

BURNING FIRES OF GREED

#1

At the Ngcobo House.

It is a Monday morning and they are all surrounding the table waiting for breakfast. Bab'Ngcobo keeps on checking his watch for the time. It's unlike Nomuzi to be late with breakfast. He can't afford to be late at work, not when they are speaking of retrenchment. At long last Nomuzi graces the room with the food helped by her second daughter Khanyisile.

Zakhele: Finally, I thought the kitchen swallowed you.

Nomuzi: Sorry.

Everyone starts serving themselves.

The Ngcobos are just an ordinary family, not rich not poor but know how to make ends meet. Both Zakhele and Nomuzi worked hard to give their children a better life, even though it feels like they didn't try enough, but at least they have a roof over their head and they did their best to put them through school.

Smangele, the oldest daughter is 35 years old, sadly when she finished school her parents were still very poor and she

couldn't further her studies. She is working as a cashier at a retail store, it's not something big but she is happy for her job, and she hates depending on her parents. As old as she is, she shouldn't even be still living with her parents. Khanyisile is the second born and she just turned 30 years, hers is simple, she is being dribbled by mjolo. All the men she dates either leave her or scam her, she's not working. She stays at home with her mother all day, gossiping about people who pass by the streets when they are sitting on the veranda. Nandipha is the last born of girls and she is 26, she just graduated and bagged herself a job immediately. She feels lucky to have a job, a well paying job at that, unlike her

sister Smangele who earns peanuts or Khanyisile who is not even working.

Nhlakanipho is the last born and the only boy, he is 25. A rebellious boy he is, he's been in and out of jail for petty theft. He likes living on the edge. He has a qualification but he prefers the streets and crime.

They are midway their breakfast when Smangele stands up and takes her bag.

Smangele: I am late, I have to go to work.

Nomuzi: You didn't even finish your breakfast.

Smangele: I'm already late ma and you were slow today.

Nomuzi: Habeee!!

She claps her hands dramatically.

Nomuzi: I am not a housekeeper mina we Smangele. If you were hungry and rushing to work, you know where the kitchen is!

Zakhele:But she is right mama, you were a bit late today.

Nomuzi pushed the plate away from her.

Nomuzi:Cha ngiyalingwa namhlanje!
Ekseni kusa! (No I am being tested today! Early in the morning!).

Nandipha:Sma I don't know what you are complaining about, because there isn't much that you do kulomsebenzi wakho. Just shouting at customers "next please"!

Khanyisile laughed.

Smangele:Uhlekani ke wena ngoba awusebenzi? (Why are you laughing because you are not working?)

She asked Khanyisile annoyed.

Khanyisile:Hau manje mina where do I enter in this conversation!?

Smangele:Wena Nandipha that degree has boosted your ego, you will fall off from that high chair I'm telling you.

Nandipha:Shwabula all you want my dear, but my degree is not going anywhere. It's us who should be

complaining about ma being late with breakfast. In fact let me get to work, a job that I studied four years for and will be earning probably triple your salary.

She stands up and fixes herself before walking away.

Smangele clicks her tongue and walks out.

Nhlaka was unbothered eating his breakfast, he is used to the morning fights. That's the normal Ngcobo breakfast.

Khanyisile: You know ma, don't mind Smangele and Nandipha. Let them be.

Nomuzi sighed and continued to eat.

Zakhele:I also have to leave.

He wiped his mouth and stood up.

Nhlaka:Thanks for the food mom. See you all later.

Nomuzi:Ngicela untshontshe ubuyele nganeno namhlanje Nhlaka(Please don't steal that much today Nhlaka).

He laughed.

Nhlaka:Who said I'm going to steal? I'm not a thief anymore.

Nomuzi:It would make me happy if that were true my boy.

Nhlaka:It's true. Bye.

He walked out. Now it was Nomuzi and Khanyisile left at the table with the dirty dishes. Nomuzi retired a year ago, she had leg problems and she couldn't work anymore. She's just enjoying her retirement, and still has to go up and down fixing her retirement money that her bosses are refusing to pay. She

worked for them for at least 10 years, she deserves what's due to her.

Nomuzi:Khanyisile clean up here when you are done.

She also stood up and walked away.

Khanyisile:Yebo ma.

She cleaned the table and washed the dishes. This is her daily life, clean the table after they are done eating breakfast, clean the whole house and wait to cook dinner later on.

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At Nandipha's workplace.

It has been a week since she started working here and she must say, she loves it. Everyone around here carries themselves so professionally and she is charmed by that, if Smangele were to come here she'd probably embarrass herself with her bad fashion. But she is a cashier, she doesn't earn that much. She laughs at that thought. She doesn't have that much great relationship with her sisters, Every time they are in a room together they are always fighting like

cats, over stupid things. It's normal to her.

She has her own office which makes it easier because she loves working in her own space. She hasn't met the boss; she was told she is away for vacation. It made her happy to hear that the boss is a woman, she loves seeing women win. It was her lunchtime when she decided to go to the cafeteria to get something to eat. She couldn't carry a lunchbox because she doesn't like the food her mother cooked yesterday, it was cabbage with fish and uphuthu. She can't carry a lunchbox like that at work, imagine someone comes to her office and smells fish. Plus tin fish has a really bad smell.

She gets herself a banana and a cheese sandwich and can of coke. She pays and turns to walk away but someone stops her. It was a man, why is a man stopping her!? A dirty man at that!? Out of all the women in the cafeteria he decided to stop her, why!?

Nandipha:Can I help you bhuti?

She asked clearly bored.

“Bengithi angibingelele nje intokazi enhle(I just wanted to greet you beautiful lady)”

Nandipha:Ngiyazazi, kukhona okunye?(I know, is there anything else?)

She knows she is beautiful. Her mother's genes are so strong, all of her siblings are cream so she doesn't need compliments.

“Hau ntombi, wase ungi phoxa kangaka nje?”, he asked hurt. That was embarrassing.

Nandipha:Okokqala nje ugqokane nama overall angcolile, uza la kumina uzongtshela ukuthi ngimuhle. Ngiyazazi ukuthi ngimuhle bhuti.(First of all you're wearing dirty overalls, and you come to

me to tell me I'm beautiful. I know I'm beautiful bhuti).

“I'm sorry”.

Nandipha clicked her tongue and walked away while speaking to herself angrily.

Nandipha:Umuntu avele azomiswa umatapudaka nje emsebenzini. Nxxx.

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At Smangele's workplace.

What Nandipha said to her this morning got to her. Even now she's still thinking about it. Is that how her whole family sees her? That she's working a ridiculous job? But she is not educated like Nandipha, Nandipha and Nhlaka are lucky because when it was time for them to further their studies, their parents were financially stable a bit and they put them through school. Her and Khanyisile never got that opportunity. She had to get up her butt and look for work. She has been saving ever since she started working but the money is not enough to cover tertiary education, her mother's retirement hasn't paid out maybe she would have helped her. But the years aren't stopping, she's now 35 and she

fears it will be too late. By this age, she thought that she would be married with kids. But her boyfriend hasn't spoken of proposing to her.

“What are you thinking?”, her colleague and friend asks her.

Smangele:It's just something my sister said this morning.

Sphokazi:What did she say?

Smangele:She was just being negative and judgemental about my job.

Sphokazi: The one who just graduated?

Smangele: Yes.

Sphokazi: Don't mind her. You know those people with degrees like to look down on us working on retails, they think we failed at school. But they don't know that life isn't fair for some of us. I have a diploma qualification, but I haven't been able to find a job but here I am, working as a cashier. I will never be ashamed of my job because I know it puts food on the table and my daughter never struggles for anything. So nawe don't mind her, I believe that you will save enough money to go back to school.

Smangele:I hear you and thank you for the words.

Sphokazi:Enough about the depressing stuff. Tell me about Khulekani.

Khulekani is her boyfriend.

Smangele:*Blushing* I am going to see him tomorrow on my off day.

Sphokazi:Ohhh you are so lucky to get a man like him.

Smangele:I love him.

Sphokazi: Akusho wena ntombi kubhalwe ebusweni (Your face says it all).

Smangele: Ngizomshada lomfana stru! (I am going to marry this boy!).

She says with her eyes closed imagining their wedding.

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To be continued....

And we've begun, invite all your friends and family to join us.

Please share this insert at least 59 times.,

BURNING FIRES OF GREED

#2

NHLAKA

When he left home, he went to his friends. The people he causes trouble with. He only has two close friends, Sqalo & Zwelethu. They have been friends for so many years, practically grew up together.

Sqalo:Majimboz I was thinking here..

Zwelethu: Since when do you think?

Sqalo: Shut up.. Anyway, my baby
mamma is on my neck these days.

Nhlaka: Ufunani u Siwe? (What does
Siwe want?)

Sqalo: She's telling me about ubisi
lengane and nappies and I'm broke man,
I don't want my baby to grow up and
think I was a deadbeat father.

Nhlaka: Well sikhona ispani
vandag (There is a job today?)

Zwelethu:Uringa ngani Nhlakzini?(What are you talking about Nhlaka?)

Nhlaka:The shop down the road, they are doing the monthly cash ups at night. We will be in and out, the security is not tight.

Zwelethu:How much do you think we will get?

Nhlaka:Around R10K.

Zwelethu:Encane kanje!?! (Such a small amount!?) Eyyy majida Mina ngikhathele ilesi spani

esis'phushayo(Guys I'm tired of this work we do). Why don't we rob jewellery stores in town? Sell drugs? Smuggle weapons? The real shit of crime. Not this petty theft of stealing around the neighbourhood.

Nhlaka:Uyahlanya!?(Are you crazy!?)
You want to step on other people's territories and get in trouble. I'm better off here, I don't want to piss off the wrong people.

Sqalo:Leave him Nhlakzin, he's too greedy. The work we do here is enough. We are going there tonight.

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KHANYISILE

She is done with cleaning the house and is now relaxing on her phone. She is mostly on Facebook; she is chatting with this guy she just recently became friends with.

They are planning to meet up. Though she is sceptical about this, she has been played too many times in the love industry. Maybe this is finally the one to love her right, the way she deserves.

Her mother comes into her room pressing on her phone. She sits on the other couch.

Nomuzi:Khanyisile I'm trying to send this message but I can't do it. This phone is confusing me.

Khanyisile:Let me do it for you.

She takes the phone from her and sends the message for her. She gives her back the phone.

Nomuzi:Thank you. What time is it?

Khanyisile:15h40.

Nomuzi:Then why are you not cooking?
People are going to come back from
work hungry yet you're laying your
bums on the couch.

Khanyisile:I was still defrosting the
meat.

Nomuzi:Ini!? Inyama!? (Meat!?)

Khanyisile:Yeah I want to cook chicken.

Nomuzi:Ethengwe ubani we
Khanyisile?(And who bought it
Khanyisile?)

Khanyisile:Hau ma, yesterday we were eating cabbage!

Nomuzi:Put that meat back in the fridge. They are working but they don't want to buy food! Chop potatoes and make curry.

Khanyisile:Yoo okay.

She lifted her hands up in surrender. She went to the kitchen and put the meat back in the fridge. Yesterday they were eating cabbage, today its potatoes, tomorrow it will be probably tomatoes.

It's during these times where she wishes she was working, she would have even moved out from home and renting a

place somewhere. Her mother is so petty, she's doing this on purpose. No one working has bought groceries yet, not even her father. Maybe he's having financial problems, it's unlike him to not buy food.

She is in the middle of cooking when her phone rings. It's an unsaved number, she answers it.

Khanyisile:Hello?

“Smomondiya”, only one person calls her that.

Bongani, the Facebook friend.

Khanyisile:I didn't think you'd call.

Bongani:I keep my promises. How are you?

Khanyisile:I am fine, how are you?

Bongani:I'm doing good, I just can't wait to see you. We are Still on for Thursday right?

Khanyisile:Yes, I can't wait to see you too.

Bongani:So what are you busy with?

Khanyisile:I am cooking.

Bongani:Mhhh can't wait to eat food served by you.

Khanyisile:Kyomele uqale ulobole ke bhuti before I do that (You would have to marry me first before I do that).

Bongani:That is nothing.

They talked for a while more.

Bongani:Sweetheart we will talk later, I have to get back to work.

Khanyisile:Okay bye...

She hung up and smiled. He sounds like a dream, even his pictures are hot!

She goes to her account and writes a post.

“Inbox iyaphendulwa bafazi!”

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It is at night when Nhlaka and his friends are preparing to go and rob the shop.

Nhlaka wears a balaclava over his face and checks if his gun is loaded.

Nhlaka:Let's go.

Zwelethu is their source of transportation, he's the only one with a car. They get inside and drive to the shop. The streets were quiet, making their job easy.

Zwelethu:Remember guys in and out, no taking lives. Just take the money and leave. I'll be waiting here..

He's their getaway driver.

Nhlaka and Sqalo carefully get out of the car and walk to the shop. There were a few people buying, the store was like a general dealer. You entered inside if you want to buy, it's not a tuck-shop.

Nhlaka has taken off his balaclava when they get inside, they browse around like they are here to buy something. They wait for the customers to leave and he puts back his balaclava. They take out their guns and point at the guy at the till.

Nhlaka:Fusegi leth'imali wena snayi!!!!

The guy raises his hands in fear.

“Ayikho imali bafethu(There is no money guys)”

Sqalo was standing by the door to check the coast.

Nhlaka:Ungangezi bhari wena, faka imali la!!

He gave him the suitcase. The guy nervously stacked the money inside.

Nhlaka was still pointing at him with the gun.

Nhlaka:How much is that?

“I don’t know”, he answered shaking. He has never been pointed with a gun before.

Nhlaka:Letha la! (Bring it here!)

He took the case from him and browsed with his eyes, it looks enough.

Sqalo:Nhlakzin asifahlake(Nhlakzin let’s go).

They ran out of the store but met with the bodyguards outside. They ran the other

way but Nhlaka got shot on his back and he fell down.

Sqalo panicked hiding, he saw the guards nearing to him. He took the case and ran away.

Zwelethu: *In the car* Where is Nhlakzin?

Sqalo: Shay'imoto baba (Drive).

He drove in speed.

Zwelethu: Where is Nhlakzin?

Sqalo: Eish he got shot and I left him.

Zwelethu: You left him!?

He asked shocked and turned the car around.

Sqalo: Uyahlanya yini wena? (Are you crazy?)

Zwelethu: We don't leave each other behind.

When they got back at the shop, it was buzzing with the police.

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Kwa Ngcobo.

In their bedroom, Nomuzi wears her robe and sit with her bum on the bed.

Zakhele:Mama what's wrong?

Nomuzi:I don't know baba, but my heart isn't settled. I have this jumping fear inside of me. I don't know why..

Zakhele:What do you think it could be?

Nomuzi:It better not be Nhlaka, that boy will kill me with stress.

She said already wearing her sleepers.

Zakhele:Where are you going?

Nomuzi:I'm going to look for him. I can't sleep not knowing where he is.

That's what she always does, when Nhlaka isn't back, she goes out to look for him. Even when it's 1am, she goes out to look for him. One of these days she might get hurt looking for Nhlaka.

Zakhele:I'm going with you.

They follow each other and pass the girls watching TV.

Smangele: Where are they going?

Khanyisile: Probably to look for Nhlaka. Anyway Nandipha can you borrow me that red dress of yours? I have a date on Thursday.

Nandipha: Angizwanga!?! (Excuse me!?!)

Khanyisile: Sorry.

Smangele: You are dating again?

Khanyisile:It's still new.

Smangele:He will scam you like the others.

Nandipha:But people with money get scammed, Khanyisile is broke.

Khanyisile:You have started Nandipha!

Nandipha:I'm just stating facts.

Smangele:Hey Khanyi, mom and dad aren't here. What do you say we teach this one a lesson?

Nandipha looked at them and forced a smile. Smangele always say she wishes to beat her.

Khanyisile: Yes... uyadelela lo!

Nandipha: Guys come on, that is childish.

Smangele: I will show you childish.

She grabs a broom by her side and throws it at Nandipha.

Nandipha: *Screaming* Are you crazy!?
You almost hurt me!

Smangele: You are lucky because I'm nice. Next time I will bind you to the wall.

Nandipha stood up and ran away to her room.

Smangele and Khanyisile remained and laughed at her.

Suddenly they heard screams coming from outside. They both rushed out only to find their mother sobbing painfully.

Khanyisile: Ma what's going on?

Nomuzi: Oh ngomntanami! (MY child!)

Smangele:What's wrong with Nhlaka ma?

Zakhele:Girls, we have been called by the hospital. Nhlaka was found stealing and shot. He's at the hospital right now.

Smangele:Oh my God.

Zakhele:We are going to the hospital if you want to come with.

Khanyisile:Yeah, let me tell Nandipha.

She rushed to tell Nandipha but she just spoke fart.

Nandipha:Nhlaka knew the life he was living was dangerous. I'm not wasting my time on someone who got himself shot on purpose. I have to sleep, I have an early shift tomorrow.

She said and covered herself with the duvet.

Khanyisile clicked her tongue and hit her hard before running out of the room.

Khanyisile:Nandipha is not coming, let's go.

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To be continued..

BURNING FIRES OF GREED

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At the hospital, they have been told that Nhlaka just got out of theatre. They said the next 24 hours are critical and they will only be able to tell then if he will live but they have hope.

Zakhele: We can go home, we will come back tomorrow.

Nomuzi: Okay, I need to sleep. Nhlaka will make me die young of heart attack. Even if he survives here, he's going straight to jail. Look at the police surrounding his ward room.

They looked at the officers and sighed.

Smangele: Nhlaka really did it this time, he has so many cases. What if they use all of that to lock him away for good?

Zakhele: Let's not think the worst. I will call my lawyer and see what his chances are.

They stood up and went home.

When they arrived, Nandipha was long asleep like her brother isn't just fighting for his life in the hospital.

Khanyisile: See you in the morning.
Goodnight.

She went to her room.

Nomuzi and Zakhele also went to their room.

Zakhele: He will be fine. Nhlaka is a fighter, don't worry too much.

Nomuzi:I know he will survive, but I'm worried about him going to jail.

Zakhele:We will cross that bridge when we get there.

Nomuzi:Why does it sound like you want him to go to jail?

Zakhele:I don't want him to go to jail, but don't you think it's time he learnt a lesson? How many times has he been arrested? One day the community will kill us because of him. I also don't have money to pay for the lawyers.

Nomuzi:What do you mean you don't have money?

Zakhele:I mean just that. Mama you remember the loans we took to take Nhlaka and Nandipha to school?

Nomuzi:Yes I remember.

Zakhele:We never paid it all. We owe 75%.

Nomuzi:Ngcobo please don't say that. What have you been doing all these years? I thought you were paying.

Zakhele:I was, but they say it took us too long to pay and they increased interest.

Nomuzi:What will we do now? Do we tell the kids?

Zakhele:And have them think I am a failure of a father? I already feel bad enough that we couldn't send Khanyisile and Smangele to school. Look at the lives they are living, we are responsible for ensuring that our children become successful. Khanyisile is not even working, she is too focused on boys.

Nomuzi:Baba calm down, we will figure everything out. Nandipha just started a

new job. Maybe she can help us with paying off the money.

Zakhele: You know your daughter mama, she doesn't think of anyone else but herself.

Nomuzi: Eyy you are right. She will probably say she didn't ask us to do a loan for her studies.

Zakhele: Let's sleep. It's a long day tomorrow.

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The following day.

Today is Smangele's off day and she is planning to go and see her boyfriend, Khulekani.

She woke up and bathed, and cleaned the house. Her parents left to see Nhlaka and they sent a text saying he's awake. She was relieved to hear that because she was worried the whole night.

Nandipha also went to work and she's left with Khanyisile.

Khanyisile: Thank you for cleaning sis.

Smangele:It's the least I could do since I'm home.

Khanyisile:Nandipha would still be sleeping by now.

Smangele:Does that surprise you though?

Khanyisile:You know Nandipha thinks she is better than all of us.

Smangele:I am going to visit Khulekani today.

She decided to change the topic, she doesn't really like gossiping about

people, even if it's Nandipha, but talking about people behind their back is not her.

Khanyisile:Mhhh things are serious between you two?

Smangele:Yep, I'm just worried because we have been dating for five years now and he hasn't even spoken about marrying me.

Khanyisile:Maybe he's not ready yet.

Smangele:Khanyi this guy is 37, how could he not be ready? I'm getting to 40 and I don't even have a child yet.

Khanyisile:None of us have children.
And don't worry, Khulekani will ask you
to marry him. Just be patient.

Smangele:Okay I hear you. I just don't
want to find out that I have been wasting
my time for five years.

Khanyisile:Just go to your man lady. Is
he fetching you?

Smangele:Yeah he said he was on his
way.

Khanyisile:Okay I will leave you to it.

She walked away and Smangele continued packing the dishes in the cupboard. She got a text from him saying he was outside and she rushed to he room to get her overnight bag. She's sleeping over, it's been too long without him and she needs him.

Smangele:Bye Khanyi...

“Okay byeee”

She walks out and head toward the car. Khulekani gets out and hugs her first, then kisses her.

Smangele: Stop, we are still in front of my house.

Khulekani: I'm sorry, I just missed you.

He took her bag and threw it in the backseat.

Khulekani: Let's go get lunch first. What do you want to eat?

He opened the door for her and she got in.

Smangele: I'm dying for KFC.

Khulekani: Okay we will drive through there.

He drove with one hand holding her thigh.

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At the hospital....

Nomuzi is sitting on the chair and Zakhele is standing, the police are outside.

Nomuzi:Nhlaka when will you leave this life?

She asked with tears in her eyes. She was really hurt. What if he's not lucky one day and he dies?

Nhlaka:I'm sorry ma, I didn't think this would happen.

Nomuzi:Yesterday you told me that you weren't a thief anymore. I don't know what to do with you anymore Nhlaka. You are still 25, you're very young. Me and your father spent thousands putting you to school only for you to do this.

Nhlaka:I'm sorry mom, please don't give up on me..

Nomuzi:You have really done it this time Nhlaka.

Zakhele:Your mother is right son, we are highly disappointed in you. You know your mother was admitted months ago because her BP was high, all because of you. Change your ways son. Change your ways.

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Nandipha goes to her colleague's office to enquire about where to send her report.

Nandipha:Melusi hi.

Melusi:It's Mr Nkosi to you. I'm still your senior.

Nandipha:I'm sorry Sir.

She said embarrassed. She came here with high spirits.

Melusi:What can I help you with?

Nandipha:I wanted to ask where I should send my report? I'm done with the monthly payments checks.

Melusi looked at her and frowned. This girl was wasting his time and he's busy.

Melusi:When you got this job, didn't they give you orientation?

Nandipha:They did Sir.

Melusi:Then why are you bothering me about such a stupid thing? Listen here, we are here to work not to play! You can't ask me where to send your report

when they gave you the email of the CEO. Now get out of my office.

She ran out with a tail between he legs.

Nandipha: Yooo that was embarrassing.

She spoke alone.

“Why are you talking alone?”, a colleague asked her.

Nandipha: Mind your business.

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At Khulekani's place.

They are on the bed cuddling after love making.

Smangele: Can I ask you something?

Khulekani: Yeah babe.

Smangele: Do you see a future with me?

Khulekani: Of course I do.

Smangele: Then why haven't you asked me to marry you?

Khulekani: I thought we talked about this. I'm not ready for marriage.

Smangele: We have been dating for five years now babe, you are still not ready?

Khulekani: Yeah and besides all the wives in my family are educated, I don't want them to make fun of you.

Smangele: Wow.

His phone beeped with a message and he read it. He jumped out of bed cussing.

Khulekani:Shit.

Smangele:What is it!?

He ignored her and packed all her clothes in her bag.

Khulekani:You need to leave. My wife is on the gate.

Smangele:Wait your wife!?

Khulekani:I don't have the time to explain Sma. You are going to jump out the window. Here...

She was still naked on the bed.

Khulekani dragged him out and put her bra over her head..

There was a loud knock on the door.

“Khulekani open for me. I want to drive in.”, she shouted.

Khulekani:Sma please, jump out. I don't want her to see you.

Sma:I'm not wearing anything.

Khulekani opened the window and threw her bag outside.

Khulekani:I'm coming babe!!

He shouted at his wife. He threw Sma out as naked as she was and closed the window.

He fixed the bed and sprayed the air freshener to get rid of her scent.

He went to open the door and sighed.

Khulekani:*Pretending to be sleepy*
Mhhh love, what are you doing here so late?

“Gosh Khule I have been knocking. Please open the gate. I want to drive on my car.”

He gave her the remote. He sighed relieved that she didn't ask any more questions.

Outside, Sli cried wearing her clothes. She walked out of the yard on the small gate, it was 10pm. How will she get home? Khulekani is married? How could he hide such a big secret from her? She feels so betrayed, she loved this man. The way he just pushed her out of the window like she's nothing.

She holds her bag tightly while walking on the road. She fears for her life. What if they hurt her or rape her?

She is walking barefoot. A car stops near her and the window rolls down. She walks even faster thinking it's thugs. The car follows her and the driver gets out of the car to catch up to her.

“I'm not gonna hurt you. I just saw you walking alone, it's not safe for a woman to walk alone at this time”

Smangele:I am fine, thanks.

“Let me give you a lift. My mother would beat me if she found out I let a woman walk by herself”

She didn't trust him.

“I'm not dangerous I promise, you can call your family and be on the phone with them while we are driving”

Okay that was a good plan. She took her phone and called Khanyisile before getting in.

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To be continued....

BURNING FIRES OF GREED

#4

She was on the phone with Khanyisile the entire time while the man was driving. He finally arrived at her home and she thanked him for the lift and got out. She went inside and found Khanyisile waiting for her.

Khanyisile: Sma what happened?

Sma: Amadoda Khanyi! (Men!)

Khanyisile: What happened?

Sma:Khule is married, I found out today. He threw me out of the window because his wife was there. I have never been so embarrassed and hurt like this. Five years Khanyisile, five years and he has been just wasting my time! No wonder he didn't want me to meet his family, because he knew he had such a big secret.

Khanyisile:I'm sorry Sma, I can't believe he did this to you. He seemed like he loved you.

