matter how you ignore Busani, he always finds his way of annoying people, even now I'm

annoyed because I couldn't get to sisi, I'm starving, he came to me with his attitude and offered food to me like he was offering a dog, of course I didn't take the food.

It's now 6 pm, my phone is about to die and there's no sign of bhuti anywhere, they had said that they would come to fetch me but still nothing, they are not coming, it's even chilly out here. I can't believe his cruelty there's no way that he is not able to see that it's dark now and he is not calling me in, just because I'm from a not so good background, wow he is heartless. At least there's grass and I'm used to sleeping outside anyways so I lie down, looking at the stars hoping one of my blood relatives died and turned into a star so that they can be with me tonight, so that we communicate.

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SIBONGAKONKE MSOMI

I just caught my breath, we were sexing ourselves, I'm worn out and hungry. He is lying next to me with his finally full ego, he has been wanting to have me since I came back, I finally gave it up today because baba went to visit his brother.

"I want to plant my seeds in here, I want you to carry my babies, ukhulise umuzi kababa" he says.

"I want to carry your babies too kodwa not until I own my wine farm" I tell him truthfully, I'm so in love with my wine farm, I think it will work out just fine for me because it will be my only baby I just need a business plan, which I'll be drawing up soon, and an investor. I have decided that I'm not taking the school road.

"Really?" He is interested.

"Yes, but I don't want you to be my investor and please don't ask why" I don't want him to be telling me that he made me all of a sudden.

"I would never be able to do that because I'm

just a lawyer, but I can help you look for an investor" he says.

"Really, thank you" this way he will be just lending a hand, I'm grateful for him.

It's morning now, I'm preparing his shirts— something I used to do for Tumelo— just to show appreciation, I won't do wife duties all the time until he actually marries me, with the lobola, well I don't know where the money will go, I'm basically all alone in this world.

When I'm done ironing his formal clothes I find him sitting in the bedroom, I left him sleeping.

"Good morning",

"Hey, ubukuphi you got worried I thought you ran away from me" I laugh.

"I'm not leaving you bhuti, I'll be here until you die" he intertwined our hands and kisses mine.

"Uyazi kodwa umuhle kanjani" this is a first.

"Ngiyabonga baby" I say.

"Cha kubonga mina Sthandwa Sami" Love is a

good thing when it's given from both sides, I'm leaving a space for disappointments though.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 27

BUSANI MTHEMBU

He is fine, he still loves her but his dine, he has taught his heart how to move. He is not stalking nor following her, he is okay, that's all that matters. He doesn't believe that they have been together all this time and she thought that he didn't have any degrees, his father never allowed them to be anything before they were anything they liked. He is a pilot by profession, but he hasn't flown in years, he might have even forgotten how to fly!Taxis are not the only thing he owns, he has other properties.

He is not cruel, at all! His worst is just brought up by this farm girl, he cannot stand her, she just dares him. He sighs, it's almost eight pm and her employers are no where insight. He tried calling them, no one answered. He had been watching her moves ever since she got her. He walks out in search for her, he panics when he sees her lying down.

"Mbali" he shakes her, at least she's just sleeping, no response. He carries her inside and puts her in the guest room bed, he turns on the air conditioner, she must have been cold, she needs all the warmth she can get. He gets a blanket for her and covers her with it before leaving the room.

He doesn't remember the last time he cooked, but now there's an uninvited guest in his home, he has to cook. He is not doing anything for his self appointed enemy, he looks through the cupboards, how the hell are russians found in his cupboard, they are also the only thing only

thing left, it must have been Kayise because he would never buy eggs knowing very well that he's allergic to them, he will prepare them for her, if she will even eat. She already thinks that he hates her because of her background, no he'd never ever be that kind of a person, he never underestimates people based on their backgrounds, he only hates the fact that she challenges him, period.

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MBALIYEZWE KHONZA

I'm woken up by a person shaking me, I peep, I should have known it was him just by how roughly he shook me, I look around and realize that I'm in his glassed house, how did I get in here, all I can remember is me sleeping outside.

"I made you this" he says. Is he serious, I

"You made me that?" I ask

"No, I made it for you" does he think he is my

friend now

"And what makes you think I'd eat that?"

"Aren't you hungry?" Is he really that dumb.

"I am but you have to taste that before I eat" he laughs a soothing laugh, this morning be the second time I hear his husky laugh, but seeing that I'm keeping a straight face he clears his throat.

"Are you serious" I nod my head, I'm not his friend that I'd crack jokes with him.

"Dead serious" I say, I knew there was something in here the face he is making!

"I'm allergic to these" now it's my turn to laugh, how dumb does he think I am? I look at him waiting for him to eat, he slowly puts the sausage in his mouth and takes a bite, he chews slowly, his laryngeal prominence moves as he swallows, the left over sausage he puts on the plate and walks out.

I take the sausage and pop it in my mouth, it is so nice, I've always tasted those three rand

sausages I buy with fat cakes at Mam'Lucy's, now this tastes like heaven.

After eating, I go downstairs to put my plate someone in a nursing uniform is getting in the 'assumed door' as I descend the stairs, she looks beautiful she must be his girlfriend, she has a slim figure, tall and gorgeous. She screams, I look around for what she is screaming at, woah, Busani lying lifelessly, I also run to the direction where Busani is.

"Oh my God baby, are you okay?" She cries "call the ambulance, farm Julia" she says, if there wasn't a matter of life and death I wouldn't be this quiet, I'm just also worried about Busani worse I don't even know the Numbers of the health line by head, I'm just looking sorry. I hope he wasn't really allergic to those sausages because the guilt that would kill, will be harsh "He is breathing" she says. She takes her phone her pocket, she said something about him not breathing, no I need to feel it, I place my hand

on his neck to check his pulse, it's there but it's faint. I hope he isn't dying, I'll pray hard if I have to.

"Hey, Lebo, I need you urgently, I will send you the location via WhatsApp, please make sure that you bring your medical tools" she tells someone on the phone she drops the call and fiddles with her phone.

I don't know much about these but I know that if this is an allergic reaction his legs must be raised as he is laying down, I quickly run and take a chair to put under his legs so that they remain raised, I also know that there are injections specially for people with allergies, so I look for his room, I find the big room, I think it's his, turning everything upside down I find a medical aid, I open and get a syringe, I thank God when I see "Allergen immunotherapy" the fact that it is written 'allerge' is what makes me think this will help, I don't know how and why Ms nurse didn't think of it. I go back downstairs and

give her the syringe and the allerge what what.
"Why didn't I think of this" she says taking it, gosh
why didn't you vele?

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 28

MBALIYEZWE KHONZA

Talk about regretting doing things according to logic, it's me right now, I'm unable to forgive myself, if something had happened to him I wouldn't even be able to look myself in the mirror.

I don't know how much longer I can endure the wait that he is putting us through, so much suspense? I wish that he would come back and talk to us because now I'm busy popping my fingers waiting for him to come back and be

rude to me.

