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One

This was going to be one hardest case I was going to work on.

See, I love my job, I have always had it in me to become a police officer, mostly because I always had it in me to protect women.

See, I grew up in a dysfunctional home. My mother had it hard before she could marry my step father, she suffered in the hands of my father. I used to watch her cry, beg for her life and that... that made me have a dream to one day become a police officer and protect women like her. Women who didn't have the strength to leave their relationship just for the sake of their kids.

My father died in a terrible car accident. You think I cried at his funeral? No, infact I felt more relived that my mother was finally set free. She didn't have it in her to leave her marriage with my father. But God, God helped her out.

And I can finally say that she is married to the man of her dreams. The man who valued her and respected her. The man who took us as his children. The man of God...

But right now, sigh, this was the hardest part of my career.

"I'm detective Buhlebenkosi Thabethe-"

Him:"Buhle you know I didn't do it"

Me:"Then why were you there Sfiso? Why were you at the crime scene?"

Him:"Sis, look at me, tell me you don't trust me.."

I closed my eyes. No, I can't do this.

This is my young brother, I can't put him in jail

Me:"Sfiso you know I'm here doing my work right?"

I turned off the radio

Me:"Nana, tell me the truth? Did you kill all those people? Why were you there? What did they do to you?"

Him:"Buhle I didn't kill them!!! This was a set up!!!!"

Me:"Sfiso I long told you, you were involved with the wrong crowd!!! See where that got you!!! You are making my life hard! Why would you do this? Why!!!!"

I shouted in anger.

Detective Melusi walked in

Him:"I think you need to go out and breath, this is not good for the baby..."

He said silently.

I stood up and walked out.

Both my parents were waiting for me by the information desk. I sighed, I knew they would hate me.

My mother cried as soon as she saw me walk to her, I sighed. I don't need this.

Me:"Mama, please come with me to my office"

She shook her head no

Dad:"Buhle what did Sfiso do?"

I looked at officer Zulu

Me:"You can tell them"

I walked out to my car.

My parents hates me already for the career I chose, they hate me for this pregnancy. See, I'm a pastor's child. My step father is the most respected man in Johannesburg. Both my parents felt like I was a disgrace to them by falling pregnant out of wedlock. My daddy had to answer to the church committee how her daughter fell pregnant before marriage when he always preached about staying pure till you get married.

I always attended the girls talk at church every Wednesday were we would be taught about respecting our bodies. I ignored all that because I fell for the man I love

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I fell for Lehumo.

You still want to know why I'm still staying under my parents' roof at 29 years. With a policing degree and 26k payslip? My parents believed that it would never be safe for a girl child to move out of her home, as she would start doing what's not right in God's eyes.

Yes, I have strict parents. I have a sister who's happily married- no who is married just because she wanted to get out of this

home and find her independence. Then there's my little brother who just turned eighteen and has been involved with the wrong crowd and that led him inside this prison cell.

I felt the baby kick. Oh I smiled at that, that's the only thing that kept me sane. I was going on my leave next week. I would be giving birth anytime from now.

I decided to call his father and let him know he kicked for the second time today.

His dad had been ignoring him since he left to Polokwane, he's originally from Polokwane and is working as a Doctor here in Johannesburg. He had to go home for some ceremony held at it home and would be coming back next week.

"Our baby just kicked!" I said in excitement as soon as he answered his phone

"Hello?" It was a female voice

Me:"Hello?"

Her:"Hello?"

Me:"I think I dialed the wrong number. May i speak to Lehumo?"

Her:"He is not home now"

Me:"Who are you?"

Her:"No who are you? You called Lehumo's phone. I told you he is not here. Who are you?"

Me:"I'm Buhlebenkosi. His baby mama"

There was silence

Me:"I just wanted to let him know the baby kicked, it's nothing important. Tell him to call me when he gets back"

I hung up letting out a heavy sigh...

#Koketso

"I..." he sighed..

"With this ring, I promise to love you, to cherish you. To protect you. To be the better husband. To be there for you. In sickness and in health. For better and for worse. Till death do us apart.."

He said the words while slowly slipping in the ring.. I knew he didn't mean those words. I knew he would still go out to her. I knew they were living together back in Johannesburg.

I've cried. I've longed grieved our relationship. Don't get me wrong.

This is the man I've always dreamt of getting married to Lord can attest to that. We've been together since high school. Everything changed when he got accepted in a medical school in Cuba and had to leave but against all odds we still held on to each other.

I was left home to study human resources at a local college because my marks weren't good. He made it, he's always been bright since primary. He went to study in Cuba through a scholarship. I've never been so proud.

Today is my wedding day, he left Joburg few days ago to come to Gasekhukhune (Limpopo) to give me the best wedding he always promised to. I could have been happy but my happiness lay in the hands of a girl he met back in Gauteng.

I'm a qualified Human resources officer at our local municipality, tubatsi.

..

Everyone cheered bringing me back to life..

Then it was silent. Everyone waited for my wedding vows..

I had spend weeks rehashing my vows. I knew I would mean every word..

It was silent for sometimes..

I sighed then looked at him.

I can't do this, I wont do this.. I love this man but I just couldn't.

Tears blurred my vision...

I turned and gave the bouquet to my sister, my bridesmaid and ran out.

Everyone gasped..

I literally was shaking as I stood in my bedroom. I shouldn't have ran out.

For a moment I felt dizzy, that I had to grab on to the headboard to stabilize myself. But there would be nothing that would steady me against the fact that my Lehumo had impregnated someone else. This huge bombshell destroyed me. It destroyed all the love I had for this man.

Looking myself in the mirror, I couldn't believe how put-together I had been since I walked out of this house with my father to the tent. How I smiled when everyone sang in excitement. How I buried my anger and betrayal when I saw him smile at me when I approached him.

I'd gotten so good at pretending to be brave and strong, burying my true feelings, but none was real- everything inside me fell apart.

I have been with Lerumo for nine years..

My sister walked in just as I stood in the centre of my bedroom

Her:"Koketso what's wrong?"

Me:"I can't do this Mogau.. I can't.."

I sat on the edge of the bed and covered both my eyes with both my hands.

This was just too much for me. I cannot get married to him while I know what he's up to. There is a woman in his life, she's pregnant.

.I found out from answering his cellphone yesterday. I hadn't had the courage to tell him I know....

He walked in, I could feel his presence in the room, see why I love him? Because we have always been connected.

"Koketso!!!" My father shouted on top of his voice...

I rose my face to look at him

Lehumo:"Koketso what's this?"

Me:"Lehumo I can't marry you. I'm sorry but I can't..." I broke apart.

No one in the family knew..

Dad:"Koketso you are going back on that altar to marry your husband!!! What the hell is this? You think this is some Hollywood movie??"

He was angry

Lehumo:"Can I just talk to her papa..."

Dad:"No!!! Koketso should just stand up and walk back to the tent!!"

Mogau:"Koketso you are ruining your makeup!"

No one understands, no one will understand..

Mogau:"Let's just give them some space to talk.."

Both her and my father walked out..

Lehumo:"Koketso why would you embarrass me like this? Wouldn't you have told me last week that you didn't wanna marry me any more?"

Me:"I'm sorry.." I whispered in sobs

Him:"Sorry?! Just sorry? You are fucken unbelievable!!! You did this just to tell me you're sorry? Infront of everyone? My family? Your family? Our parents? Colleagues? Friends"

He kneel before me

Him:"Babe please don't do this.. Don't do this to us.. Look at me Koketso. It's me Lehumo. Your Lehumo. The man you have been with for 9 years now. The man you love and loves you.."

I raised my eyes to look at him

Me:"How Long have you been involved with her?"

Her:"Who babe? What are you talking about.."

Me:"Buhlebenkosi? How long Lehumo.."

Him:"Babe I love you.. I'm here with you because I love you.. I chose you not her.."

Me:"She is pregnant!!! You made her pregnant!!! You told me you wanted us to wait till we got married and still went on to impregnate her.. "

Him:"Koketso.."

Me:"How long have you been seeing her?"

Him:"Babe.."

Me:"Get out.. Get out and never look back.. Tsamaya!!!! Get out!!!!"

I pushed him hard..

It was over..

Please like, share, comment and mention a friend.

To be continued

TWO

KOKETSO

"You should always give your husband sex. No matter how tired you are.." the woman said

They laughed

"Ngwanaka. Marriage is hard. Marriage is good but most of all marriage is lovely. Be your husband's best friend. Be his homie. Be his sister and mother. Never shout at him right in front of your or his friends. Whatever problem you have with your husband. Fix it in your bedroom"

Another one said

"And speaking of friends, your husband is your best friend now. Marriage consists of two people and the third person should be God, whatever situation you face. Kneel. Tell God all your problems."

Do they know? Do they know that my husband has impregnated another woman? Do they know I can not kneel and tell that to God?

How will he fix it? Will he give me the courage to stand and fix my self? Will he give me the courage to fight for my marriage? Or will he give me the courage to forget the woman and move on?

There is a child involved. Dear Lord, I'm broken.

I thought after getting married, Lehumo and I would be happy.

I thought right now we would be on our way to Cape Town for our honeymoon. That didn't happen. Yes, I married him because my father forced me to go on with the wedding but my heart was bleeding.

There were ululations. That meant these woman were done preaching.

They stood up and sang. People danced in excitement. I was finally married to Phetolo.

I was going to his home.

I was going to be the submissive wife they wanted me to be.

I stood up in my blanket too.

They led me outside while singing and soon I was inside the car with my bridesmaids to his home.

I was silent, I wasn't happy at all.

I didn't wanna talk.

Mogau:"Don't you need anything to drink? Juice?"

I shook my head no

Her:"Koketso don't do this to yourself. It's your wedding day today. You should be happy"

Me:"You don't understand do you?"

Her:"I do"

Me:"Keep quiet Mogau"

Then there was silence..

I wish I could run away, run where no one would find me, even
heartbreak.

We had to sit in the car so as to wait for Lehumo's family to welcome us in. It would take hours I know. We had a one day wedding. At the community hall and didn't opt for the second day wedding. It was just tradition that I go to his home with my bridesmaids and spend the night there then everyone would go back to their respective homes the following day..

...

I spent the night alone in Lehumo's bedroom.

Right now I wished my mother was here to protect me. To tell me everything would be fine. May her precious soul continue resting in peace...

There was a knock. It was very late, I didn't expect anyone to come knocking so late..

Me:"Ke mang? (Who is it)"

Lehumo:"Its me.."

I sighed.

I didn't wanna open, but part of me wanted to. My bridesmaids were sleeping in different rooms too.

Lehumo's parents have done well for themselves. I wont lie.

I opened the door.

I watched him walk inside with his hands in his pockets

I love this man.

Why would he do this to me. Part of me broke by just looking at him

Him:"Thank you for deciding to continue with the wedding"

Me:"I had no choice"

Him:"She is no one"

Me:"And she is pregnant?"

Him:"It was a one night thing. I swear Koketso. I don't love her. I love you.."

Me:"Lehumo don't do this.."

Him:"Koketso I'm here. I came here to give you the best wedding I had always promised to give to you. I'm here to make a vow before God to be your husband and spend the rest of my life with you.. I love you.."

Me:"Where does that put her?"

He stepped closer to me

I took a step back

Him:"Love..."

Me:"Lehumo no.."

Before I could ponder things any further, though. He held me in his arms.

I realised resisting him would be nearly impossible.

He kissed my neck.. my ear... My forehead.. my nose and then my lips..

I could smell alcohol coming off of him, but I couldn't bring myself to push him

Him:"I don't regret marrying you...." he said in my lips.

Truth is I didn't want him to stop. I needed him. Emotionally and physically. And God, he was giving me the most delicious chills.

His strong arms circled my waist, pulling me closer to him. Through the thin fabric of my nightdress, I could feel his hardness. Pressing hard against my belly..

"She's no one.."

My heart seemed to squeeze in my chest.

I was torn. There was no denying that my body had already begun to respond to his touches

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but I didn't want sex to confuse the situation. Was this the right thing considering everything that was going on between us. On the other hand, I loved him. I always would. Every part of me cried out for him. I got tears at the corners of my eyes, the intensity of my emotions and my desire overwhelming me...

I cut the kiss. We were both breathing hard...

Me:"We can't do this, your parents are in the other room..."

Him:"Can I just sleep with you then? I'll wake up before everyone else and leave"

I sighed

Him:"Baby please.."

Me:"Lehumo we still need to talk"

Him:"Buhlebenkosi was a one night thing. Yes, I shouldn't have but babe you do know what this distance does to us.."

Me:"Should I move in with you in Johannesburg?"

He kept quiet

Me:"I want to sleep"

Him:"We will go back together..."

#Buhle

I couldn't sleep. I kept on turning and tossing. Something wasn't right. I have been trying to call Lehumo but he was ignoring me...

My phone rang just as I tried hard to fall asleep.

It was my best friend Lufuno.

Me:"Why would you call me so late?" I asked her when I answered the phone.

We usually done that and would laugh about it but she didn't laugh.

I could feel something just wasn't right..

Her:"What are you doing?"

Me:"Its past midnight Luu, I'm sleeping obviously!"

She sighed

Me:"What's wrong with you?"

Her:"I saw Lehumo's WhatsApp status pictures and Videos"

Me:"He didn't put any of those today"

Her:"I think he blocked you"

Me:"Why would he do that?"

Her:"Did you speak to him today?"

Me:"He has been ignoring me.."

Her:"I think I should just send the pictures and videos to you. I'll download an app and save them then forward them to you"

Me:"Why don't you just tell me?"

Her:"Just give me ten minutes"

She hung up..

I waited for her, in less than ten minutes my phone beeped.

I had network problem but as soon as everything opened my heart almost stopped.

I sat up straight. My eyes were deceiving me.

This wasn't true.

This couldn't be true.

Lerumo and I have been together for three years now. He is the man I love and I won't lie, he has been treating me like a queen. I love Lerumo, with everything inside of me. He knows how to love his woman. He has been with me through thick and thin. He loved me, all of me.

How did this happen? I was there when he bought his first car.. I literally helped him choose it. I was there when he bought his house, I became the interior designer, I did everything. I was there when he would come back home all stressed and would use me as his stress reliever. I was there when he needed someone to talk to and I would lie to my parents that I was called in at work because they needed extra hands for the night while I knew I was going to spend the night with him and just offer a shoulder to cry on.

He said he loved me. We planned this child and he was home marrying someone yet he told me he was going to some ceremony..

My phone rang, I watched it ring unanswered. It was my best friend again....

I couldn't believe it... I just couldn't..

I tried my outmost not to cry....

I stood up and went to the kitchen to pour my self a glass of water.. I couldn't breath...

As soon as I stood in the dark kitchen, I covered my lips with both my hands so I wouldn't let out a loud sob.

A muffled sob escaped my lips.. i felt as though it was a dream..

Just yesterday he called to remind me how much he loved us and would never let anything happen between us....

"Is there anyone in here?" My mother asked in the dark..

Me:"Y... Yes. It's me. I needed a glass of water"

She switched on the light

Her:"What's wrong are you okay? Is the baby fine?"

Me:"Yes..."

Her:"Buhle?"

Me:"I'm okay mama.."

Her:"Okay, I'm going back to bed. Go to sleep.."

I nodded

She turned to look at me yet again

Her:"I know something is not right. Are you still having those dreams?"

I shook my head no

Her:"So what's wrong?"

Talking seemed to fucken complicated. Crying seemed easier. A loud sob escaped my lips..

I knew she would tell me she told me so. She always hated Lehumo..

Five months ago when my parents asked him what were his plans about this pregnancy he kept quiet. Mom saw through him, she told me he wasn't a good man. She told me she hated his guts.. Now I see what she meant.. he was just too good to be true..

To be continued

THREE

I don't know how i managed to pull through on Sunday. I didn't even go to work. I missed church. I was depressed. I needed to know so bad why would Lehumo do this to me. It felt like a dream

I got ready for work on Monday. Mama was in the kitchen making breakfast...

I didn't want to talk

"Are we ever gonna talk about your fallout on Saturday?"

Its Monday. I don't need to start my week on a negative energy.

Me:"I'm already late for work"

Her:"Your brother is going to court today"

Me:"The captain took me out of the case, so I don't know what's going on with him."

Her:"Buhle tell me you don't believe he did it"

Silence

Her:"Buhle.."

Me:"Ma, you know Sfiso has been involved with the wrong crowd from-"

She stopped me with her hand

Her:"I'll see you at your workplace.."

I took my bag and walked out. But I paused just as I was about to open the door and walked back to her

Me:"I think I want to move out"

Her:"You think you want to move out? Where does that come from Buhlebenkosi? I thought you were happy here"

Me:"I just need to find my independence"

Her:"You are a few weeks away to giving birth. Who will care for you? You know your father would never allow you to do that!"

Me:"I'm leaving."

I walked out.

No one would understand the relationship I had with my mother. She hated me for almost everything. Our relationship had always been rocky.

Her hate started when I started believing that my sister was telling the truth when she said Our stepdaddy touched her in the most inappropriate way. When I tried to talk to my mother about it, she just snapped.

This went on for months until sis told us she was getting married. Things got even worse. I think my step father fell out of love with mom years ago, he just cannot say it. He is just holding on just for the sake of respect he got from our community members. And she banned us for it.

Captain called me in his office as I walked in the station.

"Detective Buthelezi.."

"Sir"

Him:"I'm afraid you have to go back home today. The station commander shall be here in an hours time. You know it is not allowed to have a pregnant woman working herself so much while she should have been on her maternity leave from three months ago"

I nodded. I declined my leave months ago because I felt being at work was the only thing that kept me sane.

Me:"I understand.."

He handed me a pile of papers

Him:"I need you to sign this for me. It has all the conditions and everything. I'll be assigning a new detective to all your cases in your absence"

I nodded

Him:"And again, congratulations on your new little one.."

I smiled

#Koketso

My heart caught in my throat just looking at him. I couldn't picture a day when just seeing his face wouldn't make my heart skip. I'd known Lehumo since we were teenagers.

I could honestly say that Lehumo Mphahlele had always been gorgeous..

"Lehumo we just got married two days ago and you feel like you already want to go to work?"

He sighed

Him:"Koketso we have debts. Who will pay them if I stay here all day?"

Me:"Why exactly did you bring me to Johannesburg if you knew you wont spend time with me?"

He took his car keys and bag. I quickly ran to the door to stop him

Him:"Koketso don't do this..."

Me:"Don't do what Lehumo? You are going to see her right?"

Him:"See who? I thought we were past that.."

Me:"Then why? Why did you let me take a leave to atleast spend sometime with my husband if you knew you wouldn't do the same?"

Him:"Koketso you are working at a municipality. I'm a doctor for heavens sake! You should know that people come in and out of hospitals every second. We have shortage of doctors"

Me:"That's bullshit.."

Him:"Can I just leave? I will see you later"

I took a deep breath but failed to calm my self.

This was a mistake. Marrying him was a mistake...

I moved away from the door

Him:"Thank you"

He opened it and walked out. .I threw the cup of tea at the door. .

I couldn't..

I just couldn't.

...

"Mogau I shouldn't have married him.."

Her:"What happened?'

Me:"He went out to her"

Her:"He left you?"

Me:"Yes.."

Her:"But I told you Koketso not to leave Limpopo as yet. His parents are angry that you guys decided to leave just like that. You didn't even open your gifts"

Me:"I thought coming here with him would be a good thing. I thought we would use this opportunity to enjoy our time as newly weds"

I could hear her sigh on the other side of the phone

Her:"I'm sorry Koketso"

I wiped the tears

Me:"What did dad say?"

Her:"He is just excited that you went on with the wedding.
Nothing else"

Me:"Do you think mom is happy?"

I have been trying to comfort my self that mom was watching
over me and would never let me go through a heartbreak all
alone

Her:"Are you happy?"

Me:"No"

Her:"She wont be if you are not"

Me:"What should I do Mogau?"i hiccuped

Her:"Talk to Lehumo. I know you guys love each other. This is
just a test"

Silence

Her:"How is his new house?"

Me:"Its beautiful."

Her:"Remember, he said he was buying it for you."

Me:"I know"

Her: "Stay strong sis. I have to go back to class"

She hung up.

I was utterly, completely lonely..

#Buhlebenkosi

My phone rang just as I was driving home. I needed to go home and change and just go through apartment websites. I needed an apartment. Maybe I would get an Agent that would help. I just wanted to move out of home. I couldn't stay there anymore..

It was Lehumo.

I looked at it

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let it ring for sometime and just take him to voicemail..

It rang again..

"Lehumo" I tried my outmost not to sound heartbroken.

If he was calling to tell me it was over then it was okay. I will raise my child on my own. I have always been alone anyway

Him:"Babe. I'm back"

Me:"Oh"

Him:"You don't sound excited though.."

Me:"I am, just not feeling well"

Him:"What's wrong? Where are you?"

Me:"I don't know...," I could feel the lump on my throat growing with every second passing by

Him:"Mabuthelezi.."

That.. That made the tears crowding in my eyes finally break free..

Why Lehumo? Why would you do this to me

Me:"I'm driving Lehumo. I can't talk"

Him:"Did I do anything wrong?"

You lied

Me:"No"

Him:"Then what's going on?"

You broke me

Me:"Nothing"

Him:"Can I come see you?"

No

I shook my head no

Him:"Buhle?"

Me:"No. Mom is around you know how she feels about you"

Him:"I know how to handle her. I'm coming"

Me:"I'm not home"

Him:"But you just said your mother is around"

Me:"Lehumo I'm driving."

I hung up switching it off.

I could barely see, so many tears were flowing. I felt broken inside. Completely broken This tears made it hard for me to drive.

He promised to marry me...

I think I hit something.. I stopped my car, and soon cars stopped behind me.

I quickly ran out of the car. I crashed someone's car.

God, no..

He walked out of his car and walked to mine.m

I covered my mouth with both my hands

Me:"I'm sorry"

Tears broke free

Him:"What kind of a reckless driver are you? Couldn't you see the robot?" He was angry...

I was literally shaking.

Me:"I'm sorry..."

Him:"Sorry? Mem, how will your sorry fix my car?!!!"

Everyone was looking. People were already coming out of their cars to see, some were taking videos

This was messed up

Me:"I... Let me call my insurance company.. "

To be continued.

FOUR

#Buhle

My day was just messed up. I Didn't know what to do. My car was towed by the breakdown towing because of the front bumper that fell.

I don't even know If my insurance will be able to fix the Mercedes Benz that I hit when I've been called me to pay 30 percent more so they could fix my Audi A1. It was just fucked up.

This was fucked up.

"I promise I'll call you as soon as I get money to fix your car.."

The guy looked at me. Pissed off was an understatement.

He kept on looking at his wrist watch, people were already leaving...

He handed me his business card

Him:"I hope you call me. I won't call"

I nodded.

He had been waiting for a towing company also. His car was towed and soon another car parked in front of us and he climbed in and left...

I was left alone..

I had my handbag with me. It's been three years since I bought my car. I haven't used taxis since I bought it. I don't even think I have cash with me to get a taxi... I never really thought this would happen to me

I sighed.

I should have let the towing company drop me home just as they insisted but I couldn't. I couldn't leave the poor man all alone. And finally a taxi came through. I got inside and went home.

I had R50 in my purse. I paid before getting off.

No one was home, I think the parents had gone to court. I felt like crying. I had this slight pain on my abdominal area...

I remember this one time when my sister, Busisiwe told me how toxic my mother was. You know, I always thought she said that because she hated my step dad but I can now tell her that what she said was true. I sometimes feel like, we are a reminder of her past. A reminder of my father.

He died 16 years ago and a year after his death mom got married and had a son Sfiso. Sfiso, her happiness. Her strength and weakness. The most favourite child..

There was a knock just as I made my self tea. This was the only time I could say I found peace, when mother wasn't around..

"Lehumo.."

I sighed blinking rapidly and swallowed over the knot of emotion that suddenly was clogging on my throat.

First thing my eyes went on was his left hand. I wanted to search so bad for the ring. It wasn't there..

Him:"Your phone is off, I had to knock"

I remembered that I had switched it off after calling the insurance company

Him:"Why are you not at work?'

Me:"I told you I wasn't feeling well"

Him:"And where is your car?"

Me:"Lehumo aren't you supposed to be at work?"

Him:"Babe how can I be at work when you are acting so strang towards me?"

Me:"I'm tired.."

Him:"MaButhelezi.."

I shook my head

Me:"Don't do this.."

Him:"Tell me what have I done.."

Me:"What do you want?"

Him:"Buhle what changed? Did your mother poison you against our love?"

Me:"Don't you dare!!"

He walked inside.

Him:"And then tell me what happened my love.."

My mother hates this relationship. I know she will lose it if she finds Lehumo in here.