Sma:He was probably faking it. God I feel like an idiot. How could I not even notice that something was off with him?

She sat on the couch crying while Khanyisile comforted her. Nandipha stood by the door watching them and then she walked away. She felt sorry for her a bit but her pride wouldn't allow her to go and comfort her sister.

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The following morning, at the hospital. Nhlaka is now fully out of danger and doctors are certain he will live. His friends haven't come to see him, only his

family. The police are always here, he is definitely going away for a long time this time. He has too many offenses, they'll probably use them against him to lock him up forever. He also can't believe that Sqalo left him like that. He thought they don't leave each other. He didn't leave him when he got hurt while they were on the job. But one thing he's not, he's not a snitch so he won't snitch on them.

What looks like a detective enters the ward and close the curtain around him, so other patients won't see or hear. His heart starts pumping fast, scared.

The detective looks at him and takes out his notepad.

Detective:Hi Nhlaka.

Nhlaka:Hi...

Detective:So I'm here to ask you a few questions about what transpired that night.

Nhlaka:Okay.

He swallowed.

Detective:I already know you stole that money, R8000 cash. I know you weren't alone, so who were you working with?

Nhlaka:I wasn't working with anyone. It was me alone. I robbed the Shop.

Detective:Protecting them I see. Maybe you think I am playing here, do you know that you have 7 cases? This is the 8th one, if you go to court the judge will give you many years. So tell me who were you working with and I will make you a deal, you will be a state witness. The judge will be lenient to you and maybe give you five years. Just tell me who you were working with.

Nhlaka: Like I said, I was working alone. Now if you will excuse me detective, I need to rest and wait for you to arrest me.

Detective: The doctors said they will release you within a week.

Nhlaka: Hooray...

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It's Thursday and Khanyisile is preparing for her date with Bongani. Nandipha refused to borrow her her dress so she had to wears hers, although it's not as beautiful as Nandipha's but it's better

than nothing. She wears sneakers and goes to Sma.

Sma:Where are you going?

She asked, she was still in bed. The news of Khulekani being married hit her hard. He hasn't even called to try and explain.

Khanyisile:My date? How do I look?

Sma:A dress with sneakers? Why don't you wear heels or flat shoes?

Khanyisile:Sma I don't have heels you know that. These are the only fancy shoes I have.

Sma:You can borrow mine, we are the same size.

She took the shoes and tried them on.

Sma:Now you look okay.

Khanyisile:One last thing, can I borrow your handbag?

Sma:Wardrobe.

She opened the wardrobe and took out the bag.

Khanyisile:Okay I'm leaving now.

Sma:Be safe Khanyi please. Ask him if he's married before you waste your time with him.

Khanyisile:Thanx, I will.

She walked out of the room and called Bongani.

Bongani:Smomondiya..

She blushed..

Khanyisile:Hey, I'm leaving home now.

Bongani:Okay we will meet at the restaurant then.

Khanyisile:Where are we going?

Bongani:-KFC, the one at town.

Khanyisile:KFC?

Bongani:Yeah is there something wrong with KFC?

Khanyisile:No, I just thought we would be going to Ocean Basket or Rocomamas.

Bongani laughed on the other end of the line.

Bongani:And who will pay for that expensive food?

Khanyisile:Yooo okay, KFC it is then.

She hung up and thought about how stingy he is.

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Nandipha is in her office rocking around with her chair. She is bored today and she doesn't know anyone that much around here. She thinks they don't like her, every time she enters a room they either leave or stop talking. She wonders what she has done.

She decides to go outside by the construction site to just watch people working.

She sees the same man with dirty overalls and she gets bored all over

again. So, he's a construction worker?
She's not surprised.

She walks further to the workers and
greet them.

Nandipha: You guys are doing a great job
here.

They ignored her and continued working.
Zenzo had told them about how rude she
was to him.

Nandipha: You are not going to pretend
like you don't see me.

They still ignored her. Zenzo picks up the shovel with mud and throws it in her direction, getting dirt all over her. She gasps and Zenzo rushes to her.

Zenzo: Oh I'm sorry princess.

He tried to clean her up but he made it worse.

Nandipha: Leave me alone!

She whimpered and stomped her foot on the ground before walking away.

The guys laughed at her.

“Nice one Zenzo”.

Zenzo: This one will soon see how cruel life is.

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Back at Khanyisile.

She has finally arrived at KFC and she is not quite impressed by what she sees. Bongani isn't anything like his pictures. He looks... she doesn't want to say the name but he looks ugly. Now she believes that a picture is a picture.

Bongani:I'm really glad to finally meet you.

Khanyi:Yeah me too.

She forced a smile. She was bored and this man was boring her. She thought she had feelings for him but not anymore. The first turn off was when he took her to KFC, she is not a teenager. Why would he take her here on their first date?

Khanyisile:I need to go to the bathroom.

She took her bag.

Bongani: Wait leave your bag.

Khanyisile: Why?

Bongani: What if you don't come back and I'm left to pay alone?

Khanyisile/ You already paid when we go our food.

Bongani: Yeah but you need to repay me your half.

Khanyisile: Wow. Uyahlanya wena nobhebhenene wentshebe!

She clicked her tongue and walked out.
Worst date ever..

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SMANGELE

Finally he has called and asked to see her. She didn't waste any time and went out to him. He was parked a house away.

Khule:Hi.

Sma:Hi.

He tried to hold her hand but she pushed him away.

Khule:Sma look baby, I'm sorry for all of this.

Sma:He's sorry, he says he's sorry. I find out that you are married and you tell me you're sorry. Five years Khule, you wasted five years of my life. Why didn't you tell me you were married? Why did you keep it a secret?

She started crying all over again. This was painful.

Khule:I will explain everything babe, just stop crying please.

Sma:No wonder you never wanted me to meet your family. You were always so ashamed of me, I thought it was because of the job I do kanti it's because you are married. You really broke my heart Khule, you really broke it.

Khule:I'm sorry my love. I really am.

Sma:It's too late for sorry. I'm breaking up with you Khule, you have made me a fool for five years. Please delete my numbers and I will do the same.

She opened the door to get out but she held her hand.

Sma:Leave me alone or I will scream!

He let her go. She got out of the car and walked back home. She doesn't know what feeling is dominating more inside her, feeling stupid or heartbreak. A whole five years!?

She walks inside and finds Khanyi in her room.

Sma:Hey you are back.

Khanyisile: Mtase you won't believe what happened today.

Sma: What happened? How did the date go?

Khanyisile: Horrible, he took me to KFC can you imagine!? On top of that he wanted us to split the bill. He didn't even look like his pictures, he looked so untidy like he didn't even bath, I'm sure he smells. Why don't men shave their beard? His didn't look attractive.

Sma laughed a little as she listened to her sister ranting about her failed date. It

made her forget about her problems a little.

Khanyisile:I'm never going out with a guy from Facebook ever again. Yesses.

She took her phone and went to Facebook. She went to the Ladies House group and wrote a post.

“Wangigila u sbari bafazi”.

Sma was laughing and unable to hold herself.

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To be continued...

BURNING FIRES OF GREED

#5

Sma closes the door on her room and gets ready to sleep but her mother knocks. She lets her in.

She sits on the bed.

Nomuzi: We missed you at dinner tonight.

Sma: I wasn't hungry. I'll eat tomorrow.

Nomuzi: What's going on my baby?

Sma: I'm not a baby mom.

Nomuzi: You'll always be a baby to me.

Sma: It's Khulekani. We broke up.

Nomuzi: What? The boy you were always telling us about?

Sma: Yeah, I found out he was married and he threw me out the window. His wife almost found us together.

Nomuzi: Oh my baby...

Sma: A whole five years! I wasted five years on a married man. I don't even know what to do with myself. I mean is it me? Is something wrong with me?

Nomuzi: Nothing is wrong with you Sma, shame on him for playing you like this. He doesn't deserve your tears baby, he didn't deserve you.

Sma: I still love him. My heart just doesn't want to accept that he's married. I feel so played ma. I thought he would be the father to my babies and eventually

be my husband. But that is not happening anymore because he has a wife.

Nomuzi comforted her and let her cry.

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The following day, she has to go back to work. She woke up late because of the repetitive crying sessions she kept on having. She wears her uniform and takes her bag, the others are already eating breakfast and she can't join them unfortunately. She arrives in the dining area and as always the Ngcobo family is

arguing like they always do every morning.

Khanyisile:Le ngane ngizoyibhanqa nodonga ma ngcela umkhuze! (I'm going to pin her on the wall ma please reprimand her!)

Nandipha:I dare you to!

Zakhele:That is enough!

He bangs the table and they all jump scared.

Zakhele:Can't we have a normal breakfast in this house!? Must you always bicker like little children!?

Sma excuses herself and goes to the kitchen to get her lunchbox. She goes back to them and wishes them a good day before walking out.

She normally takes a taxi and walk a short distance before getting to work. She works at Pick n Pay.

She takes a taxi and it drops her off.

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At the hospital, his mother came to visit him and bought home cooked food.

Nhlaka:They say they are letting me go today.

Nomuzi:*Smiling* Those are great news.

He sighed sadly.

Nhlaka:I'm not coming home.

Nomuzi:What do you mean?

Nhlaka:I'm going to jail. They are coming around in the afternoon to take me.

Nomuzi looked down and sighed. She knew this was coming.

Nomuzi:Me and your father don't have money to pay for lawyers Nhlaka, you know how expensive they are. How will we fight this?

Nhlaka:I will be fine ma, please don't worry about me. I will figure something out.

Nomuzi: Jail is not a good place Nhla, they almost took out your eyes when you went there for the first time.

Nhlaka: Babengifikisa, I will be fine. I'm used to the street life.

Nomuzi: I hope you learnt something from all of this.

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Nandipha fixes her blouse before walking out of her office. The boss is

here today and everyone is gathering around to welcome her back.

She joins her colleague and stands as they all exchange hugs and handshakes. One person comes to hug her and she relaxes a bit and smiles at her.

“Thank you everyone for the warm welcome. It’s really good to be back”, a woman speaks out. This must be the boss.

“For those who don’t know me, I am Nonjabulo Mdlalose, CEO of NAM Con. Feel at home. I hope we will work well with each other like we normally do. Thank you”.

Well she seems nice and beautiful. She can tell that everyone is free around her, meaning she's not a monster boss. If it was her, she would not even be smiling with her employees. They are beneath her and she would be sure to emphasize that , people tend to take advantage of your kindness. This Barbie play Nonjabulo has will end in tears for her. People are ungrateful out there.

She forces a smile and walks towards her.

Nandipha:Mrs Mdlalose hi, I am
Nandipha

I am new here.

Nonjabulo: Oh hi Nandipha. How long have you been here?

Nandipha: A week mam.

Nonjabulo: I hope you are having a great time.

She says smiling and opens her arms out for a hug. Nandipha accepts it and hugs her back. No this one is too nice, way too nice.

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Smangele just got back from her lunch and went back to her work station. She has been receiving phone calls from Khulekani that he ended up blocking his number, he then called with different numbers. She has switched off her phone completely because he is harassing her.

She calls out the next customer and greets them with a smile. She finishes with the customer and calls out the next one.

Sma:Hello.

She says smiling and looking down, cleaning the table for the customer to put her/his groceries.

She looks up and oh boy the gods must be deceiving her. It's him. The guy who gave her a lift the other day.

“Sawubona mama”, she just melts and loses herself for a second.

Smangele:H... Yebo...

He puts his stuff on the table and she scans them.

Smangele:Do you have the smart shopper card?

He gives it to her.

She swipes it and gives it back to him.

Smangele:Cash or card?

“Card”, he takes out his card and insert it in the speed point.

He pays and she gives her the slips and his stuff.

Smangele:T.. Thank you for the other day.

“Don’t worry about it”, he smiles and walks away.

She fans herself feeling hot all of a sudden.

The next customer comes.

“He’s a dream right?”

She laughs and the customer joins her.

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Khanyisile is still angry about the date yesterday. That was horrible, Bongani really sold her dreams. He said he was working, so why would he take her to KFC and want them to split the bill? She clicks her tongue and decides to start cooking, it's already late anyways. Her mother came back from the hospital in a sombre mood. She said Nhlaka is going to jail, she is sad for her little brother but naye he's too stubborn man. They have been warning him to stop stealing. I guess it's time he learnt a lesson that crime doesn't pay.

Her phone rings and she answers, it was Bongani.

Khanyi: Yeah?

Bongani: Wow so cold?

Khanyi: Ufunani Bongani? (What do you want?)

Bongani: Kanti sesixabene yini smomondiya? (Are we not getting along anymore?)

Khanyi: You turned me off yesterday.

She decided to just be honest.

Bongani:I turned you off how?

Khanyisile:You took me to KFC and wanted me to pay half of the bill.

Bongani:Yeah and what's wrong with that?

Khanyisile:Bongani you are working, you could have taken me to a fancy restaurant and paid for everything.

Bongani:Ngizixakekele nami mtakwethu, ngineynkinga eyningi nje.(Im also struggling my dear, I have many problems). My child was kicked out of

school yesterday because I can't afford her fees anymore. Mom is also crying back at home in the village that she doesn't have food. Kuningi nje.

See it all starts like this, a person starts telling her their sob stories and she feels sorry for them and want to help them. Not this time, the money she has is for important things. She's not working so she has to save every cent.

Khanyi:Mana lapho whoa!(Hold on!)
Lonke lolusizi osungfuxeka lona
angihlangene nalo(Your problems are not my business).

Bongani:Ouch, it's unlike you to speak like this.

Khanyisile:I won't allow you to scam me.

Bongani:Scam you with what when you are not working? How old are you again? Ahhh 30 years, still lives with mommy! You think I can want something from you!? I did good by buying you streetwise 2, you don't deserve anything nice from me.

Khanyisile:I don't care.

Bongani: Whatever was happening between us is over. I don't want to be with a woman who is rude.

Khanyisile: Nothing was happening between us wena sthingithingi (you stupid).

Bongani: Nawe lento efike igqoke ingubo ende emhlophe engathi uyobhabhadiswa (You too, you even came with a long white dress like you were going to get baptized.).

Khanyi gasped and looked at her phone in shock that he just said that.

Khanyisile: Oh my God! Hamb' o geza leli phara leli. Ugunde naleyo ntshebe enukayo engathi ihlathi (Go and bath. Cut off that smelling beard of yours that's like a forest).

Bongani: Futsek Khanyi!

He sounded hurt and she laughed sticking her tongue out.

Khanyisile: Boy bye!

She hung up and went to update "Abafazi" on Ladies house about the phone call.

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100 comments

BURNING FIRES OF GREED

#6

Smangele and Sphokazi walked outside, they had just knocked off. She told her about iygigaba za Khulekani and was disappointed in him too.

Sphokazi: Sma I will see you tomorrow, I have to pass by Ackerman's first.
Princess wants new pyjamas.

She said rolling her eyes and Smangele laughed. She wished she also has a child, and get to experience what Sphokazi is always talking about.

Smangele: Okay I will see you tomorrow friend.

Sphokazi walks away and she remains waiting for the taxi. Taxis arrive when you have waited for an hour here, that's why she always gets home late.

She sees Khulekani's car parking next to her & she rolls her eyes bored. What part of "I am breaking up with you" does he not understand?

He gets out of the car wearing an apologetic look on his face.

Khule:Babe, can we talk?

He asks getting closer to her.

Smangele: I don't want to talk to you Khule. I said everything I needed to say yesterday. Please just leave me alone and go to your wife. I don't want people to see us together and run to tell your wife. Please just leave me alone.

Khule:I'm sorry but I cant do that. You're my woman Sma and I love you. I

want to be with you. Please just give me a chance to explain what's happening.

Sma sighed defeated. Khule was suffocating her and she needed space, away from him; just to think about the bomb he dropped on her.

Sma: Please just leave Khulekani, I don't have the energy to fight you .

Though she is curious to hear what he has to say but nah, he can go fuck himself with a spoon if he likes.

Khule holds her hand with the attempt to grab her unwillingly and drive with him, but they hear a voice speaking behind them.

“Remove your hand or I will detach it from your arm”, he threatened.

Sma looked back and it was him again, the lift guy. Why is he randomly showing up in places where she’s at?

Khule removes his hand from her and frowns looking at the guy.

Khule: This does not concern you man,
fuck off!

He chuckled and put his hands in his
pockets, “ I’ll let that slide”.

Khule: Ndoda this is none of your
business. I’m having a serious
conversation with my woman.

“Your woman you say? The same
woman you left to walk alone in the
middle of the night. Sma is he bothering
you?”

She wondered how he knew her name, but remembered she still had her nametag on.

Smangele: *Clears throat* No I'm fine. He's not bothering me.

He looked at him with his eyebrow raised.

Khule: Yeah you heard her, now leave you ma se poes! (you mother's cunt) .

“Two is a strike”, he said angrily and moved toward Khule giving him a punch that threw him on the ground. He looked

at Sma and shook his head before walking away.

Sma helped Khulekani get up and he was holding his cheek.

Khule:Where is he!? Where is he!? He must come back here ngimubonise unyoko (so I will show him his mother).

Sma:Stop being dramatic, you saw him leave.

Khule:That's the person you are cheating on me with Sma?

Sma laughed for exactly one second and looked at him.

Sma: Maybe that punch hit your brain a bit. Me and you are not together anymore, remember?

A taxi approached them, and she stopped it.

Khule: Let me give you a lift at least.

Sma: No thanks dude.

She got inside the taxi and closed the door on his face.

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Nhlaka is escorted to the police van, four police officers are walking by him, and both his hands and feet are chained.

Everyone at the hospital keeps on turning heads with him. They arrive outside and throw him inside the van. They drive and arrive at the station, he is taken to the holding cells and given the chance to call his lawyer. But he doesn't have nay lawyer, his mother said they can't afford to pay for lawyers. He knows how expensive lawyers are, I guess he's going

to rely on the state's lawyer; but those people don't really give it their all when defending you. The detective comes to him again and tells him he has two visitors. In his mind, he thinks it's his parents but when he's taken to the visitors area he is shocked to see Sqalo and Zwelethu. They uncuff him and he sits down. Sqalo looks down shyly, he couldn't help but feel guilty. If only he didn't leave his best friend. He just took the money and let his best friend for dead.

Zwelethu:How are you holding up?

Nhlaka:How do you think I'm holding up? I am arrested.

Sqalo:Nhlakzin, I'm sorry for leaving you njayami.

Nhlaka:fokof indaba yakho Sqalo, you left me for dead. What if they finished me off? I thought we were bros, but now I see money matters the most than me. I have never left any of you behind before, but ningenza kanje Majida?(but you do this to me guys?).

Zwelethu: I wanted to come back for you but it was already flooded with the police.

He looked at them and said nothing.

Nhlaka:Buza ofuna ukukbuza ndoda(Ask what you want to ask man).

He said looking at Sqalo.

Sqalo cleared his throat.

Sqalo:I just want to know if you mentioned our names.

Nhlaka:I'm not a snitch and you know that.

Zwelethu sighed relieved.

Sqalo:Sifa ndawonye(We all die together)

Zwelethu:What are you talking about?

Sqalo:We shouldn't let him stay here alone .

Zwelethu:Othi ngihambe ke mina ngoba ngathi usuyasuza manje!(Let me leave because you are now speaking nonsense).

He stood up and walked away.

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Days later, Khulekani has been quiet and not bothering her. She's happy that he has finally gotten the message and left her alone. He should focus on his wife and leave her alone.

She is slowly picking up the pieces to her life, she doesn't cry herself to sleep at night anymore so slowly but surely, she will get over this. She's only worried about him, she has not seen him for over two weeks, the man who gave him a lift. She doesn't even know his name; she last saw him that day they were arguing with

Khulekani.. She doesn't even know why she wants to see him again but it honestly wouldn't hurt to see him again.

She smiles by herself and steps out of the bathroom.

She has been in there for a while, day dreaming about him. It's the mystery that fascinates her.

Sphokazi: You have been gone for an hour.

Sma: Really? I didn't realize.

Sphokazi: It's almost our lunch, I'm going to finish with this line.

Sma:Okay let me help you pack.

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At the Bank.

Zakhele and Nomuzi decided to go to the bank and fix the loan issue. They have been receiving messages of notice.

They are escorted to one of the offices to speak with the manager. He pages through their files and details.

“It says here you should have repaid your loan within five years of taking it. But from our records, you have only paid 10 % and you missed some months.”, the manager told them.

The couple looked at each other and swallowed.

Nomuzi:How much in total do we owe?

“Your initial loan was R250 000 with 5% interest to be paid back. But you have only paid 10%, and the interest accumulated over the years, meaning you now owe R100 000.

Nomuzi put her hands over her head.

Nomuzi: Oh nkosi yami! How did it get to that amount!?

“You were not paying for over three years, it multiplied”.

Zakhele sweated on the chair and wiped his sweat with his handkerchief.

Nomuzi: Baba how will we pay this money back?

She asked her husband with tears in her eyes. They took the loan to help their

children get to school, they had better jobs then and they knew they would be able to pay it back in monthly instalments. But hearing the amount they are owing now is shocking them. It can't be ngeke!

Nomuzi:Ntombazane are you sure about this?

“I am sure mam, the figures were thoroughly checked by our trusted accountants”.

Nomuzi:Jehova!

They exchanged goodbyes and walked out. They went to sit by the benches.

Nomuzi:I think it's time to tell the children that we are having financial issues. Zakhele how will we pay R100 000. My retirement money hasn't paid out, and I know it's just peanuts. It won't cover even a quarter of our debts.

Zakhele looked down brushing his forehead.

Zakhele:How will telling them help? Sma doesn't even earn close to R8000, Khanyi isn't working, Nhlaka is a thug and Nandipha won't even bother herself.

Nomuzi:But we need to tell them so that we will work towards paying off this debt together as a family. Don't forget that we used the remaining money to renovate the house and register it, it's under the bank's name. What if they repossess it? We will be homeless. That car you are driving will also be gone.

Zakhele:I know all that mama.

He sighed; sadness was written all over him. He doesn't have the means to pay the money. He hasn't even told his wife that he was retrenched at work yesterday, he's out of a job now. They said he was

getting too old and that he is going to be replaced by a computer to do his job.

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To be continued....

Like & comment.

100 comments bahlali.

BURNING FIRES OF GREED

#7

Nhlaka is surprised to learn that he is free to go.

Did they drop the charges or? The detective is angrily signing papers and giving him his things.

Nhlaka: Detective, what happened? Why are you letting me go?

“The footage didn’t show you at the crime scene. You are free to go, but I will catch you one day. I don’t know how you did this, but I will catch you!”

He said and walked away.

Nhlaka sighed and walked out. That was too easy, how could the footage not show

him at the crime scene when he was there? This was confusing but he was happy to be out. He owes whomever made it possible a thank you. When he gets outside, there was a car parked near the gate. The door opened and the driver signaled for him to get in. He looked sideways checking if they were speaking with him.

“Ngena!(Come in!)”, he tells him again. He gets in and finds a man he doesn’t know inside..

“You are Nhlaka”

Nhlaka: Yes.

“I’m not asking you, I’m telling you”.

Nhlaka: Why are you telling me because I know my name?

“Rude way to talk to someone who just got you out of prison”

Nhlaka: That was you? You did that?

He nodded.

Nhlaka: Why?

“I want to impress someone, and your skills can be an asset to me in the near future”.

Nhlaka:I hope you are not talking about theft because I’m not going back to it.

“That’s what they all say, but I’m not talking about that. I want to help you, you have a diploma in HR right?”

Nhlaka:Yeah...

“There is a position for you, the job is yours.”

Nhlaka: Why are you doing this? Do you want something in return?

“I told you I want to impress someone. Now are you taking the job or not?”

Nhlaka: I will think about it..

“Alright. Let me give you a lift home”.

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At Nandipha's workplace.

She has now adapted to the working environment; she knows almost everyone. Today is payday and she's planning to pay the deposit for the apartment she's interested in. She can't stay at home anymore, it's really hard to get to work. She has to take two taxis to get to work. So with an apartment closer it will save transport money and make things easier.

The notification comes through and she almost faints seeing the zeros in her balance. She'll be damned! She has never had so much money in her account before! She gets in and out of her Capitec app checking if the balance is still the same.

She contacts the sales person and lets her know she's ready to pay the deposit, but to her disappointment, they tell her that the apartment has already been taken. They will contact her if another one opens up. She drops the call and sighs, but she will look for other places.

She walks out to go to the bathroom as she is pressed. She does her business and gets out to wash her hands, she finds Nonjabulo at the sink washing her hands too...

Nandipha: Good day ma'am.

Nonjabulo: Oh Nandipha you can call me Nonjabulo, no need to be formal.

She smiles.

Nandipha: It's payday today, and this is my first salary.

Nonjabulo: Are you excited?

Nandipha: Yes, I've never seen so many zeros in my life.

Nonjabulo: So what are you going to do for your parents for your first salary?

Nandipha:*frowns* What do you mean?

Nonjabulo:Most people go all out for their parents with their first salaries. To thank them for everything they have done for them, and the sacrifices they made for them.

Nandipha:I totally didn't think of that.

She says shrugging her shoulders..

Nonjabulo:You should do something nice for them. I'm sure they'll be happy.

Nandipha:Ngemali yami yokqala pho?
(With my first salary?)

Nonjabulo:Money is meant to be spent,
and I'm not saying buy mountains for
them. Just a gift to show appreciation,
even chocolate, they'll be happy I'm
telling you..

She nods but she is not sure about this.
Growing up, she has never felt the need
to show appreciation to her parents. It
was their job to raise her, feed her, clothe
her and take her to school. They are the
ones who brought her to this world, she
didn't ask to be born. So why should she
thank them for doing their job?

She forces a smile as Nonjabulo walks out.

She also walks out and pass by Nonjabulo's office, but she sees a man inside with her. They seems pretty cosy, they share a hug and a kiss. She steps away and goes to her office, that must have been her husband. His pictures are all over Nonjabulo's office.

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KHANYISILE

Although he is annoying and has an untidy beard, she likes him.

Bongani: Mina nawe sidinga ukulalana nje izophela yonke lentukuthelo onayo (Me and you just need to have sex and all the anger you have will disappear).