We waited for almost 30 minutes until he regained his strength. Immediately after gaining his senses he opened his eyes scanned the room, his eyes lingered more on his girlfriend, he then looked at me and then clicked his tongue he then stood and walked up the I could literally see that he was in pain because of his calculated steps.

The doctor, we are still waiting for him even now; you know how when you are hungry and not get food you end up being full, yes that's the situation at hand, he got sick and then recovered even before the doctor came.

I sigh before standing up, the devil's advocate besides me looks at me, what's wrong with her?

"Uyaphi?" She asks with an attitude

"What do you have to do with that" see, I'm really daring, and I'm also a loud mouth but when it comes to fighting, it is like my hand were cut off when I was born.

"Uthetha nabani?" I look at her blankly "please don't you dare try disrespecting me, I'm older and educated than you" I chuckle.

"Okay" I raise my hands in surrender, I try to walk but this demon here speaks again

"Where you going, this is not your house to act like you own it" calm down Mbali.

"I'm going to check on Busani"

"Mr Mthembu to you, that's my boyfriend there"

"Your boyfriend that didn't even acknowledge you, God you are so pathetic" that hit the nerve, her breathing pattern changes, and she's turning pink. "What's wrong?" I ask.

"I'll hit you mna, you are talking rubbish" okay right.

"Dare to hit her, this time I'll kill you" he is descending the stairs, did he hear us all along, he must have heard how disrespectful I was to his girlfriend, but she deserves it. I'm glad that he is siding with me though, I'm glad about that "Oh, so that's how you will be talking to me in

front of this thing" he grabs her hand roughly.

"I'll kill you if you dare try touch or even utter her name through your dirty mouth" he says through gritted teeth.

"You're hurting me" he chuckles

"Kusekuningi okuzayo, what are you even doing in my house?"

"What is she doing here"

"What are you? My mom? She doesn't need your permission to be here"

"Oh so you cheated" I'm listening to them talking about me like I'm not here

"I never cheated we are not made from the same dough" he says, somebody should give me amahewu I'm watching drama face to face.

"Thixo, are telling me that you are replacing me with this" she has her mind made up, she thinks we are dating.

"That's where you are getting it wrong, no one is trying to replace you, she's the only one in my life, you need to also make sure that you find a

suitable pre-school for your 4-year-old son" her eyes dart around. woah, this is taking a turn I didn't expect just like the dialogues I used to write at School. I give him a look but he doesn't look at me.

"What a degrade" she says and stomps out, what the fuck just happened.

"Why did you lie to her about us dating?" I ask following him to the kitchen, he is still walking like a sick person.

"Because..." He says, I'm waiting for a continuation of the because but there's none, which I find disrespectful, but because almost everything that happened was my fault I can't call him out

"Ngiyabuza" I say

"There's nothing to ask here, you were here when everything happened" I sigh that escaped my lips is really unplanned, I'm tired and drained for this.

"Are you okay?" I ask

"Yeah" he is so cold even after lying about my name, Busani will never change, I wish to have a civilised relationship with him though, this will remain a wish.

"I'm sleepy can I go to bed?" I ask.

"Sure" sigh!

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SIBONELESIHLE ZONDI

"Where's my brother?" He asks calmly, everyone knows that when he is this calm, he only wants blood in his hands. His brother went missing a few weeks ago, at first Phelo started hanging around with a bad company, he looked into him and last week he found out that he is on drugs, now that he found out suddenly he has disappeared.

"Musa Ikuphi ingane kababa?" He enquires again, this is hard for Musa, whether he talks or not he'll end up dead, this is his boss, he should

have known not to sell drugs to Phelo, he knows very well how much Sibonelo hates drugs.

"You think ngiyakwesaba?" He laughs a little "think about this, whether you tell me or not I will find my brother but you I will not kill you that would be too easy, I will make sure that I kill your family, and then end your son's life phambi kwakho" yes that's how cruel he is, he walks out. He tried changing but these people keep on turning him to an animal he tries hard to avoid.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 29

ZAMOKUHLE KHUMALO

We are officially back together, it's back to that Joburg-Pretoria life, I'm not complaining it's

actually nice being visited by your favorite men and visiting them too. Our second sex session was nice, he didn't even utter Bontle's name, I was so happy.

I feel like it's time that he meets my parents, he has been my boyfriend for long now, and they need to actually know that I have kids, they might not be biologically mine but I don't even want them to know that, I am their mother and that is period, I'm actually glad that the Bakoenas fucked their relationship up with uSakhile because they would probably have tried by all means to tell Ndu that I am not his mother of which I'd rather have him not know. My sister, Nobuhle left us with a bomb of her being pregnant last week, I was surprised because I thought she wasn't of that life, I scolded but told that at least she will be able to take care of her and that I will support her in every angle. My parents threw a fit but there's nothing that they can do, they should just be

glad that she is independent and the father will come and do what's right to them.

"She was fuming when she came back, yohh I give up on Busani" we are on the phone gossiping about what he was trying to do, trying to be a matchmaker, he should let his brother heal.

"I told you though" I say, he laughs

"I know, Busani should stop being rude to the poor girl though" aii I'm just glad I found a man who gossips just like me, in this relationship, I'm always entertained, there's an incoming call, it's an unknown number

"There's an incoming call, unknown number" I tell him

"Put it on conference" he says, I do

"Hello" it's Themba, I regret answering the call

"Themba what do you want?"

"Sthandwa Sami, I'm sorry for leaving you, your friend is going psycho on me, I miss you"

"Umisa unyoko, fokof she's taken" he says.

"Who's that Sthandwa?" Hhaybo I'm tongue tied,
I can't even speak "she held me hostage, please
help me" -Themba

"Ey she's not helping anyone"-Sakhile

This is a conversation between the two of them, I
just drop the call and let them talk, I need to
help Themba

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SIBONELESIHLE ZONDI

He just arrived home, he is not looking forward
to seeing his wife, he will have to answer her
questions given any. He knows that she doesn't
sleep unless he is back so he knocks before
getting inside.

"Mkami"

"Mnyami se foot, where are you coming from"
there it is, what he was avoiding.

"I was around"

"Around? Do you know where around is" there's a

knock, who could it be so late, couldn't whatever was troubling them wait till morning, and how did they even get in, he needs to have a talk with his guards.

"Are you expecting someone?" He asks

"No, I should be asking you" okay he doesn't take it any further, he walks to the door. "Haybo" he exclaims before he can stop himself, he didn't mean to sound like an old gossip, but he is shocked how does this woman know of where he lives?

"Son?" He doesn't like her tone, this is the very same tone he was given by her when she touched on forgiveness.

"Ma, kunjani?" He asks "please come in" she has two bags in her hands, his hands go to them, he has a feeling that she's not just here for minor spiritual issues, his heart is also pulsating at a unusual as he follows her with the bags, she seems to know her way around the house.

Kwanele frowns upon seeing her.

"Kwanele" how she knows her name is not in question at this point but Kwanele is confused, he gives her a face that says he'll explain later.

"Yebo ma" she says.

"Are you staying?"