I guess she saw through him that he was too good to be true. I should have for once listened to my mother's judgements.

Me:"You forgot to block Lufuno when you blocked me from viewing your statuses on weekend.."

"Fuck.."

I heard him curse silently behind me

Me:"Tell me the pictures lied to me?"

Him:"Buhle..."

I turned to face him

Me:"Lehumo you lied to me! You said you were going to a ceremony yet you knew you were going to your wedding. Whem did you get time to arrange all of this because you were always with me?"

I tried to keep calm

Him:"I have been with her since 9 years ago"

Unbelievable..

Me:"And I have been your mistress?"

Him:"Its not like that"

Me:"Hamba Lehumo.."

Him:"I love you"

I shook my head no

Me:"This is not love."

I chuckled unbelievably, shaking my head

Me:"You have been lying to me all along... I spend every night with you. I made sure to cook for you, wash for you. Dress you. Help choose your home, your car and now this?"

Him:"Babe.."

He tried holding my hand, I furiously moved it away

Him:"Buhle i married her because i love her, the same way i love you"

Me:"I said leave.."

Him:"I know I shouldn't have lied to you Mabuthelezi but I knew it would hurt you. I didn't want to hurt you. I love you.."

He shouted the last sentence and the tears that have been burning inside broke free. I swallowed helplessly but they leaked out of the corners of my eyes.

I repeated the mantra I've come to know so well.

He walked closer

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hugging me and I whipped in his arms. This didn't feel right. He should have told me before wasting my time..

My hands fisted on his crisp white shirt, and I turned my face and against him and wept as I shook.

He held me while I cried. All the anger and heartbreak spilling out to soak his chest with my tears...

"And why is my daughter crying?"

That was my mother's voice, both of us turned back to watch them. It was my mother, Step dad and brother. I think he was out on bail

I cleared my throat

Me:"Lehumo you should leave.."

He also cleared his throat greeting my parents who kept quiet.

Him:"I'll come back later.."

He said before walking out

Mom:"Buhlebenkosi what did I say to you about that boyfriend of yours coming to my house?"

I kept quiet.

Her:"I won't be disrespected by you in my own home!!"

#Koketso

"Congratulations Mr. And Mrs. Mphahlele"

"Newly weds.."

"Finally tied the knot"

I scrolled on my facebook newsfeed, everything was about
Lehumo and I... i had been sitting in this house

Going through everything and anything. I found her things. First
it was her teeth brush. Her bathing essentials. Her purple gown.
Her perfume. Her clothes. Her...

Her everything..

I stood up from the bed, locking my phone and decided to take her things to burn them.

He married me, he is mine. If there's anything she has to know is, Lehumo is officially mine now.

I saw on Johannesburg post that there was an open HR manager post. I was going to apply for it...

I stood burned everything that belonged to her. I burned everything that would remind him of her. This was our new beginnings.

After burning everything I decided to cook his favourite meal. Pap and beef stew.

I played our favourite song...

I know where he works so I'll be taking it to his workplace. I downloaded the bolt app as soon as I was done and requested an uber...

It was only five minutes drive and soon I was at the hospital..

Me:"Hi, is Lehumo in?"

I asked one of the nurses

Her:"Yes, check him in the consultation room 17"

Me:"Thank you." I smiled while walking away.

He was indeed in the office.

Him:"Koketso, what are you doing here?"

He looked distressed

Me:"Can't I surprise my husband?"

Him:"Oh"

I placed the bag on the table, going around to kiss him.

I had missed him

Him:"I.."

Me:"Shh.."

Silence

Me:"I've decided to let go of the past. She is in the past now
Lehumo. You married me, what more can I ask for?"

Him:"What changed?"

Me:"I guess I had some me time. I should have let you explain.."

Him:"I'm sorry Mma Mphahlele.."

My heart...

Me:"Its fine.."

I turned to walk back to sit on the patients chair

He held my hand, standing up from his office chair

Him:"What did I do to deserve such loving wife?"

Me:"You loved her.."

He chuckled..

Him:"I did.."

We kissed.. Slowly.. Passionately..

Something was missing here...

His wedding ring.

Me:"Lehumo.."

Him:"Mhh?"

Me:"Where is your wedding ring?"

He kept quiet for a moment.

Thinking.

I prepared my self to listen to his lies

Him:"I think I left it in the bathroom in the morning"

Me:"You had your ring on when you left"

I was getting angry with every lie he said

Him:"I.. I think its there" my eyes bucked

Me:"Lehumo where is your wedding ring?"

He kept quiet again.

Before my mind could process my next move. I flew in Lehumo fists flying. I'd had enough of his bullshit in just days and I wanted it to stop.

All I could hear was the sounds of slaps hitting flash.i was tired. I had this damn fake nails for my wedding but I realise now that they were meant for him. All I wanted was to dig in his flash and draw blood. I wanted him to feel the pain he was putting me through. My balled fists landed securely on his jaw. Pain immediately began radiating up my wrist and arm but it was nothing compared to the pain I felt in my heart.

Me:"You were with her?"

I screamed irrationally between hits. My teeth sank on his shoulder. He groaned in pain he had been trying not to fight me

but he pushed me so hard that I almost fell against the wall. I kept on fighting.

"KOKETSO!!!!" He shouted flipping me around and grapped my arms from behind managing to render me immobile while I broke down into a puddle of sobs

To be continued

FIVE

My phone beeped at 12am. I checked the message. I got paid. The old Buhle would have been excited knowing she was going shopping but the new me just cared less. I closed my eyes and exhaled, a tired sigh...

I stood from the bed and flipped through my handbag to find the business card the guy had given me..

Vusi Zulu, his name..

I dialed his numbers, I hope he wouldn't mind me calling him so late, I just needed him to send me his bank details so I could transfer cash so he could fix his car. I had R5000 to spend on his car though, I needed to send another 5k to my insurance company so my car could be fixed and I would be able to fetch it.

And then finally buy the baby's needs

It rang unanswered. I didn't call again, maybe he was asleep.

Sigh, it was stupid of me to call someone so late.

My phone rang, it was him

"Hello" he said as soon as I placed the phone on my ear

Me:"Hi.."

Him:"Hello?" He sounded sleepy

Me:"Oh, I'm sorry for calling so late. It's the woman that crashed your car. I'm calling to ask you to send me your bank details so I can send R5000 to you so you can fix it"

Him:"My insurance company already took care of it" he said simply.

Me:"But you said I should call you to fix your car"

Him:"Yah but that was before I realised you would need that R5000 to buy your baby nappies"

What?

Who the fuck talks to someone like that

Me:"What?"

Him:"I don't mean it in a bad way. Look the car was fixed, it's okay now. But thank you"

He hung up.

Who the fuck does he think he is to think I'm charity?

But I saved that, he saved me. I really needed it for baby's needs. I hadn't bought anything for the baby. I was to give birth anytime from now my EDD was for next week. Lehumo and I had planned that we would buy the baby's needs a week before the baby's arrival but that's not going to happen anymore. It was over. I won't settle for this.

I couldn't sleep, I needed a glass of milk warm milk.

Not bothering with getting a glass when I got in the kitchen, I took the bottle of milk with me to the sofa and curled up for a sleepless night on the sofa.

I was truly heartbroken. Three years...

For three whole years that man was lying to me.

Of deceiving me.

I still couldn't believe it.

There's something burning. There was a smoke coming from the sliding door, outside. It was slightly opened

I hadn't bothered to switch on light. I did and and walked out through the sliding door.

Someone was smoking

"Hello?"

He quickly stood up and tried to hide it

Him:"Buhle why aren't you sleeping?"

Me:"Sfiso are you smoking?"

He sighed throwing it away and walked to me

Him:"Let's go back inside. It's late.."

Sfiso had changed, I won't lie

I walked back with him following me.

The weed smell. God!

I sat on the sofa and looked at him

Me:"I'm telling your mother about this"

Him:"Really now?"

Me:"Don't give me that attitude Sfiso!"

Him:"You'll wake the folks up"

Me:"This is a pastor's house for heaven sake Sfiso. Couldn't you do your dirty deeds somewhere else?"

Him:"So you can arrest me like you did"

Sigh.

I didn't have the energy for spending the night on the Sofa anymore. I was going back to my bedroom. Turning and tossing was far way better than arguing with this brat.

I stood up to walk away

Him:"It was me.."

Me:"Sorry?"

I asked turning back to him

Him:"I did it Buhle.."

Me:"You did what?"

Him:"I killed them.. "

I covered my mouth in shock

Me:"Sfiso.."

He sat on the sofa and covered his face with both his hands

Him:"This keeps me sane, atleast when I'm high I can forget everything that's going on"

I walked back to him

Me:"Why Sfiso? Why?"

This..

Him:"They were going to destroy dad if I didn't.."

Me:"Destroy dad how? You are not making any sense"

Him:"Buhle I'm sorry.."

Me:"Sfiso are you aware of what you have done? Do you know what you have done? How the hell did you get to kill all those people? "

I asked panicking.

In my whole years of being a police officer, I've always had in me to arrest all criminals. I've watched my father, I hated someone who went against the law. This would have been an opportunity for me to finally get another position at work but... Right now I sat here in silence, confused and scared because it was my young brother.

Me:"Sfiso you've just started with your first year. I have been paying your school fees. You wanted so bad to become a lawyer. Is this how you had planned your future? You threw your future away just like that?"

Tears blurred my vision

Me:"Why Sfiso? Why would you do this?"

He was silent

I shook my head through the tears.

Me:"I'm not gonna keep quiet about this. I'm calling the police"

I stood up

He also stood up, quickly standing my way

Him:"You won't do that"

This was not my brother

Me:"I am and I will"

I tried moving

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he stood still

Him:"I won't allow you to do that"

Me:"Are you going to kill me nami?"

Him:"Buhle mother is already broken because dad doesn't love her anymore. And now you want to break her more by taking me? Her only son to jail?"

#Koketso

Sipping coffee at the kitchen table, I looked out at gorgeous view of Johannesburg.

The security guards kicked escorted me out of the hospital yesterday after our fight. I was angry. Really angry.

He came back and slept in the other room.

This house is a two bedroomed house, kitchening dining room, a bath room and a double garage.

I thought we would be happy after our marriage, but here I was, drinking coffee by my self and feeling at a loss. Our marriage ended before it could even begin. I was angry. Angry at my self. Angry at him and mostly angry at my father for forcing me to marry him.

I tried blinking back the tears but it was impossible.

He's behind me, I could feel it

Him:"Good morning.."

I kept quiet, he walked over to the fridge and got himself bottled water

Him:"Koketso..."

Me:"Are you not going to work? Why are you still in PJs?"

My throat felt dry but I refused to cry in front of him

He had bruises all over his shoulders and chest.

Him: "I wanna spend the say with you"

Me: "What about your girlfriend?"

Silence

Me: "You have your ring today?"

Him: "Koketso I am sorry"

Me: "We just got married and should be spending some time together but you are still going to her?"

I asked, I still couldn't look at him

Him: "I shouldn't have"

Me: "Yet you did?"

Him: "She's pregnant"

Me: "How far is she?"

Silence

Me: "Lehumo?"

Him: "9 months"

Me: "When were you going to tell me?"

Him: "When I was ready"

Me:"Lehumo what change you?"

Him:"Babe.."

Me:"I mean you are no longer the person I fell in love with years ago"

Him:"I'm still me Koketso.."

He said turning my highchair so I could face him.

And for the first time today, my eyes went in his

Me:"I don't think I want to go to Home affairs and get married there"

Him:"What? But I thought we agreed on getting married at home affairs two weeks after our wedding"

Me:"And right now you still expect me to marry you?"

Him:"Koketso I'm sorry"

Me:"Its over Lehumo."

#Buhlebenkosi

I finally managed to sleep, I couldn't get what Sfiso told me out of my mind.

I needed some time away. I decided to pack and visit my sister for a while. I'll even give birth at her place and will only come back once my baby is a month or two.

Mom was in her bedroom ironing dad's clothes. I won't even ask where Sfiso is. I think dad was at church, that I know for sure

Her:"Ma.."

Her:"Nana"

Me:"Can I talk to you"

Her:"Sit on the bed"

Me:"I.."I sighed

Me:"I'm going to Vaal"

Her:"What's happening in Vaal"

Me:"I'm visiting Busi for a few months"

Her:"Oh"

Me:"Yeah. I have packed already. My insurance company called that they were bringing a car for temporary use."

Her:"Days ago you were telling me about moving out, now you're telling me you're visiting your sister"

Me:"I miss her"

Her:"Buhle your father is going on a seven days prayers on the mountain today. You can't just leave. Sfiso and I will need you"

I sighed

Me:"I have already called Busi, she's expecting me"

I lied

Her:"Do you hate me that much that you can't even allow me to be the first person to see your baby?"

Me:"Lehumo and I broke up"

I said changing the subject

Her:"Is that why you were crying?"

Me:"Yes, and we broke up for real now. I don't want him anymore"

Her:"What has he done"

Me:"I should get ready"

I went to my bedroom to get ready. The insurance company managed to bring me a car I would be using. It was nothing fancy but it was comfortable, intact I loved driving than my own car.

Driving to Veerenageng was a bit hard since I feared the police would stop me and ask why was I driving with such a big baby bump but I was happy when I finally parked outside her house.

My sister is married to a Sotho guy, have no kids and I doubt they loved each other. Infact her husband was always out of the country at all times leaving her all alone.

"Buhle!"

She was shocked seeing me walk in

Her:"Why didn't you tell me you were coming?"

I shrugged

Her:"Come in.."

I walked inside the house

Her:"You should have told me you were coming, i would have made something for you to eat. "

I sat on the highchair

Her:"Unjani? Why are you here? Is everything okay at home?"

Me:"Yah"

She quickly switched off the stove

Her:"Why are you here? I'm sorry but I'm shocked"i chuckled

Me:"I guess I need a place to stay, atleast for a month"

She sighed

Her:"What has your mother done now?"

Me:"Nothing.."

Her:"You can't just leave home.."

Me:"Its my baby daddy now"

Her:"Lehumo?"

I nodded

Her:"What has he done?"

Me:"I... I don't want to talk about him. You are glowing"

She chuckled

Her:"Love makes me glow"

I thought things weren't okay between her husband and her

Me:"Oh I'm happy for you!"

I smiled, I truly was. My sister has never witnessed any happiness in her life

Her:"But to tell the truth you came at a wrong time. I have a visitor and I'm afraid you won't like my visitor"

Me:"What do you mean?" She sighed

Her:"Nothing, you may take your bags to the guest bedroom. You know it"

To be continued

SIX

#Buhle

My sister was just excited, humming songs while cooking. It was already late, her visitor should be here anytime now.

Me:"Where is Kgotso?" (Her husband)

She rolled her eyes

Her:"At work" she said without looking at me

Me:"Work?"

Her:"Yes, he's in Ghana for three months"

Me:"And who is your visitor?"

Her:"Someone you shouldn't worry yourself about. Look, I'll be packing a few clothes and leaving you for a few days. I have to go somewhere, I hope you will be fine all by yourself"

Me:"I thought you said you had a visitor"

Her:"Not anymore"

Me:"What are you not telling me Busi?"

Her:"I'm not telling you that I'm seeing someone else and he makes me happy"

Oh

Me:"Someone?"

Her:"Yes, Buhle you do know that my husband and I do not love each other. We just got married and our love ended when we just got married. There is nothing we can do about it. I wont sit at home and wait for a man who goes out of the country and come back after months and never bothers to touch me or anything"

Me:"Why can't you just divorce him?"

Her:"And go back home? I won't do that Buhle"

Me:"I feel like there is a lot you are not telling me"

Her:"I'm done here. I made you something to eat. I'm leaving now. I'll come back to check on you tomorrow morning. Make yourself at home"

I sighed.

She left to go get her bag.

Something wasn't right. She wasn't telling me everything.

I decided to ignore it though.

I locked the door when she walked out..

Both her and her husband have done well themselves I won't lie. They built their house and hired an interior designer to design their home interior. It was really beautiful...

I don't even know what's her husband's profession but I do know that my sister is a Lecturer.

Dineo got married to Kgotsi 5 years ago. No one knew she was in a committed relationship actually. I never believed she loved her husband, I still don't believe so.

Mom never took Dineo as her daughter, she always had this hate towards her which I don't know came from...

My phone rang just as I was in deep thoughts. It was mom. I hesitated a bit before taking the call

Her: "Have you arrived?"

Me: "Yah, it's been hours since I arrived"

Her: "So you were waiting for me to call so you would let me know?"

Sigh

Her: "Where is your sister?"

Me:"She went out"

Her:"Where is her husband?"

Me:"He's out of the country"

Her:"Oh"

Me:"Yeah"

Her:"Did she maybe tell you where she was going?"

Me:"No"

Her:"Okay, I'll call you back tomorrow"

That was totally the first.

I was shocked.

I decided to go through online available apartments. I found one which would be available from next month. I left all my details so the Agent would call me back. I needed my own place.

Lehumo didn't call. I don't know why I was bothered by that, but I was...

#Koketso

I don't know where I was driving to, but I found my self driving Lehumo's car in the morning. I left him while he was still sleeping.

I just needed to clear my mind. I had called his parents to come to Joburg and they promised they would be here before the sun sets...

Sigh..

I parked at the mall parking and walked out of the car. .I didn't have my purse with, I just had my cellphone with. I searched in his car for a few notes so I could get a cup of coffee.

And to my luck I found R50.

I locked the car and went to Starbucks I got my self a cup of coffee.

As I sat alone, I couldn't stop thinking of the betrayal Lehumo had done. He'd said that he loved me, only me. I blinked back the tears remembering that I was in a public space. I looked at the coffee, it wasn't a distraction I'd hoped for.

"And if a lady sits all alone in public so early, I know something disturbed her.."

A voice.

I looked at the guy

Him:"May I join you?"

Me:"Sure"

He sat down. The waiter came to take his order Him:"I'll have whatever the lady is drinking right now.."

He walked away after writing down on his pad

Him:"I'm Vusi"

Me:"Koketso"

Him:"Koketso.... So what's eating you up so early..."

Sigh, someone once said it's better talking to a stranger than keeping all your burdens inside you

Me:"I just got married and found out my husband is cheating on me.."

Him:"That's bad.."

Me:"It is.."

Him:"Tell you what he is stupid for cheating on such a beautiful woman"

I laughed.

Him:"Now, that's what I wanted to see, you smiling...I blushed

Him:"You are beautiful..'

Me:"Thank you.."

Him:"And innocent.."

I laughed

Him:"Koketso.. What language is that?"

Me:"Sepedi"

Him:"Ohhh So you're from Limpompo?'

I laughed

Me:"Limpopo"

Him:"Lim-"

Me:"Popo"

I corrected him

Him:"I'm here for my meeting and I saw a beautiful lady all by her self looking all sad"

He checked his wrist watch

Him:"Its almost 8am"

Me:"Yaah.. I guess I needed a distraction"

Him:"I hope you got it?"

Me:"I did..'

Him:"See why I'm not married? Because I don't want to hurt the poor lady by cheating on her. I believe getting married should happen when you are actually ready to commit"

Me:"I feel he married me because he had promised to, not because he loves me"

Him:"Interesting, tell me more" I laughed

Him:"Hau Koketso, I want to know"

My phone rang.

I looked at it, it was Lehumo.

Sigh

Him:"I guess that's hubby calling"

Me:"Yeah, I'm driving his car, I think he needs it to go to work. I should go"

Him:"Let's do breakfast, lunch or dinner so you can tell me more" I chuckled. He took my phone from the table

Him:"Can I?"

Me:"Sure.."

To be continued

BUHLEBENKOSI

SEVEN

"Luhumo I really cant talk now.."

Him:"Buhle babe stop ignoring me"

I sighed on the phone. My day was going alot better until he called.

I didn't need Lehumo in my life anymore. I was heartbroken enough

Me:"Why are you still going after me? Lehumo you are married now, just leave me alone"

Him:"I just need one more chance to explain"

Me:"If there's anything you need to explain is how we will co-parent this child. Nothing else. I don't wanna hear a thing from you"

I heard him sigh

Him:"I feel like I owed it to her to marry her"

Me:"What do you mean?" I should hang up but curiosity got ahead of me.

Him:"Koketso has been with me since high school. She helped build me. She supported my dreams and I should say I'm a doctor now because of her"

Me:"Couldnt you atleast have been honest with me about it Lehumo. Why did you wait till I found out from my friend that you were getting married?"

Thinking back, my heart broke

Me:"I've never in my life been betrayed like that. Why would you do this to me?"

Him:"Look babe can I come to your home so we can talk about this? Buhle I love you, I know you lo-"

That!!

Agha!!!

I hung up before he could continue

My phone rang again, I ignored it.

There was a knock, it was pretty much early for knock. I didn't even unlock the gate, how the hell did the person come in?

I went to open the door, I was shocked to find my mother standing at the door step, she was in her gown. I swear she

woke up and decided to get inside her car and come straight here.

Me:"Ma?"

She pushed me aside and walked in

Her:"Where is she?"

Me:"Who?"

She went on to check all the bedrooms

Her:"Where is Busi?"

She was rather angry

Me:"she went to buy bread"

She walked back to me, her eyes. I swear she had been crying

Me:"Mama?"

Her:"Dont lie to me young lady, where is your sister?"

Me:"She went out, what's going on.."

She walked to the sofa, sitting down and covered both her eyes with her hands. A loud sob escaped her lips.

I sat down, I didn't really know what was going on

Before I could stop myself, I brushed her back, making her calm.

It was really heartbreaking seeing her cry so much

Her:"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to"

Me:"Can you tell me what's going on?"

Her:"Nothing... Nothing really, I was just paranoid. I shouldn't have come here.."

She stood up

Me:"Don't leave, I'll make you a cup of coffee. You look like you need it really.. "

She looked at me, giving me her faint smile through her tears

Her:"I'm sorry"

Me:"Its okay"

I went to make her a cup of coffee. Something wasn't right..
Something deep was going on here

#Koketso

I hand him his car keys. He looked at them, then at me

Him:"Where have you been?"

Me:"I went out"

Him:"Out?"

Me:"Lehumo stop questioning me. I have your car keys. You can go to work because I know that's the reason you have been calling me"

Him:"You are my wife Koketso. I don't appreciate you waking up and going where only you and God knows where you went!"

I chuckled bitterly

Me:"Here are you car keys"

Him:"Don't give me that attitude."

Me:"Or what?"

He chuckled

Him:"Why did you call my parents to come here?"

Me:"I want to tell them I made a mistake to marry you"

Him:"Then why are you still in my house?"

WTF?

Me:"What kind of a stupid question is that?"

Him:"I love you really Koketso but I cannot stand you when you are like this"

I gave him the fuck you face real quick. My nerves were completely shot hearing him say this shit to me. I was torn. Maybe going back home and forgetting all about him would do me good. This wasn't working really.

Him:"Sooner or later, you'll have to accept that Buhle is in our lives, she is carrying my child, my first born..."

I wanted to slap him so bad but before my hand could land on his cheek

Advertisement

he grabbed my arm so bad that I flinched in pain

Him:"I also don't appreciate you laying your hands on me!"

He was getting angry

Me:"Lehumo you have changed into something I don't know"

Him:"You know what, come here"

He said grabbing my arm so hard that I almost fell and walked to the bedroom. I groaned with every pain that came with going to his bedroom.

He let go of me once we were inside the bedroom.

Him:"There is my wardrobe, pack your things and leave ge
Koketso!!!"

Me:"What?"

Him:"Leave! I said leave! This are our problems! You humiliated
me by leaving me on that aisle! I had to beg you to marry me.
You should have just stopped this days before our marriage.
You don't want me anymore akere? Leave!!!"

Me:"I'm not going anywhere!"

Him:"I'll help you pack!!" He threw my suitcase on the bed,
taking out everything that belonged to me from his wardrobe
and just stuffed it inside the bag. I was in pure shock to even
react or say anything.

I couldn't speak, another cold gust of air seemed to have hit me
with his actions.

Him:"Your bag is packed, I'm going to get ready for work. Make
sure you leave my house before I get out of that bathroom.

He walked away.

My feet felt frozen to the rude floor. I couldn't escape the devastating reality that I was being discarded, suddenly and abruptly.

This man has changed alot.

I sat on the edge of our bed with my chest heaving so bad. A trail of hot tears flowed down my face. I was so enraged I was shaking.

Finally I stood up, fixing my clothes and packing them neatly and changed to a pair of skinny Jeans and a blouse and cardigan.

Then walked out.

I had about R400 in my purse, I had no bolt app to request an uber. Taxis where far from this place.

I stood at the gate, trying to download the app with my shaking hands and finally I request an uber, leaving my details and soon I was done, it would get here in less than 5 minutes.

I forced my self not to cry. I saw him get inside his car and driving out then to my direction and stopped before me.