She was at his place, at least it was neat unlike his face.

Khanyisile: I'm not going to have sex with you, not unless you cut off that beard.

Bongani: I'm not going to do that.

Khanyisile: At least comb it ke so that it looks neat. You look like you wake up in the forest.

Bongani: Don't start Khanyisile.

Khanyisile: Mxm. So what are we now? Dating?

Bongani: Usabuza? (You're still asking?)

Khanyisile: No I'm not asking I'm barfing. Of course I'm asking.

Bongani: You are rude and I will fuck that rudeness out of you.

She instantly felt hot.

Khanyisile: I'm sure you have a small pipi (penis) ...

Bongani: Ebhishi mtakwethu! Ngiphethe ibhazuka yamampela la. Othi ngikbonise futhi. (Never my dear! I have the real thing. Let me show you).

Indeed, he brings down his pants and shows her his dick. Khanyisile gasps and laughs at him.

Khanyisile: Please put that back.

Bongani: And ngizolifaka lonke (I'm going to insert all of it inside you).

Khanyisile: You wish. Me and you are nothing.

Bongani: Ubani u nothing manje? (Who is nothing now?)

Khanyisile: I give up with you.

Bongani: But seriously smomondiya sami, ngikuthandile mtakwethu (I love

you). Allow this to happen.

Ngizokphatha kahle. Ngeke ngikuyise kwama restaurant eycwicwici kodwa ngizokuthanda ngenhliziyo yami yonke(I will treat you well. I won't take you to fancy restaurants but I will love you with all of my heart).

Khanyisile: You said my dress was long and I looked like I was going to get baptized.

She sulks.

Bongani: Ngangingaqambi wona amanga mtakwethu, ilahle leya ngubo mama

yezwa? (I wasn't lying, throw that dress away mama).

Khanyisile: You like disrespecting me vele.

Bongani: I'm not, just being honest. You also said my beard smells.

Khanyisile: It did smell.

He turns her over to sit on top of him. He brings her closer and gives her a kiss that made her dizzy. He is kissing her while grabbing her ass. Oh boy she's glad she

doesn't have a flat ass or else he would be grabbing a $y=mx + c$.

They kiss for a while and finally pull out.

Bongani:Mxm. Awukwazi
nokuqabula(You can't even kiss)..

Khanyisile:It's you who can't kiss. You splatted me with your saliva.

Bongani:So what do you say? Do you take me to be your official boyfriend?

Khanyisile:I do.

He gently removes her from him and stands up to dance in excitement. He whistles while doing the traditional dance. Khanyisile joins him and ululates.

“Aww ngaqonywa madoda”, he says while lifting up his feet and feeling himself.

“Khuphuka lapho bhebhenene lwentshebe!”, Khanyisile says back still ululating and shaking her hips like an ant.

They stop after a minute of dancing and rejoicing..

Khanyisile: You dare play with my heart and I will chop off your thumb.

Bongani: Cute.

Khanyisile: I need to update abafazi about this.

Bongani: Obani labo? (Who ?)

Khanyisile: O mnax, from Facebook.

Bongani: You are going to tell them about us?

Khanyisile: Yes is it a problem?

Bongani: No.

She smiles and takes her phone going to her favorite group on Facebook. She writes a post.

“Usbari wenu ukhuphuka ngomunye ushuni manje bafazi. Fusegani ngampela ke manje. Ashila demmedi!!”

Within minutes, the post already has a number of reactions and comments. She’s one of the loved members of the

group because of the silly things she posts.

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When he got home, his mother was so excited to see him. He told them that the case against him was dropped because it didn't show him on the crime scene

Nhlaka: Mom, I know I have let you down a million times before. But I promise you, from now on I will be a good child. I will go and look for a job and be a good son. There is already something promising.

Nomuzi:I really hope you mean it
Nhlaka. No more crime please my son.

Nhlaka:I won't do it again mom, I
promise.

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Like & comments.

100 comments lapho! Khuphuka
ungangenzi islima!!

BURNING FIRES OF GREED

#8

At night Nomuzi and Zakhele called for a meeting to talk with their children. They finally reached the conclusion that they are telling them about their debt..

Nomuzi: Thank you for coming my children. Me and your father have something to tell you.

Sma: Is everything okay?

Zakhele: My children, there are things we as parents do in the hope to better our children's life. You all know our financial situation here at home, Sma and Khanyi never got the chance to further their studies because we were poor back

then, the jobs me and your mother had couldn't even help us get a loan. It was only when it was it was Nhlaka and Nandipha's turn to study that things changed. We took a loan from the bank of R250 000, and we spent it towards your studies. It managed to get you two Nhlaka and Nandipha through tertiary, we used the remaining to renovate the house and I bought the car that I'm driving.

Sma:Whoa whoa wait, you took a loan!?

They never told them that they took a loan. They always thought it was their

money that put Nhlaka and Nandipha through school.

Sma: There was an amount left but you decided to renovate the house, knowing fully well how much I wanted to further my studies!? You knew I was saving because I told you that when I got my job the first time, couldn't you have used that remaining amount with the little I had and send me to school!? Or is it only princess Nandipha and Nhlaka who are only worthy of going to school? Even now I'm struggling as it is, the money I earn is not enough, it's not enough for me to move out from home. I'm 35 and I'm still living with my parents, but you had the means to better my life too, but

you decided to renovate! Such great parents you are!

She stood up and walked away, she felt hurt and angry at the revelation.

Zakhele:/Smangele come back here.

Khanyi:Let her be dad, she's hurt.

Zakhele: *Sigh* Okay, as I was saying; I wasn't able to pay back the loan. I only paid for the first year and few months, its interest accumulated over the years and we now owe R100 000.

Khanyisile clapped her hands in shock.

Khanyisile: So much money!?

Nomuzi: And the bank gave us six months to pay it back or they are going to take everything from us. The house and car is registered under their name.. We will be homeless.

Khanyisile: Zathula iyfundiswa manje!?
Nhlaka no Nandipha khulumani (Why are the educated ones quiet now!? Nhlaka and Nandipha talk).

Nhlaka:I can help with paying the money, there is a new job promising.

Nomuzi:I hope you are not talking about theft.

Nhlaka:It's not. I had put in my CV in one of the companies and they recently called me back before I went to jail. It won't do any difference, but I will help.

Zakhele nodded, he was proud to see him stepping up like that.

Nomuzi:What about you Nandipha?

Nandipha:I can also help in paying back the loan, because it also helped me get to school. I got paid today so I will deposit some of the money to your account and then you can make payment arrangements.

Zakhele dropped a few tears, he was really proud of his children.

Khanyisile:I will also help, I have a few cents saved. I know I'm not working but that's not on purpose we all know that. I'll also try harder looking for a job, even though it's pointless but we'll keep on trying.

Zakhele:That is all we wanted to say, you can be excused now.

They stood up and went to their bedroom. The two remained sitting next to each other.

Nomuzi:It looks like something else is on your mind.

Zakhele:Nothing is on my mind.

Nomuzi:Talk to me baba. Why didn't you go to work today?

Zakhele:I told you that I'm on a month leave!

He replied in a defensive mode.

Nomuzi:I am asking nicely, no need to raise your voice at me.

Zakhele:It's just that sometimes you can ask stupid questions.

Nomuzi:Let me just keep quiet because if I respond, we will end up beating each other. Angikusabi phela we Ngcobo! (I am not scared of you Ngcobo).

Zakhele:Wazi lokho ke nje! (That's all you know). I'm going to bed.

He stood up and walked to their bedroom.

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NANDIPHA

The following day, she has sent the money to her dad's account. She sent him R10 000, she wishes she could do more but this is her first salary and there's so much she wants to do. Like moving out. She's seriously had it with

staying at home, if it's not her annoying sisters it's her parents always complaining about Nhlaka. Nah she's had enough of it. She needs her own space.

She goes to Nonjabulo's office to tell her that she gave her father R10K. Nonjabulo just has that friendly aura and it makes her easy to talk with.

She knocks at her office but hears a manly "come in".

She frowns and gets in, she finds a man inside. Nonjabulo's husband.

Nandipha: Oh sorry I'm looking for Nonjabulo.

“Isn’t she Mrs Mdlalose now?”, he asks raising his eyebrow.

Nandipha:She said she prefers to be called by her name. Please tell her I was here.

“What’s your name?”

Nandipha:Nandipha.

“You’re fine Nandipha.”

He said moving towards her. She was wearing tight pants so it brought her

body in the open and showed all the curves she has.

He stood in front of her and sniffed her.

He touched her boobs and cupped them in his hand. Nandipha stood still shocked at what he was doing. Finally, her mind came back and she stepped away.

Luckily Nonjabulo entered before he could try anything else.

She stormed out of the office leaving Nonjabulo confused about what just happened.

She arrived at her office and closed the door. That was weird. Did the boss's

husband just try to make a move on her?
She laughs it off and sits down forgetting
about it.

A while later she hears a knock and tells
whoever it is to come in. To her surprise,
it was him again.

Nandipha:Can I help you sir?

“You left before we could finish”.

He said and locked the door behind him.
Nandipha stood up and tried to get him to
leave but he was stubborn.

“When I set my eyes on something I don’t give up until I have it. Right now I want you and I’m going to have you”.

He said pinning her against the wall.

He kissed her hard and moved her over to the table where he bent her over. He pulled down his pants and took out the condom from his pockets, he rolled it around his dick and pulled down Nandipha’s pants together with her panties.

He didn’t waste any time and inserted himself inside her. She gasped softly feeling him stretching her up.

He starts thrusting into her slowly while spanking her butt.

Nandipha:Oh God....

She moaned in pleasure. He moved in and out and increased his pace, hitting it harder and faster. That drove Nandipha crazy because she screamed a little and he put a hand over her mouth.

“Shhh don’t make noise”.

He warned. He continued fucking her. They heard a soft knock followed by Nonjabulo’s voice.

Nonjabulo:Nandipha can you open for me?

Nandipha tried to move from the table but this man was having no mercy on her. Instead, he just turned her around and made her lie on the desk. He lifted up her one leg and inserted himself again.

Nonjabulo knocked again.

“Tell her you’re busy, you’ll see her later”, he whispered to her.

Nandipha:Ma'am I'll see you after I'm done here I'm b... ahhh shit....

Nonjabulo:Are you okay in there?

Nandipha:I'm okay. I'll come to you.

Nonjabulo:Okay.

They heard her walking away.

He gave her two deep strokes and felt himself cumming, he released in the condom and groaned as he threw the condom on the floor. He licked his lips and pulled his pants up, he fixed himself and walked out.

Nandipha:Kanjalo nje!?! (Just like that!?)

She asked herself, he just fucked her and left! Did he really just do that!?! More importantly, did she just sleep with her boss's husband!?!

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To be continued...

Like, comment & share.

100 comments.

BURNING FIRES OF GREED

#9

She has fixed herself and sprayed her office with the air freshener. Well that just happened! Wow!

She sits on her chair and wonders; does it make her a bad person that she enjoyed it? That she wants more? The man can lay the pipe. He ambushed her she won't lie; she wasn't expecting him to do that, she just got tongue tied but she still can't stop thinking about the session. It was steamy and fire, if the door wasn't locked Nonjabulo would have caught them and all hell would have broke loose. She probably would have gotten fired.

She can't stop looking at the table where he had bent her over and licks her lips reminiscing what happened.

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NHLAKA

He decided to call the guy and let him know that he is accepting the offer. He has no choice but to take it, hearing that his parents are owing such a huge

amount of money made him want to help them pay it back.

The guy tells him to come in tomorrow at 8am, for orientation and signing of the contract.

He smiles and hangs up. This is going to be his first time working, a professional job at that. He wonders how that guy made this all possible, he was so sure he was going to jail this time, but he is now walking free. He hasn't seen his friends ever since he got released, he's starting to look at them in another way. They were so quick to leave him and let him take the blame for everything. That is not friendship! They should have stuck by him and supported him.

He goes back inside and finds his father in the kitchen.

Nhlaka: You're not going to work today?

Zakhele: I'm on leave.

Nhlaka: Oh okay.

Zakhele: Nhlaka I haven't heard you speaking about a girl. Do you have a girlfriend?

Nhlaka: I haven't found the right one tyma(dad).

Zakhele:Hurry up before your stick falls off.

He laughed and walked away.

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Smangele is still at work, she is heading home so she takes her things and walk out of the store. Sphokazi was not in today, it was her off day.

A car stops next to her as she is waiting for a taxi. She knows this car, she could never forget it. It was him, where has he been!?! She stops herself from screaming

at him when she remembers that she's not his girlfriend. He gets out of the car and gets close to her.

His scent is so strong, he must be using the expensive colognes.

Smangele:H... hi.....

She stutters. He smiled and showed his teeth.

“I am here to give you a lift”

Sma:Yes...yes...

He opens the door for her and she gets in.
He goes to the driver's side and gets in
too.

He starts the car and drives away.

“My name is Zanokuhle Mthiyane by the
way.”

Sma:Nice to finally know your name.
Thank you again for the other night, if
you didn't come on time who knows
what danger I would have come across
with?

Zano:I did what any man could do. But
are you alright?

Sma: Yeah I'm fine now, I just found out that day and things happened. The guy chased me out in the middle of the night.

Zano: I know.

He bites his tongue and laughs nervously..

She brushes it off thinking that it was probably too obvious that she got chased out by a man that night.

Sma: That's not the way home.

Zano:I know, I just want us to go somewhere first, if you don't mind.

Sma:Okay.

She doesn't know why she feels so safe with him. She should be screaming and telling him to turn back but here she is, driving with a person he barely knows.

He stops at what looks like a park. She looks closer and notices that it's her favourite park. She likes coming here to unwind and relax, be free with her thoughts. She likes the swing more, it makes her feel like a little girl all over again.

She looks at Zano who was looking forward.

Sma: This is my favorite park. How did you know?

Zano: I guessed. Let's go..

They got out of the car and he went to the boot. He came back with a picnic basket and a fluffy blanket.

Sma: Well aren't you just Mr prepared?

He shrugs his shoulders and laughs. He likes laughing, that's what she has noticed about him so far.

They walk to the quietest area and he lays the blanket on the grass.

Zano:It's not much, but I just wanted you to have a good time after a stressful day at work.

She takes out the contents inside the basket. There was 100% guava juice, her favourite, grapes, bananas, biscuits, cake and all other junk. Specifically, her favorites only. She looked at him suspiciously.

Zano: This is my first time doing this for a person, so tell me if I'm making you uncomfortable.

No Mr you are ticking all the boxes, she thinks to herself.

Sma: No I'm fine. Thank you for this.

She pours the juice for them and starts drinking.

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Nandipha knocks inside Nonjabulo's office and she tells her to come in.

Nonjabulo:Hey.

Nandipha:Hi. Sorry I couldn't let you in, I was a bit busy.

She sits down.

Nonjabulo:No problem, my husband told me that you came here looking for me.

Nandipha:Yeah, I did come here and found him. I wanted to tell you that I did help out my family with some money.

Nonjabulo:*Smiling* That's a good thing to hear. I'm sure they were happy.

Nandipha: Yeah they were. You love him?

Nonjabulo: Who?

She pointed at the picture of her husband. Nonjabulo and started blushing.

Nonjabulo: So much. We have been married for six years, and they have been the best years of my life.

Nandipha:I wish to get married someday, but my relationships never work. The man I date leave and say I'm rude. Of which I don't see.

Nonjabulo:You'll find the right one some day.

Nandipha:I think I have found him.

She said smiling.

A knock interrupted them and Nonjabulo stood up to open, she went outside to talk with the person knocking. Nandipha got up of her seat and took Nonjabulo's

phone from the table. She was surprised that it didn't need any code nor fingerprint, she went to the contact list and looked for her husband's numbers. He was saved as "Hubby" with a ring emoji. She copied the numbers on her phone and put Nonjabulo's phone back on the table. She went back to her seat like nothing happened.

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Khanyisile is visiting Bongani again, she can't stay away from him.

Bongani: Will you sleepover?

Khanyisile:No, I didn't bring anything to change into.

Bongani:You will wear my clothes. I have better fashion taste than you.

Khanyisile:Mxm.

Bongani:Ngyadlala(I'm kidding). Come here.

She lays her head on his chest.

Bongani:So tell me, what is your plan?

Khanyisile:Plan for what?

Bongani:In life, like what do you want to do? You are 30 now and you are not working. Are you trying or you have given up?

Khanyisile:Honestly babe I want nothing more than to have a job right now. I was fired at my old job because of theft, I think they blacklisted me after that because I have been unlucky. It's been two years of job hunting and no luck. I also don't have tangible qualifications.

Bongani: You need to cleanse and get rid of the bad luck.

Khanyisile: Angizenzi lezo zinto mina (I don't do that).

Bongani: Just cleanse mama, you can do it at your church with that holy water you always shout fire holy holy with.

Khanyisile: I don't go to church.

Bongani: Yikho unamabhadi nje! (No wonder you have bad luck).

Khanyisile:What is that supposed to mean?

Bongani:Just give what I'm saying a chance and see if it won't help. I know a powerful Sangoma who would get rid of the bad luck.

Khanyisile:I will see.

Bongani:Awuzkbona lutho, Vuma noma unqabe(There's nothing to see, say yes or no).

Khanyisile:I will think about it Bongani.

Bongani: While you are thinking, a wave of bad luck traveling at 360 degree per volt charge is coming your way.

Khanyisile: That's not even a measurement.

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At the park.

Zano was pushing Sma on the swing and she was giggling all the way. She loves the swing, she decides she has had enough and tells Zano to stop. She steps

out of the swing and feels dizzy for a bit. Zano holds her and she feels like a dot in his arms.

Sma: Thank you for the lovely evening. I really enjoyed myself.

Zano: It's my pleasure. Can I have your number?

Sma: Okay.

She smiles and gives it to him.

Zano: Thank you. Do you want to go home now?

It was starting to get dark.

Sma: Yeah we can leave. Thank you again. I was depressed the entire day but you managed to put a smile on my face. Thank you.

She hugs him before he could say anything.

He freezes a bit and hugs her back. They hold each other tightly for minutes, not exchanging any words. Letting their feelings do the talking.

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To be continued....

Please like, comment & share.

100 comments **BURNING FIRES OF
GREED**

#10

When Sma gets home, she is all smiles and she can't help thinking about how simple yet romantic the evening was. She throws herself on the bed and puts hands on her chest smiling with her eyes closed...

Sma: I think I'm in love.

She says and right then her phone rings.
Please let it be him.

She answered..

Sma:Hello.

“Mama” .

Yep it’s him. She screams silently and
composes herself.

Sma:Zano hi.

Zano:/Ufike kahle endlini? (Did you arrive safely?)

Sma:Yes I did. Thank you.

Zano:Okay, I'm going to pick you up tomorrow morning and take you to work.

Sma:Really? Why?

Zano:I just want to, and you are beautiful Smangele.

Sma:*Blushing* Thank you.

It sounds more real when it's said by him.

Sma:And I would appreciate that.

Zano:Ulale kahle mama, ngizokbona ksasa(Sleep well mama, I will see you tomorrow).

Sma:Ulale kahle nawe(Sleep well too).

She hangs up and hugs her phone kissing his contact after she saved it. Even Khulekani never made her feel like this..

Khanyisile enters her room.. Khanyi is the only sister she gets along with, they just click. They do argue now and then but it doesn't last for a long time.

Khanyisile:Smangele..

Sma:Hey sisters..

Khanyi:Sengiyajola angithi uyazi? (I am dating now you know right?)

Sma:No I didn't know. Who are you dating?

Khanyi:Bongani.

Sma:The guy who too you to KFC?

Khanyi:Yeah, I was supposed to sleepover today at his place but I crossed him. He has a big bazooka and I am not ready for that.

Sma:Laughing* You're going to get used to it eventually. Are you happy though?

Khanyi:Very, I love that he doesn't pretend with me. He's himself and that makes me love him more.

Sma:I'm happy for you.

Khanyi: Anywho there is something he said and I need your advice on it.

Sma: Yeah?

Khanyi: I was telling him that after I got fired I haven't been able to get a job. He suggested that I go to someone and get rid of the bad luck, cleansing and stuff.

Sma: Maybe that will help.

Khanyi: You think so?

Sma: Yeah, you have been unemployed for quite a long time Khanyi. Just do it and see if it works.

Khanyi: Mhhh okay, I'll Tel him to connect me with his Sangoma. Anyway why are you all smiles?

Sma: What do you mean??

Khanyi: You have been smiling and blushing since I came in here.

Sma: It's nothing, I'm just happy.

Khanyi:I hope you haven't gotten back with that idiot...

Sma:I would never do that, I'm over Khulekani.

Khanyi:You better be.

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TWO WEEKS LATER....

At the hotel.

Nhlanhla(Nonjabulo's husband) throws Nandipha on the bed and wastes no time and slams into her. They have a very short quicky that leaves Nandipha wanting for more. She pulls him toward her and kisses her.

Nhlanhla:We have to leave before we get caught.

Nandipha:Oh come on, one last round.

Nhlanhla:You are doing this on purpose because you know I can't say no to this cookie.

Nandipha:*smiling* It's all yours.

He strokes himself hardening his rod.

They fuck one more time until Nandipha is satisfied...

Nandipha:I need to get back to the office.
I have a meeting with Nonjabulo..

Nhlanhla:Okay when am I seeing you again?

He asks spanking her butt.

Nandipha:Anytime you want me and I will be there..

Nhlanhla: Fuck mamie.

She grins and they go to take a shower together, a not normal shower.

They are now dressed and ready to leave.

Nhlanhla: I'll walk out first and you'll wait 13 minutes before walking out.

Nandipha: Okay. Bye.

He kisses her one more time and her hands travels to his pants..

Nhlanhla: Fuck...

Nandipha: Go....

He walks out and she waits for that 13 minutes before walking out.

She goes back to work and starts by her office first, she puts on some body spray on her neck to get rid of Nhlanhla's scent.

She goes to Nonjabulo's office and take a deep breath before walking in.

Nandipha: Good day mam.

Nonjabulo: Oh Nandipha you are here already..

She turns her chair and faces the wall, wiping her tears. Nandipha stands there awkwardly and decides to sit down. After some time Nonjabulo turns her chair around.

Nonjabulo: I'm sorry about that. Let's get to business. So we are looking at figures for the t...

She just breaks down into tears and takes another tissue to wipe her tears.

Nandipha goes to her and pats her shoulders.

Nandipha:Are you okay?

Nonjabulo:Mhh.

She nods biting her inner mouth. What she felt inside couldn't be described by words. She cries some more.

Nonjabulo:Nhlanhla is cheating on me and he doesn't even hide it. He talks with her in front of me, and doesn't come back at home sometimes.

Nandipha pretended to be shocked..

Nandipha:How could he do something like this to a sweet person like you?

Nonjabulo:I gave that man my everything. I don't understand how he can hurt me like this. He broke our family. My children have to bare seeing me cry every night. They are not stupid, they see that things are not okay.

Nandipha:I'm really sorry mam.

Nonjabulo:I don't know what to do
Nandipha. My mother says
“kuyabekezelwa emshadweni”, that all
men cheat. I don't want a cheating

husband Mina, what if he brings some sickness at home?

Nandipha: You should teach him a lesson.

Nonjabulo: How?

Nandipha: Go away for some time, don't tell him where you are going, he must see through your posts that you are happy where ever you are. Men jealous, he will see how it is to almost lose you and he will stop the nonsense he's doing.

Nonjabulo: Maybe you're right. That sounds like a good idea.

Nandipha: Yes girl, we shouldn't allow these men to play us.

She giggled a bit. She was feeling a little better now..

Nonjabulo: Let me go clean myself up, I'll be back.

Nandipha: Okay.

Nonja walks out and Nandipha remains behind looking around the office. She envies everything Nonjabulo has, and one or the other she will get it. Shagging

her husband is not enough, she wants more and everything. And she will use her(Nonjabulo) to get to it, the girl is too naïve and nice she won't suspect anything.

She sits at Nonjabulo's chair and spins around it. She smiles and gets up.

Nandipha:Keep my chair warm
Nonjabulo.

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To be continued....

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#11

At the Ngcobo House.

Zakhele is yet again at home today, Nomuzi is starting to suspect that something is wrong. This unexpected month leave is suspicious. She is sure that there is something he's not telling her.

Nomuzi: Are you hiding something from me?

Zakhele:What are you talking about?

Nomuzi:I feel like there is something you're not telling me...

Zakhele:No I'm not hiding anything.. I'm just stressed over the loan.

Nomuzi:The kids said they would help us out.

Zakhele:Do you understand that we only have 6 months to pay this money!? Even with their salaries, how will we pay R100 000 in six months?

Nomuzi sighed as he was speaking sense. The amount was too much to be paid in six months.

Nomuzi: Maybe we should go to the bank and ask for extension.

Zakhele: *Sighs* I'll go tomorrow. But I'm not hopeful.

He sighed and took off his glasses. Everything was weighing heavily on him and he didn't know what to do. He is a man, the head of this house, he should be strong and coming up with a plan. His family is looking up to him. He can't fail

him. He already failed Smangele and Khanyisile, he can't fail them again too.

Nomuzi: My old bosses are dragging the whole process of my money, they should have paid me by now.

Zakhele: When was the last time you did a follow up on the matter?

Nomuzi: Last month and they made me sign a load of documents. They said they would contact me but nothing, even now.

Zakhele: Things will work out. Let's not worry too much.

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Nandipha is wearing a dress today, red number revealing her cleavage and curves. She closed it off with a red lipstick. Today is a big meeting with the other shareholders and she needs to impress.

Nonjabulo's assistant comes to tell her that the meeting is starting in five minutes.

She thanks her and grabs her notebook walking out. She arrives at the

boardroom and greets the people who were already there, including Nonjabulo.

Nonjabulo: We are waiting for two more people then we can start.

They wait for a few minutes and the two people they have been waiting for arrive. Nandipha is surprised and shocked to see Nhlanhla. What is he doing here?

He doesn't even look at her direction, she gets hurt a little.

Everyone introduces themselves and her(Nandipha) shock widens when she learns that Nhlanhla is a major shareholder and chairman of the board of this company.