"If you don't mind, I'll leave tomorrow though, I just want Kwanele's parents" she says.

"You want my parents ma?"

"Yes, there's a lost soul that they need to find" she says, the couple makes an eye contact, a lost soul?

It's morning that they have to travel, an unplanned trip, she didn't even get the time to pack her clothes, she took whatever it was that was at sight. She briefed them about what she was talking about, apparently there's a child that was stolen after her mother gave birth to the child. She doesn't know if it's true or not because she doesn't remember her mother telling about another child, it has only been

them three. When are they getting to Mpumalanga?

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 30

BUSANI MTHEMBU

He's known that he shouldn't get close to her, his blood rushes when he is near her, hence he had to always be cold and keep a straight face when with her. He didn't want to be close to her because her smile would always attracts and leave him masturbating with her on his mind, but that one day he got himself attached, he tried to keep to himself but he can't, his feelings and heart are stronger than his mind, he is really taken. She intimidates him, he is used to women falling at his feet, this one can handle him.

He is currently sitting in his study, where everything is put, there are two pictures on the table, Zine's picture and her son's picture, he can't believe that she had a son and never told him about the son. He knows how growing up without is like hence he didn't want to hurt her. They had planned to fiddle with her License, but learning that she has a child changed his perspective.

His Tequila lay burns his mouth, he groans. His voice is husky, naturally but this Tequila adds on it.

His car keys are in his hands in just a minute, he has to see her even if it's for a fight, he will do it. He just arrived at Zwe's childhood he, there's not much security but there is. He gets in, they might be sleeping, if not then he will make an excuse. Today is his bad day, they are not sleeping, they are watching TV.

"Hawu bhuti" today is one of the lucky when his younger brother calls him by his well deserved

title. Actually he doesn't know if it's a bad or good day, if he is luckily or unlucky.

"Mvelase" he says. "Manzini" he acknowledges Azile.

"Yebo bhuti" this girl is a good person with a warm persona, she's a good person for his brother.

"I'm here for my niece" that's sweet of him, "but I just got tired, I want to sleep, can I greet him?" - Busani

"Yes" - Azile

"Boyzin, kunjani?" He is brushing her growing bump, they smile, he is very cute.

"I want to sleep, back" he says.

"You know your way to your bedroom nje"

"Okay, goodnight MaSengwayo" he says.

"Hawu mina?" - Zwe

"Hayi" - Busani.

He sneaks to her bedroom, she silently closes her door, she's sleeping, he mouth is slightly opened, he can't help but imagine his dick in her

mouth, his dick twitches. He sighs and sits down, he is obsessed. One thing about him is that when he loves a soul he loves hard.

He can't stop staring at her, she feels it, it's hard not to feel when someone is staring at you, he sees her blinking he feels like disappearing, but he wants to hear her speak.

"Hayibo, bhuti Busani" she's doing this on purpose, she's never called him bhuti, she just wants to call him out on what he is doing it's weird.

"Uhm I'm sorry, I wanted to sleep but my room was occupied"

"Oh, it's fine you can sleep here, we'll separate ourselves using pillows" she offers. This is much better than he thought it would be, he thought she would be cold but instead of that she's the that is cold.

It's midnight, pillows are nowhere to be found, she is waking up to a cling-baby-like sleeping Busani, He is holding on to her, she can't help

but melt, he is sleeping like a baby sleeping next to his mother.

She hugs him too, it's soothing, it's like his father is present, she sighs and tries to sleep.

She is left alone on the bed when she wakes up, she sighs and gets up, she fixed her bed. While still busy the door opens, she doesn't look back she thinks it's Azile, until Husky-hunk clears his throat.

"Thank you for cuddling me at night" he says.

"It's a pleasure, it felt good."

"Yeah, Thank you again, you look beautiful" he says and doesn't wait for her to respond, this has got to be the weirdest morning, she feels excited though.

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SIBONGAKONKE MSOMI

I'm back at my house, it doesn't feel good being here, but it's my house and it does not deserve to be closed. Tumelo was said to be found near the river at Free State, it was then declared that he was dead, because I'm his wife I need to mourn him, this makes Qondani angry he doesn't like the fact that I will be mourning another man, he even said that he'd pay anything that would he charged in order for me not to mourn I convinced him otherwise, he was unhappy but he had no choice but to agree.

I was not summoned here, I came here on my own accord, he dropped me off and didn't come inside because he says that he doesn't like being here, I sigh before taking the mattress and placing it down, I'm mourning another man while being with another man being in my life, I feel like it will take a drastic turn in our relationship.

I'm done fixing everything in the bedroom, I'm on the mattress, I take my phone that is next to me

and check it for the hundredth time, there's no text message, my phone is blank and dry cassava no messages are coming through, I check his last seen, his last seen was in the morning.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 31

MBALIYEZWE KHONZA

Busani has been acting weird, like really weird. He's been coming to my bedroom every night, and leaves in the morning being weird, asking if I'm alright, he always tells me that I'm beautiful, I like that, his weirdness got me attached though. I'm addicted to sleeping with him next to me. I never thought I would ever be comfortable with a man like I am with him. He doesn't touch me

inappropriately and I like it.

I can't help but think that he is doing all this with a reason, I'd like to think that I'm excused for thinking that, Busani has been acting like a dick from day one and then suddenly he comes to my bed every night to cuddle.

He is staring at me, he looks incredibly handsome, his features are perfect in his face, I keep the stare even though I'm shy.

"You are beautiful" he says, I cast my eyes off him blushing.

"Thank you" I say.

"How is your day looking like?" He's never asked this "what are your plans?"

"I don't have plans, I just have to do cleaning touch ups"

"Okay" also besides holding me throughout the night he hasn't tried anything out of line, which makes me trust him a bit.

"Can I take you out" wow! I'm not refusing free food.

"Okay" He smiles, he has a nice smile.

"After you voice I like your smile" this is what I thought I would say in my mind but I mistakenly said it. But the reaction I'm getting from him is priceless, I pay myself in the back for making the almighty Busani Mthembu blush. "You're blushing"

"No I'm not" his face is straight again, he sneaks his hands to my waist and pulls me to him, I've never been this close to a man, he always does this when we are sleeping, we are wide awake, I don't know how I feel about him touching me all I know is that I don't want his hands to move. He brings his face to my height, his nose brushes mine. I'm getting butterflies in my stomach, I need to call Phindile and tell her about these butterflies she also has been telling me about. He intertwines our hands and puts his legs over mine, his forehead is linked to mine, I seem to have even changed my breathing pattern. His mouth connects to mine, he pinches me slightly,

I gasp and he takes that chance to slip his bottom lip inside my mouth, gosh I can't kiss and it's embarrassing. I try to retract myself, he holds me in place though.

"Uyaphi?" He asks I don't answer "just flow, you don't have to feel shy" he says, he returns his mouth to mine, he captures my lips and they start dancing in sync, I am following his lead, he is in control. His hands leave mine and goes to my waist, he pins me against his body I'm being poked by something, I'm enjoying this. My hands explore his upper body, I like his muscles exactly as they are, he doesn't need to work up more because I don't like buff men.