Him:"Get inside so i can take you to the rank"

Me:"No, I'm fine.."

Him:"Get inside Koketso.."

Oh here is my driver. I took my suit case and walked to the car and just left him there.

As I sat inside the car, I couldn't stop the tears.. it was early, I would get to Polokwane before its late. I took off my ring. It was over, this marriage was over..

My phone rang as I was still crying. I don't know the number, it's not saved in my booklist.

"Hello"

I made sure not to sound like I was crying

"Kokie, how are you?" a male voice..

Me:"Sharp, who's this?"

Him:"You forgot my voice already? I'm hurt.."

I chuckled

Me:"Vusi.."

Him:"Yes, its Vusi. I hope I called you nge skhathi esi right?"

Me:"Yah"

Him:"You don't sound to good though.."

Me:"Yah, I'm on my way home, hubby and I fought when I got home so I'm riding to Polokwane.."

Him:"No..."

Me:"Yah.."

Him:"Where are you manje? Can I see you before you leave?"

Me:"I'm in an uber.."

Him:"An uber to Polokwane? You are rich!"

I laughed

Me:"No. An uber to Parkstation, that's where I'll get taxi's to Polokwane."

Him:"Okay, I'm at the park station ke, you'll find me waiting"

Me:"Sharp"

I hung up

To be continued

EIGHT

#Koketso

I hoped really bad that he would call me and tell me he was kidding, it was just a prank but sadly it wasn't.

It was over, Lehumo had changed, money changed him...

Lehumo had a crush on me when I was in my tenth grade. It was when my mother was still sick, TB. She had TB. She passed on two years after I started dating Lehumo. I was in my matric, Mogau had just started her high school. She was in the eighth grade. It was sad really, the thought of growing up without a mother. Dad had it hard, accepting the death of my mother was the hardest thing we ever had to do. Lehumo was there for me, his parents were there for me. Unfortunately my mother's passing affected me to a point where ended up diagnosed with bipolar disorder. I thought I'd never go back there, to being heartbroken and depressed but here I was, in an uber crying so bad that the uber driver had been looking at me...

My phone rang. It was Mogau oh my dear sister

Me:"Nana.."

Her:"Koketso. I just received a call from your husband that you are on your way home.."

Me:"Yah.." I didn't want her to notice that I was crying. I was heartbroken

Her:"What's wrong? Is everything okay? I couldn't ask him"

Me:"No... I mean yes, we just decided that we need some time away from each other"

Her:"But you just got married, I thought you'd be happy."

Me:"I'm not.."

Her:"Keng? Is it because of the lady you found out about?"

Me:"He said he loves her"

Her:"Oh my God.."

Me:"I don't know what to do Mogau.. I don't.." a loud sob escaped my lips

Her:"Cry.. Remeber your therapist once said it is good to cry.."

Me:"But it hurts"

Her:"You know what makes me happy?"

I kept quiet

Her:"Is the fact that right now you are letting the pain get to you and crying it out. It's a good thing Koketso. I don't want to lose you ngwana mama (mother's daughter) I cant lose you..."

Sigh

Her:"Look, I'll ask dad to borrow me his van so i can wait for you in town, I'll keep on calling so I can know where you are"

Me:"Okay"

Her:"I love you.."

Me:"Lenna (Me too)"

I hung up..

Realizing that we were already at the park station, I got off and tried to call Vusi.

"I can see you.."

He hang up. I could see him walking over to me, I dragged my luggage meeting him halfway.

He was looking really good, in casual wear. Our eyes locked as I walked over to him. He smiled, his smile...

"Hi.." he said.

Me:"Hello"

Him:"Looks like someone wont be coming back to Johannesburg anytime soon.."

I chuckled

Me:"I don't leave here.."

He took my suitcase and we walked over to his car

Him:"We are going to have atleast,"

He checked his wrist watch

"Lunch before you can leave.."

Me:"Fine by me.."

Lunch wont hurt, plus I hadn't had something to eat since today. I only had a cup of coffee back at the restaurant.

Hopping into the car, he swerved the car into reverse and pressed down on the gas.

His car was really comfortable

Me:"So what were you doing here in Parkstation?" I asked, trying to create a little conversation.

We drove out. I don't know why I trusted a stranger so easily but I did..

Him:"I have a few taxis around here, so I get to spend my days here when I'm bored. Today happened to be the day"

Me:"Oh.."

Him:"You don't look too good though"

Me:"Too good as in like ugly?"

He laughed

Him:"No, you're too beautiful to even think of that. I mean you look sad"

Me:"My husband threw me out of our home"

Him:"How long have you been married again?"

Me:"Three days"

He eyed me

Him:"Just three?"

His eyes went back to the road

Me:"Just three"

Him:"And already you are fighting?"

Me:"I found out he had impregnated someone days before our marriage"

Him:"That's bad"

Me:"I shouldn't have married him. I regret it now"

Him:"I understand where you are coming from"

We parked at some estate outside Johannesburg.

We both walked out of the car going to his beautiful house hand in hand.

It was really beautiful, the interior too..

Me:"You leave here?"

I asked trailing my fingertip on the dust free exterior of his kitchen counter.

He chuckled

Him:"No, it's my parents house"

I laughed

Him:"Ngyadlala. Yes I leave here"

Me:"With?"

Him:"My two sons"

Me:"And their mother?"

Again. He gave out a soft laugh

Him:"I think you know alot about me now. Anything to drink?"

Me:"Beer, do you have beer?"

Him:"I do have beer, but it depends on what kind of beer do you need"

Me:"Heineken.."

Him:"Okay

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make your self at home while I get you that beer.."

He walked to the other room, leaving me in the kitchen...

Soon he walked back with a bucket filled with cans of Heineken. I thought I wouldn't drink anymore. Lehumo was taking me back there.

He sat down.

Him:"I've asked uBetty to make us something to eat.."

I nodded

Him:"So Koketso. What do you do for a living?"

Me:"I'm a HR assistant."

Him:"Any child?"

Me:"I'm infertile"

He laughed

Me:"Serious"

Him:"Just because your husband has been shooting blanks, doesn't mean you are infertile. Ngizo tshala kuwe (I'll impregnate you)"

I laughed

#Buhle

Mom left earlier on. I showered soon as she left and drove to the mall. The dealership should bring back my car anytime from now. I got an email that they would start fixing it today. I was happy, but on the other side worried about my mother.

Shopping was a bit struggle since I was alone and didn't know the baby's gender.

I only bought important things onto though, still cant believe I hadn't shopped for baby things till now.

I went shop to shop, making sure I don't forget anything.

My phone rang, it was my sister

"Ukephi? I'm home and you're not here"

Me:"I went to get a few things for the baby"

Her:"You should have called me to join you. Uright pho (Are you okay)?"

Me:"Yebo. Almost done.."

Her:"Okay. I'll make us something to eat.."

In an hour, I was done and driving back home.

And yes, Busi was home.

She helped me unload the plastics from the car to the house and soon we were settled on the couch

Me:"Your mother was here in the morning.."

Her:"Here? As in like my house?"

Me:"Yes"

Her:"What did she want?"

Me:"I don't know. She went on to check all the bedrooms asking were you where"

She rolled her eyes

Me:"Is there anything you want to me tell me?"

Her:"Your mother has been harassing me since I got married. It's nothing new"

Me:"Really?"

Her:"Buhle. I ended up getting a restraining order against her"

Oh my God. I didn't know anything about that

Me:"Yoh"

Her:"Yes! She just wants to make my life hell"

Me:"But I think you should just sit down and talk to her about it"

Her:"Haiy, I wont talk to her, I'll just call the police to arrest her"

Me:"Your own mother?"

Her:"You mean the mother that didn't believe me when I told her her husband was-"

Me:"Don't.."

Her:"When are you giving birth?"

Me:"Anytime from now"

Her:"And I guess your boyfriend is happy"

I sighed

Her:"What has he done now? I know you hate my house and wouldn't just decide to spend your maternity leave here without any reason"

Me:"We broke up"

Her:"Why?"

Me:"He married someone else"

Her:"Ini?"

Me:"Yeah, just that and now I'm house haunting. I wanna leave home and just raise my child in peace"

Her:"I've been there and I know what you are talking about"

Me:"And wena? Who's the guy you are seeing?"

Her:"Some random guy I met at church"

Me:"And he makes you happy?"

Her:"Yes darling! We are in the process of purchasing our own house and I would get to divorce Kgotso and just move on with my life. I feel like this marriage is holding me back. He doesn't love me, I don't"

Me:"Yoh, how do you manage with him around?"

Her:"I don't, it's been a year since we sleep in separate rooms. I'm used to it already. We are just keeping together for the public appearance."

Me:"This is sad.."

Her:"Its not, you know I've watched your mother stay in a loveless marriage, I've followed her path. The difference now is I'm not forcing it, I won't force it. I have let go. Yes, Kgotso and I once loved each other but the spark just fade away. We despise each other so bad that sometimes it hurts but I'm happy."

Me:"So why is your mother harassing you?"

Her:"I don't know. I don't even want to know"

Yhu I sighed. I never thought my mother and sister hated each other so much..

Me:"So my agent emailed me today. She said I can come for the house viewing tomorrow"

Her:"Where is the place again?"

Me:"Midrand, I think it's a bit far from home and that's what I need right now"

Her:"I'll come with"

Me:"I need to pee"

I stood up and went to the toilet. No one would understand my family. I sometimes don't too...

I peed, wiping myself dry, I noticed that I was spotting. Something that happened for the first time since I got pregnant. I suddenly was worried.

"Busi!!" I shouted

She came rushing to the toilet

Me:"I'm spotting"

Her:"And?"

Me:"Look"

Her:"Haiy sis man wena! Do you feel any pains?"

Me:"No"

Her:"But I think it's the mucus plug. You might go in to labour"

Me:"Oh my God..."

She laughed

Her:"Then dress up, you shouldn't be worried"

Me:"I'm going to the hospital. This never happened to me"

Her:"I'll go get my car keys then"

I was honestly worried. We drove to the hospital. I had my medical aid card with. I couldn't feel any pains.

The doctor checked on me. He looked really worried. He checked my card, and went for a scan. Busi held my hands through it all.

Him:"Is this your first pregnancy?"

Me:"Yes"

Him:"Have you had unusual symptoms lately, such as blurred vision or headaches?"

Me:"Headache, yes. Blurred vision, no"

Doc:" Have you been giving your self some time to rest?"

Me:"Yes"

Him:"Overworking yourself?"

Me:"No"

Him:"Been stressed?"

Sigh

Me:"Yes.."

Him:"But you do know a pregnant woman shouldn't go through so much stress, it can affect the baby"

Me:"Doctor what's wrong with me?"

Him:"You have developed preeclampsia."

Busi:"What's that?"

Doc:" It is a pregnancy complication characterized by high blood pressure and signs of damage to another organ system, often the kidneys."

Me:"No.."

Him:"It may cause complications going forward, I recomend we induce you and take you for a c-section

No...

To be continued

NINE

The doctor did induce me. The pain came slowly but it was surely painful. I would be taken in for a C-section later, I couldn't wait anymore. The pain was unbearable... it was intense

Busi: "Do you need water?"

I shook my head no, I had been silent. I couldn't talk, the pain made it hard for me to..

Busi too should just shut up. I needed silence.

The doctors kept on coming to check on me but he did nothing. I needed something to ease the pain.

Yes, I had always dreamed of this day but never thought it would be this bad and painful. I wanted to cry so bad. I didn't want give birth through Csection. I want to give birth naturally.

Her: "Juice?"

I shook my head no

Her: "Let me go to the nearest store and get you something"

Me: "Just get me painkillers"

Her:"Painkillers will do.."

She stood up and walked away

Meanwhile.

Buhle's phone rang while Busi was driving to the nearest mall. She hated seeing her sister in so much pain. She's never been in the same situation as her, she didn't know what to do.

See, being married to Kgotso had come with its conditions and terms. Kgotso had said it to her that he would never impregnate her and he was never ready to start a family with her. Though it killed her, she finally came into terms with the fact that her husband didn't love her.

She met Kgotso at a time when she needed someone to take her out of her home, out of her mother's home. She would do anything and everything as long she would get out of that house. Kgotso proposed to her, he said he was doing it just to shut his family, not that he loved her. The benefits that came with this marriage were good. Getting her the house she wanted, a car and taking her to school just so she could further

her studies. It was soon, she knew independency was what she needed.

At first her and Kgotso forced it, they thought they would eventually fall in love, but it never worked out. I mean you can never force the heart to love someone when it doesn't right?

"Buhle's phone hello?"

"Hi."

It was Buhle's boyfriend. She hated him with passion. But it was not up to her to decide what Buhle wants. She had her own problems to deal with.

Him:"May I speak to Buhle"

Her:"I'm afraid she's not in the state to talk"

Him:"Is this her sister?"

Her:"Yes.."

Him:"Look, I really need to speak to her"

Her:"She is in hospital as we speak"

Him:"What do you mean?"

Her:"I mean she's in labour, I'm on my way to get her painkillers, I-"

Him:"Which hospital is she in?"

Her:"Sebokeng"

Him:"Don't give her any medication unless hed doctor says so.
I'm on my way."

He hung up.

She sighed.

She didn't know what to do anymore. Maybe getting her a box
of chocolate would help.

#Koketso

"I need to go fetch the boys.."

He said walking in the kitchen. I had been cooking. I was too
comfortable in this house.

Actually we thought it would be good idea for me to leave the
following day. I thought it is too, I couldn't go home this
broken.

Me:"Oh."

He kissed my forehead then stared down at me, considering. I barely breathed. If I did, I'd inhale his purely masculine, purely intimidating scent.

Him:"You already know your way around."

I nodded

Him:"And I can't wait to have your food"

I chuckled, I was a bit drunk though. I don't even know how the food will come out in this drunk state.

Me:"I know you'll enjoy my food"

He also chuckled, his eyes never leaving mine.. I couldn't look away too. His pupils were dilated, fixed on me. A light shiver raced across my skin

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but I remained locked in his steady gaze.

His frown eased, the corner of his lip tickling up in a perverse smile.

In a tender gesture, he tucked a stray lock of hair behind my ear

"Let me leave you to it.." he said, in a low almost breathless tone.

He walked away.

Gosh, Koketso!!

Soon, I was done cooking. I decided to get myself another can of beer then take a tour around the house. I hadn't bothered to even check my cellphone, I know he didn't call. He never will call. I should just stop obsessing over him. Maybe if I do accept that he doesn't love me anymore, but how will I? I've given that man half of my life. I've shared everything and anything with him. Letting him go ain't easier. Convincing my heart to let him go is even harder.

Oh a huge white 12 seater couch was beautiful, then a dust free exterior of coffee table. Stack of CDs, books and files were piled on top; a huge plasma tv stuck on the white wall. A bunch of technology gadgets and many other high tech machinery scattered in various places to complete the wall designed sitting room...

And this must be his bedroom, it had a huge bed, I think the door led to the ensuite bathroom. Then this one must be the boys bedroom. And a guest bedroom.

Okay I was tired now..

I went back to the sitting room.

I dialed my sisters numbers just to let her know I wasn't coming anymore.

"Koketso, where are you? I'm getting ready to drive to the taxi rank to fetch you.."

I sighed

Me:"Theres no need. I've booked into a nearby hotel, just to rest. I was too tired to travel."

Her:"Oh.."

Me:"Yah. But will be coming first thing tomorrow morning."

Her:"Okay, but Lehumo's parents were here to fetch dad. I think they are at his house already"

Me:"Oh.."

Her:"Yah, but I'll call dad then text you"

Me:"Fine"

I hung up..

#Buhlebenkosi

I should be taken in for C-section. But none of the doctors said a thing since I had been induced. I had been sitting on this bed, standing up. Pacing and praying. The pain got more intense.

The nurse walked in

Me:"am I going to theater yet?"

She shook her head no, checking my file.

Her:"The doctor should be with you anytime from now"

Me:"Its painful Sisi, I cant bare the pain anymore."

She sighed.

Her:"I'll call the doctor."

She walked out.

Soon my sister walked in, Lehumo too. I didn't even care to ask when or how did he get here. I know it had something to do with my sister. I was in pains...

He came to kneel before me. Have you ever been in a situation where you want to cry so bad but have no tears or tears just cannot come out? I was in the situation

Him:"Nana, how are you feeling?"

Me:"I'm in pain Lehumo..." I sobbed

He held my hand

Him:"We'll get through this.."

Busi:"I got you a box of chocolate"

She said handing it to me. I shook my head no..

I didn't want it. I wanted to give birth and get this pain away.

I could feel something at my vaginal opening. Something almost coming out. I wasn't wearing any underwear but the hospital gown.

Me:"I.. I think.. I think it's coming.. "

Busi:"What's coming.. "

I tried standing up, it was hard. I held on to Lehumo and Busi..

I pushed.. I think it's the head

Lehumo:"Call the doctor!!!!"

He shouted to Busi.

I found my self pushing hard. The baby was slowly but surely coming out.

Lehumo held my waist to steady me.

"Buhle you should lie down!!" He screamed.

I refused to. The baby was coming out.

He swiftly pushed me to the bed, spreading my thighs and soon the doctor and nurses rushed in.

They tried pushing him away. But he refused.

#Koketso

"Koketso were are you? We are at your house but there's no one?" My father asked on the phone

Me:"I.. I'm at a BNB"

Him:"Come home. Now! And call your husband and tell him we are here!"

I sighed.

They will obviously tell that I'm drunk. Vusi wasn't back as yet. Maybe if I shower then I'd take this alcohol out of my system then go home...

I don't know why I wanted to go but maybe Lehumo would tell us what went wrong.

His phone rang unanswered.

I left him messages that our parents were at his house and he should meet us there.

I'll leave a note on the kitchen counter to let Vusi know that I had to go home, there's an emergency I need to take care of..

There's something about Vusi, I won't lie. He has this thing that charms a woman by just looking at him. He has good looks and yes is intimidating but... Argh never mind. That's just my drunk mind thinking.

To be continued

#TEN

Psalm 40:1-5 - I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord. Oh, the joys of those who trust the Lord, who have no confidence in the proud or in those who worship idols. O Lord my God, you have performed many wonders for us. Your plans for us are too numerous to list. You have no equal. If I tried to recite all your wonderful deeds, I would never come to the end of them.

.....

Ifeziwe Intando yakhe. His will has been done. He gave me a bouncing baby girl.

I was worried they'd say she's premature but she was healthy. Nothing was wrong. Yes, I gave birth days early but she was bouncing and healthy . I know for sure my sister was still traumatized of what she had seen. I fell asleep moments after giving birth..

The sleep was peaceful and first thing I wanted after waking up was my daughter.

Yes, I'm finally a mother...

Lehumo stood up as he noticed that I was awake...

Him:"Buhle.. How do you feel?"

He was in his work uniform, I think he drove straight from work down to the hospital...

I sat up straight. I still had slight pain though.. I think it would go with time

Me:"I'm okay, where is my baby?"

Him:"She is okay.. She's sleeping"

She was in the baby cot. He picked her up and handed her to me. Her eyes were closed. She had tiny hands. She was really tiny.

The nurses had wrapped her in a baby blanket..

She was really cute..

Me:"She's cute.."

I smiled, he did too.

Him:"She is."

Me:"And she's tiny.."

He chuckled

Me:"I'm naming her Ifeziwe."

Him:"What does it mean?"

Me:" it has been done. His will has been done."

Silence

Me:"She came at a time when I needed someone."

Him:"Buhle I'm sorry"

Me:"Why Lehumo?"

Him:"I don't know. I feel like I owed it to her"

Me:"For how long have you guys been together?"

He sighed

Me:"I need the truth Lehumo. Atleast for once give me the whole truth.."

Him:"Nine years.."

I chuckled in disbelief

Me:"How did you manage?"

Him:"Buhle.."

Me:"Lehumo I was there everytime. Why would you do this to me?"

Him:"I'm sorry Buhle.."

Me:"I'm way past it. I have finally let go."

Him:"Buhle don't do this to us"

Me:"Lehumo I haven't chased you away right now because I feel you have the right to be here for your child. But please don't talk about us. There is no longer us. We ended the way you decided to lie to me and went to marry her!!"

Then there was silence.

My sister walked in just as we were in tension.

#Koketso

Vusi and his kids walked in just as I was about to leave...

"And then?" He asked as he noticed I was ready to leave

Me:"I have to go back home, there's an emergency"

Him:"Home as in like Limpopo?"

Me:"No, home as in like my house"

Him:"Should I take you?"

I had no idea how I would get there so driving me there wasn't actually a bad idea

I nodded

Him:"Anyway this are the boys. Anothe and Akwande. And boys this is daddy's best friend. Koketso.."

Me:"Hi.."

Them:"Hello."

Him:"And there's food in the kitchen. I'll be right back in an hour"

They nodded.

They are really cute and very old. I think the first one is probably 19 and the second one is 16 or 15..

He took my bag and we walked out to his car.

"So what's the emergency?" He asked as we drove out

Me:"Both our parents are at our house.."

Him:"Oh.."

Me:"Yeah

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I think they wanna know what's going on"

Him:"I hope to see you again"

I chuckled

Me:"Is that why you suddenly seem so worried?"

He nodded

Him:"And I think we should grab a cup of coffee before driving to your house"

Me:"I'm not drunk if that's what you mean"

He also chuckled

Him:"I never said you were"

Me:"You did"

He sighed

Him:"Okay, guilty as charged. I'm worried the parents will notice you are drunk"

Me:"Oh coffee will do then but I've had one before bathing"

Him:"Then you need another one"

Me:"So tell me about you"

Him:"what do you need to know?"

His phone rang as I was about to speak. It was bluetooth connected to the car

"Yebo?" He answered

"Vusi where are you?" It was a female voice

Him:"Went out to drop a friend somewhere, what's up?"

Her:"I'm at your house."

Him:"Okay, but please stay off my office for once"

She laughed

Her:"Okay. But I need cash"

Him:"I knew you wouldn't decide to just come to my house.

Anginayo(I don't have it)"

Her:"Haou Vusi"

Him:" what happened to your allowance?"

Her:"Iphelile"

He sighed

Him:"I'll see you in a bit"

Her:"Okay. I love you"

He hang up.

I was curious to ask who that was but I decided against it.

Me:"Everything about you"

He chuckled again

Him:"I think question and answer will do. Where will I even begin telling you about my self nje?"

Me:"How old are you?"

Him:"How old are you?"

I laughed

Me:"I'm 29"

Him:"I'm 29 nami"

I laughed

Me:"Hoau"

Him:"I'm old. Very old."

Me:"How old is very old?"

Him:"Very old Kokie"

Me:"And where is the boy's mother?"

He sighed

Him:"She's around"

This man..

He parked..

Him:"And we are here.."

Oh, the coffee.

#Buhle

I was shocked to see my Step dad walk in. I thought he would be at the mountain for his prayer. I did not tell anyone, not even mom that I had given birth. He had a basket with goodies inside

Him:"I thought I should be the first one to come and see my granddaughter.."

He said as he placed the basket on the table and picked Ifeziwe. I don't even know if she was awake or anything.

Lehumo had gone out to get me yoghurt, I hated hospital food, I needed something to eat or drink. He thought yogurt would be fine. My sister too was somewhere around

Him:"Hello nana"

Me:"Baba.."

Him:"How are you feeling?"

Me:"I'm good, where is mom?" I couldn't help but ask

Him:"Home, I drove straight from the mountain down here as soon as I heard you had given birth"

Who told you?

Me:"Oh, that's great"

Him:"She is so tiny"

Me:"She is"

Then there was awkward silence between us

Him:"I hope you're going back home when you leave this place.."

Me:"Baba.."

Him:"Buhle, it hurts your mother that you decided to just pack up and leave. She was really looking forward to helping you with the baby"

Me:"Baba, you do know how mom is"

Him:"I do and I get you. But we both know she's been like that since. She needs you"

Me:"Have you spoken to Sfiso?"

I decided to change the topic

Him:"Yes. He is good, the charges have affected him though. He cannot cope. He was arrested for something he didn't do. He was framed."

He wasn't! Damn my brother did this because he said he was protecting you. Lord!! This man!!!

Him:"Your brother didn't do it Buhle"

Busi walked in. Gosh, her smile when she noticed Baba was around, was just priceless

Her:"Haou! Didn't know we had a guest!"

Dad laughed

Him:"Busisiwe!"

This...

I think Busi and I have serious talking to do.

To be continued

ELEVEN

"Buhlebenkosi I'm not letting you spend the first days of my child's birth at your sisters house.. "

I sighed

Me:"Lehumo you cannot tell me what to do"

I was getting ready to leave, the stitches were still painful though

Him:"But I can tell you what to do with my child, Ifeziwe is my child too"

Me:"Lehumo I don't want to fight with you"

Him:"Then allow me to take you to my house. You can use the guest bedroom. You said it that you don't want to be with me, I respect your decisions but you are coming with my daughter, I can always take care of you there."