So Nonjabulo isn't that mighty CEO after all?

She smiles a little and crosses her legs.

The meeting continues and they discuss business and more ways on how to attract more investors. They go for a tea break and she decides to go to the bathroom.

She is about to walk out when he pushes her inside and locks the door.

Nandipha: *Whispering* What are you doing here?

Nhlanhla:I couldn't concentrate with you looking hot like this.

He says already lifting up her dress and shifting her panty on the side, he kisses her neck.

Nandipha:You didn't even look my direction..

Nhlanhla:My wife was there. I couldn't give any reason to suspect us.

He fingerfucks her and drops down his pants.

Nandipha:Condom?

Nhlanhla:Shit I don't have it.

Nandipha:Why don't you have it?

Nhlanhla:I didn't know I would want to fuck you. I'll pull out, don't worry.

He lifts up her leg a little and enters her slowly. They both gasp, careful to not make any noise.

He thrusts into her quickly his cum splashes all over.

They wipe themselves with the tissue.

Nhlanhla:I'll see you soon, I'll call you tonight..

Nandipha:Okay...

Nhlanhla:You though..

He says looking deep into her eyes.

Nhlanhla:Let me leave before anyone notices we are both gone.

He walks out and she remains for a few minutes before walking out.

She was about to get back to the board room when Nonjabulo called her to the side.

She panicked thinking she saw him with Nhlanhla.

Nonjabulo: Hey, so I am leaving tonight.

She sighed relieved.

Nandipha: Where are you going?

Nonjabulo: At a game reserve. I'll take your advice and take some thirst trap content, that is sure to make him feel the heat.

Nandipha: Yes girl....

Nonjabulo: See I even did my hair....

Oh she did her hair? She didn't notice, probably because she doesn't care that much about her and she's planning on stealing her husband.

Nandipha: I noticed that something was different. You are hot, pelepele wodwa.

Nonjabulo: Thank you. Let's go back inside.

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At Nhlaka's work.

Today was his first day of work, and he is having mixed feelings. There are so many people, and too much work. He's not used to this. He only knows stealing and hijacking. This thing of working for money is new to him. But he promised his parents that he will change and he doesn't want to disappoint them again.

He hasn't seen the person who hired him, but he was shown how everything and how things go around here.

The person he is assigned to shadow for the week tells him that the boss wants to see him.

He goes into the office and finds him sitting on the chair.

“Nhlakanipho, I’m glad you took this opportunity. You will love it here”

Nhlaka:I hope so.

“I’m sure they have shown you how we run business here. By the way my name is Zanokuhle Mthiyane”

Nhlaka: Nice to know the man responsible for me getting out of prison, even though I still feel like there is something I'm return you want. There always is something.

Zano: You're right, there is something I want. But it's not you or getting you in trouble. I want your sister.

Nhlaka: *Confused* Nandipha??

Zano: No, Smangele.

Nhlaka: So you broke me out of jail, gave me a job, just because you want my sister?

Zano: Want sounds obsessive. I love her. I'm only telling you because I think you deserve to know, and I don't want you to get surprised when you see her with me. Don't get me wrong, I'm not asking for your permission, I'm just being polite brother in law.

Nhlaka sweats under his seat. He didn't know what to say. He went through all this trouble because of a crush he has on Smangele?

Zano:It's up to you if you want to quit this job, but I'm sure you've seen your contract and how much you will get paid.

Yep he saw it. He needs this job, though Zano's ways just seem creepy to him but Sma is old, he's sure she can take care of herself.

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At the Sangoma's house.

Bongani and Khanyisile finally took the journey to the Sangoma for the cleansing.

They just took her to the river to bath with the herbs and muthi given by the Sangoma (Dlomo).

She came back and Dlomo gave her more muthi to steam with every night.

Khanyisile:Are you sure my bad luck will go away?

Dlomo laughs a little. She doesn't have any bad luck but he didn't want to turn her away so he did the cleansing. Its just that some things take time and they say good things come to those who wait.

Dlomo: Yes. Remember, no sex for seven days. Your cleansing will be done by then.

Khanyisile: Okay thank you mkhulu.

He takes her things and goes outside to Bongani.

Khanyisile: Go and pay the man.

Bongani: You are done?

Khanyisile: Yes. Go and pay.

Bongani: Pay with what? I didn't bring any money!

Khanyisile: Bongani man!

Bongani: Fine, but you will pay me back.

He walks away and goes to Dlomo.

Bongani: Baba kuzoba imalini? (How much will it be?)

Dlomo: Khululeka ndodana, asikho isdingo (Don't worry son, there's no need).

Regardless of that, he took out R400 and placed it near him.

Dlomo:Inkani!(You're stubborn!)

Bongani:So what do you think of her?

Dlomo:She's a nice person and her intentions with you are pure.

Bongani smiled, Dlomo never goes wrong.

Bongani:I love her.

Dlomo:She's yours son. Don't let her go.

Bongani:I won't baba. Nisale
kahle(goodbye).

He walked out and went back to
Khanyisile.

Bongani:It was R400.

Khanyisile:Not bad. Let's go home now.

Bongani:Please sleepover.

Khanyisile: Bab' Dlomo said no sex for seven days.

Bongani: We don't need to have sex to spend time together.

Khanyisile: Okay but I will go home first and leave these.

They walk out to his bakkie.

Khanyisile: Hay this car is not make sure.

Bongani: You either get in or take a taxi.

She shuts her mouth and gets inside.
Bongani does too. He starts the car and it seems like it's starting but it goes quiet again. Khanyisile sighs and tilts her head over the window, she waits as Bongani starts his sgedlemba.

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SMANGELE

Zano just called and told her that he was outside. She sprinted out of the house, like she was on a running competition.

She finds him leaning against his car. By the time she gets to him, she is red with blushing.

He hugs her so warmly and as always, his hugs feel so good.

Zano:Hi.

Sma:Hi...

Zano:Can I take you to a date tomorrow?

Sma:A date?

Zano:Yeah, our first date.

Sma:Okay.

She says smiling. She'll have to buy a new outfit, not the rags she has.

Zano:Thank you. So how is everyone at home?

Sma:They are fine, it's just that I'm a bit mad at my parents but I'll be fine.

She says and remembers how Khulekani was always so uninterested in anything concerning her family.

Sma:I'm sorry.

Zano:For what?

Sma:For bombarding you with my family problems.

Zano:No no, you're not going to apologize for that. In fact, tell me what happened. I'm a good listener.

She pulls her to his chest and she tells him about the loan issue.

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Inside the house, Nandipha closed the curtain after peeping at Sma and a man outside.

She goes to Khanyisile's room and finds her packing an overnight bag.

Nandipha:U Sma useyajola yini futhi? Ume nendoda enemoto emnyango (Is Sma dating again? She's standing with a man with a car outside).

Khanyisile:Sma is older than you, what she does is none of your business. If she's dating, akufuni wena lokho (that's not your concern).

Nandipha:I was just asking, she just got heartbroken and already she's with another man. She hasn't healed.

Khanyisile:Eyy Nandipha awungmele nescefe wena! (Nandipha stop pestering me!)

Nandipha:Where are you going?

Khanyisile:Out.

Nandipha:Nawe uyajola? (You're dating too?)

Khanyisile:Get out of my room.

Nandipha's phone ring in her hands and it was Nhlanhla. She shows Khanyi the caller ID.

Nandipha: A promising man for me too.

Khanyi ignores her, Nandipha sighs hurt and gets out of her room. She declines Nhlanhla's call and go to her parents who were watching TV.

Nandipha: Ma, u Sma useletha amadoda aneymoto emnyango no Khanyisile ulala ama out! (Ma Smangele is bringing men with cars outside our home, and Khanyisile is sleeping out).

Nomuzi: Bangakanani kuwena labo bantu (How old are those people compared to you?)

Nandipha: Badala (They are old).

Nomuzi: There's your answer then.

She says and focuses back on the TV.
Nandipha stands there feeling so embarrassed and humiliated.

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To be continued

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#12

At Bongani's place..

Khanyisile is kneeling over the basin, with a huge blanket covering her whole body. The water is boiling hot, and she put the medicine Bab'Dlomo gave her.

Khanyi: Bongani ngiyasha! (I am burning!).

Bongani: You have to steam for twenty minutes. You are almost there babe.

She waited for that twenty minutes and she felt Bongani lifting up the blanket and she quickly stood up. She was so sweaty and her entire body felt hot.

He gave her a towel and she wrapped it around her body. She picked up the basin and went to the shower, she poured it over her and rinsed the basin. She cleaned herself from the leaves and walked out.

Bongani: How do you feel??

Khanyisile:I don't know, relieved. This better work.

Bongani:It will work.

He helps her wear her pyjamas.

Khanyisile:I know how to dress myself.

Bongani:I know, but I want to help you.
Yabona ukuthi ngiyakthanda kodwa?
(Do you see that I love you?)

Khanyisile:I see, and I love you.

Bongani:I don't blame you, I am a catch after all.

Khanyisile:Please abeg don't make me laugh.

Bongani:Are you trying to say I'm ugly?

Khanyisile:Nop you are so handsome my love.

She says laughing.

Bongani:Mxm, I'm not helping you wear your clothes anymore.

He walks away.

Khanyisile:Hawu Bhebhenene!

She calls him out still laughing.

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Nandipha is in her room thinking about how her mother just told her off. She's so hurt. Khanyisile and Smangele are doing as they please and they are not reprimanding them, great parenting!

She is so angry that she even forgot to call back Nhlanhla. Luckily, he calls her again.

Nandipha:Hey babe.

Nhlanhla:Why did you decline my call? I tried to call you earlier.

Nandipha:I'm sorry, I just got into a small argument with my family.

Nhlanhla:Oh okay, are you okay?

Nandipha:Yeah I'm fine. Anyway how are you doing?

Nhlanhla:Fantastic, listen my wife is gone for the weekend. Do you want to come over?

Nandipha:At your house?

Nhlanhla:Yeah, I don't want to leave the kids alone. You'll sneak in so they don't see you.

Nandipha:Mhhh, I'm not sure about this Nhlanhla. What if she comes back?

Nhlanhla:She won't. Please come babe, I miss you and that sweet cookie of yours.

It's like he's addicted to her pussy.

Nandipha: Okay fine.

Nhlanhla: Thank you, I will send a driver to pick you up. I will wait at the gate.

Nandipha: Okay... let me get ready.

She hung up and took a quick bath. She wore simple jeans and a shirt.

After a while she got a text that the driver was outside, she took her bag and went out, passing her parents on the living room like they don't exist.

She spotted the car and went inside.

Driver:Evening mam.

Nandipha:Hi.

The driver looked at her through the mirror and shook his head.

He arrived at Nhlanhla's house; he was already at the gate. Nandipha got out of the car and hugged Nhlanhla.

They went inside and sneaked into the bedroom.

It was the room where him and Nonjabulo sleep.

Nandipha: Why are you bringing me into this room?

Nhlanhla: What's wrong with it?

Nandipha: It's where you and your wife sleep, and have sex.

Nhlanhla: You worry too much you.

Nandipha: Can we talk?

Nhlanhla: About?

Nandipha:About us. What is happening between us?

Nhlanhla:We are fucking and enjoying each other. What's with the questions kanti?

He tries to get off her jeans. She stops him.

Nandipha:I don't want to be just your side chick!

Nhlanhla:I'm married Nandipha, what do you want me to do?

Nandipha:Divorce her.

She says firmly.

Nhlanhla:Uyahlanya kanti! (You're crazy!) Why would I divorce my dear loving wife for you!?

Nandipha:Then I guess I will tell her that you and me have been fucking.

Nhlanhla:Go ahead, I dare you.

She swallowed at how not moved he was.

He grabbed her by her waist and pulled her closer to him, kissing her.

Nhlanhla:Ngcela sifakane izinto
zokchama nje singayxaki kakhulu
ngokunye(Can we just have sex and not
worry about other things?)

Nandipha:I know you will just desert me
like a chewed gum when you've had
enough of me.

Nhlanhla:I won't do that. I love you
sweetheart.

Nandipha: You're just saying because you want this pussy.

He sighs and sits down, he can see that she really wants to talk. She also sits down.

Nhlanhla: Nonjabulo has never done me wrong, she's respectful and kind. She gives me my place as a man, she's been with me since my broke days. She didn't leave me, she stayed and encouraged me to be the man I am today. That's why I built that company for her, even though I am still a chairman but it's hers. She's the mother of my kids, the best gift she ever gave me. I can't just divorce her.

Nandipha: So you don't love her? You just feel like you owe her for being with you through your broke days?

Nhlanhla: Stop putting words in my mouth. I love my wife. No woman compares to her.

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Sma is in her room and chatting with Zano, she is red with smiling and laughing.

‘I can’t wait to see you tomorrow’-Zano

‘I can’t wait to see you too. You make me happy’-Sma.

She cringes as she presses send on her text.

‘I’m still gonna make you more happy, especially when you are Mrs Mthiyane’-Zano

‘Mrs Mthiyane? Has a nice ring to it’-Sma.

‘You’re not like the other girls I’ve met Sma. For you alone, I just want to bring the whole world to you. You’ll never feel

sad nor suffer in life mama, I'm here now'-Zano.

She reads the text again and she can't make sense of it. What does he mean? She sees him typing and waits.

'There's nothing I wouldn't do for you'-Zano.

'Thank you, but please don't feel as if you have to impress me. I like you without doing anything'-Sma.

'Asilale manje(Let's sleep now). See you tomorrow.'-Zano

'Goodnight'-Sma.

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At Bongani's.

They are wrapped like a sausage in a blanket watching TV.

Khanyisile: So who does your daughter live with?

Bongani: My mother, she can't stay here with me because this is not a child friendly house and I'm not home most of the times.

Khanyi:Where's the mother?

Bongani:She's not with us anymore, died giving birth to Miracle.

Khanyi:Oh I'm so sorry to hear that.

She felt sad. Imagine not knowing your mother.

Bongani:Nah it's okay, I have moved over it. It took me years but now when I think of her, I just remember that she left me with an amazing gift.

Khanyi:*Smiling* How old is she?
Miracle?

Bongani:She's 9. Her birthday is next month and I would have loved to throw a party for her but Impilo ilukhuni mfwethu(life is hard).

Khanyi:Kids don't really care, even if you buy her a cake and Sweets, she'll be over the moon.

Bongani:Ucabanga kanjalo?(You think so?)

Khanyi: Yes. I can't wait to meet her. She sounds like an amazing child.

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At Nhlanhla's home.

He is fast asleep and snoring, Nandipha shakes her head and gets out of bed. She goes to the bathroom with her phone. She first check Nonjabulo's social media updates and the girl really did post thurst pictures, there's one where she's wearing a sexy black lingerie.

Nandipha:Chips wena.

She says and sends heart emojis to Nonjabulo.

Nandipha:Enjoy your vacation girl.

She laughs and go out of the bathroom.
She goes back to the bedroom and sighs at the number of used condoms on the floor.

She gets back in bed.

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To be continued..

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#13

The following day, Sma woke up early to go and buy an outfit for tonight's date. She went back home when she was done and found her mother by the kitchen. She greeted her and went to her room to try on the new outfit. It suited her well that she sent pictures to Khanyisile, she was still not back from her sleepover.

She was about to take off the clothes when her mother knocked.

Sma:Come in.

Nomuzi:Wow, you look beautiful. You brought new clothes?

Sma:Yeah..

She said casually and took them off. She wore another ones.

Nomuzi:Sma can we talk?

Sma>About what?

Nomuzi:About the tension between us. I know you are hurt and angry.

Sma:Hurt doesn't even begin to explain how I feel. I just can't believe that out of all people, you mom can do me like that. You knew how much I wanted to go to school, yet you chose to renovate the house. Even with sending Nandipha and Nhlaka to school instead of us was another wicked move, we are all your children. Why didn't you start with us?

Nomuzi:Smangele I can explain all of this.

Sma: There's nothing you will explain ma really. You and baba made your choices its fine, you're the parents after all. I have gotten used to depending on me so I'm not that much disappointed. There's nothing you and baba ever did for me anyway, when I finished school you pushed me to find a job and didn't even give me a chance to look for sponsors or bursaries. Need I remind you that I also turned into a mother taking care of Nhlaka and Nandipha when they were young because you were never home because of work. Don't start with me ma, you people in this family like to take advantage of my kindness. Just because I'm quiet and prefer peace, you mistaken that for me being stupid.

Nomuzi blinked her tears, Sma's words pierced painfully in her heart. She didn't know that this is how she felt.

Nomuzi:Smangele I'm sorry, me and your father recognize our mistakes. We see how we were wrong with this whole thing, we chose Nhlaka and Nandipha and paid for them instead of you. We were wrong, we should have put you and Khanyi first.

Sma:I'm seriously over that mfazi ka baba(my father's wife). Now if you will excuse me, I need to go and sweep the yard.

She left her there and went to the kitchen to take the broom. She started sweeping the yard while her mother looked at her through the window. Did she really fail her daughter?

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ZANOKUHLE.

He is on his house counting stacks of money and shoving it inside a black case.

His brother, Sphiwe frowns when he comes into the room and sees him counting so much money.

Sphiwe:And then?

Zano:I have a debt to pay.

Sphiwe:How much is this?

He takes a deep breath and put the last stack.

Zano:R100K.

Sphiwe opens his eyes in shock.

Sphiwe: Who do you owe so much money?

Zano: It's not really for me.

Sphiwe: Please don't tell me this is about Sma.

Zano: Everything is about her.

Sphiwe: Dude no.

Zano:Her dad is owing the bank 100k man, I have 100K so I want to help.

Sphiwe:You have already done so much for her in secret. Don't you think she'll think you're some sort of creep when she finds out? And you haven't known this girl for even five months but you are already spending 100k on her.

Zano:Sma has been through so much, she deserves everything nice. I don't want her to be stressed or sad. I just want her to enjoy being my woman.

Sphiwe:I know that, but this? You're going too far now. Some people don't

like to be thought as charity cases. You'll push her away with this.

He kept quiet and thought about it. Maybe he was right, maybe Sma will think he's a creep or a stalker when she finds out about the things he's done for her. Getting his brother out of jail, giving him a job, basically running a background check on her and finding out everything there is to know about her, that was invasion of privacy. But he needed to know the type of person he was about to involve himself with.

Sphiwe:I'm calling your brother and telling him about this.

Zano:Fuck you.

Sphiwe:You too. You said you have a date with her.

Zano:I do, but it's at night.

Sphiwe:Mhh I have never seen you like this.

Zano:Eish I love this girl, she makes me so nervous.

Sphiwe:A whole you nervous?

Zano:Eish I don't know why, she just has that effect on me.

Sphiwe:Go and shave your head phela, so you can look nice for her. Are you really sure about her? That she's gotten over her ex?

Zano:Yep I'm sure, even if she's not. I'll treat her so good she'll forget about that punk.

Just even thinking about Khulekani made him get angry all over again.

Sphiwe:All the best Bro, I hope she doesn't break your heart.

Zano:Sma is sweet, she wouldn't do that.

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At Bongani's place.

Bongani:I will miss you. I really enjoyed spending time with you yesterday.

They stayed up late talking and getting to know more about each other.

Khanyi:I will miss you too Bhebhenene wami.

Bongani:Let's get in before sgedlemba refuses to start.

They get inside the car and it gives them trouble, refusing to start.

Bongani:You push and I drive.

Khanyi:I don't know how to push.

Bongani:Uzozama(You will try).

She got out of the car and went to push the car, but it required strength of which she didn't have.

Bongani:Put more energy into it Mbhabhadisi.

She looked at him with an evil look and he laughed.

Bongani:Just push..

She pushed it again, he tried it one more time and started it. Luckily it made a sound and roared, he cheered and the car

just started driving itself until it got out of the yard. Khanyi ran after it shouting for him to stop.

Khanyi:Bhebhenene!!

Bongani:I can't stop it.

Khanyi:Jump out.

The car wasn't moving fast, so he jumped out.

It continued driving itself and they ran after it shouting at the people walking by to stop it.

The bakkie eventually stopped when it hit the tree.

Bongani: Aww u sgedlemba wami madoda(my car!)

He said with his hands over his head.

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Zakhele is from the bank and his journey was unsuccessful. They told him that they can't give him extension to pay back

the loan, as he was supposed to have finished paying back by now.

He doesn't know what else to do or say at the moment. He sighs and go back home.

He tells Nomuzi what they said.

Nomuzi:I really don't know now, what if we sell your car and rent out the backroom that's not used by anyone?

Zakhele:That's actually a great idea, it won't be much but it will make a huge difference.

Nomuzi:Baba I want us to talk about Smangele.

Zakhele:What is wrong with Smangele?

She told him about their conversation earlier.

Zakhele:I also see that we were wrong in considering Nhlaka and Nandipha first instead of her and Khanyi. But what's done is done, we just have to find a way to move forward. There's no use crying over spilled milk.

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To be continued...

Please like, share & comment.

100 comments **BURNING FIRES OF
GREED**

#14

KHANYISILE

The incident that happened earlier on amused her, she knows she was supposed to get angry maybe but it was funny that she couldn't help herself. Bongani even chased her out and put her in a taxi because she kept on laughing at him, he was crying for his car.

She has already updated Abafazi about the incident.

Right now, she's narrating to her family what happened and they are all dead with laughter.

Khanyi: We ran after the car shouting for people to stop it.

Nomuzi: Khanyisile please stop it.

She says with her tummy hurting, and the way she was narrating was what made it more funny.

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At night, she is all dressed and waiting for Zano to pick her up. Part of her is nervous, but the other is excited for this. Zano is a good guy, he has managed to prove that in just a few weeks. Spending her time crying and wallowing over Khulekani won't help her, there is a man showing interest in her and she would be a fool to let him go.

Nomuzi comes to her and compliments her...

Nomuzi: You look beautiful, where are you going?

Sma:I have a date..

Nomuzi:With Khulekani?

Sma:No, me and Khulekani are over. I'm going out with someone else.

Nomuzi:Oh. I thought you would wait a little longer before you start dating again, just to give your heart the time to heal.

Sma:Khule isn't worth my tears anymore. He played me and I'm over it, I'm moving on with my life.

Nomuzi:I understand. Well good luck on your date. When are we seeing this man?

Sma:Not now. I have to go. He's outside.
Bye.

She walks out leaving her mother standing by.

Zano whistles as she comes towards him.

Sma:Stop it...

Zano:You look amazing, you're so beautiful.

Sma: Thank you. So where are we going?

Zano: You will see, don't worry.

He opens the door for her and she gets in.

He starts driving until they arrive at a restaurant.

He gets out and opens the door for her again.

She looks at the restaurant and swallows, good thing she bought new clothes, she wouldn't have survived here. It's top notch.

They went inside and they were led into their table.

They sat down.

Sma: This is a nice place.

Zano: It is, even their food is amazing.

She smiles and browse through the menu, there are a lot of words she doesn't even understand here. Zano notices the frown in her face.

Zano: What's wrong?

Sma: Mhh nothing. Just looking at the menu..

They ordered drinks first.

Zano:So I want to tell you something first, before we even go ahead with the night.

Sma:Okay..

Zano:When I saw you that day when you were walking alone in the middle of the road at night, my heart did something. Since then I have been thinking about you, my mind couldn't erase you. I then decided to do research on you, and by that I mean I did a background check on you and found out everything there is

about you, your family, your friends,
your work.

Sma:What?

Zano:I'm the one who got your brother
out of jail and gave him a job.

Sma:What!?

Zano:I wanted to go and pay back the
R100K your dad owes the bank but my
brother stopped me.

By this time, she had run out of shock.
What was this man telling her?

Zano:I'm telling you now because I don't want you to find out from someone else. I'm sorry, I know I should have spoke with you first. But I just didn't want to know that you are sad or suffering when I'm here.

Sma:Haybo Zano this is all too much to take in.

Zano:There is something more. I know you want to go back to school, so I uhm....I created a trust for you, mainly for your fees. You are going to use it for anything pertaining your studies until you finish.

Sma:I need the bathroom!

He could see the angry look she was wearing.

Zano:I will accompany you.

Sma:No I will go alone.

She took her bag and stood up and went to the bathroom.

When she arrived, she sat on the toilet seat, thinking about everything he just told her. First he invaded her privacy by running a background check on her.

Couldn't he have asked her? And wanting to pay her father's loan!? Does he see her as charity? She doesn't want a relationship where a man will see her as a figure that he needs to help out financially. She knows how to take care of herself, that's why she never wants to bother anyone. She does want to go to school and his idea is highly interesting but she's suddenly not sure about this man. If he can do this without telling her who knows what else he will do!?

She knows one person who she can talk to at this moment, so she calls Khanyisile.

Khanyi: Hey girl, how is the date?

Sma:It has not even started because he just dropped a bomb on me.

Khanyi:What happened?

She told her everything Zano told her.

Khanyi:Haybo Sma this guy sounds obsessed with you!

Sma:That's exactly what I'm thinking. Imagine he has R100k lying around and he wants to use it to pay for my father's loan. Why!?

Khanyi:I'm not sure why he's doing all this, even if it's out of love then he could have told you first. Getting Nhlaka out of prison, he surely did something illegal because Nhlaka did steal at that shop. What if he's involved in illegal things? I don't trust him.

Sma:I like this guy Khanyi, so much. But I don't know anything about him.

Khanyi:So what are you going to do?

Sma:The only thing I can do. I'll see you when I get back.

She hangs up and goes back to Zano.

Sma:Can you take me home?

Zano:Why? Did something happen?

Sma:No, I just want to go home.

Zano:Okay.

With his heart pounding, he stood up and led her to where he parked. Sphiwe did tell him that what he's doing will push her away, and he was right. Maybe he went about the whole thing wrong.

Zano:Sma are you angry with me?

Sma:No.

Zano:Please talk to me, say something.

Sma:If you don't want to take me home,
I can just request Uber.

Zano:No it's fine, get in.

They get inside and he drives off to her
house.

Sma:I can't be with you, I'm sorry. You sound like you are living an entirely different life than the one I know. I really have feelings for you, but I don't know you that well and I don't want to find myself being heartbroken again..