We finally stop, our breaths are not stable, I can't look him in the eye, it's like he took away my feistiness. His thumb reaches my chin, he says "Your lips are so soft" his hands are firmly wrapped around my waist. I don't know how to respond to him, he's surely flushing me.

"It's a date right?" He asks, I nod.

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ZAMOKUHLE KHUMALO

He is quiet, I think he is nervous more than anything, I understand him though, meeting your girlfriend's parents for the first is not easy.

"Do you think they'll like me" I shrug.

"I don't know, but they talked about not wanting a taxi driver" he releases a sharp breath.

"Right. Thanks for making me feel better" the sarcasm in that statement is thick.

"Sorry, but I was just being real" I say. I think having that alcohol will work in his advantage because my father loves his alcohol.

This drive was so short, I didn't expect it to be here.

"We are here" I am stuffing a laugh, his facial expression is priceless, but I can't laugh because he will throw a fit.

"We are here" he repeats, he gets off the car, he

is not coming to my side to open for me, such an idiot!

As we walk inside, a good aroma welcomes us, I look he is not even holding my hand, no cap is on his head he almost seems as if he wants to be away from this place.

"Sanibonani BoMntungwa" his voice is not trembling, its collected.

"Yebo mfana kaMthembu" hawu who told my father about his surname "how's your father" my father knows his father?

"He is okay baba" Sakhile gives my father the whiskey before we take our seats, my mother stands to go dish up after we exchange greetings, I follow her. They are actually nice to I thought they wouldn't want him since they told me that they want a doctor son-in-law, I'm glad though. We are now eating and mingling it's not really that awkward.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 32

KWANELE ZONDI

We've met with my parents, they spoke to MaZondi separately though, yes we've just discovered that she is related to Sibonelo, that is why the ancestors kept giving her our files. We will address how she is related to us nobaba, when we get home, she is their hundred percent blood, she was given away. I don't understand people that give away children to other people, really.

We found out that I have another sister, exciting if you ask me because she's younger than me, I love that! She's 21. Apparently she's not that far, we just have to look. I don't know how we'll be able to get a hold of her when we don't know

how she looks, but I know with the help of God we will definitely find her. The task of looking for her was given to Lubanzi, I'm glad they gave him something to keep him busy.

"Ma, ulambile?" She's taking my place in his life, getting all the recognition, she's being asked if she is or not hungry– okay this is jealousy. We are on our way back home, we didn't plan on taking long though.

"Mkami" I shake my head no, he doesn't deserve my words

He nods, and mingles with his aunt, it's adorable watching him respect an older person.

As soon as we get home, Sibonelo leaves, he wants to look for his brother, he told me and explained that he went missing, I wonder where he is, I just hope he is safe wherever he is. We go inside, I fall asleep as soon as my head hits the pillow.

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SIBONELESIHLE ZONDI

He drove like maniac from his home to this place, he tried getting the truth from Musa, he didn't give that is why he rashly took the decision of killing him. He is sitting on a single chair, for the first time ever there's a burning cigarette that he found in Musa's pocket before he killed him. He hit him eight straight bullets, it's not the first time he's killed a person, but the difference is that now he has a conscience. He wants to be here until he calms down. His wife should never see the animalistic side of him, he is a good father and husband, he shouldn't take this personality home.

He is deep in thought, his phone disturbs him, it's Kwanele.

"Kwanele" he says, she's quiet "mphefumulo wam?"

"Baba ka Kukhanya" a small creeps up his lips, he finds sexier and better than any pet name

could be.

"There's something I'm still doing, can I get back to you?" He is cold.

"Come home" she demands and drops the call.

He is debating with himself, but this is all procrastination because he knows very well that his wife keeps him on his toes, he needs to go home.

He makes a call to his job-cleaners, as soon as they come, he drives off to his house, he is frustrated, his brother might be somewhere crying for him, but he is not able to do anything about it, he sighs.

He just got home, the lights are off, he quickly peeks Ma's bedroom, she's not here. He quickly goes to his bedroom, he sighs in relief when he sees his wife sleeping, wait where is his son.

"Mama kaKhana?"

"Sibonelo"

"Iphi ingane Yami?"

"Ingane yethu you mean? He is sleeping with

uMa in the cottage" he sighs, and strips off of his clothes when he gets to bed, his emotions are not at check. He touches her, her body is warm, a sharp breath is sucked. His hand goes underneath her panties, she's ready for him.

"Kungani ungasho ngikunakekele?"

"Take care of me Sibonelo" she's still mad at him.

"Ngiyaxolisa Bambo lwam, how are the wedding preparations going?" Oh shit.

"They are, ohh Sibonelo" his fingers are fucking her so well.

"Why haven't you started"

"I've been under a lot of pressure" he chuckles.

"I want to get married in two weeks time" his dick is now hard and ready, he lifts up her leg and enters her, her cunt is warm, her walls are soft she clenches them and he cries out.

"I want to make you cum don't do that" he begs.

"Fuck me then" okay, now he starts moving.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 33

MBALIYEZWE KHONZA

I couldn't decide on what to wear, so I just decided on a skirt and a crop top, sneakers too. Sisi asked a lot of questions, I managed to dismiss her, what would she say? I came here to have dates with people who are a decade and more older than me? God no. I asked his age and he told me that he was 34 imagine! He is childish for his age. He had to wait for sisi and bhuti to go to their doctor's appointment to fetch me.

We are in his car, I told him that my date with him should be at Spur, he didn't want to, but when I told him that I've never been there. He is holding my hand, I like that.

"Don't be nervous, they won't bite" he says as we

walk through the cars, he just parked, I laugh.

"I can't help but be"

"There's no need to worry I'm here" he is assuring me, and it's actually working, I am relaxing a bit. We just have been given a table by a waiter, we settle down. This is a place loved by school children, some look my age and some look younger. There's this one group that keeps on giving us stares, which makes me uncomfortable.

"Buka mina, I'm here" he says, I stop looking at those children and look at him, he is staring so I blush and look down. I can't help but be shy when he looks at me, I've cussed out at this man a lot, I can't believe he is the cause of the butterflies in my stomach.

The waiter just took our orders, I told Busani to order for the both of us, he ordered burgers for the both of us.

"What do you really want to do with yourself now?" he asks.

"like how?"

"Career wise?"

"I really don't know, but I'm still thinking about it. What are you doing?" he shrugs.

"I drive taxis" he is smiling, I nod at him.

"You should take me to the rank sometime" I say, his smile widens.

"I will, I can't wait for that day" his eyes are brightened. He looks really cute when smiling, everything about him, except his attitude, is perfect.

The waiter gives us our food, I look at, how am I supposed to hold this, he is looking at me. I sigh. "how do I hold this?" I ask, he smiles, he is doing too much smiling today, his cheeks must be hurting by now. He holds the burger in the middle and lifts it up.

"Do it like that and you can never go wrong with a burger" he says, I do just that and it actually works, I'm so glad I asked him, otherwise it would have been a mess, imagine!