Me:"My clothes are at my sisters place."

Him:"We'll use your car to go back home, we'll go fetch your things then drive home. I'll speak to someone to fetch my car"

Me:"Okay"

The nurses were done getting the baby to leave. I don't think it's a good idea that I was going to stay at Lehumo's place till I

find my own space but there was nothing I could do. I know he will fight me, I'm not in the state of fighting him.

Me:"And I'll have to call the estate agent to come at your house. I'm serious once the baby turns one month, I'm moving out. I need my own space"

Him:"I can deal with that"

Me:"And don't tell me anything about getting back together. You are married, I don't want trouble"

Silence.

My sister walked in.

Him:"I'll take the baby's things to the car"

He walked out

Her:"So.."

Me:"He wants me to go with him"

Her:"And?'

Me:"I have no choice"

Her:"If that's what you want then it's fine."

I nodded

Her:"So where did he sleep last night because its clear he didn't go back to his house?"

Me:"I don't know. Maybe in the car or he booked in for the night"

Her:"Do you still love him?"

Me:"Yes but its over"

She nodded

Me:"Now Busi can we talk?"

Her:"I thought we were doing that"

Me:"Why was mom at your house the other day?"

Her:"That question should be directed to you."

Me:"I feel there's something you are doing wrong"

Her:"Buhle I'm not one of your convicts. Don't do that.."

She said shaking her head

Me:"Last time I checked you hated Baba"

Her:"I still do"

Me:"Your reaction when you saw him yesterday was against what you're saying"

Her:"What are you trying to say?"

Me:"How did Baba find out I have given birth?"

Her:"Weh Buhle!!! I don't know, you should have asked him."

Me:"Why are you being overprotective?"

Her:"I'm done talking.."

She said walking to the door

Me:"Are you sleeping with your step father?"

That question...

She stopped and turned back to me

Her:"Sorry?"

Me:"Who's the mystery man behind your happiness?"

Her:"Sisi your boyfriend is waiting for you. I'm leaving. You know where the key is, make sure you take everything that belongs to you. I thought you'd be different from your mother, clearly I was wrong!!"

She walked out.

I sighed sitting on the hospital bed..

#Koketso

"Lehumo this is probably the hundredth time I'm calling you. Where did you sleep? The parents are asking me questions I cannot answer. Please get back to me.."

I hung up with a sigh.

His phone was now off.

Why would Lehumo do this?

I continued making breakfast. I was really tired. I had slept on the couch. This is a two bedroomed out. His parents had to use the guest bedroom and dad had to use our bedroom which meant I had to use the couch..

"Morning.."

His mother said walking in

Me:"Thobela mama.."

She sat on the chair

Me:"I've made tea.."

Her:"A cup will be fine thank you.."

I nodded turning to turn the kettle on

Her:"He didn't come back last night?"

I nodded

Her:"Ngwanaka I would be very much happy If you open up to me and tell me what exactly went on.."

I poured a cup for her and sat down

Me:"Few days before we got married, I recieved a call from his girlfriend saying that the baby had kicked.."

Her:"Why didn't you tell me Koketso.."

Me:"Where would I even begin mama? That I answered his phone and got the shocking news of my life?"

Her:"What did he say"

Me:"That he doesn't love her but me.."

She covered her face with both her hands

Her:"This child will kill me.."

Me:"I know he is with her. He chased me days ago. He told me to go back home"

Her:"Ngwana ola ba mo loile (That child has been betwhiched)"

Me:"I don't even know what to do anymore mama. I know he loves her, he is just scared to tell me he doesn't love me anymore. I know that he doesn't.."

She reached for my hand and held it

Her:"I will never allow this to happen. He married you because he said he was ready for commitment. I know you guysove each other. I've witnessed your love for each other. He cannot just give up just like that.."

I sighed

Her:"You are a good child. I'm more than happy to have you as my daughter in law, infact he has given me a daughter I have always yearned for. I was angry that you left him at the aisle but I now understand your reasons. You went back and went on to marry him even with a broken heart but he is ungrateful to let you go just like that. Not when you've supported him and his dreams.."

I smiled

Her:"Now, go finish making that breakfast, your fathers might wake up anytime from now. Wena just be strong. Swara thipa ka bogale."

I nodded..

I don't know how I feel. But I know she meant everything she said.

This took me back to years ago. When Lehumo and I were still freshly in love.

This one time when my mother had just passed on. I remember I couldn't cope. She Lehumo's family had always been known as

a whealy family. His father owned a supermarket in Apel. His mother was teacher.

I remember when she paid for my therapy session because I had gone in to this dark world I never thought I would one day come out from. It was hard, I wont lie..

#Buhle

I packed my things. This was good bye. I was leaving. It was official

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my sister hated me the same way she did with my father...

Lehumo took my bags to the car. We were leaving his car at my sister's home. I hope she won't call the towering truck to tower it out..

I walked out the car with the baby in my arms. Hold her was still a bit of difficult task for me since I was still in pain..

"O sharp?"

He asked as we drove out

Me:"Yeah, I'm just worried about my sister, we had a fight.."

Him:"What were you fighting about?"

I kept quiet

Him:"Okay, but I hope you'll get through it.."

I nodded

Him:"So you didn't tell me you were looking for a place of your own"

Me:"Yeah, I think it's time I find my independence.."

Him:"Which is a good thing actually.."

Me:"Yeah"

Him:"And when is your car coming back?"

Me:"Im not sure, they said in two days time. I think tomorrow.."

Silence

The baby cried. I was still uncomfortable with breastfeeding it. It was painful.

I groaned when she sucked hard, in hunger. Gosh

He laughed

Him:"Now this is priceless.."

Me:"Ha.a Lehumo, I'm breastfeeding only for a month I can't handle this"

Him:"Okay mommy"

I laughed

Him:"Don't you need anything to drink or eat?"

Me:"No, I just need to sleep. I'm tired"

Him:"Don't sleep, you'll make me fall asleep while driving"

Me:"You'll have your baby to keep you busy.. "

#Koketso

"Koketso, there's someone at the door!"

My mother in law shouted from the sitting room.

I was tidying up Lehumo's bedroom.

I walked to the kitchen to open

It was a delivery guy. I could tell by his Golf Tshirt and cap.

Him:"Hi mem, I'm looking for Mr. Maisela."

Me:"He is not around, but I'm Mrs. Maisela"

Him:"I have delivery for him. Can you sign here for me."

I signed.

He pushed the big box inside the house.

It was a baby cot. My heart almost stopped..

And he walked out. I stood looking at the box. He was indeed in love with her, there was nothing I could do. I thought I was done crying.

But tears came out but my cry was silent. I was numb. I'd never felt so helpless, even when mama died, I never felt so helpless.

I could easily picture him being a father.. I saw him laughing and smiling, the little baby hoisted up on his shoulder the mother looking at them with love in her eyes. They'd all look beautiful together. Like they belonged together. I didn't fit in that picture.

Images rose up unbidden, torturing me: them making love. Telling each other how much they loved each other.

Sinking to the floor I covered my eyes and cried out, finally giving my voice to my pain. My body shook with sobs. Our marriage was already over .

To be continued

TWELVE

"I don't think I'll manage.."

I told Lehumo who was busy unloading our bags in the car.

I was still in a bit of pain, holding the baby was a difficult task

Him:"Do you want me to hold her?"

I nodded

Him:"Okay, I'll come back for the bags then."

Me:"I can take the less heavy one.."

He took my handbag and gave it to me.

Me:"Give me the paper bags"

Him:"They are heavy mos"

I chuckled

Me:"If you insist Mr. Maisela"

Him:"Oh I love the sound of that Ms. Bu"

I laughed

Me:"Don't do that"

Him:"But you did it mos"

Me:Okay i surrender"

Him:"You should have parked in the garage though"

Him:"I parked outside incase you need something at the shops"

Me:"Okay"

We walked inside the house with him holding the baby...

There was a woman in the kitchen, cooking. I looked at her then at Lehumo. She turned to Lehumo

Her:"Lehumo.."

Lehumo was suddenly shocked, uneasy. I could see him getting tense. He swallowed, hard...

Her:"What's this? What's going on here?"

The woman seemed a little bit older. I doubted it could be the wife. I doubt

I think it's his mother or something. Why didn't he tell me his mother was around?

Lehumo:"Mama.. When did you get here?"

Oh he didn't know.

Her:"Do not ask me stupid questions. What the hell is going on here? Who is she?"

He cleared his throat.

His mother walked to us, I almost took a step back. I was suddenly shaking. She seemed angry

Her:"Lehumo is this what you have been doing to Koketso? You are bringing your girls in your house while you know Koketso is here? Why would you do this?"

She spoke... Calmly but you could tell she was angry. Very angry. Her hand was on her chest, and if her chest was painful or something..

She chuckled lightly

Her:"Lehumo onyaka go mpolaya ka pelo...."

She said slowly, as if she had breathing difficulty..

Lehumo:"Ma.."

Her:"I..."

She took a deep breath then out..

And closed her eyes

She couldn't breath for real...

Her:"I.. Lehumo.. I.. "

She couldn't speak

Lehumo rushed to place the baby on the table and rushed to his mother, steadying her so she wouldn't fall and helped her sit on the chair

I also went to the table to pick the baby up, he rushed to pour a glass of water and help her drink...

Some woman walked in...

My heart almost stopped. She's the woman I've seen from the wedding photos with Lehumo. I knew for sure that she is the wife. Her eyes came straight on mine before going to Lehumo's...

He didn't flinch like I did when he saw her..

Her:"Lehumo what's this?"

His mother had calm a little bit down

Him:"Koketso, you the one that called my mother?"

He asked, his reaction changed. It went from calm to angry in that one moment.

I stood there, not knowing what to do. I stood confused.

I didn't know really..

Her:"Don't ask me that! You chased me out of your house so you can bring her in?" She asked.

This was totally a misunderstanding. I didn't know he had chased her out. I honestly didn't. I didn't even know that she had been around. I wouldn't have come here if I did. I wouldn't have allowed my self to bring my child here if I knew.

He took a step towards her

Him:"Koketso why the fuck did you come back?"

I've never seen him so angry

His mother:"Koketso!!! Lehumo!!!"

Then there was silence

His mother:"Lehumo your father is here, Koketso father too. They went out as we speak. I need you to take this girl back where you got her and come back so we can talk."

She looked at me

Her:"Nana did you know that he is married?"

I shook my head no

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trying to swallow the lump that was on my throat

Her:"Lehumo why didn't you tell her you are married?"

Lehumo:" Mama this is complicated"

Mom:"There is nothing complicated here!!! How can you do this to Koketso Lehumo?"

Lehumo:"Mama this is Buhle. Shes the mother of my child." He said looking at his mother then at Koketso

Him:"Koketso I said go home, why did you call my parents in this?"

Koketso looked at me

Her:"You couldn't wait till I got in Limpopo so you can bring your trash in my house Lehumo"

Her house? The same house I helped Lehumo choose? She meant the same house I bought thr furniture for? From the bed, couches? Curtanis? The pots? The same house I took days off work to turn my self the as the interior decorator? She meant that one?

Him:"Watch your mouth Koketso"

Her:"Sesi he is married!!! Here is my ring!! He is mine!"

Lehumo:"Koketso!!!"

Her:"Fuck you Lehumo fuck you for doing this to me!! Fuck you for everything bad you've done to me. I've been doing but a loyal wife to you since we met. Is this how you repay me? By impregnating her while you told me straight in the eyes that you were not ready to start a family? Why did you bring her

here If you were not? Why Lehumo? Why the fuck would you do this to me!!!"

She was on the verge of crying..

#Koketso

It hurt so bad.

Mama:"Koketso calm down, Lehumo I said take her back

Him:"No.. She's here to stay"

Buhle:"Lehumo take me back. I didn't want to come here. I shouldn't have come here.."

Me:"Bitch you shouldn't have!!!"

Before I could say anything again, Lehumo's hand was on my throat.

Him:"Koketso I said watch your tone!!!"

His eyes...

Me:"You are going to beat me Lehumo? All because of some bitch you met a minute ago?"

He tightened his hand on my throat. I couldn't breath. It made it hard for me to breath.

His mother came in between us and trying to push him away from me and held him.

That gave me a chance to run to his birth and pushed her so hard that the baby also fell from her arms... There was silence. She screamed. I couldn't stop my self from attacking her. I wanted her to feel the pain in my heart right now. She shouldn't have come here.

His mother held me back...

He rushed to the baby and the woman.

I cried so bad, I broke in her arms. She held me back...

#Buhle

An hour later.

We were both rushed to the emergency. The baby and I..

I kept on crying.

My child was just silent. I kept on rocking her up and down, wanting her to atleast utter a small sound but there was non. Yes I was in pain, physical pain. I was bleeding. My abdominal area was painful but it was nothing compared to the yearning of hearing my daughter cry..

The nurses took her away from me, pushing me to the other ward..

"No, I want my child.."

They pushed the wheelchair, I tried standing up but they pushed me back

Me:"Lehumo I want my daughter!!!!!! Tell them to bring back my daughter!!!"

I begged him.

He was also pushed outside the ward.

The nurse forced me to get on the bed which I made it difficult for her because I wanted my daughter.

We were fighting and the next thing, the security company walked in because neighbours had called, complaining about the noise. Then police and soon I was rushed to the hospital because I couldn't see what was happening. I was dizzy, Koketso threw something at me, I think it's a glass it broke on my stomach...

To be continued

THIRTEEN

'Sadly enough, the most painful goodbyes are the ones that are left unsaid and never explained'

.....

#Koketso

"I didn't.. I.."

I sighed.

I wanted to turn back but I couldn't. This was it. It was the end of me. This was the only place where I would be safe. I know for sure that Lehumo will be up for my blood, I saw the way he looked at me when police took me in. He hated me. I shouldn't have done that. I don't know what got to me but I shouldn't have. I was suddenly angry at my self. He wanted me out of his life and now I gave him the right to take me off his life.

He wanted to see my downfall and now he got it.

I had been in the holding cells since..

Me:"Can I atleast make a phone call"

I said to one of the police officers who walked in to give me food

Him:"Sisi phone calls are not allowed here!!!"

Me:"Please, Ke a go kgopela."

Him:"Sit down"

Me:"Okay, can I atleast call my lawyer"

He kept quiet and ignored me.

I wanted to plead with him but it was obvious he wouldn't listen.

It was then when I came back to my senses... Lord, what have I done?

.

#Buhle ..

"She had sculp injury. The scalp is the skin covering the head, and it contains many small blood vessels. Even a minor cut or injury can bleed a lot, so it can look more serious than it is.

Sometimes, bleeding in and under the scalp can cause a bump or swelling to appear on the baby's head, which may take a few days to go away." The doctor told me earlier on, I hoped it was nothing serious.

I had been stitched again on my upper tummy. Haven't seen my daughter since she was took in NICU.

Lehumo too was somewhere around. I couldn't stop crying. I needed my daughter, I wanted to hold her in my arms. The nurses didn't allow me to see her. They made sure that I didn't leave the bed.

He walked in, sat on the edge of the bed

Him:"How are you feeling?"

Me:"Lehumo want kind of a crazy question is that? I want my daughter!!! Haven't seen my daughter since I have been here!! Lehumo please talk to them, tell them to bring my daughter back to me.."

He sighed

Him:"I'll speak to the nurses to take us to her. "

Silence

QHim:"I'm sorry..."

Me:"I don't want to talk. I just want my baby.."

The doctor walked in..

He had a file with him..

I hoped really bad that he would tell me that he was taking me to see my daughter.

Him:"I hope you are not disturbing my patient's recovery Maisela.."

Lehumo chuckled

Him:"Ofcourse not."

Doc:"How are you feeling?"

Me:"I want to see my daughter"

Him:"Okay Maisela can get you ready so se can take you to her ward. I'm pleading you Doctor Maisela not to upset her"

He nodded.

Before he could stand up to help me sit on the wheelchair, a nurse walked in. She whispered something to the doctor and Doctor walked out with no words said, he just followed the nurse out..

Me:"When are they discharging us?"

I meant Ifeziwe and I

Him:"I don't think you're fit enough to be discharged. Ifeziwe is in NICU, you will be needed to breastfeed her at all times."

I sighed

Me:"I shouldn't have gone with you to your house

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this is all your fault."

Him:"I know.. I'm sorry.. I didn't know Koketso and my parents were at my house. I'm telling the truth babe, Koketso was supposed to be home"

My life was complicated.

I didn't know where I would go to after getting discharged. I didn't wanna go back home. I didn't want my mother to hold my baby. I didn't want her bad spirit around my daughter. But I had no choice, this meant I was going back home..

The doctor walked in as I was ready to go see my child, I was now excited. I have waited. I've been here for the past 5 hours and I hadn't seen her since Lehumo brought us in. My daughter was crying so bad that it pierced my head. My two days old daughter felt the pain

I could tell his face had changed. I knew something had went on. Damn! I work with people. Sometimes my part of the job gets to be heavy on me because I'd have to go tell their families that something had happened. I knew that look. I knew that damn look.

He looked at Lehumo then at me.. I shook my head no..

I tried to stand, Lehumo pushed the wheelchair back so as not I could not stand.

I beat him. I fought him!!

Me:"No..."

Doctor:"Neonatal-"

Me:"My child is fine. I know she is"

Him:"I'm sorry Ms Buthelezi, we tried our best.."

My world shattered right then...

I sat in the bereavement room. It's a small room. Where I had to deal with the impossible, the unexplainable. The death of my child, the death of my heart. Bereavement

A raw intense cry of pain escaped my lips. I placed her on my chest. This was it. She was gone. She was cold and silent.

Him:"Can I take her?"

I shook my head no

Me:"Can I... can I atleast spend an hour with her? I know she will wake up..."

Lehumo:"Nana please.."

Me:"Lehumo what are you still doing here? I told you to leave!!! This is all because of you. You shouldn't have told me to come with you!!!"

I shouted. He sighed

Him:"Buhle..."

Me:"No Lehumo leave me alone!!!"

#Koketso

Lehumo's mom came to see me. It hadn't been a say since I had been inside this place but I already hated it. She sat down, facing me..

Her:"How are you feeling?"

I shrugged

She held my hand

Her:"You will be fine nana"

Me:"Lehumo left with her?"I Couldn't stop my self from asking and crying

Her:"You hurt the baby. Someone had to be there with them"

Me:"Mama do you blame me for what I did?"

Her:"Nana.."

Me:"Mama please tell me. Tell me anything, how you feel about what I did

She sighed

Her:"Your bail hearing will be tomorrow. The state has appointed a lawyer for you.."

I shook my head no, through the tears.

A state lawyer meant I was going to jail, I didn't want to be here anymore.

I hated this place already. I can't..

Her:"I know what you are thinking nana but we cannot afford to get you a lawyer. We are broke. Your wedding finished us off"

Right, they borrowed us 200k. We thought we had saved enough for the wedding but it turned out it wasn't enough. The catering alone on both homes cost us R90 000. The food, alcohol, the venues and just everything.

Right now I regret everything. I shouldn't have got married. I would have saved my self, not only from debts but heartbreaks and going back to the dark world I had been after my mother died

Me:"Can you call Mogau for me and tell her everything that happened?"

Her:"Koketso..."

Me:"Please mama.."

Her:"Koketso we cannot risk people back at home knowing what is going on here. Everyone knows that you love each other. They think you are happy. If everyone finds out about this, not only will it degrade your dignity but my family's too. We are a respected family Koketso. We can't risk that."

To be continued

FOURTEEN

#Buhle.

"I have called your parents, they will be here any minute from now"

I kept quiet.

I was going to leave the hospital without my daughter.

Him:"Buhle"

Me:"Lehumo leave me alone"

He kept quiet

And mama walked in. She came straight to me and hugged me. I couldn't hold it in any longer. I burst in a loud sob.

Her:"Askies nana.."

Me:"Why mama?"I kept on asking in sobs. It hurt so bad.

She sighed

Her:"Cry mtanami, let it all out..'

I cried so hard. This was painful. I was ready to mother her. Damn I had planned this pregnancy and she was gone just like that.

All I wanted was to mother her. To get the opportunity to love my child differently from how my mother loved us, if it is love. I wanted to give my daughter the best life one could think of. Thinking about it now, that moment of hope was all consuming. A flash of pure adrenalin where I felt that all will be fine, that this nightmare wasn't real and I would wake up and everything would go back to normal. It is impossible to describe how easy it is to tell yourself that there is a chance -however slim- that it will be okay.

Soon, we left the hospital with no baby but just her clothes. It was painful I won't lie. I didn't blame anyone else but my self. If I hadn't gone with Lehumo to his house then my daughter would still be here with me. Alive.

Mama suggested that we take out the bed base and sit on the mattress just to mourn her. The funeral would take place the following day. She was just an infant, according to mom we couldn't let her stay at the mortuary for days..

She walked in the bedroom with a tray with tea, I had been sitting on the mattress. Just silent. I didn't want to talk, I didn't want to see people. I didn't want them to pity me.

Her: "Have some tea" she poured a cup for me and handed it to me, I just kept it in my hands.

Her: "I spoke to your boyfriend, he'll bring the rest of your things tomorrow when he comes to the funeral"

Me: "I don't want him to come"

Her: "I know you blame him for your child's death but he is still the father you can't deny him the chance to say goodbye to her"

Me: "You blame me?"

She sighed

Her: "If you hadn't packed your bags and left, your baby would still be alive"

Me: "Excuse me?"

Her: "Buhlebenkosi you called this upon your self. This were my tears. The tears of the grandmother that wasn't given a chance to hold her first grandchild"

I shook my head in disbelief

See why I hate my mother so much? It is because of this.
Because of her dark evil heart

Me:"Mama, how can you be this evil?"

Her:"I'm not Buhle! I'm tired of you and sister acting as if my life should revolve around you! You made this about me. See where it got you?"

Me:"Couldnt you wait till I buried my daughter?"

She stood up

Her:"The guests are already arriving. I wont sit here to tell you everything will be fine when you've made your own bed. Lie on it!"

.

#Koketso

"You killed her" I raised my face to him. He was here. On the other side of the bugler guard. That's the only thing that kept me safe.

I stood up to walk over to the Bugler but I decided against it and stood in the middle of the holding cell

Advertisement

halfway before the bugler

Me:"Lehumo" his hands were in his pockets

Him:"She will never forgive me."

Me:"Lehumo.."

Him:"She's dead, I hope you are happy now.."

Oh my God.

Him:"The sad part about our justice system is that they wont let you rot in jail because of your condition. They will use your craziness as a way to get you out of here"

He said without looking at me

Me:"Lehumo I'm not crazy"

Him:"Yes! They have to know that you are not! You killed her for your own selfish reasons"

Me:"Selfish Lehumo? You went out to cheat on me and impregnate her then you call that selfish?"

Silence

I shook my head with tears flowing

Me:"Lehumo I didn't mean to.

He stopped talking, paced.

I swear if there was no bulgar guard between us, he would have me by my throat at this moment

Him:"I hope you do not get the chance to see the sun rise ever in your life"

Me:"Do you hate me that much?"

He sighed

Him:"You should have gone home when I told you to Koketso!! See what you've done now!! I will never forgive you for this..."

Me:"Lehumo..."

He walked away

I sat on the floor, covering my face with both my hands and cried..

I didn't mean to, God can attest to that. I was just angry that Lehumo would do this fo me. I was angry at what he did. Bringing her to our house.

Lehumo knows how much I had been longing to have a child of my own. But he never gave me the opportunity, he always said he wasn't ready, yet he was out there impregnating other women. This broke my heart. I don't think I'd ever heal from this. He broke my heart, he broke me.

I couldn't believe that this man was once my everything. He was my friend and there was a time I couldn't picture my life without him. It's sad how he changed.

.

#Buhle

"I heard you and mom arguing earlier on" Sfiso said as he sat on the edge of the mattress.

Me:"She blames me"

Him:"Well I don't"

Me:"Sfiso I just hated the fact that my child would grow up in such toxic environment. If I knew she would die, I wouldn't have gone there"

Him:"Do not allow your mother's words to make you hate your self for the child's death. You know how mom can be, you of all people should know that she says what she feels it's good for her but doesn't think will hurt other people.."

I smiled faintly

Me:"You have grown up"

He chuckled

Him:"I had to"

Me:"Hows your court case going?"

Him:"You're going through so much, we don't have to speak about it. But I'll tell you when you are in a better space"

I nodded

There was silence between us

Him:"Dad wants to divorce mom.." he said out of the blue, without looking at me.