Zano:But we will get to know each other, and I will never break your heart. I don't cheat, I'm committed to one person.

He begs her holding her hands...

Sma:I'm sorry, but I can't be with you.

She opens the door and walks out with tears in her eyes.

Zano rests his forehead on the wheel.
He calls his other brother, Busani.

Busani:Ndoda.

Zano:It didn't work out bafo.

Busani:What didn't work out?

Zano:Sma, she said she can't be with me.
I told her everything and she said she
can't be with me. I really love her

Busani, I don't think I will survive without her.

Busani: These things happen, come home. Maybe she was not the one. A small inconvenience like this has her running, do you think she would have been able to manage with the lives we are living? Come back home bafo. Ungabe usakhala (Don't cry).

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Inside the house, Sma enters with tears in her eyes and runs to her bedroom.

Nandipha:What's up with her?

Khanyisile:I don't know, let me check on her.

She went to Sma and she was lying flat on the bed.

Khanyi:Sma what happened?

Sma:I told him I can't be with him.

Khanyi:Really?

Sma:Yah, I can't be with a man who lies to me from the start of our relationship.

Khanyi comforts her not knowing what to say.

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The following day, Zakhele tells his wife that he's going out a bit.

He goes to the loan shark in the neighbourhood.

“Are you sure you will be able to pay this money?”, the loan shark asks him.

Zakhele: Yes I’m sure. I will pay it back.

“You have eight months to pay it back. If you don’t, I’m coming for you and your entire family.”

Zakhele swallows hard and takes the money.

Zakhele: I will pay it back.

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At Ngcobo's House.

Nandipha: Why was Sma crying yesterday?

Khanyisile: Relationship problems.

Nandipha: What happened?

Khanyi: Go and ask her..

Nandipha: You know she hates me.

Khanyi: You must think you're the next best thing after Bhebhenene's existence. Why would Sma hate you? She hates this stinking attitude you have.

Nandipha: I don't have a stinking attitude, I just speak my mind.

Khanyi: Continue speaking your mind ke one of these days, uzozwa ngempama (she will slap you).

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To be continued....

100 comments **BURNING FIRES OF GREED**

#15

The next day, he has been calling and sending endless messages. She has decided to just switch off her phone because she is not ready to talk to her. And she doesn't want anything to do with him, she slept over the issue yesterday and now she's thinking with a clear head. She doesn't want to be "saved", she doesn't want to be given handouts. She's been doing everything by herself for the past years and she's not going to fail now. What if one day he turns on her and boasts that she's everything she is because of him!? She has already learnt her lesson through Khulekani, she doesn't want to repeat the

same mistakes again. Maybe it was just not meant to be between her and Zano.

Sphokazi looks at her as she tells her what happened.

Sphokazi: Are you really sure about this Sma?

Sma: Yeah, I thought about it hard.

Sphokazi: It's very rare these days to find a man who would move mountains for you. Yes the way he did things may seem creepy but honestly if he told you what

he wants to do for you, would you have agreed?

Sma:No.

Sphokazi:Exactly, in his mind he thought he was just lifting the burden for you and making your life easier. I'm not going to lie to you Sma, what you did is just stupid. You could have at least sat down with him and gave him a chance to explain, maybe this is his love language. You seriously overreacted , if it was me I swear I would be sipping cocktails in Dubai by now.

Sma:It doesn't matter anymore Spho, I have made up my mind. Me and Zano are not happening.

Sphokazi:Okay, but I hope you don't regret this in future.

Sma:I won't. It's the right thing to do.

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Nandipha is sitting in her office trying to get a hold of Nhlanhla, she calls him

again but it goes straight to voicemail again.

She sees Nonjabulo at the door and tells her to come in. She pretends a smile.

Nandipha:Hey.

Nonjabulo:Girl, how are you?

Nandipha:I'm fine, when did you get back?

Nonjabulo:This morning. So your plan didn't work. He didn't even ask me where I was, I'm sure he didn't even notice the pictures I posted.

Nandipha: Oh I'm sorry, I really thought that would work. It usually does.

Nonjabulo: It's no problem. I just wish to see that woman who is willingly destroying my marriage like this. Women have no conscience these days.

Nandipha: Well it isn't the woman's fault alone that your husband cheated. He's the one who went after the woman. So you should blame your husband for breaking your vows.

Nonjabulo: I know that, but why would you as a woman hurt another woman like

that? As much as my husband is the one who owes me loyalty, she's also wrong.

Nandipha:Asazi(we don't know). So what are you going to do now?

Nonjabulo:I'm going to confront him, and I think he brought her home when I was gone. My bedroom smells funny.

She chuckles.

Nonjabulo:They did sex on my bed! My bedroom!

Nandipha swallowed and pretended to be looking at the papers in front of her.

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Zakhele went straight to the bank and paid the loan, now he doesn't owe them. His heart is at ease a little. The only way he's going to be able to pay back the loan shark is through the remuneration for being retrenched, which he isn't sure will pay out when.

He goes to his wife, it's time he finally tells her the truth.

Zakhele:I need to tell you something..

Nomuzi:Do you want to tell me that you lost your job?

He gasped in shock.

Zakhele:How did you know?

Nomuzi:I saw messages on your phone.

Zakhele:You went through my phone?

Nomuzi:I had to. You were acting really strange and now I know why. I just don't understand why you didn't tell me.

Zakhele:I was too ashamed and I was drowning in debts.

Nomuzi:We have been struggling half our marriage, but I never judged nor talked bad to you. I'm always your number one supporter.

Zakhele:I know mawabo, and I'm sorry. Please forgive me.

Nomuzi:It's okay, I kind of get why you didn't tell me.

Zakhele:Thank you for understanding.

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Khanyisile is in her room when she receives a money in notification.

Capitec: +R300. Ref Bhebhenene..

She laughs as she calls him.

Bongani:Sthandwa sami(my love).

Khanyi:Ngiyabonga Bhebhe
ngeyzumbulu(Thank you Bhebhe for the
money).

Bongani:It's payday today, and
kusekuncane lokhu Mbhabhadisi(This is
nothing yet). Once I'm set in life, I
promise you, you're going to walk on
glitter and fart gold.

Khanyisile:*Smiling* I love you, and I
won't ever give up on you.

Bongani:I'm glad to hear that my love. I
will call you again later, I'm going out
with the guys for a few drinks.

Khanyi:Okay be safe. I love you.

Bongani:I love you too.

She hangs up and smiles. That was very thoughtful of him.

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At Nhlanhla's house.

He sent the kids to his mother. He wants to be alone with Nonjabulo when he asks her this.

He is sitting on the couch waiting for her.

A while later she comes in and greets him but he doesn't reply.

Nonjabulo:Sorry for being late. Traffic.

He still ignored him.

Nonjabulo:Babe are you okay?

Nhlanhla:No I'm not.

Nonjabulo: Why? What's going on?

She asks sitting next to him.

Nhlanhla: How could I be fine when my wife is cheating on me?

Nonjabulo: Whoa!? Cheating?

Nhlanhla: Don't pretend like you don't know what I'm talking about. How could you do this to me? Usuyafeba!?(You cheat now!?)

Nonjabulo: I honestly don't know what you are talking about.

She really didn't know what he was talking about....

He took his phone and showed her the pictures. On the pictures, she was with a man, a man she doesn't know. And they looked cosy like they are dating. And these pictures are the pictures she posted of herself when she was on her vacation days before. She knows she was alone in that trip, she could never cheat. She doesn't have the guts to do that.

Seeing how angry Nhlanhla is now, it's clear that he believes the pictures.

Nonjabulo:Babe you have to listen to me. Someone is setting me up. I didn't do this. I would never cheat on you.

Nhlanhla:But here is a man holding your ass. Holding your ass Nonjabulo!!!

He raises his voice a bit. She holds his hands as she thinks he's going to hit her.

Nhlanhla:Uyangcasula yazi(you're making me angry) I have never laid a hand on you. Why are you holding my hands?

Nonjabulo:Ngcela wehlise umoya
Mdlalose(Please calm down).

He stands up and walks to the door. She follows him.

Nonjabulo:Baby I didn't cheat on you. Someone must have photoshopped that man into my pictures. I would never do that to you. Please, you have to believe me.

Nhlanhla:I will come back when you are ready to Tel me the truth.

He walks out and she runs after him but she's too late as he quickly gets inside his car and drives off.

Inside the car, he calls Nandipha.

Nandipha: Hello.

Nhlanhla: Where are you? I need you.

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To be continued

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100 comments BURNING FIRES OF
GREED

#16

Nhlanhla arrives at the hotel and
Nandipha was already waiting for him.

Nandipha: What happened?

Nhlanhla: Nonjabulo is cheating.

He said as he sat down on the bed.

Nandipha: What!?

Nhlanhla:Someone sent me pictures of her with a man that I don't know. She's cheating on me.

Nandipha:Where is she right now?

Nhlanhla:I left her at home, she was denying it. Saying that someone is setting her up.

Nandipha:Why would anyone set her up?

Nhlanhla:I don't know... fuck I can't believe my wife is cheating on me.

Nandipha:You're also cheating on her!

Nhlanhla:I know, but it hurts when it's done to me...

Nandipha:You men are just all the same. You had no problem these past few days diving deep into my pussy, you didn't care that she would find out, heck you even brought me to your marital bed and we had sex there. If you loved and respected your wife so much, you wouldn't have started with disrespecting her like that!

Nhlanhla hung his head over his legs.

Nandipha: Nonjabulo was suspecting that you are cheating on her, she confided in me. Maybe she did this out of revenge, to show you that she can also play the game you are playing.

He looked up to her in anger.

Nhlanhla: You better not have planted these ideas in her head.

Nandipha: Oh please, she is a grown adult capable of making her own decisions. Just go home to her and talk.

Nhlanhla:Talk about what? Because she's denying. I came here to fuck.

Nandipha:Well I don't want to. Go to your wife.

Nhlanhla:You're saying no to me?

Nandipha:Yes. Go to your wife
Nhlanhla. Unless you are ready to divorce her, don't bother contacting me.

She said with her heart pounding.

He chuckled and stood up, he walked out and banged the door.

She sighed and took her phone making a call.

Nandipha:Hey, good job. He believed it.

“I told you I do a splendid job”

Nandipha:Now I need you to remotely delete the original pictures on her phone so that she doesn't have any proof she's being set up.

“That's too easy, consider it done.”

Nandipha:I will transfer the rest of the money when the job is done.

She hangs up and looks around room.
Now that's out of the way, she needs to
move to the second phase of her plan.

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Nomuzi, today she is going to her old
workplace. She's tired of the runaround
they are busy giving her. She needs to
know if they will pay her or not. When
she arrives, the place is quiet like no one
lives there anymore.

“They moved”, she hears someone saying behind her. She looks back and it was a white woman.

“They moved last month, they went back to England”

Nomuzi:Are they coming back?

“No, they said they said it was permanent”.

Nomuzi:Okay, thank you.

She walked away with a heavy heart. She knew something was fishy and they

wouldn't pay her money. She's too tired and broke to even take this matter to court, and she wasn't registered under the department of labor, so she won't even receive help..

She goes back home and tells Zakhele what happened.

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At Smangele's work.

One of her colleagues tell her that someone is looking for her outside..

She goes out to see who is that but finds Zano. He's still as handsome as she last saw him.

Sma:Hi, they said you are looking for me.

Zano:Can we talk?

Sma:We are talking, aren't we?

Zano:I mean let's go somewhere private and talk.

Sma:I can't leave work, I'll get in trouble.

Zano:Okay. I came here to apologize for what I did. Honestly I didn't see any problem with it, I thought I was just helping. But seeing how you reacted, makes me realize that I was wrong. I'm sorry, but please give us a chance again. You can't just toss me on the side with one mistake.

Sma:That's exactly my problem, I don't know you that much Zano, I don't know what you do, where you work, if you have a wife or a girlfriend, children, your family. I don't know anything about you.

Zano:But Sma we just met, how do you expect to know so much? You would have gotten to know me, we have time. What are we rushing for?

Sma:I just don't think I'm ready for a relationship so soon after my heartbreak. And I am still in love with Khulekani, so I'm sorry but it won't work between us.

Zano:Do you really love him? After everything he's done to you?

Sma:We were together for five years, I can't just forget about him like that.

Zano:Okay, I understand you. But I want you to look at me in the eye and tell me that you don't love me.

She looked at him in the eyes with a straight face.

Sma:I don't love you.

Zano looked down, yooo this hurt a lot. He really wants to be with her. But if she doesn't want to, then he won't force her.

Zano:I'm glad to know where you stand. I'll never bother you again. Goodbye. Take care of yourself.

He got inside his car and drove off.

Smangele wiped her tears and went inside. This was for the best.

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At Nhlanhla's house.

He has returned and Nonjabulo was waiting for him.

Nonjabulo: Babe you're back....

Nhlanhla:Did you really do it?

Nonjabulo:No babe I didn't. Please believe me. I can show you the pictures so that you can see those you have are photoshopped.

She went to take her phone and came back with it. She opened gallery and looked for the photos but not even a single one was there, instead there were those which were photoshopped.

Nhlanhla looked at her in disgust.

Nhlanhla:So you really did it? Fuck Nonjabulo how could you do this!?

Nonjabulo: Oh you're a fine one to talk!
You are also cheating. You even have the
nerve to bring your sidechick home, to
my bed!

Nhlanhla: But you never found out, did
you? I did that in secret. Wena you
showed me, it's like you are proving a
point.

Nonjabulo: I was not proving a damn
point! I didn't cheat. I am many things
but not a cheater!

Nhlanhla: I really thought I knew you.

He looked at her.

Nhlanhla:I want a divorce, and I want you out of my house. Don't forget that everything you have is because of me, so you will leave here with only your clothes. I'm taking the kids too. I'm giving you space to cheat in peace.

Nonjabulo gasped in shock. How dare this man!?! He cheats and now wants to blame her!?

Nonjabulo:You know what? You're not worth it, I will leave your house and everything. But my children are coming

with me. I will not leave them with you and your hoe. That's one thing we can fight on, the kids.

Nhlanhla: Whatever I don't care, take them.

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The three sisters are sitting watching TV. Sma keeps on watching her phone, he hasn't called. Is he really leaving her alone? She also does not know what she wants.

Nandipha: Why do you keep on looking at your phone?

Sma: Just waiting for a phone call.

Khanyi: From Zano?

Nandipha: Who is Zano?

Khanyi: Her boyfriend.

Sma: He's not my boyfriend. He could have been, but I dumped him.

Nandipha: Why?

She briefed her about the whole matter.

Nandipha: You said not to money!?

Sma: What if he used this against me in future? Men are unpredictable.

Nandipha: I just think you are comparing him to Khulekani. People may say men are the same, but that's not true. What Khulekani did to you was bad and sad yes, but you can't expect Zano to pay for Khulekani's sins because that's what you are doing right now. You are punishing him for what Khule did. I know how much you want to go to school, I don't

want to believe that you just turned down that offer so quickly. If you don't want to be charity, you could have proposed that you pay back the money once you are working, that way he won't say you are what he is because of him. Sounds like this guy really loves you and I would kill for a man like that, a man who just wants to see me happy at all times.

Khanyi: What about him invading her privacy?

Nandipha: That doesn't matter to me, it's better to go to a relationship or friendship knowing the person you are associating yourself with.

Sma:But it's too late, I told him to leave him alone and I think he took it serious because he said he will never bother me again.

Khanyi:Sorry sisters, I think this is also partly my fault because I planted the idea in your head that he's a creep.

Nandipha:Vele uwena(It is you!).

Khanyi:What was I supposed to say?

Nandipha:The problem with you two is that you judge under the covers, Mina I

know myself that I'm judgemental and I don't hide it. Yesterday Khanyi you received R300 from your boyfriend but you didn't say "oh he's treating me like a charity case", but bold of you to assume Zano was doing that to Sma when he offered to pay dad's loan. You too Sma, Khule used to give you money and take you to expensive restaurants, but all of a sudden Zano is treating you like charity. Baqinisile mebethi amathanga ahlanzela abangenamabhodwe.

Sma looked at her phone, contemplating on whether she should call him or not.

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NINE WEEKS LATER...

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TO BE CONTINUED...

100 COMMENTS
BURNING FIRES OF
GREED

#17

NINE WEEKS LATER..

Nandipha steps inside her office and smiles to herself. She has finally done it.

She closes the door and gets further inside.

She looks around and sighs relieved, finally she has it all. She has customized the office to suit her personality. She got

rid of all Nonjabulo's pictures and everything that belongs to her.

She sits on the big chair and makes herself comfortable.

Nandipha:I did say she should keep my chair warm. Nandipha Ngcobo, a whole CEO!

She laughs proudly and right there her phone rings. It was Nhlanhla.

Nandipha:Babe?

Nhlanhla:You forgot your fruits, I'm bringing them to you.

Nandipha: Okay, I don't know how I forgot them. Thank you my love.

Nhlanhla: I love you, see you soon.

Nandipha: I love you too.

She hangs up and places her phone on the table. She finally got the two things she has ever wanted. Nonjabulo's life, she stole her husband and her CEO title. Now she's the CEO and soon to be Mrs Mdlalose, Nhlanhla didn't waste any time when he found out that she was pregnant. He proposed because he didn't want his child to be born out of wedlock.

This couldn't be the best time to fall pregnant, it was an extra bonus. Her family loves Nhlanhla, he's rich, why would they hate him?

Her assistant, feels good to have an assistant, comes to her office to tell her about her meetings for the day.

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Smangele, well for her things didn't work out between her and Zano. She didn't call him that night Nandipha gave her advice, she let it be. She has moved on and found herself a new boyfriend.

He's not all that, but it's better than being single. His name is Phawu, same age as her. He has two children from different mothers child, unlike her with no child. It's draining to have to deal with his baby mamas because they like calling her asking for the children's money.

Right now, he's picking her up for lunch.

Sma: Thank you for waiting. I had to ask someone to cover for me.

Phawu: It's okay. We can go. Where do you want to eat?

Sma: We can go to Debonairs, I am dying for a pizza.

Sma worked in a shopping center, with many stores. So they walked to Debonairz and placed their order.

Phawu:My mother said he would love to meet you.

Sma:*Smiling* I would love to meet her too.

Phawu:So can you come this weekend?

Sma:Yeah I will come. Phawu I wanted to talk to you about something.

Phawu: Yeah?

Sma: Can you please tell your baby mommas to refrain from calling me, I seriously don't understand why they keep on calling me. Keep them on their leash.

Phawu: I'm sorry babe I didn't know that they call you.

Sma: Where did they even get my number?

Phawu: They must have stole it from my phone.

Sma:Whatever, tell them to stop.

Phawu:I'll tell them don't worry.

Their pizzas came and it was only one box. She thought she would buy two.

Sma:We are going to share?

Phawu:Yeah? You wanted the whole box?

Sma:I didn't say that.

Phawu: You should really watch the way you eat. You don't want to get even more big than that.

Wow. He always make side remarks about her weight, now she's even losing her self esteem because all this time she never saw a problem with her weight.

Phawu: Eat only two slices, and I will have the rest.

Sma: You can have it all.

She pushes the pizza to him. He shrugs his shoulders and starts eating, he eats

until he finishes it. After that he drinks his cold drink and burps disgustingly. Sma rolls her eyes and slowly sip her coke.

Phawu: That was amazing.

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At Nonjabulo's mother house.

She has been back at home for three months now. Ever since Nhlanhla kicked her out, she had no choice but to go back home

Of course her mother was not happy about this, because she has the backwards mentality that a woman doesn't leave her marriage no matter what, that she soldiers on. But she(Nonjabulo) isn't all about that crap, and Nhlanhla is the one who asked for a divorce so she's not gonna beg a man. Even though he totally took everything from her, she's left with nothing. She regrets ever not saving money, because right now she's as broke as a pauper. Nhlanhla hasn't seen his children in over a month, she has tried calling him but he always lies and says he's going to come and see them.

But what shocked her the most, was discovering that Nandipha is the side chick. She trusted her so much and confided everything relating to her marriage to her, meanwhile she knew she was getting it on with her husband! She couldn't have been more disappointed than hurt when she found out it was her. What hurts the most is that Nandipha doesn't even seem to regret what she did, she has no remorse over the fact that she destroyed her family and separated her children from their father.

She takes her phone and call her again.

Nandipha:Hello.

Nonjabulo:Hi Nandipha.

Nandipha:How can I help you
Nonjabulo?

Nonjabulo:Can you ask Nhlanhla to send
money for the kids, they don't have
anything to carry to school and we are
really struggling here at my mother's
house.

Nandipha:Alright I will tell him.

Nonjabulo swallowed at how cold she
was. This was the same person she

considered a friend, and told her everything happening in her life..

Nandipha:Is there anything else?

Nonjabulo:Why? Why do this to me?

Nandipha:We have already been through this, you want us to give it a go again?

Nonjabulo:I just don't understand when you turned into this evil person. I know you have something to do with those photoshopped pictures, it's just that I don't have any proof. But I can't believe that my best friend could do this to me.

Nandipha:I once told you that your problem is that you are too nice and people will walk over you. I didn't make a move on Nhlanhla, he's the one who approached me. I mainly made things possible for us to be together.

Nonjabulo:What about my children? You don't even feel sorry for them?

Nandipha:I don't have that self pity darling. I will tell Nhlanhla that you want money. But let me. Tell you something, when they say that women should get educated and have their things, they are speaking for situations like these.

Nonjabulo:But karma will visit you. You will burn for what you did to me.

Nandipha laughed.

Nandipha:Sweet, I'm sure you think by now me and Nhlanhla are having problems. But we couldn't be more happy. What was that phrase you said to me? Oh "you lose him the same way you found him" kusho wena uziduduza(says you comforting yourself). Bye girl.

She hung and Nonjabulo sighed putting her phone away. She didn't know how to get out of this situation.

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Khanyisile brings the food to Bongani.

Bongani: Thank you.

He digs in and starts eating.

Khanyi: Things at home are so sour.

Bongani: Why?

Khanyi:Baba borrowed money from omashonisa and now that guy wants his money. Nandipha also moved out and is dating some rich guy. Sma is miserable and faking to be happy.

Bongani:How much does he owe?

Khanyi:He borrowed R100 000.

Bongani:*Shocked* Imali engaka!?(So much money!?)

Khanyi:It's really tough, that's why I'm forever here.

Bongani: Where is your brother?

Khanyi: *Sighs* That one is another case, he has went back to the life of crime. He had a really good job, but he left it. His friends got to him and convinced him to leave his job and he did so. We haven't seen him in weeks, maybe he's dead wherever he is.

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Zakhele is with his wife and they are both quiet, thinking about their problems.

Nomuzi:Waze wasifaka Ngcobo!(You put us in trouble Ngcobo)

Zakhele:I had no choice.

Nomuzi:You had a choice. It's better to owe the bank than a loan shark. These people don't play. They kill you if you don't pay their money.

Zakhele:He deceived me. He told me that I have eight months to pay him back, but it's not even five months.

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Back at the shopping center.

Sma asks Phawu that they should go back.

They are walking when she suddenly sees someone who looks so familiar.

She looks closer and it was Zano, she was walking with a woman, a beautiful woman, no doubt they were dating. She felt her heartbeat rising as they got closer to them.

Phawu:_Do you know him?

Sma:Who?

Phawu:That guy, you are staring at him.

Sma: Yeah I know him, he used to be my neighbor but I haven't seen him in a while. Can I go and talk to him?

Phawu: Okay, I will wait for you here.

She walked to Zano and he stopped laughing when he saw her.

Sma: Sanibonani, can I talk to you?

Zano: I'm with my girlfriend, I can't just leave her and talk to you.

He said and grabbed his girlfriends waist and walked away with her.

Sma remained on the spot and blinked her tears. The way he looked at her, his eyes didn't have any love.

Phawu comes to her.

Phawu:And then?

Sma:It's not him, I guess he looked familiar.

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To be continued...

100 comments **BURNING FIRES OF GREED**

#18

Phawu looks at her teary eyes and wonders what's going on.

Phawu:Are you crying?

Sma:No, I just have something in my eye.

Phawu:You are crying Sma, did he do something to you?

Sma:No, can we just go? I don't want to go back to work anymore, I'll lie and say I'm sick. I just need to go home.

Phawu:Okay but if he did something please tell me.

Sma:He didn't do anything.

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At Nhlanhla's house.

Nandipha enters and places her bags on the table before taking off her heels.

Nhlanhla is also back. He kisses her cheek and brushes her stomach.

Nhlanhla:How was your first day?

Nandipha:Amazing, everyone is still not used to the changes but they will get used to it.

Nhlanhla:Don't let me downgrade you. Show them who's the boss.

Nandipha:I'll do that babe. Hey today I received a call from Nonjabulo.

His mood instantly dropped.

Nhlanhla:What did she want?

Nandipha: Money for the kids, honestly Nhlanhla please don't stop being a father to your children. Just because you and their mother are separated doesn't mean you should abandon them. You don't want them to grow up being angry at you.

Nhlanhla: I hear you and you are right, I'll go and see them tomorrow.

Nandipha: I have an idea but I'm not sure if you'll love it.

Nhlanhla: What is it?

Nandipha:Nonjabulo complained that they are not living well in her mother's house and they are struggling. So I was suggesting that we get her a house, where the kids can stay comfortably in. She's still the mother of your kids and like it or not, the two of you are going to be forever connected.

Nhlanhla:I will speak with her and see how she feels about that. I'll only be doing it for my children, not her.

Nandipha:Of course.

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The following day, he took Nandipha's advice and went to see his children. He's

ashamed that it's been a month and he hasn't seen them. Nandipha was right, he shouldn't abandon them because of their mother.

Nonjabulo walks out with her two children, and they go to him. When they see their father they jump to him with joy. He hugs them back and plays with them for a few minutes. Nonjabulo stands there watching, her heart heavy of what her children were robbed of, growing up with both their mother and father under one house.

He stops and gives them the groceries he bought, they run with the bags inside the house.

Nhlanhla:*To Nonjabulo* Hi.

Nonjabulo:How are you?

Nhlanhla:I'm okay.

Nonjabulo:I'm glad you finally remembered your children.