We are driving, he driving slow, soft music is playing, I'm actually enjoying this.

"how do let your car seat down?" I want to relax, Khloe Kardashian always does this so I want to have a feel of their lifestyle.

"there's a button on the side of the chair press it.

"okay thank you" he nods and smiles, Too much smiles given I tell you!

I press the button and the chair goes down, I close my eyes. Sis Azile Knows that I'm leaving tomorrow, she must be thinking that I went to buy necessities.

I can't wait to see uGogo, even though I know that I might get really bad news but I miss her and love her so much.

"I'm leaving tomorrow" my eyes are still closed.

"what? are you getting married?" I laugh.

"no I'm not, why?" he sighs, in relief?

"uyaphi manje?" he doesn't answer me.

"at home, there are some things that I need to be fixed"

"Please don't let them get you married" he says, I nod.

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LUBANZI NGWAMBA

He has been a bad brother to his sister, he let his father tell him what to and what not to do, he has always been disappointed in himself, he knows that he could have simply been a better brother, but he chose not to.

He is trying now, Sebentile guides him, he is grateful for her, she has been a wonderful loving girlfriend, he plans to do right by her.

When Kwanele and her husband came with MaZondi he initially was confused, he then became excited because finally he was gonna have another chance at being a better brother, it's not easy being a good brother when someone has a husband, they already have a protector and everything they just need you to

protect them from their husbands.

What everyone doesn't know is that after announcing that the hunt of the new addition will be given to him, maZondi talked to him privately. She said that the girl is in a place where her chosen husband is, they aren't married yet and there sure will be problems but they will, come rain or shine, get married eventually. He doesn't understand these people that choose soulmates for others, it really hurts that both his sisters will get only disappointments from him. Sigh. She also added that he will surely get hints on how to find her, he needs to focus.

He just got home, by home he means his apartment he needs to take a breather. He doesn't even eat he goes straight to bed, he is tired.

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This area is sure foreign to him. The trees from Mandulu are not this green, Komati river is not this beautiful, the bird's chirps are hardly heard because of the pollution, but here? Sound and clear. The grass is green, he looks around he needs to come here more often. He goes to a big rock and sits down.

Footsteps, he turns and his grandfather, a complete replica of himself is smiling while walking closer to him, he's never ever seen such a warm smile.

"Ntfulini, Gininza, Mabonebulawe, Nyokalendze, iMamba lemyama..." these are his clan names, his grandfather stops him.

"Son"

"father" this is what he calls him.

"We all love you, you don't have to feel overwhelmed, your father too loves you, he would die for you" he can debate against that but he doesn't want to do he nods. "Ligama lakhe nguMbaliyezwe, she was named by the woman

who snatched her from your parents which was meant to be because she would have died if she had not done that, do not change that name, that old lady helped youz she could have died. Stop every evil thought your father casts upon that lady." how is he supposed to stop thoughts? "Look for her, do not do any introduction ceremonies, she's already know as a Ngwamba" he adds.

"ngiyeva babe" he says and nods. "anything that has to do with maLobola noma ngabe kuyini give it to the Khonza clan, otherwise you will be..." a loud bang is heard, he looks around, his grandfather is gone, he shouldn't have been distracted

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He is sweating, it's a knock that distracted him. He does not out a shirt on he just goes to the door and opens, it's Sebentile, he smiles, he wasn't up for any visitations but now he is more than keen for the visit.

"Mnaka" that's how they sometimes address each other.

"Jaha lenkosi" they smile at each other. She gets inside, "go and bath while I prepare food"

"Yes ma'am" he really does need a shower, with cold water.

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 34

SIBONGAKONKE MSOMI

He is here unwillingly, I keep on stealing glances at him, he is sitting on the far left, I blackmailed him into coming, he wasn't okay with me being here from the start, and now I forced him into being here, he is not not happy, I can see him, his jaws are being clenched every now and then, I'm also worried about him but these people her

surrounding and watching me like a hawk so I can't even go near him, at all. I don't even understand why they had to bury him so late, aii these people are so incompetent, they have all the money in the world yet they couldn't bury their 'loved one'

I'm watching as these people are painting Tumelo as a great and a good guy, yes he had his highs but he also had his downs but why aren't they mentioning those? Why isn't his mother mentioning the fact that her and her child were not on speaking terms because of the evil daughter-in-law? I know I wasn't the cause of their split, there are some things his mother demanded that he didn't think we're necessary hence they split up, why doesn't she mention all that? She's mentioning how great a husband he was, which angers me because he wasn't close to that, he'd always let his insecurities get in-between us, there was never a time where we were full time happy, there

always had to be something that breaks us apart, but again I thank him, because hadn't he done that I wouldn't have met this scrumptious man that is wearing a long face today.

There's a man that is walking up the aisle, he is wearing a purple tux, imagine in a funeral.

Everyone is literally staring at him as he walks through the aisle like there is a red carpet put for him, he sure does feel special, he wasn't even called. He is wearing glasses, sunglasses, but there's no sun, today is those warm autumn days but we have a man in glasses– Clap once.

He takes off his glasses and I realize that I actually know him, he is Andile a businessman that Tumelo was close to, Qondani is silently sitting staring at me, I see him through the corners of my eyes.

"Tumelo, the love of my life" there are gasps heard, I knew he was gay but it's also shocking to me because I never expected him to be with Andile, I mean I never even noticed that Andile

was gay, but hey could I have noticed when I couldn't notice that the man I was sleeping with was a twin plug?

"Why didn't you at least tell me gore you will be sleeping forever rato laka?" his love? I can't believe Tumelo made me believe that he was a straight man kanti all along he was cheating, with a man! I'm not homophobic or something I'm just against the thought of men lying to women about their sexuality. I feel like you should be out of the closet, people are now educated the know about these things, and they will most definitely keep their thoughts and judgements to themselves. I'm not giving out any speeches, I stand and go straight to Qondani, people are staring others are mumbling things to themselves, I don't care "makoti." his mother calls, I don't even look backwards. I take his hand and we leave, he also cannot believe what I just did but I had to I could be disrespected like that, no matter what.

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MBALIYEZWE KHONZA

I'm going through my Facebook account, it's so dry I'm thinking of deactivating it, maybe it's dry because I literally accept friend requests of people that I know, if I don't know you I simply delete it.

There's one friend request, Lubanzi Ngwamba. seems like it's a new account because it only has one picture, which really looks good. I'm taking this risk and accepting it. If it is a catfish then it's okay, I don't care anyways. I press the accept button.

I lift my head to find Mr husky on my bedroom door. it's at night, he is leaning against the the door, he looks handsome. I know he's here to cuddle.

"who's making you blush" was I blushing? it's youi scream in my head but I wouldn't let him

know that now would I?

"no one I was just going through a post" I say.

"mmhm" he walks furtherly in, I smile because I'm nervous, my hands are sweaty.

"I don't want to sneak in anymore" he takes my hand and helps me up, I'm wearing a short pyjama so I pull it down a bit.