It came as a shock to me, I knew they didn't love each other any more but never really thought it would get to that point. Dad always cared about his dignity. He stayed in this loveless marriage just so he would keep his dignity.

Me:"What?" Why?"

Him:"He said he found someone he loves"

Me:"How did your mother feel?"

Him:"You know she doesn't show any emotion but I know she's hurt"

I sighed.

There was a knock. Two of my colleagues walked in.

They greeted before kneeling before me.

Mabuza:" Detective Buthelezi. We heard about your daughter. Condolences to you and your family. If you need anything, we are here for you"

Thank you...

Mckat:"And forgive us Buthelezi for just coming in like this. We are also here to take your statement. "

I'm a police officer. But I hated this! I hated this with all my life. Why can't i be given the space to mourn my daughter?

To be continued

FIFTEEN

TWO WEEKS LATER

We buried my daughter in small coffin after a small and simple funeral service. My sister came. My best friend Lufuno. My colleagues. But I made sure that Lehumo never came. I didn't want him to even know where my daughter's grave was. I spent the first week in a total trance, not really taking anything in or caring much about what was happening around me, a bit like floating through the emotions.

I woke up on Monday morning, after two weeks of burying my daughter. I hadn't seen or spoken to Lehumo since at the hospital.

I showered and got ready for work.

Mom was shocked to see me walk in the kitchen dressed for work rather than the court. She was also ready.

Her: "And then?"

Me: "I'm going to work"

Her:"Aren't you supposed to go back to work in four months to come?"

Me:"Yes, that was before the baby died."

Her:"But you should stay home just so you could heal"

Me:"I'm fine, I'm ready to go back to work. Sitting and doing nothing all day is depressing and besides, today is the court day"

Lehumo's wife was going to court.

I hoped she rots in jail.

Her:"I know, which is why I am dressed, i though you'd be dressed to go to court not to work"

I'm going to work, she should just let it go

Sfiso walked in just as I was making myself to eat before we could leave

Him:"Good morning" he kissed his mother's cheek then mine

Him:"You look a lot better today"

Me:"I feel alot better. Ma, are you driving with me?"

Her:"Yes, Ngizo hamba ngani cause your dad took our car and went to were only him and his God knows?"

Me:"We should leave then, it's late already"

I took my bag and car keys and walked out. The insurance company brought my car back. I still had Ifeziwe's things. I didn't want to return them back to the shops but I wanted to donate them.

We drove out in silence. I was glad she was quiet, my mother can get on one's nerves, she's like that..

"So you finally broke up with your boyfriend? Gosh.

I celebrated silence too soon. She would never keep quiet. I knew she had something to say to hurt my feelings already.

Me:"Yah"

Her:"Oh."

Silence

Her:"I'm glad your daughter's passing made you realise he wasn't good for you"

Me:"Ma, don't bring Ifeziwe in this"

Her:"I'm just shocked he went out to marry someone behind your back and still saw it fit to still move in with him. Never thought you would so stupid"

I sighed.

Me:"I just wanted a place where I would raise my daughter in peace. I just needed nontoxic environment for my daughter"

Her:"Buhle tell me, you were at your sisters place. Why did you leave?"

I sighed

Me:"I just left"

Her:"Haiy I don't blame anyone in this uzenzile wena."

Haiy.

Me:"So dad went to another prayer session on the mountain?"

Her:"I don't want to talk about your dad"

Me:"Why don't you just give him what he wants? Divorce?"

Her:"Buhlebenkosi I wont divorce your father. Not now. Not ever!"

#Koketso

While standing inside the box, I could see the eyes that waited and wished for me to go inside and never come back.

The past two weeks had been extremely hard on me. Being in Prison.

I could see my younger sister Mogau, sitting closer to dad. Lehumo too was on the other side, his parents too. His girlfriend too. And many other people I didn't know.

It was painful for me that I couldn't touch them or even hug them. My sister cried when she heard that I was in jail. I felt lost, I couldn't cope. This was the same feeling I felt when my mother passed on. I felt as though I was in the dark. Nothing made sense. Sometimes I would harm my self just so I could feel that I was real. I cut with a blade to punish my body for being a mess.

Sometimes it felt good, I was in the dark. No one understood, right now I felt the way I felt years ago. And it hurt so bad.

#Buhle

Her court case was placed on remand pending further investigation. It was said that she was mentally unstable. What

the fuck!! I still couldn't believe the law could do this to me!
She damn killed my child.

"I think you should come with me just so you can rest"

I sighed

Me:"Ma. I told you I was going back to work."

I handed her my car keys

Me:"You can drive back"

Her:"Buhle" I walked away

I didn't need to talk at the moment. I was still angry at how our justice system was to take this. She wasn't going to be punished for what she did. She killed my daughter. She deserved to rot in jail.

"Buhle.."I ignored him while walking away.

Lehumo should just stay away from me

Him:"Mabuthelezi.."

Me:"Lehumo can you just leave me alone"

He held my hand, making me stop walking away.

I'm sure all eyes were on us. All I needed was to get to my office and just start working

Him:"Buhlebenkosi just tell me what I should do so you can forgive me?"

I chuckled bitterly

Me:"You want to know what you can do? Go inside there and tell the judge to give your wife 25 years of life in jail with no possibility of parole! Or go to your wife and tell her to bring my daughter back to life!!!" I shouted.

I was angry. Very much angry.

He sighed.

Kneeling before me

Him:"Buhlebenkosi..."

I shook my head no. I was tired of falling for his traps.

I turned and walked away leaving him there just like that.

I went straight to the sides room. Thank God I had no make up on. I've never been a fan. I washed my face with tap water only before raising my eyes to look at my self in the public toilet mirror.

Why did it have to get to that point?

"Losing her also broke me"

WTF

Me:"Lehumo are you out of your mind?"

Him:"I blame my self Buhlebenkosi. I blame my self for this situation we are in right now. If I hadn't married her then we would be happy with our Ifeziwe."

Me:"Lehumo I'm asking you for the last time, stay the hell away from me or I'll file a restraining order against you"

I was about to walk away when he reached my waistline and quickly snatched away my gun.

That shocked me. It happened really quick. He cocked it.

Me:"Lehumo what are you doing?"

Him:"I broke two women. I broke you. I broke her. I love you. I love her. I took away something that's precious to you. I don't think I. "

He pointed the gun to his head

Me:"Lehumo!!!! Help!!!!!!!" I shouted but I guess I was too late because he pulled the trigger. He shot himself. He fell hard on the floor with my gun in his hand.

I screamed in fear and shock.

To be continued

SIXTEEN

"Detective Buthelezi. Let's start again. Why did you push him to killing himself?"

I sighed.

I had been sitting in the office with the captain.

I sighed

Me:"Leon you are making very serious allegations.."

Him:"I'm not Miss Buthelezi. I just need to know everything that pushed the deceased to take your gun and decide to shoot himself, IN YOUR PRESENCE.."

Me:"Leon I didn't kill him nor forced him to kill himself. I didn't even touch my gun. The forensics took it. They will prove that I didn't kill him or do anything that led him to killing himself

He took my gun from my waistline he shot himself. If I did force him there surely there would be something to prove that I did"

Him:"I understand ms Buthelezi. But what I don't understand is why did you have your gun with you because you were not coming to work"

Me:"I was"

Him:"You are still on leave"

Me:"Leon i didn't kill him"

Him:"Look at this from a policer's perspective. His wife killed your daughter. You are Angry you would do anything to revenge for your daughter's death. He saved you the trouble when you threatened him. He save you from going to jail. He decided to just do the honour for you."

Me:"If you believe in revenge. I don't. My revenge will always be the justice system"

Him:"Can I have your badge"

Me:"What do you mean?"

Him:"You are under investigation Buthelezi"

Me:"For what exactly?"

Him:"Your gun. Your gun was used. You don't me to remind you, do you?"

I sighed while standing up

Him:"And the keys to your office. The dectevive working on your case will come to your house for questioning"

I stood up and walked out.

Why should my life be so complicated in just a blink of an eye?

Tears threatened to escape as I stood outside the gate waiting for an uber I had requested. I didn't kill him. He killed himself...

People were looking at me. The media too was here taking pictures of me. I knew they were excited on running a story about me. I knew they had concluded that I had killed him or forced him to kill himself but I didn't.

I was shocked to see my mother parking in front of me.

Her:"Get in"

I did..

And just as I sat in the car, everything came back to me. I couldn't stop the loud sob that escaped my lips. I wept so bad. Mama just kept quiet and continued driving.

I was lost really. I would never even hurt a fly.

Yes, he broke my heart. I wish there were cameras in that toilet just so they could show what really went down.

I wish there would be someone to trust me or say they saw what happened.

I loved Lehumo, even after everything but I still loved him. I was angry at him but I didn't kill him.

...

"I heard about what happened..." Sfiso said as he sat on the edge of the bed in my bedroom. I had been sleeping. I wanted to stay away from reality but it just came back hitting me hard

Me:"I didn't kill him Sfiso or have a hand in him killing himself"

Him:"I trust you.."

Me:"I wish people would believe me"

He sighed

Him:"There's a detective here to see you"

I stood up

Me:"I'll go see them"

Him:"Are you sure you wanna do this?"

Me:"I didn't kill him so I have nothing to run away from"

He nodded.

Unbelievable!!

I chuckled unbelievably

Me:"So he sent you?"

Shr sighed

Her:"I wish I had a choice my friend. But you do know how Leon is"

I couldn't believe this. Leon would sent my best friend to handle this case.

Her:"How do you feel?"

Me:"You think I did it"

She shook her head

Her:"Buhle please"

Me:"Lufuno he took my gun and shot himself

That was after I told him to stay away from me. The reason I had my gun with me is because I was going to work after court. I was tired of staying home. It depressed me staying and doing nothing. You of all people should know how much my work keep me sane"

Her:"Trust me my friend, I know really"

Me:"Then why did you come here if you know?:

Mom:"Buhlebenkosi!"

Me:"No ma

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if there's anyone who knows me better its Lufuno. She knows why I became a detective. I don't believe in crime to solve my problems!"

Mom:"Buhlenkosi!! Just let the poor child do her job man!"

I sighed.

Lufuno kept quiet

Mom:"Lufuno you may question her!"

Lufuno took out her notepad and started writing..

.

#Koketso

"Sboshwa!!!!!" The prison warder yelled.

I knew there was someone here to see me.

I've been ignoring everyone.

I didn't want to see anyone. I knew I was the talk of Town back at home.

I was tired of everyone who pitied me.

I was tired of this life.

If there's anything more i needed right now was just to die...

The warder pushed me out..

My sister was with my dad at the benches.

I walked to them

Papa:"How are you?"

I shrugged

Him:"Everything will be well ngwanaka"

Me:"I'm tired of this place already"

Him:"Your lawyer said you might get out soon depending on your medical records. But you might be on house arrest"

Me:"I want to go back home. It's fine. I just want to leave this place. I can apologize to her or even yo Lehumo if that's what I have to do"

There was silence.

Mogau couldn't even look me in the eyes.

I understood. I know she fears me..

...

Nine years ago..

I was sitting in my bedroom. It was late, I had just received the news that mama was no more. I remember when Mogau walked inside my bedroom and switched on the lights and sat at the corner of the bedroom with me

Her:"She is in heaven.." she kept on assuring me, she was very young by then but young enough to understand that mama was gone, she was only 15..

Me:"She left us.." I couldn't make sense of everything that was happening

Her:"Papa said she asked you to take care of me"

Me:"I can't..."

Her:"Koketso I need you"

Me:"I need my self"

Her:"Then find yourself"

Silence.

I took out the razor blade.

I had just cut my wrists, it made me feel better

Me:"I have this"

Her:"Are you bleeding?"

Me:"Yes"

Her:"Oh no!!! Koketso what have you done??!!!" She shouted.

Her:"I'm calling papa!!" She tried to stand up to call him but I was quick to grab her and try to push her down

Her:"Papa!!!!" She screamed in fear.

I strangled her!!!

I don't know what was happening but I didn't want her to tell our father!!

I pushed her against the wall

I remember the fear in her eyes when she pleaded with me not to kill her.

Dad rushed in, followed by my aunt.

My dear sis feared me..

..

Now..

The fear that I had inflicted in her was back. She feared me, I hated my self for it. I don't deserve to be her sister. She has been nothing but good to me..

Lord, this is painful.. why..

Papa:"Lehumo's girlfriend forced him to shot himself.."

I looked at him

Me:"Shot who?"

Her:"Lehumo"

Me:"Oh my God...No.. where is he? How is he? Papa he needs me"

Him:"I'm sorry Ngwanaka.. "

I shook my head no.

Me:"Why? Where is he?"

Him:"I'm sorry.. "

He kept on saying..

Me:"No papa.."

Him:"I asked the police officers to let us in so we could tell you in person.."

Me:"No papa.." I said standing up

Me:"I want to see him. My Lehumo Is fine. I just saw him hours ago. I know he is fine"

He also stood up trying to touch me

Him:"He is gone.."

Me:"No no no.."

I couldn't hold back the painful cry that came..

To be continued

SEVENTEEN

The storm clouds were gathering. It was a cold day, it would rain soon. This was no ordinary storm. A great bank of black and heavy cloud was moving over the earth. Out of it, thunder came, and lightening shot out of it to the earth below. I stood at my bedroom window with a cup of tea just watching it..

"Okae yena!!! She killed our son!!!" I could hear people shouting in the sitting room.

It's been two days since he passed on. My love..

I don't even know who the people in the sitting room or kitchen where but judging by how they were swearing in Sepedi language, it was Lehumo's family.

"Ga a tswe (let her come out)!!!"

These people were too many.

Sfiso came rushing in my bedroom

Him:"Buhle we should leave.." he whispered, breathy.

Me:"Why? What's going on?"

Him:"Your boyfriend's family is here. They are very angry.."

I placed the cup of tea on my bed

Me:"Its fine, I'll go tell them I didn't kill him.."

He grabbed my upper arm

Him:"Uyahlanya? Those people are angry and hungry for your blood! They came in taxis..."

I was suddenly scared

Him:"We should leave!!"

Me:"Call the police!"

He ignored me going to my wardrobe and took out my suitcase

"Give us your child!!!! We want her here. Now!!!" I could hear one of them shouting to my mother in anger

"Let's just deal with the mother!!!!"

Another one

"Buhle is not here!!!!"

I heard mom shout in fear.

This people were here for my blood..

Sfiso quickly threw my clothes in the suitcase and took the suitcase and threw it out the window.

Him:"Exit using the window nawe!"

I was trembling

Him:"Shesha! They are coming to your bedroom"

Me:"No Sfiso!"

He shook me

Him:"Buhlebenkosi labantu amaPedi. We don't know what they will do to you. Mtaseyakhaya phuma!!"

Me:"Sfiso no!"

He took out an okapi from his pocket

Him:"Phuma!!"

Me:"You wanna stab me now?"

Him:"Yey man!! Phuma!!"

I could hear the voices nearing my bedroom.

He balanced the window for me to get out and I did.

He did too

Him:"Use the back gate, go wait khabo

Mhlungisi(my back neighbor) I'll come ne moto"

I was now crying.

I didn't wanna die.

I took the suitcase and ran there.

I was shaking. Literally shaking.

Lord. I forgot my phone back in the house, I would call the police to come help my mother.

I could tell from their shouting that they wanted me dead.

I didn't kill Lehumo.

Can someone please tell me they believe me?

I couldn't cry. I was scared..

I hid behind the toilet.

"Buhle!!" Sfiso whispered my name.

I walked to him. He took the suitcase and we ran to the car and soon he drove away...

Me:"Sfiso where are you talking me?"

Him:"Somewhere safe

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atleast we have to let the police come in so we can know this people won't want to harm you.."

Me:"What about mom?"

Him:"She'll live"

Me:"No Sfiso, what if this people hurt mom?"

Him:"I've called the police. She'll be fine"

I sighed

Me:"Where are you taking me?"

Him:"Somewhere safe"

Me:"Where's that?"

Him:"You'll see"

We were driving out of Johanesburg and soon his phone rang

"I need a favour from you... Yah.. Eish ku rough.. I'll do anything as long as you will keep my sister safe.. Yah, I'm a few houses away. Sure"

Me:"Who was that Sfiso?"

Him:"Someone I know will protect you"

I closed my eyes.

My life is a mess..

...

He parked outside some suburbs. Just a few minutes away from the Johannesburg CBD. There were three Iveco buses outside.

We walked to the door and shockingly enough he had the keys to the house.

Who is Sfiso. We walked inside.

He placed my bag on the sofa. The house was really huge.

Him:"The owner of the house had to go out to take care of some business. He will come back very late. You just make yourself at home"

Me:"Sfiso who's house is this?"

Him:"Buhle don't leave this house until I come to fetch you"

Me:"Sfiso no"

Him:"I'll bring mom to come see you tomorrow"

Silence

He held my hand

Him:"Buhle I promise everything will be fine. Everyone will know he shot himself, including his family.."

Me:"I can't stay here"

Him:"Its the only place that will keep you safe"

Me:"I'm scared Sfiso.."

I whispered with tears escaping my eyes

Him:"I know sis wam."

He kissed my hand

Him:"You are safe here. My boss will keep you safe"

Me:"Boss? What boss?"

Him:"Buhle this is life. One has to hustle to make a living. I'll come back tomorrow so I can brief you on everything."

Me:"Sfiso don't leave.. I'm scared"

Him:"I have to leave"

He took out his phone from the pocket

Him:"Take this. Call mom's phone if you don't feel safe. I will call you too to make sure everything is fine. I love you okay?"

I nodded

Him:"But for now, don't call us. Don't call anyone, even the police okay?"

I nodded

He walked out.

Dear Lord.

I'm scared..

.

#Koketso

"Vusi..."

I was shocked to see him really. How did he know I was in here?
I hated him seeing me like this.

The past two days had been hard, I don't wanna lie. I couldn't
accept Lehumo's death. I couldn't really.

My lawyer came to see me this morning.

He assured me I would be out in less than two weeks latest..
what hurt that most was that I won't be able to bury my
husband. The pain..

"Nana.."

I smiled

Him:"I'm shocked I only found out today that you are in here.."

Me:"I couldn't tell you.."

How would I?

Him:"Its okay. How are you coping?"

Me:"I'm not.."

Him:"What happened?"

Me:"I killed their child"

Him:"You didn't mean to, did you?"

Me:"No.."

Me:"I'm hurt Vusi. I was angry. That man promised to never cheat on me. She has been there for years. She fell pregnant for him.."

He sighed

Me:"What hurts more is that he chased me out of our house knowing he was bringing them in. I loved him Vusi.."

Him:"I know.."

A police officer walked in

Me:"I guess that's my cue to leave.."

Vusi took out a brown envelope and handed it to him

The warder was just there looking. Pretending as if nothing was happening. What the fuck is going on here

Vusi:"Get rid of it Leon!"

The officer nodded.

And nodded to the warder before walking out

Vusi:"You will get out of here babe, I promise you that.."

To be continued

EIGHTEEN

I couldn't sleep, I couldn't eat.. I was hungry but I couldn't eat. The house was too quiet. It was big, there was nothing I could do except sitting on the sofa and kiss thinking of my problems, it was depressing I won't lie..

Sifiso's phone rang.

It was mom

Me:"Mom!" I answered quickly

Sfiso:"Its me.."

Me:"Sfiso.."

Him:"They beat mom. If it hadn't been for the police, they would have killed her"

Me:"Oh my God.."

Him:"She's badly injured but she is at the clinics we speak. She will be fine"

Me:"I want to come to see her"

Him:"No you can't, the police managed to arrest some of his family members but some of them ran away. I know they still want you.."

I covered my face with my hand in frustration

Me:"The police can keep me safe"

Him:"The police are useless in times like this Buhlebenkosi. How many men made it alive in situations like this when they trusted the police?"

I sighed

Him:"If there's anything you need, just call this phone"

Me:"Okay"

Him:"And another thing Buhle, do not call Busi"

Me:"Okay.."

I managed to fall asleep after the call. I slept on the couch. I didn't wanna go to the bedroom, I don't even know who this house belongs to. The huge white 12 sitter couch would be comfortable enough for me to sleep on.

..

"Losing her also broke me"

WTF

Me:"Lehumo are you out of your mind?"

Him:"I blame my self Buhlebenkosi. I blame my self for this situation we are in right now. If I hadn't married her then we would be happy with our Ifeziwe."

Me:"Lehumo I'm asking you for the last time, stay the hell away from me or I'll file a restraining order against you"

I was about to walk away when he reached my waistline and quickly snatched away my gun.

That shocked me. It happened really quick. He cocked it.

Me:"Lehumo what are you doing?"

Him:"I broke two women. I broke you. I broke her. I love you. I love her. I took away something that's precious to you. I don't think I. "

He pointed the gun to his head

Me:"Lehumo!!!! Help!!!!!!!" I shouted

I screamed. Sitting up straight I was in sweat. I was alone it was dark. I was scared.

"It was just a dream Buhle.." I kept on assuring my self

..

I woke up to the smell of eggs.

I was hungry. I was still on the couch but with a fleece blanket covering me. It was morning.

I sat up straight. The smell of eggs wasn't doing my rumbling stomach any good.

I folded the fleece blanket and walked to the kitchen.

There was some guy busy trying eggs

His back was on me.

He was only in a pair of shorts, shirtless.

He's perfectly shaped, that I can give to him. His back is broad and muscular.

I cleared my throat.

He turned. Our eyes met.

I know him..

Him:"Oh. Good morning.."

Me:"Morning" my voice was strangled and awkward

Him:"Sfiso did say I had a visitor, I'm making you breakfast"

Me:"I know you" I said before I could stop my self

Him:"You know me?" He gave me a questioning look

Me:"Yes, I once ran over your car"

Him:"Ohhhhh!!! The pregnant lady"

I nodded

Him:"I guess we live in a small world. Do you eat eggs?"

I nodded.

He passed the plate to me.

There was nothing much, just bread eggs, bacon and cheese

Him:"I'll pour juice for you"

He said walking to the fridge and came back with a jug of juice and sat on the highchair

Him:"Arent you gonna seat?"

I sat down too.

There was silence

Heavy silence

Him:"I did strike you as a bad girl. What have you done?"

Me:"I'm not a bad girl!" I snapped

Him:"You wouldn't be here looking for protection from me if you hadn't done anything"

Me:"I don't have a choice"

Him:"No one forced a gun to your head.."

I sighed

He placed the glass of juice right next to my plate.

Him:"I'm Vusi.."

Me:"Buhle."

Him:"Buhle."

Me:"Yes"

Him:"I'll also dish for my self" he said turning back to the stove

Me:"How do you know my young brother?"

He didn't answer. Instead he kept on dishing for himself.

In the distance, the storm clouds were gathering again. It would rain again. I bite my lip. Uncertain what I'll do when the rain inevitably comes and traps us in the house together.

Me:"Sfiso" I continued

Him:"He's just someone I know"

I don't buy the story.

Then he turned back to me. With his plate loaded.

Him:"He helps with driving my taxis when he needs extra money..."

Oh

Me:"My boyfriend committed suicide. Noe everyone thinks I pushed him to doing it"

He raised his eyes to mine. For the first time. Our eyes met

Him:"Why would everyone think that?"

He didn't remove his eyes from mine. I did, continuing to eat the food in my plate

I shrugged

Him:"How did he kill himself?"

Me:"He shot himself with my gun"

Him:"You have a gun? You are dangerous mos wena?"

I chuckled

Me:"I'm a police officer"

Him:"oh.. "

Me:"I wish everyone would just believe that I didn't push him to killing himself. I was angry at him yes, I blamed him for my daughters death but I wouldn't kill him"

Him:"I trust you.."

Silence

Him:"I think you should use the bedroom upstairs since we'll be living together for sometime. I promised your brother that I will take care of this and I will"

Me:"I don't believe in violence"

He chuckled

Him:"Its the only way to survive Hlehle"

I laughed

Me:"I'm Buhle not Hlehle"

He also laughed

Him:"Right but I have two sons living with me"

Me:"Oh"

Him:"But they are always at my sisters house. I'm sure you wont see a lot of them"

Me:"Where's their mother?"

Him:"Shes around. Life happened"

Me:"Oh"

Him:"Don't you need anything? I'll be going out to get a few things"

Me:"I'm fine"

Him:"You're safe here uyezwa?"

I nodded

Him:"I'll keep you safe"

I nodded again..

To be continued

NINETEEN

#Buhle

Two days went by. I was still at Vusi's place.

Honestly I was worried about my mother. I wanted to see her so bad. Sfiso kept on updating me that she wasn't okay, that she was getting worse.

Vusi walked in the kitchen after from rakong his boys to school

Him:"You look worried.."

I sighed

Me:"Sfiso called"

Him:"And?"

Me:"Mama is getting worse.."