Nhlanhla:I'm sorry for not coming anytime sooner.

Nonjabulo:So how is your relationship with my friend?

Nhlanhla: Please don't do that to yourself.
I only came here for my kids.

She gulped her saliva and looked down.
This was her husband, the man who
loved so much and worshipped the
ground she walked on but now she's
been demoted to a mere baby mama.
Nandipha really played her cards right!
She knew what she wanted and she went
for it. She made sure!

Nhlanhla: Nandipha told me that you said
the living conditions here aren't good. So
I was thinking of getting you guys a

house where our children can live and grow up in a safe space.

Nonjabulo:I would appreciate that. My mother is always reminding me of how much of a failure I am.

Nhlanhla:I will get into contact with the agencies. It will have to be closer to their school so they don't travel far.

She nodded.

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In the morning, she was in her sleep when she suddenly had the urge to throw up. She abruptly got out of bed and ran outside holding her mouth. She was by the garden when she just let everything out and vomited, she felt like her intestines were about to come out of her mouth. When she was done, she felt a hand brushing her head and it was Khanyi. She stood up and went to wash her mouth on the tap. Khanyisile looked at her and shook her head..

Khanyi: You chose to get pregnant for him!?

Sma: Who said I'm pregnant?

Khanyi: You just vomited, and you have gained extra weight. I can't believe you want to be baby mother number three.

Sma: Stop speaking of things you don't know. I'm not pregnant.

Khanyi: Did you have your period this month?

She kept quiet and tried to remember when was the last time she had her period.

Khanyi: You left a good man like Zano for Phawu? Look at Nandipha, she grabbed the opportunity by both hands, she's living large now and is a CEO.

Sma: You will not dare say that, not when you were the one who convinced me to drop things with him. You don't think I saw what you were doing?

Khanyi: What are you talking about?

Sma: Nandi had found himself a rich man and Zano is also monied, you saw that you were the only one with a broke man so you convinced me to dump Zano and stay away from him. You even deleted

his number on my phone when I wasn't looking.

Khanyi: Oh so now you are blaming me for your decisions?

She asked feeling mixed emotions. There is a bit of truth to what she's saying.

Sma: Leave me the fuck alone
Khanyisile!

She walked back inside and passed her mother who asked her about Nhlaka.

Sma: Aningiyeke! (Leave me alone!)

She shouted and went straight to her room. She closed her door and breathed out. She can't be pregnant, at least not for that pig Phawu. What he did yesterday was the final nail, eating the whole pizza like that!

She takes her phone and tries to remember Zano's numbers but nothing. She decides to search him on Facebook. Most people put their contact info on their profiles. Luckily, she finds him and his number.

She writes it down and calls him. It rings for a while and he finally answers.

Zano:Sma?

So he didn't delete her number? That means something right?

Sma:Hi.

Zano:What do you want?

Sma:I just want to talk.

Zano:Talk about what? I thought I wasn't allowed to talk to you.

Sma:I'm aware of my mistakes, and I want to fix them.

Zano:It doesn't matter. I have moved on from you.

Sma:You are breaking my heart.

She said already crying.

Zano:And you didn't break my heart when you told me in my face that you don't love me? I begged you and ran around you for weeks and you decided to call the cops on me, saying I'm harassing you.

Sma:I'm sorry, I wasn't thinking straight Zano. I love you and I want to be with you.

Zano:You called me a creep Sma, a stalker. Honestly like I told you before, I did all that out of love but you saw it in a way that I am a creep, and you ganged up on me with your sister calling me all sorts of names. Now you suddenly love me?

Sma:It's Khanyi babe, she filled my mind with all these thoughts.

Zano:Don't call me babe, and don't shift the blame. You're 35, and capable of thinking for yourself. Sma please don't call me again.

He hung up and she cried staring at his number. She regrets her life decisions.

Sma:Please come back baby.

She wiped her tears and called Nandipha.

Nandipha:Sisters..

Sma:Hey.

Nandipha:Are you okay? It sounds like you are crying.

Sma:I saw Zano yesterday, he was with a girl. He moved on.

Nandipha:But you also moved on. What did you expect him to do?

Sma:I want him back.

Nandipha:Haaa Smangele! After you and Khanyi have insulted him like this. Let the poor guy alone. You don't deserve him aowa, you toyed with his feelings man! I warned you about listening to

Khanyisile but you didn't listen to me because you two hate me vele.

Sma:I don't hate you.

Nandipha:Whatever you feel for me. Leave him alone. And watch him be happy without you. You had a chance at real love and you chose to go for Phawu, isdwanyampuphu nje esingasile (a stupid person). Goodbye.

She hung up on her.

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At night at the Ngcobo House, they were eating dinner but no one was talking to each other. The mood was rather bitter and they couldn't wait to finish eating and go to their respective rooms.

They were in the middle of their dinner when they heard something hitting loud on the roof. They ignored it thinking it was nothing. But the sound hit again, and this time it was clear that this was a gun. They all hid under the chairs wondering what's happening. Unto they heard a voice.

“Zakhele I want my money!”, shouted the person and they fired the gun again.

Nomuzi:Baba who is that?

Zakhele:It’s the loanshark.

Sma:He’s going to kill us.

“If you don’t come out, I’m killing everyone in there!! Come out with my money!!”, shouted the loan Shark again.

Nomuzi:Baba do something.

She pleaded.

They were all in tears.

Sma took her phone and called him, he was her only hope.

Zano:What now!?

He replied annoyed.

Sma:I'm sorry to bother you, but there is someone shooting outside here. He's a loan shark. He's going to kill us all.

She whispered.

Zano:So what should I do with that?

Sma:Zano I'm begging you, I know you can help us. Please come, ngiyacela.

Zano:No ungjwayela kabi wena ninomndeni wakho(You and your family are taking me for granted) . Now you need my help!?. The very same help you called “creepy” and “obsessive”!?.
Ufusege ngampela Smangele nxx.

He hung up on her.

Sma whimpered and cried some more.

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At Zano's.

He clicks his tongue and throws his phone on the floor.

His brother comes in just when he throws his phone away.

Busani:And then!?

Zano:It's Sma.

Busani:What did she do? I thought she didn't want anything to do with you.

Zano:Exactly, now she's calling me and asking for my help.

Busani:What help?

Zano:She says someone is shooting outside their house.

Busani stopped what he was doing.

Busani:And we are still here!?

Zano:She's probably lying to get my attention.

Busani:You and I know how much you love that woman in there. Do you want to live with the regret of not helping her for the rest of your life!? What if she's really in danger!? Why did you stop keeping tabs on her!?

Zano:How could I have done that when she kept on throwing every insult my way!?

Busani:This is not the time for your squabbles. Asambe(Let's go). I'll call Sphiwe.

He stood up and followed him.

Busani:Bafunani labo abantu?(What do those people want?)

Zano:Something about a loan shark.

He took out the case full of money on his wardrobe.

Busani:Mi(take).

He gave him his gun.

Busani:Iskhathi asikho, Asambe ziyosha izinja (There's no time, let's go and burn some dogs).

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To be continued...

100 comments....**BURNING FIRES OF GREED**

#19

#Sponsored by the Minimalist Writer

Outside, Nsimbi(the loan shark) is with his boys and they are terrorizing the yard, busy shouting for Zakhele to come out with his money. Neighbors are looking

through their windows scared, some thinking of calling the police but a man like Nsimbi is dangerous, so they don't want to get involved.

Nsimbi:Ngithe phuma nemali yami ndoda!! (I said come out with my money!)

He shouts one more time and fired his gun at the door, creating a small hole.

Nsimbi:Break the door down.

He says to his boys. They break the door down and the women scream when Nsimbi and his crew get in.

Nsimbi picks up Zakhele from the corner of the room and gives him a slap.

Nsimbi: Where is my money?

Zakhele: I'm going to pay you back, please don't hurt my family.

He begs.

Nsimbi: I told you that if you don't pay me back, I'll kill you and your family.

Zakhele: You gave me eight months.

Nsimbi: And I changed my mind, you haven't paid even a cent. When were you planning on paying me?

Zakhele: I'm going to pay your money.

Nsimbi: How? And with what? I did my investigation on you, you lost your job months ago and you have no source of income. You took my money and paid the bank. So now you owe me.

Sma: You lost your job?

She asked shocked, hiding behind the chair.

Nsimbi:Awthulise lesi sfebe wena!(Shut this bitch up!)

He said to his boys.

“I dare you to even look at her direction!”, said a voice out of nowhere.

When they looked up it was Zano looking like something that came out of a movie. He was with his brothers.

Nsimbi:Uwubani ke wena?(And who are you?)

He let go of Zakhele and moved to Zano looking at him with his scary look, but Zano didn't squirm.

Sma felt relieved behind the chair, he came.

Zano:How much do they owe you?

Nsimbi:Ayifuni wena le! (This does not concern you!)

Sphiwe:U bafo ubuze umbuzo owodwa, uwumuntu ongathandi ukuziphindaphinda wena msunu(MY

brother asked one question, he's a person who doesn't like repeating himself).

Nsimbi swallowed wondering who these boys were. No one has ever stood up to him like this, he's the most feared person in the neighbourhood.

Nsimbi:He owes me R200 000.

Zakhele widened his eyes wondering when the amount got to R200K.

Zano pushed the briefcase to him and pressed it against his chest.

Zano: This is R100K. Count it if you like. Give me your bank account and I'll send the rest.

Nsimbi swallowed and gave him his bank account. Zano pressed on his phone and seconds later, Nsimbi's phone reported that R100K has entered in his account.

Zano: They don't owe you anymore . Now futsek out of here!

Nsimbi: You think you are tough guy I see. Well I know he's going to come back to borrow more money and next time I won't be merciful.

Zano:Try it and see, just try it and see if I'll even let you come close even a few inches near this house.

Nsimbi blinked repeatedly and walked to the door.

Nsimbi:Thank him because I would have killed you.

He said to Zakhele.

Busani hit(Nsimbi) him on his head.

Busani:Eyy hamba wena masaka!

Nsimbi walked out with his boys.

Sma stood up from her hiding place and went to hug Zano tightly. He just froze and didn't hug her back.

Sma: Thank you for coming.

The brothers walked outside, and Sma followed.

Sma: Thank you for coming.

Zano: You should thank my brother. He's the one who convinced me.

Sma:Nonetheless, thank you. Zano I am sorry for everything. I am only realizing now how I need you in my life. Please forgive me, I acted childish and stupid. The way that I just dumped you like a hot potato wasn't cool.

Zano:You already know where you and I stand, you told me you don't want to be with me; and I promised you that I won't bother you again. Now you are the one bothering me, should I also call the police on you?

Sma:I was also going through a heartbreak.

Zano: That didn't give you the right to treat me like that though.

Sma: I'm sorry.

Zano: You keep on saying you're sorry but I don't see it. Please talk to your father and advise him to stop taking loans. I don't expect him to pay back the money, you can tell him to relax. But if you find it "creepy" again then you can pay me back, but I don't want you to.

Sma: Zano..... Was that girl really your girlfriend??

Zano: Yes she's my girlfriend. I moved on just like you did. You also have a boyfriend, don't you?

Sma: I can dump him for you.

Zano: If it was three months ago I would have been happy to hear that but now no. I'm seriously over you Sma. You don't know what you want in life and I don't want to be with a woman like that, I'm at the age where I'm ready to settle down and have kids, a wife and a family but I don't think you are ready for that. Take care of yourself.

He walked away to his brothers and they got into their cars and drove away.

Sma remained on the spot watching the cars drive away. Her mother came to her and hugged her because she was now crying.

Sma:I lost him ma, he will never forgive me. I really let a good man leave, I am so stupid. He loved me and was prepared to do everything for me but my pride got in the way and I saw it as if he was trying to control me.

Nomuzi:I'm really sorry my daughter. If the two of you are meant to be, you will find your way back to each other.

Sma:No, I'm gonna fight for him. I didn't fight for him before but now I'm going to fight for him. I love him ma.

Nomuzi:What about Phawu? And now that you are pregnant with his baby?

Sma:I'm not pregnant.

Nomuzi:Sma I have four children, I know the body of a pregnant woman.

Sma:No no no! I can't be pregnant for Phawu. Not when I want to fix things with Zano. Phawu is not the man I thought he was. He has baggage and he has no compassion for my feelings, he speaks anyhow. But Zano, he was always so soft when he spoke to me, and he always wanted to know what I have to say regardless of how stupid it is.

Nomuzi:So what are you going to do? Because I don't think he's going to appreciate the fact that you are carrying another man's child.

Sma:I don't know.

Nomuzi looked around and looked back at her.

Nomuzi: Why don't you pin the pregnancy to him?

Sma: What!?

Nomuzi: Shhh.. That man just paid R200K for a debt he knows nothing about. How much do you think he's going to spend on his child? Use your brains.

Sma: I can't do that, I Love Zano ma. I'd rather abort this child.

Nomuzi: You will do no such.. You will find a way to sleep with him and two months later you are pinning this pregnancy on him. Forget about Phawu. Zano is rich and he will treat you well.

She convinced her, there's no way she could let her daughter suffer after she just saw Zano taking out R200K like it was R2.

Nomuzi: Maybe he'll even marry you. Time to think with you heart is over now, use your brains. This man is loaded.

Sma: I don't care about his money.

Nomuzi: Well you will care my dear because you are going to do as I tell you. We have been suffering for so long in our family, you are not going to deny us an opportunity to get rich. I'm sure he won't mind to pay R1 million for your lobolo.

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To be continued...

100 comments..

BURNING FIRES OF GREED

#20

Sma looked at her mother with her tears. What was she saying to her? Was she really basically selling her off?

Nomuzi: Don't look at me like that.

Sma: I don't want to do that. I want to be with Zano fair and square, not because I lied to him.

Nomuzi: Don't be crazy Smangele. If that man finds out you are pregnant for that idiot he's not even going to look your direction. You are 35 years old and you have nothing to your name. This is your chance to make it my baby. Don't let

such an opportunity to pass you. Grab it with both hands.

Sma:Did you also say this to Nandipha?

Nomuzi:No.

Sma:I can't believe you right now. I always thought you were perfect, but just seeing money turns you into this greedy person who doesn't appreciate what she has!

Nomuzi:You will do this Smangele. Unless you want to be poor for the rest of your life. That man loves you. And you

are going to get him back. You will not ruin this for me.

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The following day, she is at the doctor to do a pregnancy test. She needs to know for sure if she's pregnant.

She was still taken aback by her mother's idea. She has been thinking about it and weighing all the pros and cons. Seriously, if Zano finds out that she is pregnant, there are little chances that he would accept that baby. Men have a big ego. And if she does as her mother

says, her baby will be set for life. Phawu is useless anyway, he wouldn't give her baby the life it deserves. But Zano, he has all the money in the world and he cares about her a lot. So a child would just seal their relationship.

She licks her dry lips as her heart and mind argue with the decision she's taking.

“Woza sisi(Come sisi)”, a nurse calls her. She does the procedure and pees into a small container.

They wait for a while and the results show up.

The nurse looks at her and smile.

“Congratulations, you are pregnant”

Sma:I am?

“Yes, you are going to have to start clinic and do an ultrasound scan if you want to see how far you are.”

She takes her to the other room with the doctor and they perform an ultrasound. She hears her baby’s heartbeat for the first time and she can’t help but shed tears.

“Here’s a little penis, it’s a boy”.

They finished and gave her the copies.
They told her she was 8 weeks pregnant.

She stood up and said goodbye to the nurse and doctor . She went back home and her mother was already waiting for her by the gate.

Nomuzi:What did the tests say?

Sma:I'm pregnant.

She ululated and smiled.

Nomuzi: That's my girl. Now you need to call Zano and ask to meet with him. You have to make sure you sleep with him before this month ends.

Sma: I hope this doesn't backfire on us ma. Zano is not stupid. What if the child comes out not looking like him?

Nomuzi: Nonsense, just relax and enjoy the benefits. He will marry you when he finds out you are pregnant. You see how soft Nandipha is living?

Sma: Yes.

Nomuzi: Don't you want to live like that? How long do you want to suffer? You're old now, your wish of going back to school should just leave your mind because you no longer have the time to be a student. You need to get ready to be a mother and a wife.

Sma: I hear you.

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At Nonjabulo's.

As promised, she was contacted by an estate agent and he asked her to choose a house she prefers from the ones he sent. She looks at them and smiles when she sees one she loves. She is sure her children will also love it. She sends the agent a confirmation text of the one she's choosing. With Nhlanhla's connections, she's sure it will be ready within a week or two. Finally she can leave her mother's house. Everyday she reminds her that she's a failure, she failed to keep a man blah blah! She's getting fed up because she can't even think in peace.

“Nonjabulo your friend is here”, says her mother.

She walks out and wonders who that friend might be.

She is surprised and happy to see her old friend, Nomkhosi. She works in another town so they haven't seen each other in a while.

They share a hug and have a mini reunion celebration.

Nonjabulo:Am I so glad to see you.

Nomkhosi:I went to your workplace but they told me there is a new CEO. What happened? And why are you here? I even went to your house but I found someone

else and they told me that you live at your mother's house now.

Nonjabulo:Eyy oe it's a long story.

She brings a bench for them and they sit under the tree for shade.

Nonjabulo:Me and Nhlanhla are divorced.

Nomkhosi:Haibo!?! How and why!?!

Nonjabulo/A person I thought was my friend stole him right under my nose.

She Narrated the whole story to her.

Nomkhosi:Please tell me you're lying.

Nonjabulo:I'm not lying. That's what happened.

Nomkhosi:This Nandipha really did a number on you. So you didn't get anything out of the divorce?

Nonjabulo:Not even a cent. The kids were the only ones who got money, and it is deposited every month. But it's not enough, there are a lot of things that need

to be fixed here at home. I also need to buy things for my personal needs.

Nomkhosi:I can't believe this. I'm so sorry friend.

Nonjabulo:It's okay, I'm just waiting for karma to hit that girl hard.

Nomkhosi:What if she lives happily ever after and gets no karma?

Nonjabulo:It can't be, she needs to feel the pain I felt when she took my husband from me. She needs to feel the pain my

children felt when their father was taken away from them.

Nomkhosi:I'm only saying that because I don't want you to not want to move on in the hope that she will get her karma.

Nhlanhla was also in the wrong, because he's the one who went to the girl. But we are not there, I know it's hard my love.

But I need you to pull your big girl panties and survive. Dust yourself up and find something to do. I don't want you to be bitter and crying for karma that we don't know when it will arrive.

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At Smangele's house.

Khanyisile comes into Sma's room and closes the door.

Khanyi: We almost died yesterday. If it wasn't for your boyfriend, Nsimbi would have killed us.

Sma: Yeah.

Khanyi: I wanted to apologize for what I did and said about him. I shouldn't have convinced you to dump him. Somehow, I knew you would listen to me because

you're kind of easily influenced, maybe that's why my mother wants you to pin the pregnancy to Zano.

Sma: How did you know that?

She asked shocked.

Khanyisile: I overheard. But please don't listen to her Sma, please make your own decision this time. If Zano is yours, then date him without any lies. Mom is just filled with greed at the moment, she saw that money and now she wants to milk him. Please don't listen to her. I know you usually let people tell you what to do, but not this time Sma please.

Sma:I have already made my decision. I would appreciate it if you would stay out of my business.

She said and they heard a knock.

Sma:Ngema! (Come in).

It was their mother.

Nomuzi:Smangele I am getting really worried about your brother. It's been two weeks and we haven't seen him. Please call my son in law and ask for his help. I know he will find him.

Sma:Okay I will.

She took her phone and called Zano.

Zano:Hello.

Sma:Hi, I need your help.

Zano:With?

Sma:My brother has been missing for two weeks and we don't know where he is.

Zano:So do you need my help finding the police station?

Sma:No, I was wondering if you could help us find him because we are really worried.

Zano chuckles.

Zano:Okay, when was the last time you saw him again? And his last known location?

Sma:Two weeks ago, he left with his friends.

Zano:I'll do what I can. Bye.

He hung up and Sma looked at her mother.

Sma:He said he will look for him.

Nomuzi:I knew he would help.

She walked out.

Khanyi:I am warning you while it's still early.

Sma: You just don't get it vele Khanyi.
Leave me alone. I'm also tired of being
poor. It's not nice struggling.

Khanyi: So you will use him? Do you
even love him?

Sma: I do, I love him.

Khanyi: Let's hope he will also thin about
how much he loves you when your greed
catches up with you.

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To be continued...

100 comments...BURNING FIRES OF GREED

#21

In the evening, at Nhlanhla's house.

The love birds were sitting on the couch with Nandipha lying on top of Nhlanhla and he was brushing her stomach.

Nhlanhla: So the sales guy got back to me and he said Nonjabulo has chosen a house.

Nandipha: That's good babe, when will it be ready for them to move in?

Nhlanhla: Maybe a week or two, I still need to sort out the paperwork and payment.

Nandipha: Okay.

Nhlanhla: I don't get it.

Nandipha: You don't get what?

Nhlanhla: Why do you care so much about her? After everything that has happened?

Nandipha: I do not care about her, my only interest is your children. Most children with separated parents tend to

grow up with anger and hate inside them, mostly because their fathers abandon them when they marry a new woman. So I don't want that to happen, it may even get to the point where she starts feeding lies to them. Just continue being the father you were to them, that way everything will feel the same to them.

Nhlanhla: You're right. I want them to visit as schools are about to close. Will you have a problem with that?

Nandipha: Not at all, I hope they like me

Nhlanhla:They will. There's nothing not to love about you. You're amazing. I love you.

Nandipha:I love you too.

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The following day, Khanyi woke up early today for a meeting or whatever it is they called her for. It was her old job, they sent an odd message last night asking her to come to the offices today. She wonders what could it be because they dismissed her unfairly, tried taking the matter to CCMA but never got any

help. She may be many things, but she never stole that money. She was tempted, but she didn't.

She passes Sma who was eating porridge in the kitchen...

Khanyi: You're not going to work?

Sma: No.

Khanyi: Why?

Sma: I don't feel like it.

She shrugs her shoulders.

Khanyi: Okay I'm going to my old job.
They asked to see me, see you later.

She walks out and walks to the bus stop,
it's easier taking a bus. It's cheaper than
a taxi.

After an hour, she was outside the
building. She took deep breath and
walked in. The receptionist led her to the
office.

There was her boss sitting on the chair.

“Khanyi good morning”

Khanyi: Morning Sir.

“Please sit down”

She sat down.

Khanyi: You asked to see me sir.

“Yes I did. First I want to say I’m sorry for the way we dismissed you without conducting a formal investigation. For the past months, we have been looking at the case and luckily, we found no proof that you were the one who stole the money. It seems they set you up.”

This felt like magic news to her ears. For so long she always wanted to hear those words, to be told that she's not guilty.

“So if you would like your old job back, you are welcome to start anytime. But this time things will be different, you were one of the best employees here. So we want to offer you a permanent contract, which you can look over of course before signing”.

Khanyi:I'll take it.

She said quickly. She has been unemployed for lo long, she's not going

to look down at this second chance.
Never!!

He reached for his drawer and took out
the documents.

“Go home and read through them. You
can even ask your lawyer to check them”

Khanyi: Thank you, thank you so much
Sir. I won't disappoint you again.

“I know you won't. I hope you make the
right decision”.

She nodded in excitement, she couldn't wait to tell her boyfriend these amazing news. Things will get better in their relationship now.

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Sma was still home and Sphokazi has been trying to call her. She finally decides to call her back.

Sma:Hello.

Sphokazi:Where are you? Ranesh is fuming.

Sma:I'm not coming in today.

Sphokazi:Sma you will lose your job. Please come, Ranesh is not playing today.

Sma:I don't care, and besides I don't think I need that job anymore.

Sphokazi:Haibo what happened to you? Why are you speaking like this?

Sma:Bye.

She hung up and continued cooking. Her mother came into the room and she had Spinach with her.

Nomuzi: Oh you're already cooking?

Sma: Yeah.

Nomuzi: Oh okay, I wanted to cook spinach but I guess we will cook it tomorrow.

Sma: Okay.

Nomuzi: So have you called mkhwenyana (son in law) today?

Sma: No, I just want to give him space a bit.

Nomuzi: Space for what?

Sma: Ma I just asked him to look for my brother, I don't want to be all up in his case, he'll just get fed up. I still need to do a lot of convincing for our plan to work.

Nomuzi: Eish okay hurry up. I'm going to check on your father.

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Khanyisile arrives at Bongani's place.

Bongani:My love.

They hug and kiss.

Khanyi:So I have good news.

Bongani:I also have good news.

Khanyi:Okay let's say it at the same time.

Bongani:I got promoted.

Khanyi:They gave me my old job back.

They said at the same time and jumped in joy after that.

Khanyi:You were right to take me to that Sangoma to get rid of the bad luck. They said they finally proved that it wasn't me who stole the money.

Bongani:I'm so happy for you.

Khanyi:I'm happy for you too. They gave me my contract to look over but I want to read it when I have sat down.

Bongani: I have a lawyer friend who can do that for you. This calls for a celebration.

Khanyi:What do you have in mind?

Bongani:Awaphume wonke ama cent(Take out all the cents).

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Nomuzi enters their bedroom and find Zakhele just laying there. He's been sleeping the while day and barely saying anything.

Nomuzi:Are you alright?

He nods.

Nomuzi:Please talk to me.

Zakhele:I'm okay.

He wasn't. He felt ashamed, his reckless choices almost cost him his family. If

that boy didn't come in time, he doesn't know what he would have done.

Zakhele: Who was that boy?

Nomuzi: Sma's boyfriend.

Zakhele: Please thank him for me. He helped us. Nsimbi would have killed us.

Nomuzi: I hope that was the last time you borrowed money. Please stop it with the loans now. I beg you.

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Hours later, Bhebhenene and Khanyi are sloshed at the tavern and they can't even stand properly.

Khanyi: Bhebhenene Asambe manje (Let's go now).

She says holding on to the table trying to stand. Bongani tries to stand up and balances with her but they both fall to the dusty floor. They laugh and get up again with so much struggle.

Now everyone was looking at them, wondering how much alcohol they had

because they can't even walk. Badakiwe banya amaphepha(they are too drunk).