"amathangakho ayangihlanyisa Yezwe" Yezwe sounds bad, he shouldn't call me that outside, I blush anyways. "do you know what I'd like to do to those thighs" I don't want to hear it I shake my head no "you are so innocent kodwa" he smiles, he brushes my lips with his.

"let's sleep, ngiyahamba ksasa" I say, we fix the bed and cuddle once we are inside.

It's morning, he is all over me that I even find it hard to breathe. I want to urinate even, I untangle myself from him and run to the bathroom, I do my business, woah the door gets opened.

"Busani!" I exclaim.

"Sorry, I can't stay away from you" he says shrugging and he is literally standing and staring, I don't know what to do with myself at this point, yohh aii Busani.

"Can you turn the other way I want to get dressed" he laughs and turns, I quickly stand and get dressed.

"what time are you leaving?" he asks.

"at five pm" I say.

"I'll take you there" I nod, there's no way I'm declining a free ride. "can you sit down?"

"yes I can" I tell him, he laugh.

"may you please sit down"

"we are still in the bathroom, let's go back" I say, we make our way to the bedroom and settle on the bed. "Buka MaMsomi mina ngikuthandile, ngivumele ngikuphe uthando" I look away, it's against women to do this but I didn't sign any contract so...

"Yima" I stand to go look for ucu "mina" I give it to him, he smiles.

"thank you so much" he smashes his lips on mine.

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.BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 35

SIBONGAKONKE MSOMI

"What, you can't make any excuses, you know that you only left because you saw his boyfriend" he says, he is furious, he was quiet all the way, I was also quiet, looking out the window.

"What are you talking about Qondani" I ask because really now? why is he making this such a big deal.

"I'm talking about you only coming to when you see your brother-wife" he says.

"Wow" I say and take off my blazer "I don't understand this, why are you making this such a

big deal?"

"What am I making a big deal?"

"The fact that I went to MY husband's funeral" I say, he chuckles

"Okay, wifey go back to you husband?" what the hell?

"How do I go back Qondani?"

"You even want to go back vele to your dead husband"

"Yeah, my dead husband that was murdered by you" I say. He walks away "Qondani, I'm still talking to you" I yell

"I don't want to be around toxic beings right now" he says, I look at him walking out he slams the door, mxm. If he came to her and spoke like an old person, she wouldn't be throwing fits like this, she goes to bed, she is stressed but she doesn't want it to escalate to a point where she gets health problems. She sighs before going to sleep.

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MBALIYEZWE KHONZA

I am officially dating, happiness is what I am right now, I'm on cloud five. All this happiness is weighed over by this Lubanzi though he has been texting me, I don't know what he wants from, I'm exaggerating aren't I? The truth is he just texted me, once, he asked how I was and I asked back, I'm anxious of which I don't know why though. I'm on the mirror trying to see what my enemy-to-lover boyfriend sees in me. I know there's some beauty that will show once I start putting make-up, I need that to be extravagant. I just took a bath and I'm looking decent, a black dress and sandals , Busani should be here anytime from now my bags are packed and sealed, all I have to do is leave.

"Mbali" he says, getting inside the room.

"Busani" I say and smile. He pecks my lips before sitting. He really taller than me, when he is sitting

his head reaches my shoulder. I take my phone and join him on the bed, I check my Facebook messages, his eyes are on me, I feel his stare. "Mbaliyezwe I'm talking to you" he is annoyed, but my eyes are still glued to the message that was sent by Lubanzi, telling me that there might be a possibility that I'm his sister, God I am his sister. Busani snatches the phone from me, he reads his eyes pop up.

"Mbali which Lubanzi is this?"

"I don't know" I'm able to answer him, how? I don't know.

"Jesus" he is on his profile. "so I'm your cousin" his voice is cracking what does he mean "I have to go"

"You aren't going anywhere until you explain what you just said" she says, he sighs and takes his jacket "Busani" he closes the door softly before walking out.

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ZINE JWARA

She is in all black, with a scarf around her neck, even her Big hat is causing her attention, these people here do not know her, this was really unnecessary but for her, it's to keep her identity unknown and be anonymous.

"Sisi how are you"

"hipfukile minjani"

"siphilile enkosi, where can I find papa Chabalala's indumba?" she asks.

"That corner house that's where he is found"

"Thank you"

"it's a pleasure sesi"

She walks on, her hand is on the sides of her hat and her sunglasses, people are staring, why would someone wear all black in this heat?

She gets to the home, or rather the house of the Sangoma but the indumba is in the backyard so she walks there, when she gets there she kicks

her shoes off.

"Papane"

"Thokoza sesi" she hopes he atleast understands and can communicate in isizulu because she doesn't really understand Xitsonga the language gets hard sometimes .

"I'm here for..."

"You want to trap someone in your love?" why is he putting it in an evil tone.

"I want to make someone realize that they love me" she says, he chuckles.

"Thokoza" he says and gets up, he mixes the herbs, sigh this smells like shit, it's really not a good place to be in, but she has to endure for her love

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 36

MBALIYEZWE KHONZA

I cancelled my trip to KZN, I'm not how I am, I'm excited to know that I have 2 brother and one sister, but I'm also nervous because, Busani hasn't come back since he left me without answers, I'm still going to question him though. Lubanzi came the day after he broke the news over the phone, he booked a room for himself and we met at Steers, I didn't trust him enough to meet him privately so I have to think logically and meet him in a private place. Seeing him nje I knew and saw that he is indeed my brother, we share a few features, but we aren't really alike. I was laughing and giggling whenever he spoke siswati, I was really puzzled, he left yesterday, I was sad, but I had to let him go. I will be officially meeting my family next week.

Busani, I'm in a taxi, I'm not using Ubers I'm scared, I'm heading to the rank, he will talk to me, I don't care what it is that is bothering him, I'm not letting him get away with this, he needs

to be straightforward with me, he needs to tell me everything.

The rank is buzzing just the way it always is at KZN, as I walk past the people, they are staring, I spot him standing next to a woman and a guy, he turns his head to my direction and his shoulders drop, oh the woman is that nurse, wow!

"Hi I'm here for you" I say to him.

"Couldn't you have called" the attitude.

"No, this needed me to say right in your face"

"Okay" thank God he didn't drag this.

"Yini inkinga yakho Busani?"

"You said you wanted to say not ask" What's going on with him now. He is suddenly a cold man, not that he never was but at least then we were mutual enemies.

"I wanted to tell you that I'm leaving weekend, I'll be meeting my parents" he sighs.

"So they really are you parents" I nod.

"What did you mean by saying that I'm your

cousin" another sigh before he takes my hand, this is what I hate about him, sudden change of moods.

"This is one hard and puzzling situation" he starts off I don't understand why he has to take this long "You are not my cousin, but ish this is hard! Sakhile's mother is your father's sister, which makes you guys cousin" Wait, they don't share a mother? Wow! I'm surprised, their relationship is tight you'd swear they come from one womb.