Hs sighed

Me:"Ngapha it's my boyfriend's funeral in days to come. I want to go there to pay my last respect"

He looked at me, as if I've lost my mind.

Maybe I have. Maybe not. Fact is, Lehumo was my boyfriend. No matter how hard I tried to let everything go. Including him for the pain he's left me in, I just can't. I loved him. I still do.

Him:"You know you can't go there"

I sat on the highchair

Him:"Nana. Those people are still out there looking for you"

Me:"I'm tired of hiding Vusi. I want to go out. I want to go back to work.."

Him:"Speaking of work, your brother told me the police working on your case was at your home.."I stood up

Me:"And?"

Him:"They wanted to talk to you, nothing serious"

Me:"Talking is serious Vusi! These people will think I'm hiding because I'm guilty and I'm not!!! I don't wanna lose my career over something I didn't do Vusi!!"

I was losing it really.

I didn't wanna go to jail over something I didn't do. I didn't push Lehumo to killing himself. He did out of his guilty..

Him:"Buhlebenkosi breath.."

Me:"No Vusi. You guys are treating me like a prisoner!"

I wanted to just go back home. It's been two days since I have been hiding in this place.

I wanted to go home. I missed my mother too. Yes, I missed her. She's still my mother. She is my mother. Everything that goes wrong in my life, she's the first to know..

Him:"Buhle. I'm dealing with this. The police have nothing against you. But your boyfriends family want you dead. Is that what you want? To die?"

I shook my head no

Him:"I'll speak to your friend to come this side so she can update you on what's going on."

Me:"How do you know my friend?"

I asked looking at him

Him:"Buhle, your brother told me your best friend is the one working on your case. So I will call her to come this side to speak to you. Does that make you feel any better?"

I sighed..

His sons came downstairs, with their bags, they are hardly around. I just saw them only once since I had arrived and this was probably the second time seeing them..

Anothe:"Morning.."

Me:"Hey nana.." hes such a good soul this one. He's 15 years anyway and his brother Akwande is 20 years.

Vusi:"Are you guys ready?"

Anothe nodded. Akwande was just on his phone.

He's like this, he's always on his phone. In two times that I have seen him, I already know that you cannot separate him from his cellphone.

Him:"I'm taking the boys to their aunt's place for a few days. But I'll be back later.."

I nodded

Him:"You know your way around.."

I nodded on that one too...

They left, leaving me in this big boring house alone.

See, I'm not used to doing nothing. It depresses me.

Sitting alone now, all I could think of was my daughter. I had planned my life so well. I was in the process of renting my own place and just staying with my daughter alone in peace. Then going to work to end crime. See, I have always wanted to work in crime solving. I cared about people, I wanted to end crime. Save the country. Compassion had always been a driving force in my life, part of my identity. Its what had driven to me to major in crime solving, and it was every reason I wanted to become a detective. I really wanted to end crime.

Right now, I thought of my sister. How much I missed talking to her. The old her.

We were once close, I guess being in a loveless marriage changed her to the absent person she is today. Sfiso too

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we are still close but I see a different person in him now, he has changed so bad. He has become his father. A man too good to be true.

....

#Koketso

The warder took me to some office. I was handcuffed. This is my life right now. One way or the other, I have to stop sulking and just accept it as it is. It hurts so bad.

There was a police officer and two of my aunts and Lehumo's uncle, then my lawyer

I wanted to hug them but I know I wasn't allowed to.

I could see the pity in my aunt's eyes.

I hated this.

"Nana.."

I sat down, this wasn't the hall I usually meet my visitors in, but an officers office...

I wasn't allowed to sit too

Officer:"There are documents you need to sign, she will need to sign them too so I can send them to the magistrate.."

I dont know what's going on really.

I didn't ask, I didn't even want to ask. I dont want to get my Hope high

My aunt:"So she will be handcuffed?"

Officer:"No but she will have a cuff around her leg, it is traceable incase she decides to run away.."

What?"

Uncle:"Koketso we are here to plead with police to atleast let you come and bury your husband.."

I nodded. I needed that honestly

Officer:"she will be taken by the police to Seshego prison, it is much closer then they will take her to the graveyard in the morning for bury her husband but she will be under the police watch at that then they will bring her back after the funeral."

I hated this but It is what it is

Aunt:"Aow Ngwanaka.."

The officer gave the documents to my aunt to sign them and she did, then the uncle as I witness and I signed too...

The officer stood up and went out, the warder was still in the room.

Uncle:"We will find her and she will pay for what she did to him.."

I cleared my throat

Uncle:"She took something precious from us. You're in here because of her. My son is dead because of her. She wont leave

her life in joy like she used to! My family will make sure of that!!!"

He was angry. Lehumo's family loved their son so much that they would never let anything happen to him.

I blamed my self for this. I should have left and just let him be. The child would still be alive, he would still be alive. I blame my self for both their deaths.

I saw her, just once but I know it's not in her blood to kill someone else or even push someone to killing themself in that matter..

...

#Buhle

"Mem there's someone here to see you.." one of Vusi's guys said as he knocked on the bathroom door.

I had been sitting on the shower floor, I had been crying. I couldn't stop my self from crying..

My life is a mess

"Okay, I'll be there in a bit.."

I sighed while standing up.

I know it's my brother. Vusi gave an ear to his guys that they should never let anyone in here unless it's my brother..

I wrapped a towel around my body. .I was still wet from the shower. But its okay, I know our conversation will just be brief. Nothing much.

Oh, he is here with Lufuno.

Oh my God...

She hugged me. I couldn't stop the tears from coming out anymore.

I cried so hard. It hurt so much.

Her:"Everything will be fine nana.."

Me:"When? How? I just need my life back."

I couldn't stop crying..

Sfiso just stood there, watching.

I tried to get a deep breath but couldn't seem to breath in and out. I just couldn't stop crying..

Finally, after I had calmed. She sat down with me

Her:"I'm here to share the good news.."

I sat down, Sfiso too..

Her:"We got results from the lab.."

Me:"And?"

Her:"The forensics tested the black powder residue to clarify the percentage of the residue on Lehumo. And your finger prints which were taken. And your prints weren't found. The positioning and wound too, did show that it was suicide as the gun powder was found in his hands"

Oh my God..

Her:"In that case, the police have nothing against you but they still have your gun as-"

Me:"I know.. "

Her:"Leon will also issue a statement to the local newspaper so as they would let everyone know that his death is not in your hands as we've also heard that your life in is danger as we speak.."

I nodded

Dear lord..

You deserve all the praise..

To be continued

Twenty

#Buhle

I was happy. I decided to cook. I wanted to do something for my self but since I wouldn't go out because Sfiso told me it wasn't safe as yet, I decided to cook. Atleast it was something.

Vusi's cupboards had almost everything I would need for cooking.

Rich, chicken and a few sides would be fine.

"Something smells nice in here.."

I turned.

Oh Vusi. I didn't hear the door opening. I guess I was singing too loud to even hear the door open..

I was just too excited

Me:"I'm cooking.."

Him:"What are you cooking?"

Me:"Rice.."

Him:"Mhh.."

Me:"My brother and Lufuno were here to see me.."

Him:"And?"

Me:"I have been cleared.."

Him:"Oh that's worth celebrating.."

Me:"It is. I was scared I would lose my job or even go to jail. I was scared honestly.."

Him:"How about we dress up for the celebration? I have a few bottles of wine and we can just celebrate in here.."

Me:"Sounds like a plan. I have already taken a shower. You can go and do the same. I'll set up the table"

He placed his car keys and the phone on the table..

My phone rang, I mean Sfiso's..

It was my mother's number. I'm still wondering how many missed calls I would find from my cellphone honestly.

I missed my phone so bad

Me:"Nana.."

Him:"How are you?"

Me:"I'm happy.."

Him:"I'm glad, I called to tell you mom has been discharged today. We have opened a case against your boyfriends family.."

I sighed.

The drama in my life.

Me:"Oh.."

Him:"I couldn't ask you in front of your friend earlier on. How is Vusi treating you?"

Me:"He is not bad at all.."

Him:"I'm glad. But he can be a hard person at times"

Me:"I haven't seen that side of him as yet.."

Him:"I'm glad.."

Me:"Sfiso.."

Him:"Busi not now.."

Me:"Sfiso, just focus on your school work and leave this life you are signing up for.."

Him:"You don't understand Buhle and I don't expect you to understand."

Me:"I can already see that Vusi is not a good person, I hate the fact that you're associating yourself with people like him.."

Him:"I need people like him in times like this Buhle. You're safe now. It's all because of him. Look I have to go. I'll bring your phone to you and take mine."

Me:"Okay."

Him:"And Buhle don't forget that I'm doing this for you Buhle.."

I sighed.

He hang up...

Lord..

...

In an hour, I was already done cooking setting up the table..

I went to my bedroom and changed to a simple dress and went back to the sitting room. It was nothing much, just dinner with Vusi to celebrate.

I found him already in the kitchen busy opening a bottle of wine and there was a glass of whiskey. I think he was drinking it.

He looked so fresh, really fresh.

In a pair of black Jeans and a black tee.

Me:"Hi.."

He raised his eyes to me.. The way he looked at me, was totally different from how he usually looked at me.

There's hunger in his stare, I glanced down at my dress.

He cleared his throat.

Him:"I.. You look good.."

Me:"Thank you.."

I smiled

Him:"Come"

He poured a glass of wine for me and handed it to me then followed me to the table, with his glass in hand and the bottle of wine.

I gulped the glass in one go, I guess that's how I missed had missed alcohol in my life.

I dished up for him

Today was just awkward, I dont wanna lie.

We sat in silence.. I poured my self another glass.

Then another one led to another. Etcetera etcetera

Him:"You never really told me what you do for a living.." I guess the alcohol had already kicked in.

Him:"You never asked"

He had such a handsome face.

Silence

Him:"I'm in transportation business.."

Me:"Transport business?"

Him:"Yeah

let's just say I have a few taxis around and buses.."

Me:"How many is few?"

He laughed

Him:"Nine.."

Me:"Mmmh Nine"

Him:"Yes nine.."

Me:"So that's where you get all your money?"

Him:"And other side hustles too Buhle."

Me:"Oh.."

Him:"I grew up in a family where I had to hustle to make a living Buhle. I guess it's still in the Blood"

Me:"Where are you originally from?"

Him:"Umlazi.."

Me:"Oh really?"

He laughed

Him:"Yes and I know you're from Isipingo" I laughed

His phone rang disturbing the moment. He looked at it..

Him:"I have to take this.. "

Me:"Sure.."

Him:"Yebo.... Ya.. What do you have for me? When? Okay you know your way in. Sharp.."

Him:"Looks like we have visitors.."

Me:"Visitors?"

Him:"Yeah..But they will be here in an hour or two. They are driving from Vaal.."

Me:"Okay, I'll pack away the plates then and make them something to eat, how many are they?"

Him:"Its your dad and his friend.."

Me:"Does he know I'm here?"

Him:"Yes.. Let me help you.."

We walked to the kitchen to place the dishes in the sink..

He leaned against the table, watching me wash the dishes

Him:"You look good in that dress.."

I turned to him, folded my arms across my chest and avert my eyes..

Me:"Thank you.."

"I love how it shapes your body.." he said.

I couldn't stop my self from blushing. No Buhle. This is totally wrong.

When he started moving towards me my gaze slide to his. His eyes were darker, his lids a little lower. I unfolded my arms and took a step back unsteadily until the wall was behind me.

Me:"What are you doing?" I asked in a breathy tone

He slowed in front of me and probed a hand on the wall.

Him:"I like you Buhle and I know you do too.."

Me:"I.."

Him:"Buhle.."

He's tall and imposing, threatening and tempting all at once. I inhaled a shaky breath..

Me:"Vusi.." I swallowed hard .

Him:"Don't you?" He trapped his lower lip between his teeth. Dragging his hungry gaze up and down my body.

He leaned down on me. Our noses touched. Our lips nearly touched

I couldn't stop my self, I just couldn't.

Not when he was this closer to me. Tempting me so hard that I couldn't hold my self any longer.

I circled my hand around his neck, bringing him closer to me and soon our lips met.

He kissed me with so much passion. The hint of his taste with a rush of his scent..

He dropped his from the wall and picked me, taking me to the couch.. our lips never stopped seeking.

My heart beat faster. He took a space between my thighs . I was exposed to him, my panties.

He kept on kissing me, hungrily. I touched him everywhere I can reach.

The air was just supercharged, Anticipation. Heat and desire so potent it was almost painful.

His hands ran over my body.. Touching me.. Feeling me.

I held him against me, fisting my hands around his head as he feast on my breast.. His breathing was ragged as mine. His jeans were just rough against my thighs

He unbuttoned his jeans then dragged my panties down my thighs

Soon he notched the head of his manhood against my opening. And my breath catches. He lingered there and entered me in a slowly force..

I moaned and groaned in pain.. it was unbearable. I hadn't sex since before I gave birth. It was painful, more like I was breaking my virginity...

Lord..

To be continued.

TWENTY ONE

The water was warm against my skin. I needed it. Vusi had fixed a bath for me after our sex.

I wish I could bring my self to regret it. I really should. But I didn't. I didnt regret it, I needed to take my mind off things. Last time someone touched me was months ago. Was when Lehumo was still alive..

I missed feeling that way. Feeling needed and wanted..

"Babe.."

Hs knocked on the door before opening and welcoming himself in..

I quickly covered my whole body with my hands, if there's such

He chuckled shaking his hand

Hi: "I've already seen all of that, no need to do that.."

Silence..

I was now awkward around him honestly.

Him: "Wanted to check if you're done. Our visitors are here already.."

Me: "Oh my God...I didn't make them anything to eat.."

Him:"Its fine. The friend will make something quick for them."

He bent down to me

Him:"Thank you.."

I blushed

Him:"You don't need to act awkward around me. I enjoyed this and I hope it will be the beginning of great things between us.."

Silence

He kissed my forehead and walked out.

I finished bathing, lotioned my body and went back the guest bedroom the change...

..

I could hear laughter in the kitchen, damn I know this voice..

I've known this laugh all my life, I went to the kitchen and oh boy it was her, my dear sister.

Its confirmed, she's sleeping with my step dad. Shes here with him..

I slowly walked to the kitchen and cleared my throat, they all turned to me

Vusi:"Oh honey.. You're done already?"

I stopped, looking at my sister who didnt seem shaken by my presence..

Me:"Baba... Busi.."

Her:"Hi.."

Dad kept quiet

Vusi:"Since shes here to keep her company I think we should go to my office to discuss business now.."

He couldn't even look me in the eye..

He walked away with Vusi

Busi:"Oh you're glowing.."

Me:"No don't do that.."

Her:"I'm making a chicken sandwich, I hope you're also hungry I mean.."

Me:"Vusi and i already had something to eat"

Her:"Yini why are you so serious?"

Me:"Busi what are you doing with your dad?"

Her:"Whose dad?"

Me:"Don't do that. I'm warning you again. And for the last time.."

Her:"What do it look like we are doing?".she asked getting the plates from the cupboard..

Me:"Are you sleeping with him?"

Her:"And I dont understand how that is your concern.."

I folded my arms.

Unbelievable

Me:"Are you that heartless that you can sleep with a man married to your mother?"

She chuckled, now turning to face me.

Damn. That's what I wanted.

To see through her eyes.

She has changed. Changed to someone I have no idea who she is

Her:"First of all. I'm your sister! You will have to watch your tone when talking to me"

Me:"Or what Busi?"

Her:"Yey Buhle!!! Not everything has to revolve around your mother. She failed to make him happy and I am doing that!"

Me:"I can't believe this!"

Her:"Believe what Buhle?"

Me:"Why Busi? Why would you do this to mom?"

Her:"I'm not going to explain my self right now. Yes I'm in a relationship with him. Have been seeing him for years now!!! Live with it Buhlebenkosi because nothing you will do or say will make my love for him end!"

Me:"You're a snake..."

Her:"Sorry?"

Me:"You're a snake Busisiwe!!! How can you do this to your own mother-" before I could even continue, she was already on my side, charging at me and slapped me so hard that I almost fell.

No, I wont let her.

Shes stronger, she has always been stronger than me, I wouldn't fight her but right now I would do anything to get this madness put of her.

This is her mother's husband for heaven sake!!! Her dad. How can she do this?

I fought hard not to believe my instincts. I suspected him but never believed she would do this..

See, I've always known that her husband didnt love her. Damn! She cried to me at all times until she eventually gave up on trying to fight for his love and told me she would go find love somewhere else!

"I think I have met the man of my dreams Buhle.." she once said

Me:"Man of your dreams?" I remember asking her once, when we sat in her house bar with a few drinks in hand

"Yeah. I've never been this happy in my life.." she said

"Tell me more.." I asked her

"Yazi sisi

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this man... " she blushed

"I don't know he just makes me feel so alive than I've ever felt. You know, he listens when I talk. He is always here when I need him. Unlike Kgotso, our marriage has always been...I don't

know. Boring. He doesn't even know me the way this man knows me in such short space of time..." she continued

I was honestly happy my sister had finally found happiness, I was happy she would know how it felt being loved.

I was in my relationship with Lehumo, everything was going well and all I had wished for was for my sister to also find her own happiness, not this.. Not like this, this is totally wrong..

I refused to be overpowered by her, but it was no use, she was beating the shit put of me. I fought hard too. I refused to be beaten by her and not fight back...

Vusi held me back, Dad held her back

Her:"Let go of me!!!!"

Vusi:"Yey!!! Busi!!!"

She kept quiet.

He let go of me

Vusi:"Let of her Buthelezi. She won't come anywhere closer to her!"

Dad did that

Vusi:"Are you crazy?!!"

I clicked my tongue, going to the guestbedroom to take my things.

I'm leaving. Yes, I might hate my mother but she's still my mother. I cannot just let her do this to my mother!

I took my bag, packed everything and dialed my mother's numbers.

"Nana.."

She answered

Me:"Where is Sfiso? I want to talk to him?"

Her:"What's wrong?"

Me:"Just give the phone to Sfiso!"

There was silence

"Hello.." He answered after a few moments

Me:"I'm leaving this place!!! I'm coming back home!"

Him:"What's wrong? What happened?"

Me:"Sfiso just come and fetch me or I will call the police to do that.."

I could hear him sigh on the other side

Him:"Okay, I'll be there in a few minutes.."

I took my bag and walked out.

They were all still in the kitchen and were talking. I just ignored them, opened the door and walked out.

I'll walk, Sfiso will find me outside.

I just can't stand my dad and Buhle right now..

I had been waiting for close to an hour outside, my mother's car parked right closer to me.

I got inside, Sfiso looked at me, with concern written all over his face

Him:"What happened?"

Me:"Busi is sleeping with your father.."

He closed his eyes, leaning his head on the headrest

Me:"You knew?"

Silence

Me:"Sfiso you knew about this?"

Him:"How did you find out?"

Me:"He is inside there with Vusi and Busi playing happy family!!"

Him:"Le nja le!!!"

He opened the car door, walking out and I could see him talking out something from his waistline.

A gun!! Oh my God..

I quickly rushed out to him

Me:"Sfiso!!"

He was going inside..

Him:"Buhle go back to the car!"

Me:"Sfiso no!!"

Him:"Voetsak man Buhle!!"

To be continued

TWENTY TWO

I ran behind him, trying to stop him but he wasn't listening to me..

This wasn't going to end well. I cannot be found in another trouble...

Believe it or not, I had grown to fear my little brother. I swear if he tries to slap me, I wouldn't slap him back..

He pushed the door open and walked in, I followed him too.

He pointed the gun at Busi as soon as we got inside the house..

Him:"Didnt I tell you to stay away from dad wena?" He said with his gun pointed at her..

Busi:"Sfiso...Don't do this.." she was suddenly scared..

I felt bad for calling him, everyone will think i called him to fight my battles.

Vusi:"Sfiso put that gun down." He command

Sfiso:"This is family matter Vusi.."

Vusi was about to reach his waist for his gun but Sfiso was quick to see him

He turned the gun and pointed it to Vusi. I was scared, very much scared..

Sfiso:"Uh uh.."

Vusi posed

Sfiso:"Buhle go take that gun. You're an officer, you know you how to use it.."

Me:"Sfiso no.."

I said with a shaky voice

Him:"Buhle voetsak!!"

I quickly reached for Vusi's waist and took the gun, choking it and pointed it to him.

I shouldn't be doing this..

Vusi:"I've been telling you to stay away from dad"

Dad:"Sfiso don't do this.."

Sfiso:"I'm not talking to you. I'm talking to her.."

He said without moving his eyes away from sister..

I was honestly scared..

Sfiso:"I dont even want to talk to you wena. Uyinja! What kind of a heartless bastard are you to sleep with a mother and her daughter?"

What happened to me? One moment I was an innocent police officer and the next, I'm here pointing a gun at someone I just slept with..

It was scary. I had changed and I hated it..

The detective in me would have made sure this ends here and someone gets arrested but the new girl in me just stood there. With a gun pointed at Vusi, because my 23years old brother told me to do so...

This was scary, I was turning out to be a scary woman, i don't know my self anymore..

Me:"Sfiso.."

I was shaking..

Him:"No Buhle I'm tired of this!!! I'm tired of watching my own mother cry every night because of the her own child!!!"

Busi:"Sfiso you don't know what you're on about?"

Hi.:"Oh really? Brief me.."

Silence

Him:"Thought so"

Dad:"Sfiso put that gun down.."

Sfiso:"Eish eish eish! I said shut the fuck up!!"

Then there was silence

Sfiso:"I'm done telling you to stay away from dad."

Busi:"Sfiso I will stay away from him.. I promise you.. This time i will"

Him:"This time? You're going to stay away from him because you're at a gun point? Busi it's been 3 fucken years since I've been telling you to stop this nonsense of yours. Last time you said it in my face that you'll do no such. You even went as far disrespecting my own mother, telling her she's cold in bed.."

What?

Her:"I'm sorry.."

Him:"This is for my mother..."

He pulled the trigger.

I screamed..

And again..

And another one

She fell, hitting hard on the floor..

He then pointed the gun at my father..

He went down on his knees, trying to help Busi who was bleeding so much...

Vusi:"Uyahlanya Sfiso?!!!"

...

I was shaking

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literally shaking...

He stood the car outside my mother's house..

Him:"Buhle.."

Silence..

I covered myself with both my hands.. i saw her, I've dealt with such cases all half my life. I know she wasn't breathing anymore. I know she died on the spot.. I know..

Lord..

Him:"Buhle get yourself together.."

Me:"Sfiso I dont know you anymore.."

He heaved a loud sigh before resting his head on the headrest

Him:"Someone between her and dad had to die and it obviously couldnt be dad"

Me:"Why Sfiso.."

Him:"Because mom still loves dad. Even after everything she still loves him."

Me:"Sfiso she might be dead"

Him:"She is dead"

Me:"Why Sfiso?"

Him:"Buhle just get yourself together. Go inside the house. Go to your mother. I'm going back to Vusi's house. I have to clean the mess I've created before Vusi sends his men to kill me"

Why does this sound like some stupid game.

Who makes killing sounds as though it's something simple?

I shook my head no

Me:"Sfiso I cannot let you go back there.."

Him:"They won't do anything to me, if that's what you think."

Silence

Him:"Get inside, I'll be waiting here to check if you're safe.
Make sure not to call anyone and tell them where you are.."

Silence

Him:"Buhle, I'm still me. I'm still the young brother you love.."

Me:"Sfiso I'm scared.."

Him:"Don't be. I did this for my mother. Busi has disrespected our mother for so long.. I couldnt shoot our father. Mom still loves him even though everything he has put her through. She still loves him"

I kept quiet.

Him:"Take your bag and go inside, I'll sort this out.."

I walked out of them car and went inside the house. I wanted to cry so bad..

Pull your self together Buhle.. his words still rang inside my mind...

It was very late. I'm sure mom was already asleep, the house lights were off...

I went straight to bed, i needed to sleep. Maybe this is just a dream, maybe I might wake up to reality the next morning..

..

#Koketso

"I'm sorry.. "

"Your mother has passed on.."

"Nana, Lehumo is no more.."

"Koketso I'm scared.. "

I sat up straight.. it was just a dream.. I tried telling my self...

It was just a dream..

I couldn't cope, this prison cell made it even worse.

I didn't know what time it was. Damn i wouldn't know i had no cellphone...

.

#Buhle

"Buhle!"

I sat up straight. WTF

Mom:"When did you come back?"

Me:"Mama, I need to sleep.."

She opened the curtains in and then the windows.

She looked very much better, but she was limping

Her:"Its late, when did you get back?"

Me:"Last night.. Where is Sfiso?"

Her:"He said he an an assignment to write last night so he went to the schopl library to write it. I think he slept over at his friends house.."

Me:"And dad?"

She kept quiet

Me:"Mama?"