Khanyi:Eish Bhebhe man uzongiwisa!
(you're going to make me fall!)

Bongani:Nawe musa ukungbamba(Stop holding me).

They balance with the table but the table was light so they fell down again.

Khanyi hit Bongani slightly on his bums.

Bongani: Bazothini abantu ungshaya izinga? (What will people say when they see you hitting my bums?)

He asks. Someone comes and tries to help them stand up but they chase him away.

Khanyi: Yeeey leave us alone!!!

He walks away in surrender.

The two crazy birds finally stand up.

Bongani: Don't make me fall again...

Khanyi:Bhebhenene I don't think I'm going to arrive home. I can't feel my legs.

She starts crying and pouting.

Khanyi:I want to sleep.

Bongani tries to pick her up but they almost fall over, luckily someone held them.

Bongani put Khanyi over his bag like a sack of potatoes.

Khanyi looks at the other customers in the tavern and raise a peace sign with her hands.

Khanyisile: If he doesn't pick you up,
he's not yours.

Bongani: Eyyy awuthule okokqala
uyasinda! (Eyy shut up, first of all you
are heavy).

Khanyi: Whatever...

They stumble all over the way finding
their way home, busy shouting at each
other.

Bongani:Ngizoyokuphonsa emfuleni ngikubhabhadise ngampela (I will throw you into a river and baptize you).

Khanyi:Ngizoyishisa leyontshebe(I will burn your beard)

They argue from afar.

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At Zano's.

He was with his brothers and they were trying to find Nhlaka.

Zano: Any of you guys finding anything?

Busani: Not yet. Are we sure he's not dead?

Zano gives him a side eye.

Busani: Sorry.

Sphiwe: She's pregnant.

He says all of a sudden, out of nowhere
nje esdlangalaleni!

Zano:Who's pregnant?

Sphiwe:Smangele. She's two months pregnant.

Busani:You slept with her?

Zano:No. And Sphiwe what are you doing in Sma's life?

Sphiwe:She asked us to find her brother so we have to search everyone.

Zano:She's pregnant?

Sphiwe: Yes.

Zano swallowed and focused his eyes back on the laptop. Why does it hurt like this to find out she's pregnant? He said he is over her, so why does it hurt?

Busani: Eish man Sphiwe you are going to cause this man a heart attack.

Sphiwe: Zano!

He called him out when he realized that he was having a panic attack.

They went to him and tried to get him to breath. He finally relaxed and breathed normally.

Busani:Uzobulala umfwethu wena, uyahlanya yini? (You're going to kill our brother, are you crazy?)

Sphiwe:What did I do?

Busani:It's not what you said, it's how you said it.

Sphiwe:I'm sorry man.

He says to Zano.

Zano:Nah it's okay, let's just find this guy so I can stay the hell away from that family. Sma has hurt me so much!

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To be continued...

100 comments....**BURNING FIRES OF GREED**

#22

Unedited

The following day, in the morning, they were woken up by a loud knock on the door and Nomuzi stood up to open. Zakhele was weirdly still sleeping.

She opened the door and her mouth formed a smile when he saw Zano, her “son-in-law”.

Nomuzi: My son, how are you?

Zano: I am fine. I came to bring him.

He showed Nhlaka who was all bruised.

Nomuzi gasped and rushed to take him in his arms.

Nomuzi: What happened? Where did you find him?

Zano: He was held hostage, but you don't have to worry about it anymore. He's not that hurt so you can clean his wounds here. Nisale kahle (goodbye).

Nomuzi: Wait.. Don't you want to see Smangele before you leave?

Zano: No.

He walked away before he could even say anything more.

Nomuzi dragged Nhlaka inside and shook her head at how badly hurt he looked.

Nomuzi:Smangele! Khanyisile!

She called out for them. Minutes later they came dragging their half asleep bodies into the room.

Sma:Mhh... what's wrong?

Nomuzi:Help your brother.

They rushed to him when they saw him.

Sma:Zano found him?

Nomuzi:Yeah, he was here.

She was hurt that she didn't ask to see her.

Nomuzi:He's unconscious. Mkhwenyana said he doesn't need the hospital.

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Days later, Nomuzi has been breathing down Smangele's neck about her plan to milk Zano. She only finds peace at work, she was lucky that day she didn't lose her job due to being absent without reporting, of course she had to submit a doctor's note that she bought.

She hasn't talked to Zano yet. She has been asking and begging him for days but he just won't budge. She's starting to believe that he is really over her. It's a bitter pill to swallow but she can't force him, she blames herself for ruining her chances the first time. She was just so hung up on Khulekani that she let a good man go, now she has to watch him loving another woman.

The time to clock out finally came and she signed out. She went with Sphokazi to wait for the taxis.

Spho:See you tomorrow.

She said goodbye.

She took a different taxi, one that would take her to the park. That's the place she gets to think and be in-depth with her feelings without any distractions.

She arrives at the park and it was so empty, good for her. She went to her favorite spot and sat down.

Many people have said many things to her. But now she needs to think about what she wants. Sphokazi and Khanyisile raised an important point about her, that she is easily influenced and maybe that's why people always convince her to go to the left or right.

Now that she looks back at everything that happened, they are right.

Khanyi swayed her into dropping Zano and she did as she said, her mother fed thoughts into her and she agreed to do that. But now, she's not sure about it.

Zano is not stupid, definitely one way or the other he is going to find out that the baby is not his. She won't even be surprised if he already knows.

She wants to be with him more than anything, but not on lies. Which is why she has finally made a decision that will benefit her. She is not going to listen to her mother, Nomuzi is only thinking about getting the money from Zano but she doesn't care about that. She has already hurt him, she doesn't want to do it again. What if he cuts her off completely this time?

She is going to tell Phawu that she is pregnant and if he doesn't accept it then that's on him, but she's definitely not doing an abortion. Not with her first baby. Good thing they broke up, that guy is just too much for her.

Then, she is going to tell Zano that she is pregnant, if he agrees to be with her then she will be happy but if he doesn't accept her baby that's also okay, it's understandable.

She takes her phone and calls him, for the 10th time today.

Zano:I think I'm going to have to consider changing my number.

Sma:No, please don't.

Zano:What do you want Smangele?

Sma:Can you come at the park? Please.

Zano:Fine. I will be there.

Sma:Thank you.

She sighed relieved and waited for him.

An hour later, she saw him approaching and she stood up and waited for him.

Zano:Hi.

Sma:Hey.

Okay, this was so awkward. Not even a hug!

Zano: You said you wanted to talk.

Sma: Yes. Can we sit?

They sat down.

Sma: First, I want to apologize. I know you've heard it a thousand times, but I am really really sorry Zano. Me going through a heartbreak didn't give me the right to treat you like that and call you all sort of names. That was terrible of me, I totally ruined the perfect picture you had

of me. Yes some people may have filled my mind with some ideas, but I am an old woman, and my mind is fully developed to be told what to do.

I know my words don't really mean anything, but I hope you can see how sorry I am.

Another thing, the guy I was dating, we broke up, he wasn't like you Zano. He wasn't sweet with his words and he didn't care about what I wanted.

But, one thing that happened is that, I am pregnant, two months and a few weeks.

There's nothing I would love more in this world than to be with you, but if you are not comfortable with my pregnancy, I will understand.

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In her office, Nandipha is signing some paperwork when Nonjabulo knocks.

Nandipha: Come in.

She comes in and looks around. She chuckles and shakes her head.

Nonjabulo: Wow.

Nandipha:How can I help you?

Nonjabulo:I just wanted to see with my own eyes how big you feel in that chair.

Nandipha:O-Kay.

Nonjabulo:You must be really enjoying this huh? How do you sleep at night? Do you even sleep at all?

Nandipha:I really don't want to do this, not today. But, I do sleep at night. I sleep peacefully.

Nonjabulo:Thunder will strike you so hard.

Nandipha:Nonjabulo, I really really still consider you as a friend. What I did may hurt you, and I am sorry for that. But, I love Nhlanhla and he loves me too. I am pregnant and engaged with him. We are going to be married soon. You have to adjust to these changes and accept that he's not coming back to you, I don't want you turning into a bitter baby momma. Nhlanhla will always take care of his children, that I assure you of.

Nonjabulo:I see what you are doing, you are putting on this nice act so that everyone thinks you are a Saint and I'm the bad guy. I promise you hun, that man

can't keep it in his pants. He will surely find someone else and she will do to you what you did to me. That's a promise.

She said and then walked out.

Nandipha blinked and looked at the door.

She's not a bad person, right?

She sighs and takes her phone sending a message to Sma.

'Stand up to mama big sis'

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Back at the park.

She has finally said everything she needed to say, the rest is up to him. If she rejects her, she'll accept the L and move on.

Zano:I hear you, and honestly I am over it. Yes I was angry and hurt but my heart is finally at peace hearing you own up and recognizing your mistakes. I am no drama person and I don't like to hold grudges. So I forgive you, you don't have to worry about it.

She hugged him in excitement and he let her be and hugged her back.

Zano:And... no matter how much I try to convince myself but I still love you. So much.

That felt like music to her ears, she got closer to him and kissed him. He was shocked but he kissed her back. They pulled out of the kiss after minutes of the kiss.

Zano:But, if we are going to be together Sma, I need you to stop running whenever we have problems. Be loyal and I will be loyal. And one thing you need to know, I'm not a law abiding citizen. So if you want to be with me, you need to be prepared to wake up in

the middle of the night and run, you need to get used to having bodyguards time to time, you need to accept that there are nights where I won't be home because of what me and my brothers do.

She swallowed and looked at him.

Sma:Are you like a gangster or something?

He laughs.

Zano:No, but something like that. I am telling you because I want you to know what you are getting yourself into.

Sma:I can handle it.

Zano:Are you sure?

Sma:Yes. I want to be with you.

Zano:Okay. I guess it's official then.

Sma:So...my pregnancy? You haven't said anything about it.

Zano:Have you told the father?

Sma:Not yet.

Zano:It's going to be hard but there's nothing I can do, the baby is already here. So I will find a way to make peace and love him/her as my own.

Sma:Thank you.

They spent some time more until it was time to go back home. He dropped her off and promised to see her tomorrow.

Sma:Please break up with her, my heart was shattered when I saw you with another woman.

Zano:It wasn't anything serious, don't worry yourself about it.

Sma:Okay, I love you. See you tomorrow.

Zano:I love you too.

He grabbed her chin and kissed her again.

Zano:Bye..

She walked out of the car feeling hot and happy. Like this was her first boyfriend ever.

She walks inside all smiles but her mood drops when she sees her mother waiting for her.

Sma:Hi moms.

Nomuzi:Was that Zano? I need an update.

Sma:Yes, about your plan, I'm not going to do it.

Nomuzi:What?

Sma:I'm not going to pin the pregnancy on Zano. We talked and we decided to have a normal relationship.

Nomuzi:Did he say anything about lobolo?

Sma:It's too soon for that.

Nomuzi sat back on the couch and paged the magazine.

Nomuzi:I see. Well if you are not going to do what I tell you to do, then I guess you should leave my house.

Sma:What!?

She asked shocked.

Nomuzi:Yes. You and Khanyisile, leave my house!

She raised her voice a bit.

Khanyi came into the room.

Khanyisile:Anginendaba, ngizoyokipita vele! (I don't care, I will go and cohabit).

Sma:Ma what is wrong with you!?

Nomuzi: You two are stupid for your age!
Maybe I dropped you when you were young. Smangele you have a chance to be rich and take care of me and your father but you are letting it go just like that! Normal relationship my cracked foot! Leave my house Smangele!!!
Today!!! You too Khanyisile, you are dating a broke man who can't even give you a mere R20 000. The only child who makes me happy is Nandipha, at least she gives me money. Nhlaka is also useless like you two, he must leave my house too!! All three of you!!! Out!!!!

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To be continued....

100 comments....**BURNING FIRES OF
GREED**

#23

Sma:Are you really chasing us out?
Where will we go in the middle of the
night?

Nomuzi:You're still here? I thought I
told you two leave.

Khanyi pulled Sma to their room.

Khanyi:Let's pack our things.

Sma: Why are you so calm? She is chasing us out of our home!

Khanyi: We don't contribute nothing to this house Smangele, it is still her house. So let's just leave. Nandipha is her favorite, there's nothing we can do about that. I'm sure you've seen that over the years.

Sma: Where will I go? Where will you go?

Khanyi: Call your man to fetch you. I'm going to Bhebhenene. I won't stay in a house where I'm not wanted.

She said and continued packing. Sma also went to her room and first sat down trying to make sense of what just happened. Her mother is kicking her out because she doesn't want to go ahead with her plan? She thinks of calling Zano but thinks against it, he has already done so much for her. She doesn't want it to look like she's taking advantage of him. But it's late now, where will she find a place to live? Because her mother is adamant on the fact that they should leave.

She takes a deep breath and starts packing in her big suitcase. She will figure something out.

When she's done packing, she hears noise from the living room and she goes out to check and it was her mother shouting at Nhlaka.

Nomuzi:I also need you out of my house Nhlakanipho!! Get out.

Nhlaka:Aybo ma where will I go?

Nomuzi:Do I look like I care!? You left a good paying job to go back to crime and got yourself kidnapped. You are useless as your two sisters here..

Sma:But what you're doing is wrong.
Where is dad?

Nomuzi:Leave your father alone!!!

Sma:No I want to know what he has to say about this. You can't kick us out of our home. I refuse!!

Nomuzi:Just listen to this, a whole 35 years old woman doesn't want to leave home!! Ngicela ning'phumele emzini wami(Please get out of my house!)

Khanyi came out dragging her things.

Khanyi:As I am leaving, I will only return when you call me back. If you don't, I won't return. Even if you are dead I won't come back because you chased me out. Goodbye, Bhebhenene is waiting for me.

She said and walked out.

Nomuzi digested Khanyi's words which sounded so much like a curse, but she ignored her...

Nomuzi:Now it's you two remaining.
Leave!

Nhlaka:Fine I will leave!

Sma:Nhlaka where will you go?

Nhlaka:In the streets. Where I belong.

He walked out.

Nomuzi:Mulandele (follow him).

She saw she was fighting a losing battle and went get her things in her bedroom.

Sma:I really hope sooner or later you change your mind.

Nomuzi:I won't.

Sma:Goodbye.

Nomuzi ignored her and continued looking at her magazine.

Sma walked out and went to the bus stop. She didn't know where she would go, it was so late. Even if the bus comes, where will it take her..

She had to swallow her pride and call Zano, but she is scared. She doesn't want him to think she's taking advantage.

Zano:Mama?

Hearing his voice just made her tear up. She was alone in the middle of the road who knows what will happen to her. The streets are not safe.

Zano: Why are you crying? Did something happen?

She could sense how worried he was through his voice.

Sma: My mom kicked me out. I have nowhere to go.

Zano: Where are you right now?

Sma:At the bus stop.

Zano:Okay I'm coming to get you.

Sma:Thank you, please hurry. I am scared.

Zano:I am coming.

She hung up and sat on her suitcase. She hid her phone under her bra. She kept on looking back for any suspicious activity.

She heard footsteps approaching and she almost screamed but relaxed when she saw it was Nhlaka.

Sma: You scared me.

Nhlaka: Sorry, where are you going?

Sma: Zano is going to fetch me. What about you?

Nhlaka: Don't worry about me. I know how to take care of myself.

Sma: But you should live this life, you had a good job and I can't believe you just left it like that.

Nhlaka:I didn't leave my job sisi, I am not stupid to play with second chances like that.

Sma:What happened then?

Nhlaka:My friends sold me out to that guy we stole from his shop at, he's been keeping me hostage ever since. I can't thank Zano enough for coming to my rescue, they would have killed me.

Sma:Your friends sold you out?

Nhlaka:Yeah, they told him I was out of jail and he promised them a few

thousands to capture me and they did that. All because of money.

Sma:Where are they now?

Nhlaka:I don't know, Zano said he took care of it.

Sma:So are you going to go back to work?

Nhlaka:I will, Zano trusted in me. I can't disappoint him.

Sma:I'm glad to hear you speaking like this. Forget about mom, I don't know

what's gotten into her exactly but she will remember us.

Nhlaka: Yeah maybe.

He said shrugging his shoulders.

A cat stopped next to them and it was Zano. He got out of the car and Sma ran to his arms.

Zano: Sure.

He greeted Nhlaka, he nodded.

Zano took Sma's suitcase and put it on the boot of the car.

Nhlaka:Please take care of her.

Zano:I will.

Nhlaka:Bye sisi.

Sma:Bye.

He walked away.

Zano:So what happened?

Sma: Mom chased us out, said we are useless and we are not helping her with anything.

Zano: Really?

He asked shocked, that woman looked like she cares about her children but he guesses he had it wrong.

Sma: Yeah, I'm sorry for calling you. I didn't know who else to call or where to go.

Zano: I told you before that there's nothing I wouldn't do for you. Let's go,

but my brothers are in my house so be prepared to meet them.

Sma:Do they know everything that happened between us?

Zano:Yes, they love you don't worry.

She nodded but she was scared. She saw those brothers and they looked pretty scary to her, not to mention that the three of them look so much alike. For someone who doesn't know, they would thin they are triplets.

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Nonjabulo is on the phone with her friend Nomkhosi.

Nonjabulo:I'm telling you, I went to her office and you could have seen how boastful she was. She kept on telling me that she will make sure Nhlanhla doesn't forget about his children. Like girl, that is my husband and you stole him from me.

Nomkhosi:Why did you go to her office?

Nonjabulo:I wanted to see her with my own eyes enjoying my life.

Nomkhosi:I thought we talked about this and agreed that we are moving forward with life.

Nonjabulo:Me and Nhlanhla have been together for more than five years, and then this girl comes out of nowhere and snatches her from me, nah it isn't over Nomkhosi! She's still going to feel the pain I felt. I will make sure to it.

Nomkhosi:Please don't do anything stupid, just accept that the man gone and focus on your life. You have children

looking up to you. Get a job or something, please my friend.

Nonjabulo: What their kids need is their mother and father back under one roof. Nandipha will regret the day she crossed me. Can you believe that she is already pregnant!? I know if she gives birth, my children won't get any attention. All attention will be on her stupid brat.

Nomkhosi: Nonjabulo I am begging you again, please leave those two for the sake of your peace of mind. They don't deserve your energy, they are just not worth it. Forget about them and focus on you and your children.

Nonjabulo:I hear you Khosi, but you don't understand how I feel right now. I feel so betrayed and hurt. And what hurts the most is that Nhlanhla divorced me because of those pictures, which Nandipha fabricated. That girl always knew what she wanted. But two can play the game.

Nomkhosi:I am warning you.

Nonjabulo:Don't worry, I won't do anything that would lead me to jail.

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At the Ngcobo House.

She finally gets up from the couch and goes to the kitchen to get water for Zakhele.

She brings it to their bedroom and he was sitting on the bed.

Nomuzi: I brought you water. How do you feel now?

Zakhele breathed heavily and took the water. He drank it and gave the glass back to her.

Zakhele:I can feel my end.

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They arrive at Zano's house.

He takes her suitcase and she remains frozen, stunned by the beauty she's seeing. There are people with houses like these! She usually see houses like these in the suburbs areas and TV.

Sma:This is your house?

Zano:Yes. Let's get inside.

She followed him with her heart thumping.

Zano opened the door to the inside and it was even more magical.

They got in and found his brothers sitting on the couch grinning, almost like they were waiting for them..

Sma let out a small breath and rubbed her hands together looking down.

Zano:Guys this is Sma, but you know her. And Sma, these are my brothers, Busani and Sphiwe.

Busani:Nice to meet you Makoti.

She blushed a little. Well they were welcoming and they seem to like her. That went better than she thought.

Zano took her upstairs to his room. He went back downstairs.

Zano:Hey you two leave my house.

Sphiwe:Hawu! Why are we being chased out now!?

Busani:He no longer needs us, we were the one helping him sleep when he was crying.

Sphiwe:Hay Busani mfwethu, asambe(Busani my brother, let's go).

Busani:Ningamoshi ke futhi Zano(Don't mess up again Zano).

Sphiwe:Mphathise okweqanda(Treat her like an egg).

Zano:I do not need relationship advice from you two. Leave.

Sphiwe:I'm definitely telling Mrs Mthiyane (their mother) about this.

Zano:I will tell her on my own.

Busani:Weee I already told everyone Mina.

He says carefree.

Zano:Okay that's it, leave.

Sphiwe:Fine we are leaving jeez!

They walked out. He went back upstairs and Sma was still sitting on the same spot he left her.

Zano:I have chased them out. You can relax. This is your home too now.

He kisses her hand and assures her.

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To be continued...

100 comments **BURNING FIRES OF
GREED**

#24. Unedited

In the morning, Nomuzi wakes up first before her husband. She goes to the kitchen and is surprised to find Nhlaka eating breakfast and free.

Nomuzi: What are you doing here!?
Didn't I tell you children to leave my house!!?

Nhlaka: I am not going anywhere. If you don't mind, I'd like to eat my breakfast in peace.

Nomuzi: Who bought this food you are eating?

Nhlaka:My father.

Nomuzi:Where are you even going all dressed up?

Nhlaka:I'm going to work.

Nomuzi:Oh, you still have your job?

She starts laughing and softening her heart.

Nhlaka:Yeah, they said my job was still safe.

Nomuzi: So when are you getting paid?
And how much will they pay you?

Nhlaka: I don't know what's wrong with you these days but I don't want to be part of it. I'm only still here because I have no place to go. When I get my salary, I'm moving out. So you can stay with alone in your house since you chased us out.

Nomuzi: My son your sisters just needed me to give them a push. They are old to be still living with their parents.
Smangele is set for life, you don't have to worry about her. Zano will give her the world. I don't know much about

Khanyisile, because she decided to date a broke man nxx.

She clicks her tongue and gets angry all over again.

Nomuzi: You know out of all the children I have, that one is the one who excels in disappointing me! It's like she can't use her brains. So useless!

Nhlaka: I have to go.

He stood up and walked away before she could say anything else.

Nomuzi breathed heavily as she thought how much her children were disappointing her. Nandipha is the better one, and Nhlaka is going on the right path too.

She opens the curtains to let in air and cleans around before cooking porridge for Zakhele. He needs soft food at the moment.

She goes back to him in the bedroom and he was awake.

Nomuzi: Good morning.

Zakhele: Morning.

Nomuzi:How did you sleep? Your porridge is almost ready.

Zakhele:Thank you.

He sat up.

Nomuzi:Let me help you bath.

Zakhele:No I can do it myself don't worry. Did they really leave?

Nomuzi:Yes, they left yesterday.

He nodded with a sad expression all over his face. She wished to know what he was thinking. He doesn't do much talking lately and it is killing her.

Zakhele: And Nhlaka?

Nomuzi: He is still here.

Zakhele: You shouldn't have chased them out though. You are just taking advantage of the fact that I am weak right now and you are doing as you please. If I die now, my children will hate me and think I also chased them out.

Nomuzi: That's why they are like this because you're too soft on them. They need a rude awakening those two, they are not getting any younger. I will not harbor adults in my house.

Zakhele: My house! This is my house!!!

He shouted but ended up coughing so hard that blood came out.

Nomuzi gave him something to wipe and helped him sit on the bed again.

Nomuzi: You should really stop with the shouting, you can see how weak you are.

I don't know if you want to finish yourself.

Zakhele:Sorry, but I want you to call them back.

Nomuzi:I'm not doing that.

She walked out.

Zakhele looked for his phone but it was nowhere to be found. He sighed and thought about how he would contact his children. It's with no doubt that Nomuzi hid it from him.

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Nomuzi goes to the spare bedroom and locks herself inside. She goes to the drawer and takes out some papers. She sits down and reads through them.

She nods to herself and put them away.

She makes a phone call to Nandipha.

Nandipha:Hello ma.

Nomuzi:Nandipha, how are you?

Nandipha:I am fine, how are you?
Everything still okay at home?

Nomuzi:Yes, I just wanted to find out when your boyfriend is coming to pay lobolo. You are already living with him and that's wrong.

Nandipha:That's what we were talking about yesterday with him, how does this weekend sound?

Nomuzi:It's perfect. I'll call a few family members and prepare everything. You need to come home though.

Nandipha: Okay I will.

Nomuzi: How is my grandson?

Nandipha: He's okay, I'm now showing and Nhlanhla is so excited.

Nomuzi: As he should, and you are giving him a son.

Nandipha: That doesn't make any difference. He has one boy with his ex wife.

Nomuzi:Mxm. Now you have to make sure that your son is the heir to all of his assets.

Nandipha:My son is not Nhlanhla's first born ma, you know how culture goes. Everything goes to the first born.

Nomuzi:Don't tell me about stupid traditions that were created by men walking around naked pushing their stupid bellies. See to it that child is the heir. I trust you to make sure you get your rightful benefits as his wife. Jim making you CEO at his company was just the first step, now he needs to open more businesses for you and put them in

your name so he won't take them away from you in future.

Nandipha:Uhh you are cutting.. I can't hear you..

Nomuzi:Nandipha..

Nandipha:Ma?? Hello? Angikuzwa(I can't hear you)

Nomuzi:I am saying you should convince Nhlanhla to_

Nandipha:Bad network. I'll call you lat_

The line disconnected.

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At Bongani's place.

Ever since he got the promotion, he has invested in his physical appearance. He finally listened to Khanyi and cut off his beard, and did a nice haircut. Now he looks like a serious gentleman. Khanyi was surprised to see him like that yesterday. Even his wardrobe has changed, he now wears those smart suits

that everyone wears. He even has a watch. The promotion couldn't have come at a better time in his life, now he can spoil his woman and make her happy. He is thankful and proud of how she stuck with him through everything, even through sgedlemba breaking down in the middle of the trip. If it was another woman, surely she would have gotten fed up and left him. But Khanyi is still here, showing the same love as she did months ago when they started dating. How they started dating is not normal nor romantic for outsiders, but he wouldn't have it any other way. He loves how they don't have to pretend to be other people just for impression, they are true to themselves and are carefree.

Khanyi:Are you day dreaming about me?