"So you don't want us to carry on with what we were doing" he sighs, "okay then" there are tears that are forming in my eyes but I refuse to cry. As I stand and walk away his hands firmly grip my wrist

"Listen Mbali, ngiyakuthanda mina and I don't want to lose what I've just found" he says and bring my body closer to his, "Ngiyakuthanda yezwa" this is the first time he actually says it nakedly, it brings an electrifying tingle that runs through my spine, he brings his whole face close

to mine, I don't know if his face or mine is a magnet because we keep nearing each other's faces until our lips touch.

People are now hollering, God I forgot that we are in public! We don't stop.

"You are killing me Mbali" hawu, I'm killing him? I stop kissing him.

"Sorry" I say.

"you are so sweet and innocent" he says with his husky chuckles, I smile.

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Today is the official meeting my parents day, they all came here, I'm happy sis' Kwanele and her family came too, I am nervous but at least Busani is here and it's calming. Sisi and Busani keep on exchanging stares, I'm wondering what's happening, but the fact that bhuti Sibho doesn't seem bothered puts me at peace.

"Welcome to the family Ndvodzakati" baba who I

call Babe says.

"Ngiyabonga babe" I say and smile.

"Sibonga gogo Khonza ngokutsi akukhulise kahle" I smile, she did a really good job I mean look at me.

"We are sorry for not being in your life for so long, I just hope you understand why this happened the way it happened" Lubanzi my best boomba says, I smile at him, we are now close.

"Nami ngitsandza ukunibonga ngokuthi ningentele lomcimbi" they all laugh, at least I tried.

"Now back to you Busani, sibindzi sokuta la without being invited us'tsatsaphi mnetfu?" they did invite him, what is Lubanzi talking about.

"Ngiyaxolisa bhuti" hee Busani is older than him yet... aii yazini let me just chill

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 37

ZINE JWARA

She's a risk taker, she was told very well that she cannot put a curse upon a love that was sealed by God, you can mess with anyone's plans but God's. She already gave Busani the mixture, but the problem is when it starts working on Busani, she will get pains, she will get sick, she said she can endure that as long as Busani and her are together at the end of the day.

Now she wishes to take her words back, she does not wish the pain she is feeling on someone else, these are not Normal pains, of course they aren't they are brought upon her by her witching ways. Her feet are swollen, she can't walk because they are painful, her face has abnormal acne, it really not nice being her right now.

This is too much for her to take in, but because she has an urge to walk, she wakes up and walks, everything done by her is calculated; her walk, the way she turns it's like she is being controlled by a remote.

That is the bridge she's looking for, there's a flowing underneath, there's no way she's gonna survive if she jumps and she's never gonna be found, so she reaches the top she doesn't even contemplate with herself, she jumps immediately, Nobody Ever Messes With God's Plans.

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ZAMOKUHLE KHUMALO

'Location Sila' they say 'location sihappy' I say,
My kids are growing well, my parents accepted
my mentally ill boyfriend, and my boyfriend
loves me to death what more can I ever ask for?
I love how him and I don't go to bed angry we

always fight and resolve our issues, I'm happy with this guy, but me being happy and so loving was yesterday today I'm angry with him, he wants me to quit my Job.

"I'm just saying I can take care of you Sthandwa Sami" he says brushing my back trying to sweeten me.

"I can take care of myself Busani" he sighs.

"Please Sthandwa Sami, I just want to feel like your man" he says, he's getting frustrated, one trait about Sakhile is that he can't beg, he easily gets frustrated, except for a coochie!

"Are you trying to tell me that you don't feel like my man?" he shakes his head no "Ushukthini?"

"I mean that you probably don't feel my manhood because I've fucked you only thrice" I blush.

"Ohh" that comes out high pitched.

"I want to try something, I've never, ever! done it before" he sighs. "I'm scared" I laugh, Sakhile and scared cannot be in the same sentence. This

guy literally told Themba where to get off, after I dropped my phone that day, it took only two hours for him to get here, he got here when I was already ready to head to Bongwiwe's place. "Awuyi lapho" he said "he fucked up, and now I'm with you"

"But he's in danger"

"He should have thought about Danger before getting to it" he said and locked the door, I was sulking the whole night, he didn't care

"Anginendaba mina but what you are not going to do is helping your ex while with me umsangano lowo and angifune mina nawe dive nezinkinga ezigcwele please" he said cuddled through the night, Sakhile is not mentally stable I've been saying but he finds solace in twisting this telling people that they are not stable.

He lays me carefully on the bed like I'm some egg or glass, He always gets me off my undergarments roughly but today he is gentle, he sees my coochie and stares at it with a shy

smile. He is suddenly feeling hot, I just ignore him, he takes off his jacket and starts rubbing my clit. It's pleasurable, he puts his warm mouth on my coochie, his hands holds my thighs in place as he starts licking me, I'm glad that his house is sound proofed because the kids would be deaf by now, he fucks me using his finger while licking and sucking my clit.

"Please" he knows what I'm begging for, I hear an unzipping sound, a moment later he is inserting himself, I scream, shit Sakhile's dick is nice!

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 38

KWANELE ZONDI

I've long waited for this day, I'm staring at his teary, he is staring back at mine, I see a happy man, he is getting where I want him to be, the nightmares are gone, the only thing that is keeping him on his toes is this thing about his brother being lost, it's also worrying, and also the fact that we are getting married with him not being here. We prepared our own vows hence we stopped the pastor with his Bible vows "Ukuqala kwami ukukubona I saw you in a picture, I love you, love at first picture" he says, laughter erupts, I laugh too. "I won't go into detail about how you also learned to love me but Mkami, I thank you for that I promise to cherish and celebrate you, death will not do us part because even in death I still want to be with you I love you makaKhanya" no man I can't believe this, my tears are falling freely.

"I hated you, no hate is a small world I loathed you, I don't know how that hate transformed to love, ohh I remember it's the day I saw you

driving iBugatti I was like yeses dream of my car" they laugh, I did that in purpose" That was my dream car, so it also meant that you were my dream husband, I love you Gagashe I thank you for your support, I don't think life would be as pleasant as it is if you weren't here with me" I say, he is blushing, we kiss.

"Nazoke Bafo!" am I dreaming, no I'm not he is right here in front of us, looking as cute as ever.

"Bafo" Sibonelo is excited, we both hug him, then Sibonelo slaps his younger brother, I give him a look. "Where were you"

"Rehab" his voice is now lowered, I feel like slapping him too.

"Why did you do drugs" I gasp, I thought it was rehab for, girls maybe? but my mind didn't race to drugs, I can't believe him, really!

"At least you took that decision on your own baby" I hug him, my best friend, he has been there from me since day one, he knew that I

hated them but he still loved me.

"Thank you sis wam" I kiss his forehead.

People just said their speeches, I'm glad they all said good things about us, I can't wait to go back inside, I want to get it down the whole night, I feel like I have been abstaining.

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SIBONGAKONKE MSOMI

"They looked beautiful" I compliment truthfully, I enjoyed being there although both Qondani and I didn't really know much about her but we had to be there to support the in-laws.