Her:"I don't want know where he is. He didn't come back home last night.."

I was now worried.

What if they have hurt Sfiso?

Fuck, where is my phone? I need to charge my phone and call Sfiso...

She looked at me

Her:"What's wrong with you?"

Me:"Nothing.. I'm just looking for my phone.."

Her:"When are you going back to work?"

Me:"I don't know. Im still taking a bit of time some time off"

Her:"Oh that's great...I'll make you something to eat then we'll catch up while eating okay?"

I looked at her in disbelief

Her:"What?"

Me:"What have you done to my mother.."

She chuckled sitting on the bed

Her:"I realised when those men came in my house to attack you that I dont wanna lose you the same way I've lose your sister.. "

That made me a bit of uneasy. How do you sit infront of your mother and act as if everything is fine? And act as though you're innocent

Her:"I've lost your sister Buhle. I don't regret it though but you are my only daughter now.."

Me:"And Busi.m"

Her:"I dont regard her as my daughter anymore.. God will have to forgive me but I will live a happy woman if one day someone knocks on my door and tell me she was hit by a car and died on the spot.."

Me:"Mama!"

Her:"I'm sorry.. Let me go make you something to eat. There is a car parking outside, I think it might be your brother.. "

I also stood up to follow her

And yes it was my brother. He was home. He looked as though he hadn't slept..

Mom:"Nana.."

He smiled

Mom:"I was about to make Buhle something to eat. Do you also want food?"

He nodded..

Mom walked to the kitchen..

I looked at him

Him:"She's dead.. "

He whispered..

I kept quiet, keep yourself together Buhle...

To be continued

TWENTY THREE

#Koketso

If there's anything I was starting to hate were visitors. I hated visitors. They made me cry. They made me wish as though I would just run away.

But I got excited when I got Vusi waiting.

I wanted to hug him but I couldn't.

He smiled, he was looking all fresh. In tailored suit.

Me:"Oh I love what I see.."

He chuckled

Also sitting down

Him:"Don't get used to it. I had to dress like this because i had an important meeting today.."

Me:"Oh.."

Him:" I heard you an outburst last night.. "

Argh.

Him:"No. You don't have to feel ashamed about that. One of the warders had to tell me because he's a close friend.."

Me:"I hate that you know everything that goes on in here.."

Him:"I have to make sure no one hurts you Koketso. I've been in here too. I know the life "

Sigh

Him:"I also heard you are going away for a few day"

Me:"Yes, to my husbands funeral"

Him:"Oh"

Me:"I wish I could just run away. I hate this walls. They depress me"

I meant it. My fallout last night was cause by that, these closed walls.

I can't anymore.

Him:"You will get out of here.."

Me:"When? I'm facing murder charges here Vusi. Don't give me any false hope. I don't want any false hope right now.."

He sighed

Him:"I'm not giving you any false hope Koketso. You'll be out of here soon. Your fallout too may also add to you going out soon."

Me:"I doubt. The police will think I'll be a danger not only to my self but to people too.."

Him:"Don't you trust me?"

Silence

Him:"Koketso?"

Me:"I do"

Him:"Good. Now I have to go. I have given a cellphone to the warder, she'll give it to you as soon as I leave. Make sure no one sees it. You'll call me when you need me okay?"

I nodded

He stood up

.

.

#Buhle

There was a knock. I saw the police van parking outside. I knew they were here to break the news to the family.

Lord, how will I pretend as though I don't know anything when Busi was killed right in my face.

I went to open the door.

Thank God, it wasn't Lufuno.

She has been my friend since many years ago she would read it through me that something wasn't okay..

"Detective Buthelezi.."

Me:"Yes

how are you?"

Dlomo:"Good.."

I opened the door wider

Me:"Oh you may come in"

Dlomo:"Buthelezi. Unfortunately we're not here to share any good news."

I swallowed

Dlomo:"A body of a woman who's close to 30 if I may estimate has been found in a Bush just a few meters away from the police station in the early hours of this morning"

Again, I swallowed hard

"We were called and the forensics managed to take the body. Most of officers are believed to know the woman and they say its your sister.."

He went on and on explaining everything.

The bullet wounds and everything..

Everything just echoed

I was lost in deep thoughts. I don't even know how to react

".....to identify the body" was the last thing I heard

"I will come with you.."my mother said behind me

I didn't even see her walk in or know how long she had been in the room with us. That's how lost in thoughts I had been.

Mom:"Are you coming with us?"

I shook my head no

Me:"I don't think I handle seeing her if it is her for real."

She nodded.

.

I paced in the kitchen as soon as they walked out.

How does one leave with this burden all their life?

I don't think I will

I felt as though I was losing my mind

Sfiso walked in with a towel wrapped around his lower body. I think he had just showered

He went straight to the microwave to take out the food mom prepared for him earlier on then stopped when noticing that I was pacing in the room

Him:"What's wrong?"

Me:"Nothing?"

Him:"Where's mom?"

Me:"She went out to identify the body.."

Him:"What body?"

Me:"Your sister, the one you just killed"

He licked his spoon and walked to to the kitchen counter

I continued pacing around

Him:"Buhle how will I eat when you're busy acting as a mad woman?"

Me:"Sfiso how do you live normally knowing you killed your sister?"

He chuckled

Him:"I'll pretend as if I didn't hear that.."

I went to sit on the chair facing his

Me:"Sfiso I'm scared"

Him:"You're always scared wena.."

Sigh

Him:"Aungi cazele why did you consider taking this police thing as your career knowing very well ukuthi unje?"

Me:"This is different Sfiso!"

Him:"Different because I shot your sister?"

Me:"Your sister!"

Him:"She wasn't my sister!!! My sister would never sleep with my father or would you?"

Me:"Sies!"

Him:"Exactly. If it was up to my, I would have shot your father for failing to keep his dick in his pants but I couldnt. You know

what it would have done to mom and besides I'm already in some fucked up shit because of your father and Vusi.."

Me:"Sfiso why are you leaving this life? What do you want that we cannot offer to you? I mean you're living the best life every child out there is-"

Him:"Ibambe daa kancane.i don't need lecture right now. You don't need to stress yourself about Busi. We made sure to make it look as though it was failed robbery which led to her dying. Nawe you should cry when mom walks In here to tell you it was her. Angisho you were best friends?"

Sigh.

There is a car parking outside again

He stood up to peep through the window

He sighed

Him:"I hate this manje"

Me:"Hate what? Who's outside?"

Him:"Vusi."

Then there was a knock

He went to open the door

Him:"Taa Vee"

Vusi:"Ekse. Where is your sister?"

He opened the door and Vusi walked in

Sfiso:"I'll go dress up.."

He left to his bedroom

He was in suits today.

Me:"Hi"

Him:"Hi.."

I stood up to him.

Soon I was in his arms. I inhaled his manly scent. I relaxed in the warmth of his arms. He kissed the top of my head when I leaned into his chest

Him:"How are you?"

I shrugged.

He looked at me

Me:"Can I get you anything to drink?"

He shook his head no

Him:"I'm here to see you, not to drink"

Me:"Where is dad?"

Him:"He lied to your mother that he was going to pray so he wouldn't come back now"

Me:"So you know everything that goes on in his life?"

Him:"He's my business partner and a friend Buhle."

Me:"So you and him got Sfiso in this life?"

Him:"What life?"

I sighed

Me:"Vusi why are you here?"

Him:"Buhle I did say that I came to see you"

Me:"Why?"

Him:"To make sure you're fine after what you witnessed last night"

Me:"I'm a police officer, I come across such incidents everytime"

He sighed

Sfiso walked back in, one fully dressed

Vusi:"I'll see you tomorrow"

I kept quiet

Him:"Let's go" he said to Sfiso before he walked out

Sfiso:"Ulala Nate?"

Silence

He shook his head in disbelief

Him:"I thought you'd do better"

Me:"What's better?"

Him:"Sleeping with someone who has no blood in their hands. He is not good for you Buhlebenkosi. This one carries alot of bad spirit around him. The tears and the blood of everyone he has killed"

Me:"Look who's talking"

Him:"No, it's just an advise. Imagine all the bad spirits he would bring to you nge sperm sakhe nje. Uzogcina uhlanya wena.."

Lord

To be continued

TWENTY FOUR

Getting hold of Kgotso, Busi's husband was the hardest task we've ever had to do.

We ended up calling his parents. They were on their way.

Mom made it clear that they are the ones to be responsible for her burial.

I've tried by all means to convince her but she didn't want anything to do with her

Me:"Mama.."

She sighed

Her:"My answer still stands. I will not bury a daughter that was old enough to forget that I was her mother"

Me:"She's dead mama. Right now she is in some government mortuary. I know them, I do not even want to think how my sister's body is right now"

Her:"Buhlebenkosi. She was married. Her family will bury her"

Me:"And you?"

She stood up from the sofa and walked to the kitchen. I followed her

Her:"She has wronged bad people and I'm happy God had sent them to kill her"

What

Me:"She was still your daughter.."

Her:"No! My daughter would never do me so wrong"

Me: "Mama don't tell me you're still hung over the fact that she said dad made a move on her"

Her:"I wont discuss my marriage with you"

Me:"Mama do you ever forgive?"

Her:"Forgive what? Forgive who? Buhlebenkosi I'll ask you for the last time to drop this or I will slap you!" She was getting all worked up

I decided to keep quiet

There was a knock

Me:"I'll go open"

It was Kgotso's mother, aunt and dad..

First thing Kgotso's mom did was to cry. I understood where she came from. She loved Busi with all her heart. I understood her really. Her cry broke my heart. I found my self crying with her.

I cried for my sister. I cried because of guilt. I cried because she didn't deserve to die like that.. I cried because I knew her killer.

..

Dad came later on. It's funny how he acted shocked by all this.

I couldnt even meet him in the eye.

He disgusted me so much.

After preparing something to eat for the whole family. I decided to go sit in my bedroom. I left them to discuss the funeral arrangements and everything, which my mother wasn't interested in.

Someone knocked then let themself inside.

Dad..

He locked the door

Me:"What's going on?"

Him:"We need to talk."

I kept quiet

Him:"I loved her"

Me:"You loved Busi?"

He nodded

Me:"I'm not sure why you're telling me that"

Him:"Buhle she made me happy. For the first time after too many years, I found someone who made me happy"

Me:"Doesnt mom make you happy?"

Him:"She doesnt"

I sighed

Me:"I blame you for all of this"

Him:"I blame my self too"

He sighed

Him:"I wont tell anyone about what happened. I won't tell even your mother or the police but that's if you promise to keep your mouth shut about it too"

I chuckled bitterly

Me:"Can I sleep?"

Him:"If you don't

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I'll make sure we all go down. And the best part about it is that you'll go away for a very long time. Imagine making the headlines. A detective keeps quiet about her sister's killer" he literally quoted the sentence

I looked at him

Me:"Unbelievable! Is that a threat?"

Him:"It totally depends on how you take it"

Me:"If there's anything I don't ever want is seeing my brother rot in jail because of the shit life you put him in"

Him:"I'm glad we're on the same page"

He turned to open the door

Me:"Since you always preach on the pulpit how much we should always do right by God. Have done right by him? How many sins have you committed knowing very well that you were committing them? Why are you you hiding behind the pulpit?"

Him:"I think we're done here" he said his back on me

He unlocked the door

Me:"You will rot in hell"

He laughed

..

He opened the door. Mom was outside the door, about to open or knock.

Shit

Her:"What's going on here? Why are you in Buhle's bedroom?"

Dad:"I just wanted to talk to her"

Mom:"With the door locked? Ungangenzi islima wena!"

Dad:"Keep your voice low!"

Mom:"Or what? Yini!! Aren't you enough that you've destroyed my relationship with Busi!! Its Buhle now?"

I stood from the bed

Me:"Its not what you think ma.."

Ita not.

Dad:"I don't have time for this!"

He walked away

Mom walked in coming straight to me

Her:"Are you sleeping with my husband now?"

What?

I took a step back

Me:"No!!!"

Her:"Then what were you doing Buhlebenkosi?!!Why was your bedroom door locked? Why were you with him inside your bedroom""

Me:"Ma, this is my father! I would never do anything like that with my own father!"

She spat on my face.

WTF

Her:"If you think you'll do as your sister. I swear this time I'll be the one doing the killing. I'll make sure to feed you to my pitbull outside and make sure no one finds your remains!!"

Me:"Ma.."

Argh she walked out.

I covered my face with both my hands in frustration. I would never in my life sleep with my own father.

#Koketso

The day arrived, the prison warder came inside my cell and handcuffed me.

They were transporting me to Polokwane prison then I would attend the funeral the next day..

"I'll need you to work with me. "

She whispered behind me

She was handcuffing me

Her:"You keep quiet and and listen to me.."

Again she whispered

Her:"And I don't need you to flinch right now because I'm going to use every painful injection on you.."

Me:"What's going on?"

Her:"I said you should keep quiet."

What the hell is going on here.

I looked at the other prison warder in front of me.

I think she was here to make sure no one disturbs. To check the coast.

Something- No , A fucken niddle

She injected me.

I flinched

Her:"I said don't flinch"

Me:"What the hell is this?"

Her:"Its nothing painful or serious. This will start working on you after 42 to 45 hours. That will be after your husbands funeral, on your way back here. It's nothing permanent though, just temporary..."

Me:"What is it?"

Her:"Warder!!!! Phuma!! Asambe siboshwa!!!!" She shouted dismissing me

To be continued

TWENTY FIVE

#Koketso

Its Saturday. The day of my husband's funeral. As much as I was happy that I was given the chance to bury him, i wasn't looking forward to the eyes I would be getting from people back at home.

My father brought me a black dress, I was still happy that I wouldn't go to his burial in correctional clothes..

Just months ago. I was excited that I was marrying the man of my dreams and today I'm burying him.

"I'm ready.." I said after a loud sigh..

This is it, I'm going to bury my husband.

It was 4:30 am. Surely, we would arrive in Ga-Sekhukhune at 6am latest.

It was an hour drive.

"I'm not going to handcuff you. I hope you will behave"

I nodded

Her:"Asambe"

I stood up and followed her out.

I was accompanied by three officers...

...

I knew I would be given looks. More because of the prison officers that stood at all corners making sure I wouldn't escape.

Everyone was here. Friends. Family. People I had also seen at our wedding.

I sat with his mother and my sister in the stretch tent. As much as I didn't want yo focus on the looks I got, I just couldn't. They were heavy on me.

His coffin went six feet underground.

The pastor buried him

People hummed

Jehova motsamaise ngoana hao ya sepelang.

Ke phaila ke tsietsing tseleng mo ke hlahlathang

Robala ka Khutšo Ngoato a' Ngoato le Pheladi.

The tears filled the eyes, the eyes shut and the tears were soon forced out and they fell on black dress.

I don't want to cry but I couldn't. I want to hold it in. I'll let it all out inside my prison cell.

My world shuttered, it took me back to my mother's burial were I fought hard not to let it all out..

..

#Buhlebenkosi

"I will marry you Buhlebenkosi. I will make you Mrs. Lehumo Maisela"

I blushed

Me:"I know.."

Him:"You know why?"

Me:"Why?"

Him:"Because I don't see any reason why I shouldn't make you mine. You've been with me even through my worst. You've supported me and gave your all to me at times forgetting that you need to give all that to yourself"

Me:"That's what girlfriends are for"

I laughed

Him:"Come here.."

I walked over to him.

He picked me up and placed me on the kitchen counter

I was still naked from our love making earlier on.

He kissed my shoulder. A shiver worked it's way through my whole body. Suddenly I was warm again

"I love you.."

I moaned

The arousal between my legs was too tied..

Then he kissed my neck

"You know that.."

I nodded

Then my lips..

He kissed me hard before pulling out. He stared at me a moment. His body totally still

"You know that?"

Again I nodded

He threads our fingers together

"Say it.."he said.

"I know" I said in a breathy tone..

"Tell me you love me" I leaned forward again, loud noses touched. Our lips nearly did.

His hands came under my butt, positioning me.

I drew my palm across his cheek and my thumb along his lower lip

"I love you.." I said.

He's inside me in a moment. Both breathing hard. I love him.

I love this man..

..

I grieved alone. I cried alone in my bedroom.

I let my self in pain. I allowed my self to mourn him.

What hurt the most is even after everything. I still loved him.

I couldn't stop thinking back of all the moments we shared.

Mom just pushed my door opened and walked in

She stopped when seeing that I was crying so bad

Her:"I thought you'd be on your way to your sisters house.. "

I stood up and wiled my tears

Me:"I will leave later. I have to meet Lufuno for lunch"

I said through my blocked nose

Her:"Oh"

Me:"I'll go wash my face"

I was about to walk out when she spoke

Her:"I wont be coming to her funeral"

Thought so

Me:"Oh.."

Her:"Buhle your sister was sleeping with my husband"

I turned to her

Me:"So why are you angry at only her, not your husband?"

Her:"You wont understand"

Me:"Understabd that you would choose him over your own children? Is that what I wont understand?"

Her:"Buhle this is way deeper than you think"

Me:"Just two days ago you walked in here and spat on my face because you believed I was sleeping with him! Now you're telling me he was sleeping with Busi! How many other women is he going to sleep with? For how long will you hold in to this man? What is it that he has and you feel you will die if you cannot have it?"

Her:"You said you were going to wash your face"

Me:"Is Sifiso coming with me to Vaal?"

Her:"He is in the kitchen, you'll ask him"

I sighed

I had already packed

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I was meeting Lufuno for lunch then driving straight to Vaal. Her family has decided that she will be buried next weekend. So I was spending the week there, helping out where I could.

Sfiso was watching the TV

Him:"Where are you going?"

Me:"Out"

Him:"Is it Safe yet?"

Me:"I should be asking you"

Him:"Okay you'll just turn on the location on your phone incase anything happens to you"

I nodded

Me:"Are you coming with me to Vaal?"

Him:"I'll come on Friday"

Me:"I'm shocked you're actually coming"

Him:"Don't start"

Me:"Okay I'll see you on Fiday then"

I took my car keys and walked out.

Lufuno was already waiting for me.

Me:"A bottle of wine will be fine thank you"

I said to the waiter

Lufuno eyed me

Her:"Aren't you driving to Vaal from here?"

Me:"Yes, I'll handle it"

Her:"Oh. How are you? It's been a while since we went out like this. I feel like a bad friend right now"

I chuckled

Me:"I understand, work demands all your attention ngapha I've also been dealing with the most. Burying my child. Today they're burying my love and I'm here, my sister too"

Her:"I can imagine"

Me:"But I'm okay now. I've dealt with worse"

Her:"But you don't seem too shaken by your sister's death. I mean you were very close"

Me:"Ngizothini Lufuno? She's gone. There is nothing I can do"

Her:"And how are things with mom?"

Me:"Yoh. I don't want to talk about that one. Just thinking of her, I get too depressed."

Our order arrived

Her:"I'm actually wondering why you still don't have your own place Buhle. I know your mother. I know how emotionally draining she can be"

Me:"I have been considering getting my own place"

Her:"Then?"

Me:"That was before Ifeziwe died. I guess I'm scared of being alone now"

Her:"So you'd rather stay with your mother in a dysfunctional home than getting your own place and staying in peace?"

I sighed

Her:"Friend. You've been through the most. You deserve a break.."

I nodded

Her:"Theres a new complex In Midrand. One bedroom apartment is only R7500 I'm sure you can afford that. I'll send the contact details to you"

Me:"Okay.. and anyway. How are things with you?"

She blushed

Her:"I think I'll be getting married soon"

Me:"Oh my God."

She laughed

Her:"Bae has proposed but you do know how Venda man are, they never propose with a ring, instead they tell you to speak to your family since they'll be sending theirs"

I chuckled

Me:"Isn't that romantic?"

Her:"Romantic where? I wanted a romantic dinner, with beautiful music and he should kneel down with a ring and ask me to marry him like they do in movies"

I laughed

Spending some time with Lufuno helped alot.

Later on we both left, both of us going to our cars..

She promised she would come to Vaal on Friday with Sifiso.

I didn't tell her about Vusi. I honestly don't know what is really going on between Vusi and I.

But the truth is I like him.

He is good and bad. I love this caring side of him yet hate the gangsterism side in him.

There's someone in my car. WTF.

I thought I had locked it

I don't even recognize him, I've never seen him..

Me:"What the hell are you doing in my car?"

Him:"Lock it and start the ignition then drive out

Me:"I'm not doing such"

He chuckled

Him:"Firerce neh? Ke rata ba mo huta owe(I love your kind) "

I know this Sepedi. It's the same one as Lehumo's

He chocked his gun

Him:"Look over there on your right. There is a place Polo. Then on the right, another one. At the back. Another one. So I suggest you do as I tell you. You drive out. I'm going to give you the instructions"

Silence

Him:"Be a good girl or else, I'm going to harm your bestfriend too"

To be continued

TWENTY SIX

#Buhle

I still had my phone with me, my location was on, it was connected to Sfiso's phone. My car was outside. They didn't take me far, we were in the outskirts of Johannesburg though, where I still held hope that Sfiso might come to my rescue.

I wasn't scared, they didn't tie me. They just asked me to sit on a chair where they would face me. The only thing that kept me from not running away were their guns..

"I'm not going to hurt you.."

One of them said

Him:"But If you do cooperate.. " he continued

I kept quiet

Him:"Detective Buthelezi.. How nice"

He said going through my things in my bag

Him:"I have nothing against you, you know?"

Me:"Then why am I here?"

Him:"You're here because of our son. And our daughter in law"

Me:"I'm lost"

I wasn't

Him:"You're the detective. You are not supposed to act dumb with me"

Me:"I don't know what you're on about"

Him:"Everything you say makes me just wanna shove this gun inside your mouth and just shoot you"

Me:"Oh.."

Him:"I'm supposed to be burying my nephew, yet I'm here. I want to revenge so hard for his death but what will I gain from it?"

Me:"I didn't kill him, he shoot himself"

Him:"I have a request. No- an order"

Me:"I wont do anything you ask me to do"

Him:"Then you give no reason to keep you here alive"

He choked his gun.

I swallowed hard

He pulled the trigger.

I quickly covered my eyes with both my hands

He laughed

Him:"There are no bullets in here"

All of them laughed

Him:"You are going to do two things"

Silence

Him:"You are going to the police station to drop the charges against my daughter in law"

Me:"She killed my daughter"

Her:"You gave her a reason to! Those people had just got married, she did what she could to save her marriage. Akere wena you had been sleeping with Lehumo knowing very well he was someone's husband"

Me:"I didn't know"

Him:"It doesnt matter anymore. You killed him. You got your revenge! What more do you want? You want our daughter in law to rot in jail for something you deserved?"

Silence

Him:"You are going to drop the charges against her and you are going to tell your lieutenant that you killed your own daughter and that you gave the gun to our son to kill himself because you

had another gun. You kept in at a gun point and that way you will be the one going to jail"

Me:"I wont go to jail for something I didn't do. Your daughter in law killed my daughter! Your son shot himself. Why should you punish me for something I didn't fucken do. Isn't it enough to you that I'm going through the most right now?"

Him:"And you think I care?"

Silence

He whistled

Him:"Let's give her sometime to think. Mphethi, she's yours.."

He whistled again, walking out

Toxic fear engulfed me when two of the men remained behind and walked to me..

I stried standing up but one of them was quick to push me back and I fell back on the chair.

He kicked in down and I fell so hard on the floor.

I groaned in pain, i think i broke my hand..

His big fists tangled my hair, jerking my head back so I had no choice but to stare up in his cruel black eyes.

He slapped me

Me:"I will.. I can.. I.." I dont fucken know what I was say.

Everything came out with sobs and groans. I was in pain

A plea for mercy locked in my throat.

I couldnt speak, could barely breath. My mind begun to shut down..

.

#Koketso

I was supposed to leave, but I wasn't okay.

I don't know why the sudden change in my health...

The officers were ready to take me, but I wasn't okay at all..

I don't know what was happening. I felt as though I was losing my mind

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my stomach was painful. My throat hurt. I wanted to cry and I wanted to shout..

Lehumo's mother walked to me..

She was about to hand me a container with food but the officer shook his head no

Him:"She'll have something to eat, at the prison. We must go now.."

Mom:"Can I atleast hug her?"

Again he shook his head no

Her:"I'll keep on praying for you nana.."

I couldnt talk, I wasn't okay

Her:"Did Mogau come and talk to you?"

She barely said anything to me.

I lost my sister, she couldn't even look at me back at the cemetery. I didn't see her at home too and I was about to leave..

It hurt

I shook my head no

Her:"She's scared nana.. I'll speak to her, we will come see you together okay?"

I nodded

Her:"You should also pray. Pray hard. I know God will come through"

Silence

Officer:"Its time to leave now.."

I followed him to the car.

It was a four doors van, he handcuffed me as soon as I sat in back seat..

The other officers followed too..

I sat with them in silence.

I closed my eyes..

The last time I had felt like this was on mama's funeral. When I felt helpless as though the world would shut on me.

I remember I found comfort in a dark world, the world were I knew I would find inner peace. That is within.

I tried searching. I searched, searched and searched hard but I couldn't. Infact I wasn't okay..

"I think we should stop by the garage to get something to eat.."

They didn't get anything to eat back at home.

I didn't too, I wasn't allowed.

I wasn't hungry though, but I was sick.. I wanted to throw up too but nothing came out.

The garage was a few minutes away. I was feeling hot. I wanted to bite my tongue, it was growing big inside my mouth too

We were still driving. I dont know what was happening or what went on, everything was just too quick.

I found my self with my hands in cuffs around the officer's neck, the officer that was driving and strangling the life out of him with my hands in cuffs.

The car went off of direction other officers tried fighting me. While some of them used pepper spray in my eyes. I couldn't see. It was chaotic. Car hoots were loud. The driver was running out of breath. Some officers were coughing because of the pepper spray. It was hard to breath too...

I heard the car hooters. I think we hit another car.

I was suddenly drowsy and in pains.

I couldn't see what was going on.. Everything blurred and just like that..

I was out..

#Buhlebenkosi

Cold water were poured on my body. I coughed. I couldn't breath.

Lehumo's uncle was back again, now sitting on a chair facing me.

I think I passed out on the floor

Him:"Hello Sleepy head.."

I coughed again

Him:"I see you were still enjoying your nap.."

I hugged both my legs.

I was shivering, it was too damn cold in the room

Me:"I.."

Him:"And I see we have visitors outside. They located you.."

Me:"Is it Sfiso? Sfiso I'm in here!!!!!"

I screamed

He laughed

Him:"Relax, he knows you're in here.."

And Vusi walked in..

I tried standing but I couldn't..

I was happy he came to my rescue but I was in pain, I couldn't

Vusi:"You touched her?"

The uncle:"She wouldn't cooperate. I had to touch her"

Vusi pointed his gun at him

The uncle:"You don't want to do that"

Vusi:"I told not to touch her"

What the fuck is going on here

Me:"Vusi..Help me.."

Him:"I'm here baby. Don't worry"

Vusi:"Phaphedi I told you not to touch my Gold!!"

He was angry

Th uncle:"Talk to her drop the charges"

He walked to kneel before me..

Him:"Get her a blanket!"

He said to the uncle

Me:"No.. I want to go home.."

Him:"Babe we have to give them what they want.."

Me:"She killed my daughter Vusi.."

Him:"But drop the charges nana"

To be continued

TWENTY SEVEN

"Buhle talk to me.." I had been silent.

I shouldn't have agreed to this.

Damn I knew very well that Vusi would help me, he would protect me but he decided not to...

Me:"Are you also part of this? Do you know the woman that killed my daughter? You seduced me so you would make me do this right?"

I shouldn't have said all that but it made sense

He looked at me, then stood up.

Him:"Get out.."

He said to the uncle

Uncle:"Vusi I wont let you take her, this bitch has to drop the charges!"

Vusi:"Phaphedi can't you see I'm trying here?"

Me:"Trying what Vusi! I can't go to jail for someone else.."

Uncle:"You know what, I'm killing this bitch!!"

Vusi:"Phaphedi Voetsak!!!"

Silence

Him:"I said get the fuck out, I need to talk to my woman.."

My woman? I chuckled bitterly

He came back to kneel before me as soon as they walked out

Him:"Buhle trust me babe. If you do drop the charges. This people will be off our backs.."

Me:"You're working with them.."

He stood up again, now pissed.

He lit his cigarette inhaled and exhaled the smoke..

Then threw the cigarette on the concrete floor and just watched me in silence

Me:"You are a father Vusi.."

Him:"And I would never let anyone hurt my kids and get away with it" he finished my statement as though he'd read my mind

Me:"Then why do you want me to let her go just like that?"

Him:"Peace.."

Me:"What peace?"

Him:"Buhle this people say you've hurt them alot"

Me:"I didn't kill their son, they are blaming me for their son's death!"

He kept quiet

Me:"I didn't know that he was getting married until the night of his wedding. My best friend saw the pictures, she sent them to me. I was close to giving birth. I gave birth and I had already told my self that I would never break another woman's home! I had told my self that I would stay away from him Vusi. But he kept on coming to me, pushing and pushing and pushing till I gave in and allowed my self to trust him again.."

He kept quiet

Me:"I was angry and I still loved him Vusi, but he asked to be in his daughters life and I couldn't take that chance away from

him, he had always been dreaming of becoming a father.."

Him:"Then?"

Me:"He couldnt handle the problems he had caused in his life. His wife killing my daughter and her going to jail then me not wanting anything to do with him.."

I was now back at crying again.

Damn it hurt so bad

Me:"I loved that man Vusi!!"

I shouted in sobs

Him:"Then give his family a chance.."

Me:"What chance?"

Him:"I heard he was the only son and now they have their daughter in law, whom her life is in your hands. I heard she is mentally unstable.."

Me:"You don't understand.."

Him:"I'll speak to Phaphedi to let us leave so we can go to the station and drop the charges.."

Me:"No.."

Him:"Buhle we're doing this for the sake of peace. You're not going to jail, he was tripping when he said you will go to jail. You're just going to free the poor woman and life could go on.."
He helped me up..

Him:"We'll take your car and leave mine here.."

Me:"I'm supposed to drive to Vaal"

Him:"I can drive you there tomorrow morning. For now, we

have to go to the police station.. "

The uncle walked to us

Him:"I hope you spoke to your bitch"

Vusi:"Yes, we'll go drop the charges just now"

Him:"I hope so, I'll be watching her every move"

Vusi kept quiet..

I limped to my car. He followed.

I was feeling really cold, I was still wet

atleast I had my clothes in the boot but I didn't feel the need to change.

I wasn't okay. That was it..

Him:"Where are your car keys?"

Me:"He has them.."

He went back inside.

I checked my phone in my pocket, it was messed up, it was broken. It was off. I dont think its going to work again.

Lord..

He came back and we got inside the car driving out in silence..

The direction wasn't leading to my workplace but his house. I decided to keep quiet about it. I've had a long day already, I was shaking with cold and my body was painful because of the beatings I had endured..

He parked outside his house

Him:"I'll run you a bath.."

I kept quiet..

I went inside.. He followed, going straight to the bathroom

Him:"Buhle, all I'm trying is to save you .."

Again silence..

Him:"Please say something.."

Me:"What difference will it make?"

He sighed

Him:"Okay, we'll leave it here then. You can use my towels and all.."

Silence

He walked out.

I ran my own bath, he walked back in with bath salts

Him:"I think this will help.."

Silence

He walked out again.

I stripped naked..

..

#Vusi

My phone rang as I sat in the kitchen waiting for Buhle to finish bathing..

Me:"Talk to me.."

Buza:"Things got out of hand"

Me:"What do you mean things got out of hand?"

Him:"I think she was overdosed on the drug. We had an accident. She's in the prison clinic as we speak, she's bad.."

I hit the table hard that I almost broke my hand

Me:"What the fuck do you mean she's bad? Buza I paid you to do a clean job!!! All you had was to give her the injection so she would lose it for a few days and the prison would see she's not fit enough to be in prison! Not to hurt her!!"

Him:"I did all I could and . Right now we're all under investigation, the girl should have been with us in the front sit don't you think I'm going through some fucked up shit already? I might lose my job!!!"

Me:"The same way you might lose your life!! Make sure they don't run medical tests on her or I will not go down for this!"

He sighed

Me:"And make sure you get her out before the end of this week. I don't care what fucked up shit you are in, I paid you a lot of money to give me such petty stories!!"

I hung up.

Fuck!!!!

#Buhle

He turned to me..

Him:"Have long have you been standing there?"

Me:"Not too long.. I'm done, we can leave now.."

Him:"Okay.."

He took my car keys from the counter

Him:"Do you need anything to eat?"

me:"No, I'm fine"

We walked out..

Driving to the police station seemed really short. I didn't want to do this, I was forced to. My daughter wouldn't get the justice she deserves. But I decided to leave everything in God's hands. He knows, he will punish all those that deserves to be punished, including Vusi.

"Leon.."

Him:"Buthlezi! It's such a pleasure to see.."

Sigh

We both sat down

Him:"How are you?"

Me:"I'm okay.."

Him:"You don't look okay though.. Is everything okay?"

Me:"Who's the attorney that's prosecuting my case?"

Him:"James. Why do you ask?"

Me:"I'm here to drop the charges."

Him:"I'm not sure if I follow"

Vusi:"What don't you follow there Leon? Everything is clear."

I cleared my throat

Him:"You do know that it means you've wasted the states resources?"

Vusi:"Do you tell that to everyone that comes here to drop the charges?"

Him:"No, I'm just saying that to Buthelezi because shes-"

Vusi:"Leon we don't have all day here"

Leon sighed

Him:"I'll call the officer working on your case then, you know the procedure. We have to know the reasons why you're dropping the charges. Or if your story has changed but know that it will mean that you will have to face charges of filing a false police report."

Me:"I know, can we get it over and done with? The procector will have to understand that I do not want to participate in the case anymore. I'm tired Leon. I just want to move on"

To be continued

TWENTY EIGHT

"You haven't had anything to eat since today.." he said.

I kept quiet.

We drove to the mall soon after leaving the police station so I could get a new cellphone.

Then drove back to his house.

I didn't wanna be here anymore. Infact I suddenly hated everything that had anything to do with Vusi.

I had been sitting on the couch since se came back. I didn't want him near me.

He doesn't understand the pain I'm going through.

If there's anything I had been dying to have is my baby.

Someone I would have loved dearly. Someone I knew I would have died for no matter what.

But Lehumo's wife took that opportunity away from me and people feel as though she doesn't deserve to be punished..

He sat on the couch with me

Him:"Buhle talk to me.."

Silence

Him:"I'm sorry"

Me:"For what exactly?"

He sighed

Me:"What are you apologising for? It is for seducing me because you know you would be working with her? Or for forcing me not to get justice for my daughter? Or for working with them? What are you apologizing for?"

He kept quiet, again.

Tears leaked from the corners of my eyes

Me:"I thought you'd understand since you're a father.."

He stood up

Him:"I have to fetch my car"

Me:"I need my car keys, I have to drive to my sister's house for her funeral arrangements"

Him:"I thought you were leaving tomorrow morning"

Me:"No"

Him:"Its late"

Me:"I'll be fine"

Him:"No. I'll drive you in the morning"

I stood up

Me:"Vusi I need my car keys so I can leave"

Him:"You're not going anywhere Buhlebenkosi"

Sigh

Him:"You can make your self at home. You know where you will find food around."

He stood up and walked out.

A loud sob escaped my lips as soon as he walked out..

Dear God.

Why?

...

I'd never been forced to sit without mental stimulation for so long. Usually if I wasn't at work, I was filing some documents or working on some case. Even during short commute, I passed time on my cellphone. My brain fired in too many directions at once for me to focus on any one thing for long. I enjoyed working on cases. I loved helping people get the justice they needed.

..

I must have dozed off on the couch while thinking because I woke up to laughter in the house. I had a fleece blanket covering my body..

I sat up straight..

I was really hungry but I was in no mood to face Vusi and talk to him again as I heard his laughter in the kitchen too.

I wasn't sure how much time had passed. Hours, surely. I hadn't checked the time on my phone so was concept of time was the darkness outside..

I forced my self to go to the kitchen and get my self something to eat.

He was with his kids and some lady..

"Someone is finally awake.." he said

Sigh

Me:"Hi"

I said to the family.

Vusi:"I made you something to eat, I hope you're hungry"

I'm but I don't want your food.

But I decided to keep quiet..

He stood up and went to the microwave to get me my plate

Vusi:"Boys, it's time for your bed"

They stood up

I sat around the table with him and the woman

Vusi:"This is my sister Phindile

Advertisement

Phindi this is Buhlebenkosi"

Phindi:"Its such a pleasure to finally meet you Buhle.." she said bringing her hand for a handshake

I just looked at it. I was in no mood to play happy family with Vusi and his sister..

She dropped it seeing that I wasn't bringing mine in for a

handshake

Me:"Vusi I need my car keys.."

Him:"Buhle just eat your food and go to bed"

Me:"Vusi how exactly do you expect me to go to bed when I should be at my sister's place arranging her funeral?"

Him:"You'll go tomorrow"

Me:"Vusi don't fucken tell me what to do!! You already ordered to leave the woman that killed my daughter, I did. What more do you want from me?"

I was getting all worked up

He kept quiet and looked at me

Me:"Vusi I just need to go to my sister's house"

Phindi:"Vusi.."

Vusi:"Phindile this doesn't concern you"

She kept quiet

I looked at the sister

Me:"I have done all your brother wanted me to do.."

I said calmly

"He asked me to drop the charges against the woman that killed my daughter, I respected his wishes because I fear him. I fear for my life. I've known him for a short period of time but I already known that he is not a good person and would kill you to get what ever he wants. Right now I just need to leave. I've had so much drama in my life and I just need to rest..." I

continued

He sucked in a deep breath and his fierce countenance came to me before turning his eyes to his sister

Him:"Go to bed"

He ordered.

She quickly stood up rushing up the stairs..

He also stood up. My heart literally stopped at the thought of what he might do to me..

He paced around the kitchen before finally stopping and took his gun out from his waistband, chocked it and placed it on the table

Him:"There."

I kept quiet in confusion

Him:"Thatha! Take the gun and shoot me. Its loaded."

Silence again

Him:"She killed your daughter, you want peace. I couldn't give you that and now I'm giving you the opportunity to revenge for your daughter."

Again I just looked at him

Him:"Thatha!!!!"

He shouted and I flinched.

He took a step towards me and I quickly stood up from the chair and took a step backward.

And soon he reached for me,I flinched

And his hand went to my throat but didn't choke me

Him:"You see that woman. Is my sister, she is raising my kids for me. I cannot allow you to make her hate me for the bullshit you've just uttered. I hope I wont talk to you about this again. And for the last time, go to bed. I'll drive you to your sister's house tomorrow morning."

He said in my ear..

..

To be continued

TWENTY NINE

4 days later

"How are you feeling?" I turned to look at him..

I shrugged.

I don't know

Him:"Aren't you happy that you're finally home?"

Me:"I am"

No I wasn't.

He parked outside my father's gate

The truth is I'm scared, I'm scared of the looks I would be getting from people around. They will judge me. I wasn't looking forward to seeing anyone, especially my sister...

Him:"Koketso I drove you all the way from Johannesburg to make sure you're okay.. "

Me:"I am okay"

I lied.

Him:"You're not"

I Chuckled

Me:"Vusi stop it.."

He took my hand in his then kissed the back of it..

Him:"I just cant help it.."

I let out a heavy sigh

Me:"I don't know where I'm even going to start. I'm home now. I don't know if I'll be given the chance to go back to work. I'm ashamed of my self. It feels as though I have been cursed"

Him:"You will be okay.."

Me:"I know Mogau won't even know what to say to me.."

Him:"Just give it some time.."

Silence

Him:"She dropped the charges against you because she knew this wasn't fair on you.."

Me:"No it was... I killed her daughter"

I did. As much as I would have loved to run away from the truth, I just couldn't...

Right now, I missed Lehumo. He knew how to bring my smile back even when things couldn't seem to be okay

Him:"I have booked In a nearby bnb, I'll be here with you incase anyone tries to do anything stupid to you.. "

I chuckled

Me:"As much as I know I need you here, I can have you here.."

He gave me a questioning look

Him:"Why?"

Me:"Because Vusi I just got married, I just buried my husband and if there's anything I know about people around here is as soon as they see there's a man out there protecting me, they will say I killed my own husband"

He sighed

I held his hand

Me:"you have done more than enough now. From making sure I was okay in hospital and prison to making sure I arrived safely at home."

He kissed the back of my hand

Him:"Promise me you'll call me incase anything happens to you"

Me:"I promise, just help me get inside this house. You know this crutches aren't helping at all."

He chuckled..

#BUHLEBENKOSI

Tea and scones in a tray... I finally got it right..

I took the tray to the women in the bedroom. Kgotso's mother too was in there sitting on the mattress.

It was sad that even on a Friday afternoon, my own mother wasn't here as yet.

Kgotso's mother tried asking me when was family would arrive but I had been ignoring them. I didn't know what to say really.

That, I'm not sure if her would be coming because she had been sleeping with her mother's husband?

Or that I wasn't sure if my brother was coming because he killed his own sister for sleeping with his father?

Or that I knew my that dad wouldn't come because my mother would never let him bury his mistress?

Sigh

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how does one deal with so much..

Silent "Thank you(s)" reminded me that I was done serving everyone tea..

I was to leave with Kgotso to the mortuary to fetch the body.. Honestly, he didn't seem shaken by his wife's death. Yes, I knew from a long time ago that both him and my sister never loved each other but I hoped for something. I hoped he would be shaken by her death..

I hoped for.. Sigh

"Buhle..." Oh Kgotso

Me:"Should I go get my fleece? Are we leaving already?"

He shook his head no

Him:"We are not going anymore but my uncles are.."

Me:"Oh.."

Him:"Come, I need to show you something..",

I walked up to him and we went to his small office in the house

Him:"I have the program here, I don't know if I should include your family or anything.."

Me:"I'm not sure if they are coming.."

He kept quiet

I sat on the couch..

There's something about Kgotso which I can't seem to put into words..

He is not intimidating, yet he is not a friendly person to be around. I don't even know how to put it honestly..

He went through the paper before bringing his eyes to me

Him:"Your mother cannot bury her own daughter?"

This is what I had been ignoring all this week

Me:"I'll go check if more quests have arrived so I can make them something to eat.."

I quickly stood up

Him:"Its sad because you cant even look me in the eye and tell me why your family cannot come to bury their own child.."

I stopped walking turning back to him

Me:"She was married, she was your family now.."

Him:"Or is it because of the affair she had been having with your father?"

I swallowed

Me:"I'm not sure what you're talking about"

Him:"You're not..."

Me:"Are we done here? Can I leave?"

Him:"You know why I couldn't stand her?"

Silence

Him:"Your sister was damaged, your mother had damaged her beyond repair. I tried fixing her but she just couldn't be fixed. She was so obsessed about revenging her own mother to a point you'd think she was possessed. When my people told me she was sleeping with your dad, I knew right then that she was beyond damaged. What kind of a sick child does that to her own mother?"

"Buhle.." I turned

Oh thank God, my brother was here..

I quickly went on to hug him..

Him:"They told me I'd find you in here.."

Me:"Yes! When did you arrive?"

Him:"Just now, I'm with your friend Lufuno. She's outside.."

He looked at Kgotso

Him:"Sawubona" he said with a handshake

Kgotso:"I'm glad you've finally made it. I hope your parents are also here with you.."

Sfiso:"Unfortunately, they will only be able to come tomorrow morning. Mom is not feeling too well"

Kgotso eyed me..

Lord

To be continued

THIRTY

The reality that she's gone finally hit in as I sat in one of the bedrooms in my sister's house after her burial.

Her burial was just too.. emotional I could say.

Dad came, mom couldn't. Some of my father's family members did come too. My grandma from my mother's side did come.. Only mom wasn't there, part of me blamed her part of me didn't..

I don't even know where Lufuno and Sfiso were, I just went straight to the bedroom as soon as we came back from the cemetery, I had this terrible headache and I just needed to lay down.

The finality of her death was just too unreal, too indigestible.

I just couldn't hold it in anymore. This year has been the toughest year of my life and if I've been cursed then dear Lord, I ask for forgiveness.

From being betrayed by Lehumo to losing him forever.. Then my daughter.. Then the death of my sister... Then finding out that my younger brother is beyond damaged..

I just couldn't.. I realised that I had been strong enough for too long and it was just too much. I felt really empty. Maybe I would feel a lot better after crying but I couldn't. I was just too suffocated. I couldn't breath. I cried so hard. I tried hard to breath..

Someone rushed inside the bedroom... Kgotso, then followed by his aunt.

Kgotso:"Buhle... Breath..."

I couldn't, it was too damn hard..

Kgotso:"Go get her a glass of water, quick!!"

His aunt ran out..

I couldn't.. my heart was just too painful.. My chest too..

Him:"Buhle breath with me.."

I couldn't..

Me:"It.. I .. I don't know.. She.. I.."

I began to paint out the fragmented words as my breathing turned shallower, until I was gasping but not drawing in air.

His hands bracketed my face, shockingly gentle "Breath.." he ordered again.

Him:"Breath with me.." he cajoled. He drew in a slow deep breath and then drew it out in a long exhale. I did too..

It was difficult but I managed to

Him:"Again.." I sucked in another shaky breath mirroring him. We repeated the process several more times, until I was able to breath almost normally.

I sank down into the mattress as my body went limp..

His aunt came back inside with a glass of water. Sfiso rushed in too.

Sfiso:"Buhle? What's wrong? I heard you were having panic attack?"

Kgotso:"Yes, but she's fine now."

Sfiso kept quiet, looking at me

Him:"You should get ready to leave.."

Kgotso:"I thought she was leaving after everyone had left.."

Sfiso:"No, she's leaving today, with us.."

Silence

Me:"Yes, I'm leaving today. I have to go check on my mother"

Kgotso kept quiet

I stood up and walked out..

..

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#Koketso

"Koketso.." silence

Someone touched my hands

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stopping me from washing the plate..

I quickly turned to attack them..

"Its me!!"

I squeezed my eyes shut letting out a deep sigh

Me:"Mogau.."

Her:"I've been calling you and you were just too lost in thoughts"

Silence

Her:"Leave this, I'll wash them later"

Me:"No I will wash them"

Her:"No don't.. You need to go out Koketso, just to get some fresh air and get to see people out there. You've been locked inside the house since you came back.."I forced my self to walk to the chair and sat down...

Since I came back, she had been nothing but supportive. I honestly appreciated that.

Me:"I'm fine.."

She kept quiet

Her:"How about we go get a make over, something just to-"

Me:"Mogau I said I'm okay!!" I snapped

Shocked silence from her. It was like silence in stereo, ringing in my eyes. I have to apologize. I know I should.

I sighed

Me:"Look, I'm sorry."

Silence

Me:"Right now I just need to mourn Lehumo and in peace."

Her:"You mean the very same Lehumo that wanted nothing to do with you before he died?"

Me:"No, I mean the same Lehumo I married"

She shook her head no

Her:"Look at you Koketso. You've lost almost everything because of the same man you want to mourn. Your career, your life and just almost everything yet you're here to tell me you wanna mourn him. That man ruined your life!! You're suffering now because of him and you want to mourn him?!"

I swear to God if my crutches were closer to me, I would have long picked and beat the shit out of her

Me:"You don't fucken know what I'm going through"

She chuckled bitterly

Her:"I'm tired of being here and being the supportive sister, while all you do is throw yourself at men who see no value in you"

Me:"Get out"

She was about to walk away

Me:"Lehumo didn't ruin my life, his girlfriend did. She will pay. I will mourn my husband that's how it's going to be"

She shook her head while walking away..

.

.

#Buhle

I couldn't seem to ignore Sfiso. He decided to drive with me back home. I just wanted to drive alone but I knew he would be fussing and all so I just let him drive my car while I settled on the passenger seat.

The ride was too quiet, oh how I wished we would just get home like this.. But.. He cleared his throat. I knew he was about to give me a lecture

Him:"When are you going back to work?"

And there goes the start of our conversation..

"I don't know, but I think as soon as I have settled down. I have to call Lufubo's agent so I can meet up with her and look for an apartment to rent"

Him:"Didn't know you were thinking of moving out of home"

Me:"I think its time. I need to get my own place now Sfiso"

Him:"No, I think its because you want to run away from your mom"

Silence

Him:"Kgotso just lost his wife, he is in a bad space now and anyone who tries to take an advantage of that will just succeed because he needs a shoulder to lean on or maybe a vagina to-"

Me:"What do you mean?"

Him:"I've seen how both of you have grew closer. I'm scared you guys might.." he cleared his throat

Me:"I'm not Busi, I will never be Busi. Kgotso was her husband. I would never sleep with my sisters husband!"

Him:"Better keep it that way"

Me:"When are you going to court konje?"

Him:"Next month"

Me:"Are you going to pin everything back on your father?"

He shook his head no

Me:"Why? Sfiso are you aware that you might go to jail for murder? What about your future? You cannot throw that away because you're protecting your father and Vusi!!"

Him:"Buhlebenkosi you have no idea what you're talking about"

Me:"I give up!"

Him:"Yes and focus on fixing your life, you don't want to end up like Busi. And stay away from Vusi!"

I already have done that!

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