"It really was"-Azile, such a warm soul she is, she has that motherly feel, everything with her is easy, she will be a good mother to the child that she is carrying, she looks beautiful so we are assuming that she is carrying a baby girl.

It's the weekend after the wedding, we always

do this now, every weekend we've always been doing this, I smile when my eyes meet Qondani's. I look away to find the girls blushing, wuuu these ones, abathandi bezinto.

"How are the plans about the winery going"- Zamo, this one also, she's gaining weight I think she might be pregnant, if so then yoh the Mthembus are scorers ke.

"Let me go to my man" I say and wiggle my eyebrows at him because he is staring at me. He stands to follow me, when we get to the bathroom, we start kissing, clothes are thrown everywhere in the house, he puts his hand over my mouth before fucking me. We fuck like rabbits.

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finale

BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 39

AZILAMAKHOSAZANA MTHEMBU

We already built a home, it's in a the very same land Zwe bought me, a seven bedroom, one bedroom is for us, the other is for is for the child. The rest is for the family members. We can't get inside the house without baba inviting the ancestors inside.

He is walking around the yard with Busani calling the ancestors while the rest of us are in the car.

"Your house is beautiful and big Makhosazana" - Mbali, I forced her to stop calling me sisi, I'm only 2 years older than her so I don't get it!

"Thank you" I say smiling, she smiles back at me. I think her and Busani were destined we wanted to hook them but they hated each other and as soon as we stopped they started feeling something for each other. I hope Busani tells her

about him and Kwanele. Because it might cause astrays if it happens that she hears it from someone else.

Baba calls us in. Zwe drives in after we all come out of the car, it's a family cab, and head inside, it really is nice, I hired an interior company, there's everything I wanted and more, the wood that I told them I wanted is present, the theme is also old school.

"Don't cry Kuhle Sthandwa Sam" that's Zwe I really love him and thank him for this.

We cooked and ate during the day it was something like a braai or house opening, I don't know. But it was something like that.

We need to buy a pillow so that we warm the house the right way.

We eat our food over a light conversation, our guests leave, Zwe comes to my side to cuddle me.

"Ngiyabonga my one night stand- no strings attached" he says and I laugh

"I love you Myeni wam"

"Uthandwa yimi nkosikazi" we laugh

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MBALIYEZWE KHONZA

"Is everything set?" I ask, I'm now golified, I learnt a lot about Johannesburg they even trust me with baby showers, we all did this, I got allowance from my parents, they told me that I need to go back to school, I will in the upcoming year, I have decided that I'll be doing psychology, I have the love of how human think and in all this this will help me help other people. I also visited my grandmother, she seems better, we had her transferred to a private psychiatric hospital, it's in Pretoria, Zamo recommended it, I've made a schedule to check up on her every Friday, if I can though.

"She's arrived" it's the girls, we quickly go to our hiding places, if not all of us then I at least am happy and excited for her, we told bhut' Zwe to take her to a spar, while we get everything ready, she had to be pampered so that we can prepare everything. The event is taking place at her house, we've decorated almost everything with royal purple and white, her favorite colors it's almost as if it's royalty and yes she's expecting a girl, I'm super excited!

"Surprise" we all say in excitement, she blinks rapidly and looks up as if she's blinking back tears, she seems happy we all hug her, she's sobbing. It's also making me emotional.

"Oh my God thank you so much, I love you guys" she says.

"We love you too" Music is blasting outside, who the hell is that we told the guys to leave so there's no way it's them.

"Busani what are you doing there" I exclaim seeing that I was wrong, it's actually them! Bhuti

Zwelethu is covered in all these colors, God what were they trying to do. I don't want to start to speak about what bhut' Sakhile is doing on what is supposed to be a stage, bhut' Sakhile can definitely dance but not the hip hop moves, it's a no!

"We are also celebrating Man-Baby-Shower" he say, what the hell??? I give up on these four shame

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BAMBO LWAMI

CHAPTER 40

MBALIYEZWE KHONZA

We are cleaning the house, yesterday was a really busy day, I drank alcohol, I'm never drinking again, I swear! My head hurts and

these guys are not having any mercy at us,they are making us clean! Yoh, I'm tired, u finish with my sweeping I now need to go outside to where the guys are to at least offer them food.

"You need to tell her Busani before she finds out from other people" That's Bhut' Qondani, I decide to eavesdrop, I am curious.

"What could I possibly say" he is lowering his voice

"The truth, nothing but the truth"-Zwe

"She will leave me" he says with a sigh, this must be something big, that it would make me leave him.

"But the truth will set you free" -Sakhile

"So how do I say this? I go to her and say 'Mbali listen, I dated your sister and I actually thought she was my soulmate'" oh my word! I don't even know how the tray I had in my hand fell, and now two pairs of eyes are staring at me with fear, I clear my throat and leave to fetch the broom.

1 YEAR LATER

ZAMOKUHLE KHUMALO

Ups and downs are all that make relationships, they are what makes people in general, a relationship without downs is boring really, we need downs to balance the ups, Sakhile and I are still up and running, we don't want to get married as yet, we are still enjoying each other's company as baby parents, okay that's a lie, we are traditionally married, he paid dowry 7 months back and we did all the necessary customs, we are not rushing the wedding though. I kept true to my words, because I moved to Johannesburg, I have decided to work at Baragwanath hospital, yes it really is great having to see new born babies, and the faces of their happy mothers, I decided to go to the labour department. Talking about new born babies Mbali asked me if I was pregnant, I panicked right then and took tests and I was

relieved to see one line.

Sakhile is blasting my phone, since from morning imagine

"Yindaba?" I don't even greet because I know very well that he is about to complain about Mbali's uncles.

"These uncles don't want to let us in" I hear him sigh, they are here ilobola kaMbali. Busani had to pay dowry before being let into the forbidden fruit, I'm laughing.

"They will let you in do not worry baba kaMpilo" I say, Mpilo has started school, he is excited talking about having two girlfriends and his fathers keep on cheering him up, they are gonna ruin my babies.

Azile gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Nkosingiphile. She's gorgeous just like her parents, but because I don't have time I hardly ever visit her, hence why today I'm holding her. Sibonga yena is already up and running with her Winery, I'm proud of her really. Azile is still a

happy house wife, what makes her happy makes me happy too, and I'm also glad Mbali is still at school.

4 YEARS LATER

MBALIYEZWE KHONZA

Ukuzala ukuzelula amathambo se voet, I'm staring at this pregnancy test with tears falling from my eyes, what are people gonna say? 'She is pregnant yet again' my son is only one and already Busani is knocking me up, yes I was pregnant 3 years back and I have birth to Nkosana, my healthy son and now I'm pregnant? I'm now Mrs Busani Mthembu, I had my dream wedding. I check the test, it's two lines! I scream he is cheering on.

"Baba, it's now 3-2" I don't even know when he made the phone call. I look at him boasting about my pain. After talking to his father he kisses my cheek "Thank you, and I love you so much Bambo Lwami" he says.

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THE END