She asks snaking her hands around him.
He was going to surprise her with
breakfast in bed but she just ruined it.

Bongani:Out of all things, why would I
daydream about you!?

Khanyi:Mxm. What are you making
here?

She asks already putting a Vienna in her
mouth.

Bongani: Did you wash your hands or brush your teeth?

Khanyi: Yes. Now give me my food.

Bongani: Who said this is your food?

Khanyi: Who else could it be?


She snatches the plate and runs away.

Khanyi: Ngathi usazoba mnandi umkipito
(Cohabiting is going to be nice!)

She shouts from the other room. He shakes his head smiling, he has accepted her craziness.

His phone beeps and he checks it out, it was a Facebook notification alerting him that Khanyi has posted in the Ladies House group. Yeey he has finally decided to join the group, the things this girl post here!

He goes to the post and he laughs out loud to what she posted.

“Usbari wenu bafazi ungivuse nge bhlakfesi in bed. Cha mungakipitile namanje angkwazi ulindeni! ” (My boyfriend woke me up with breakfast in bed. If you are still not Cohabiting even

now I don't know what you are waiting for).

She had attached pictures of the food on the post.

Bongani:I got myself a crazy this time.

He says to himself.**BURNING FIRES
OF GREED**

#25

The following days she was now settled in Zano's house, or as he'd like to call it "their home". His brothers are too funny and she enjoys their company so much.

Things between her and Zano are going very well, they understand each other and he doesn't forget to remind her that he loves her. She hasn't heard from her mother ever since she chased them out, but she has been keeping contact with her siblings. Khanyi is also happy with her boyfriend. It still hurt that Nomuzi just chased them out like that, but what can they say? It is her house after all.

Zano went to work, although she isn't sure what it is that he does but it's the same place where Nhlaka works. She is left alone in the house and she decided to do spring cleaning and later cook for him.

Her stomach is starting to show a bit, she is ashamed at times because she would find Zano just staring at her stomach and not saying anything. She knows it's not easy for him to watch her being pregnant for another man.

She wishes she was not pregnant, well at least not for Phawu. She hasn't told him yet that she is pregnant, she doesn't have the energy for him.

She was on contraceptive so how she fell pregnant is a mystery to her too.

Zano has a big house and she isn't used to so many rooms. She's afraid she won't clean them all.

She was in the middle of washing dishes when she heard a female voice coming through the kitchen. She widened her eyes thinking it was a girlfriend or something, but it sounded like an older woman.

Oh no, it must be his mother!

She was just tiptoeing out of the room when Zano's mother startled her.

Mrs Mthiyane: Why are you running away from me? I have been knocking on the gate!

She turns back.

Sma:I'm sorry ma, I didn't hear you.

She looked down because she was dressed inappropriate to be meeting with the mother of her boyfriend. She was wearing shorts with a crop top, her stomach fully visible.

Zano's mother looked at her through her glasses.

Mrs Mthiyane:Uwena u Smangele? (You are Smangele?)

Sma:Yebo ma imina(Yes ma it's me)

She starts smiling and hugs her.

“Oh a hug”, Sma says to herself before hugging her back.

Mrs Mthiyane:What are you doing overworking yourself like this? Pregnant women don't do heavy work. Sit down, I will finish off.

Sma:Oh I don't mind, I was almost done.

She couldn't let an elder do work while she can do it.

Mrs Mthiyane:Don't be ridiculous. You can call me Nomthi.

Sma:I can't call you by your name.

She said looking down.

Nomthi:Hay wena I'm not a magogo.
Don't you see how fresh I look? Call me
Nomthi, I insist.

Sma:*Smiling* Yebo Nomthi.

Nomthi:Now go and wear something to
hide your stomach. Isisu asivezwa
mukhulelwe(You don't show your belly
when you are pregnant).

She runs off to the bedroom. Seems as if all the Mthiyanes are nice people. Mostly mothers don't like their son's girlfriends because they usually have women whom they think are perfect for their sons.

She takes her phone and calls Zano.

He starts by laughing first.

Sma:Wow.

Zano:I'm sorry.

Sma:So you knew she was coming and you didn't say anything?

Zano:She wanted to meet you, I told her I'm going to be at work and she said she will come and see you. Did she scare you?

Sma:At first, but she has been nice to me. Is she staying over?

Zano:My mother would never leave my father to sleep alone. She will leave.

Sma:Tjoh okay, I'm still scared meeting your family.

Zano:We are a big family, when you see all of us kshuthi you will just faint.

Sma: You are scaring me more yazi.

Zano: Sorry, but just relax around her.
She's cool.

Sma: Okay, I'll see you later. I love you.

Zano: I love you.

She hangs up and takes a deep breath.

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Nomuzi is sitting on the couch just thinking, the house is a bit lonely and quiet with everyone gone, but she was helping them by chasing them out.

Growing up, she thought she would marry a rich man and have a successful and thriving career. This is not the life she envisioned for herself, the life of struggling and being miserable is not what she wanted. When she dated Zakhele, it was purely because she loved him. She didn't care much about the materialistic things and money, she just wanted to be with him. She accepted that not every goal she wanted growing up would come to pass. They were not

financially stable when they got married, Smangele was already born by then.

They were really struggling, Zakhele was working peace jobs and would get R700s each weekend. That was not enough to feed the three of them, it couldn't make matters worse because she was pregnant with Khanyisile again. She was not working and everything was minded by Zakhele, he had to work for his family as a man. When she gave birth to Nandipha and Nhlaka, that's when she decided to get up her butt and look for work to help her husband take care of their household.

That's when Smangele had to step up the deputy parent role to her siblings and be a mother to them. She missed out on

many opportunities. Including not going to tertiary, they were broke when she finished. By the time Nandipha finished, they had much stable jobs and that's when the loan came into place. They thought they could pay it back but things don't always go to plan seeing as she lost her job and Zakhele got retrenched.

Now she is old and she realizes that she really has nothing to her name. She stayed with a man for more than 30 years and there's nothing amazing he's ever done for her.

Even her bank account is as dry as the Kalahari desert. What has she really been doing all these years!?! Nothing! No wonder her children are like this, they

saw it from her. She shouldn't have married Zakhele from the start, there's no such thing as "stay with your man as broke as he is"; she had hope that he would make it in future some day but here they are! Still living in the township!

He is useless like his daughters, especially now that he is without a job. How will he feed them? What source of income will he receive? His money from the company he was working at won't be paid out for another year, those people don't want to pay.

Sometimes it's better to just take matters into your own hands and solve the problem.

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Nandipha is being accompanied by Nhlanhla to the doctor for their monthly check up.

He is driving with one hand on her thigh.

Nandipha: I can't wait to give birth, I'm already tired.

Nhlanhla: You're not even six months yet. There's still a long way to go.

Nandipha:Aowa I'm tired! Yesterday I fell asleep at the office.

Nhlanhla:That's why I suggested you leave work for a while. You will return when you have given birth.

Nandipha:Nop, I'll go on maternity leave when I'm eight months pregnant. I am still getting used to holding the ropes, I don't want people to think I'm not serious.

Nhlanhla:Fine.

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He decided to take a short day and go back home. Sma may be cracking under pressure from his mother. She asks a lot of questions he knows her, and his family (except his brothers) don't know the truth about Sma's pregnancy..

He is surprised to find them drinking tea and chatting up a storm like old buddies.

He clears his throat and they look at him with smiles on their faces.

Nomthi:Mfana ka mama.

Sighs, pet names!

Sma laughs.

Zano:Hey moms. Are you two okay?

He looks at Sma.

Sma:We are okay. Your mother was just telling me about your childhood.

Zano:I hope not the embarrassing stuff.

Sma:Everything.

Zano:Mom!

Nomthi:What!?! Anyway, now that you are here I have to leave. I left my husband alone at home, he must miss me by now.

She says already standing up and touching her phone.

Nomthi:Kuhle can you believe that your father hasn't called me even once!?

She asks calling him and walking away.

Nomthi:*afar* Mthiyane kodwa angifonelwa ngani? (Mthiyane why are you not calling me?)

Sma laughs and stands up to give Zano a kiss.

Sma:How was your day Kuhle?

Zano:I am Zano, not Kuhle.

Sma:Laughing* Sorry.

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They were done with their appointment and were now going back home.

They got into the car and Nhlanhla drove off.

Nhlanhla:Do you want something to eat?

Nandipha:Yeah, I want a crunch burger from KFC.

Nhlanhla:Okay, anything else?

Nandipha:Nop.

Nhlanhla:I don't want you waking me up in the middle of the night wanting something.

Nandipha:It's not me, it's your baby.

He laughs a little and continues to drive. But, on the way he feels that something is wrong with the car. He feels like he is losing control of the wheel. He steps on the brake trying to stop it but the car doesn't stop, instead it goes faster.

Nandipha:Babe what's going on?

Nhlanhla:I don't know, I can't stop it.

He hits the brake repeatedly but to no avail, and the car moves in full speed until it loses total control and rolls over on the road and little flame lights up.

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At Bongani's place, she is happy and in love. Living with Bongani is the greatest thing ever. She does not even feel bad or sad that her mother chased her out. And Bongani is quite the charmer lately, he

has changed his dressing style and he looks so attractive. But he cut his beard, she was starting to love it.

She has also gone back to work and she is doing her job well. She doesn't want to do any more mistakes, she can't mess up the second opportunity.

It feels good to wake up in the morning like the others and prepare for work.

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Nomuzi goes to the bedroom to check on Zakhele, he has been sleeping for a long time.

She gets in the room and sighs at him sleeping.

Nomuzi: Zakhele wake up, your food is ready.

She goes near him but notices that something is different. He was not breathing nor moving, he was still and straight. She shakes her up a bit but no response. She feels his pulse on his wrist and still nothing. She opens the flash on her phone and checks his eyes but his pupils don't constrict.

She sighs and covers his whole body with the blanket.

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To be continued....**BURNING FIRES OF GREED**

#26

After confirming that he is really dead, she started making phone calls to families informing them of the bad luck that has fallen upon her. Of course, she had to cry a few tears here and there to make it more convincing. She then sent messages to her children telling them plain that their father is dead.

Nomuzi: Rest in peace my husband. May God accept your soul.

After that she wailed out loudly for the neighbours to hear her.

They came in numbers hearing the painful screams.

“Makhelwane what happened?”, one of the neighbours asked.

Nomuzi pointed at her room still crying and on the floor.

One went to the room and came back with a sad expression.

“U Ngcobo usishiyile(Ngcobo left us)”

Nomuzi cried some more, now they were comforting her and crying with her.

“God gives and He takes, duduzeka Makhelwane”.

Nomuzi:He wasn't even sick, uvele wathula nje.

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At Zano's house.

She was still reading the text her mother sent. She laughs a little and shakes her head.

'Your father is dead. Come home'

That's what the text said.

Zano: What's wrong?

She gives him her phone and he reads the message.

Zano:She just said it like this!?

Sma:Yeah. I don't know if it's true or she's just playing mind games.

Zano:Maybe you should go home and check.

Just then her phone rings, it was Khanyi.

Sma:Khanyi?

Khanyi:Sma I just got a text from mom saying dad is dead.

Sma:I got it too, is it true?

Khanyi:I don't know, Bongani is taking me home right now.

Sma:I hope it's not true.

She said with a shaky voice.

Sma:I need to go home.

Zano:Okay I'll take you.

She wears a jersey and they walk out to the garage. Her mind was running wild, she didn't want to believe that her father could be dead. Even if he was dead, why would her mother say it so casually like a cat died?

Zano is flying on the road and in no minute, they were already there. The house was buzzing with neighbors and there was some singing heard from inside.

She swallowed her fear and looked at Zano.

Zano: You want me to come inside with you?

Sma: No, you can stay here.

Zano: Okay.

She opened the door and walked out, she met Khanyi on the gate.

Khanyi: It's true. He's gone.

Sma: No.

She felt her knees getting weaker and Khanyi caught her before she could fall.

Zano got out of the car and rushed to them. He took Sma from Khanyi.

Zano:What's going on?

Khanyi:Dad is gone..

She cried and ran back inside.

Zano:Baby.

He woke her up and she slowly opened her eyes.

Zano:Are you okay?

Sma:It's true. He's really gone.

Her throat was blocked and she couldn't even speak.

Zano:Shhh... don't strain yourself, let's go inside and talk to your mother.

Going inside and finding her mother sitting on the mattress just confirmed everything.

Sma:*Crying* Mom....

She knelt on the mattress and Nomuzi took her in arms and comforted her.

Sma:What happened? He was fine.

Nomuzi:I don't know, he was sleeping and when I went to check on him, he was no more. I'm sorry my baby.

Sma:I didn't even get to say goodbye. I didn't even see him for weeks because you didn't want us to see him. What did you do to him!?

Nomuzi:I know you are hurting Sma but don't accuse me of things I don't know of.

The people who were crying with them were quiet and listening as they argued back and forth.

Sma stood up and went outside with Zano.

Sma:You should go home. I'll stay here until the funeral.

Zano:Are you going to be okay?

Sma:No, but I will try.

Her tears were falling uncontrollably. She didn't understand how her father could suddenly be dead. It all didn't make any sense. His body has already been taken by the morgue people. Did he even have a funeral cover? How will they bury him? Not so long ago, they were just swimming in debts.

Zano:Anything you need, just know that I'll always be here for you.

Sma:I know, thank you.

He hugged her...

Zano:I'll see you tomorrow. Be strong babe. I know this is difficult, heck I don't even know how you must be feeling, but remember that you are carrying someone in there.

He pointed her stomach.

Sma:Yeah I'll try.

Zano:I love you.

Sma:I love you.

He let her go and walked to his car. Sma went back inside and went to find Khanyisile.

She was in their parents' bedroom, hugging dad's shirt close to her.

Sma:Sis.

Khanyi looked up.

Khanyi:We didn't even get to say goodbye. We didn't know he was sick. How could he be dead? I don't understand Sma.

Sma:It's confusing for me too. Does Nandipha know?

Khanyi:I have been trying to call her but it's sending me to voice mail.

Sma:Nhlaka?

Khanyi:He knows. He's locking himself in his room.

She sat down with her and pat her shoulders.

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At the crime scene, the Paramedics, fire fighters, police have arrived and provided the necessary help for the victims.

Nandipha was rushed to the hospital as she was badly hurt, Nhlanhla remained with the Paramedics patching him up. He had a few scratches and bruises, the fire didn't get to him that much.

Nhlanhla:I need to go to the hospital.

Paramedic: You can't drive in your state sir. You are still dizzy and weak.

Nhlanhla: I don't care about that, my wife needs me. How is she?

Paramedic: You will get in the ambulance with us. You can't drive. The doctors need to look at you, your ribs might be broken and your arm.

He nodded and got inside the ambulance.

They drove with him to the hospital.

He was led to where Nandipha is.

Nhlanhla: How is she? Is the baby okay?

“And you are?”

Nhlanhla:I’m her fiancé, the father of the baby.

Doc:Okay, well she is fine but the baby isn’t.

Nhlanhla:What do you mean?

Doc:See uhm the windshield glasses got all over her body, and some of them made their way into the uterus , piercing through it. One of the glasses got to the baby, he’s gone. I’m sorry.

Nhlanhla:No there must be a mistake,
you made a mistake.

Doc:We are sorry, the foetus needs to be
removed from her.

Nhlanhla:No no no no, you made a
mistake. We just did a check up today
and they said our baby is fine.

The doctor realized that he was getting
dizzy and held him.

Doc:You also need help.

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At the Ngcobo House.

The neighbours have left and they remained as the family. Nomuzi wasn't talking but just sniffing her tears. After a while she stood up from the mattress.

Khanyi: Where are you going?

Nomuzi: I need the bathroom.

She walked out of the room and looked if anyone wasn't following her, she

sneaked into the spare room and locked herself in again.

She took the papers and paged through them. His signature was there, so it was valid.

She took her phone and made a phone call.

Nomuzi:Hi, yes. He's gone.

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Nomuzi:I made him sign the day before.

.....

Nomuzi:She's also back. Yeah he came.

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Nomuzi:When should I bring these papers?

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Nomuzi:Okay, I'll be waiting. I trust you. She hung up and placed the papers in the drawer again. With Zakhele out of the way, she can finally get what she has always wanted. Money!

She gets out of the room and locks it again but Sma sees her and comes to her.

Sma:What were you doing in there?

Nomuzi:Just thinking.

Sma looked at her suspiciously. For someone who just lost her husband, she doesn't seem that sad or hurt. It's like she's happy or relieved.

Sma: I just got a call from Nhlanhla, he says they had an accident with Nandipha and she lost the baby.

Nomuzi: What?

Sma: Yeah, I don't know where this bad luck comes from today.

Sma was so lost and sad, that Nomuzi noticed and tried to match her emotions with hers.

Nomuzi: Maybe we are cursed, we can't lose two family members in one day. Your father's death is still a mystery and now my grandson is gone.

Sma: I also don't know what's happening. I just don't understand.

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At the morgue.

Zakhele's body was brought in and placed in the freezer. The coroner was called to do an official autopsy and rule out the cause of death.

She finished with her job and wrote in her report that she would send but someone entered her office.

Coroner: You're not supposed to be here. Who are you?

"I'm the man about to make your dreams possible", he said.

He was wearing glasses with a hat so she couldn't see her face clearly.

Coroner: What are you talking about?
Make my dreams possible?

“I need you to write something else in your report and give me that.”

Coroner: I can't do that, I might get fired.

“Maybe you didn't hear me. I want you to write something else in your report and give me the original one.”

The coroner looked at her phone and thought of calling for help because this man was scaring her.

“Zenzile is an amazing child. She got 90 for her test today, didn’t she?”

Coroner: How do you know my daughter?

She asked shocked and scared. It’s clear this man didn’t come to play.

“We can keep going back and forth all night. But in the end, you are going to do what I tell you to do because I’m not asking. I’m telling you”.

He placed a briefcase in her desk that was loaded with money.

“Now do we have a deal?”

She looked at the money and counted a few notes.

She nodded...

Coroner:Deal.

No way she was going to say no to so much money. She didn't care who he

was, or what his plan is. Her eyes were on the money.

He saw how suddenly bright her eyes were when seeing the money and smirked.

“Good, now this is what I want you to write”.

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To be continued

100 comments **BURNING FIRES OF GREED**

#27

A day before the funeral, every distant family member had arrived for the funeral. The house was crowded, and even though they were united under bad circumstances it felt good to see each other again.

Zakhele's body came back in the afternoon and Nomuzi bathed her husband for the last time. His coffin is on the middle of the room and she is on the mattress with two other women. It's a good thing Zakhele had a funeral cover, so they didn't struggle much for the funeral costs. Tomorrow is his funeral

and they are laying him on his final resting peace. It's only now that it's starting to click onto her what is really happening. It's only now that she realizes she won't see him again, that he's gone and he's not coming back. She's never going to hear him laugh, talk or shout anymore. She's going to be alone in this house because as soon as the funeral is over, everyone leaves and go their separate ways. Nhlaka made it clear that he is also moving out.

She sniffs once again and the women next to her keep on comforting her. There are people singing in the room and others are outside, chopping vegetables for tomorrow.

Sma is with Khanyi wherever she is.

Nandipha is not out of the hospital yet, they removed the baby yesterday. But they said tomorrow she can make it to the funeral.

Her(Nomuzi) phone rings under her breasts and she takes it out. She notices the caller and asks to step outside to answer it.

She goes far away from the yard where there aren't any people.

Nomuzi:I told you not to call me today.

“I know, I just wanted to let you know that everything is set for the Will reading”.

Nomuzi:Are you sure?

“Yes. Now put on your best act my dear”

Nomuzi:Okay, thank you. I hope all of this is worth it, or else I would have killed my husband for nothing.

“I would never fail you. Goodbye”

She hung up and sighed. She went back inside and passed by Sma’s room first.

She overheard her talking with Khanyisile so she stopped by to listen.

Sma:I think she has something to do with his death.

Khanyi:Haibo why would you say that?

Sma:Do you know our mother? You have seen her hurt and sad, but what she is showing right now is pure pretence.

Khanyi:Now that you say it, you could be right. I once found her laughing with her phone like nothing happened. And

what's with her locking herself in the spare room?

Sma:She is hiding something there. We need to find the key and open it.

Khanyi:She probably has it with her.

Sma:We will steal it when she is asleep.

She quickly walked away with her heart thumping. Those two will ruin everything for her. She needs to think of something that will drive their attention away from their suspicions.

Think Nomuzi think!

She walks back to the mattress and sits down but her mind is far away. She needs to put on a more convincing act before everyone starts thinking she did something to Zakhele.

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The day of the funeral, it is the morning and everyone is dressing up and preparing for the ceremony, which will happen in the yard and then proceed to the cemetery.

She is wearing black and dressed smartly for her husband's funeral. Her eyes are

red and swollen from all the crying she had to do yesterday.

The Will will be read tomorrow, she is still shaking her head thinking of all the money and assets Zakhele had but kept secret from her.

Sma comes into her room...

Sma: Mom.

Nomuzi: Oh Sma..

Yesterday they tried stealing the key from her but instead she gave them the

key and they went to check the room and found nothing.

Sma:I just want to apologize for yesterday. We shouldn't have said those things to you. I guess we are just looking for someone to blame, even though dad's death was ruled as a natural death. I'm sorry. I can see how torn you are about this. Let's go and bury him, and have hope that he will rest in peace.

She nodded and felt relieved on the inside. At least she got them off her back.

Sma:The ceremony is about to start.

They escorted each other out of the room and went to the outside tent. They sat with the family in the front. His casket was already in the front, with flowers next to it and his picture on top. Nomuzi felt her heart getting stabbed with daggers as she imagined how Zakhele is really dead. She is starting to regret it a little.

The pastor conducting the ceremony opens with a prayer. The service goes on and his obituary is read, people come to the front and testify about how much of a great man he was.

Smangele was the one speaking for the daughters, when she looked up she saw Zano with his brothers and their mother. She smiled a little at the support. They

haven't even been dating that long with Zano, but them coming meant a lot to her.

It was Nomuzi's turn to speak but she was a mess that she couldn't even speak, she asked that her letter be read by someone else.

Smangele read it to everyone.

Smangele: *Reading* Ngcobo, Mapholoba! You really left me. Oh my husband! You were such a great man, you cared so much for your family and me as your wife. When I met you, we are still 20. I knew right there that you were my soulmate, I knew you were the person I would spend the rest of my life

with. You showed me so much love over the years we have been married, I do not remember you even once raising your voice at me, I do not remember you hitting me, I do not remember you going outside to hurt me with other women. You were always so faithful and loyal, you loved your family so much that you didn't want anything bad to happen to us. I will miss you forever my love, uphumule kahle(rest well), we will see you on the other side.

Your dear beloved wife.

Nomuzi.

She finished reading the letter and she too was in tears.

The service closed and now it was time to go to the cemetery.

Nandipha:Are you coming with me?

She asked Nhlanhla.

Nhlanhla:I will remain here.

Nandipha:Okay I will go with my sisters..

She wasn't okay. She just lost her baby and now her father. Everything felt like a dream.

She got into one of the cars and they drove away to the grave site.

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Zano and her mother went to the cemetery and Busani & Sphiwe remained.

Sphiwe: I think I saw someone familiar during the service.

Busani:Who?

Sphiwe:I don't remember him, but he looked familiar.

Busani:Maybe he was a relative or friend.

Sphiwe:Yeah maybe.

Busani:Eyy I have seen a beautiful woman here but now I can't find her.

Sphiwe:Weee usuqalile ke(You have started).

Busani: That's my future wife, in fact let me go look for her.

He walked away.

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Nhlanhla sighed and went to his car, funerals are just depressing. He remembers his father's funeral and it wasn't nice at all. Losing a parent is the greatest pain he doesn't wish on anyone.

He hears a voice calling him before he could open the door to his car. When he looks back, it was Nonjabulo. What was she doing here? She was wearing a short

black dress, if there's anything
Nonjabulo has a nice body.

Nhlanhla: What are you doing here?

Nonjabulo: I'm here for my friend's
father's funeral.

Nhlanhla: Since when are you and
Nandipha friends?

Nonjabulo: We were friends before she
stole you from me...

Nhlanhla: She didn't steal me. You
cheated.

Nonjabulo:I told you that your girl made those pictures up.

Nhlanhla:Even so, I love Nandipha and I am happy with her.

That caused a sting inside her. How could he just move on with his life? After dropping her like a hot potato like this!?! He's just moving on with his life. What about her?

Nonjabulo:I heard that she lost the baby. Sorry.

Nhlanhla:Thanks.

Nonjabulo:If you need anything, just know I am here for you.

She said touching his chest. He pushed her off gently.

Nhlanhla:I'm not that kind of man anymore.

He got in his car and left her standing like that. Embarrassed, she turned back and walked away.

“I have never seen anyone embarrass themselves like that”, a manly voice spoke behind her.

She turned and looked at him.

Nonjabulo: And you are?

“Busani is my name”

Nonjabulo: Well Busani next time learn to mind your own business and your pathetic life.

Busani:I was minding my own business, but then your embarrassment flew all the way to my business.

She clicked her tongue and walked away but he caught up with her.

Busani:You are so beautiful for what you are doing. If a man no longer wants you, accept your L and move on. Exposing yourself like this to him is just screaming desperation and giving him the chance to use you when he wants to fuck to release stress.

Nonjabulo: You don't know what you are talking about. I told you to stay out of my business.

Busani: I don't know what happened vele and I actually don't care but I can see that you still have some feelings or whatever for him. Get rid of them. I don't like my women being caught up in their exes.

Nonjabulo: I'm not your woman you stupid.

He smirks.

Busani: We will see.

He walks away, leaving her thinking of what he said. Is she really that desperate?

She walks away calling Khosi.

Khosi: Hello.

Nonjabulo: He didn't even look at me. He must really love her. I tried to touch him but he pushed me and said he's not that man anymore.

Khosi: Speaking to you is like talking to a rock Nonjabulo! I told you not to go to

the funeral because you will just embarrass yourself. But you went right ahead. Don't ever call me again if you want to talk about Nhlanhla. Wasn't it enough that you killed her baby?

She hung up. Nonjabulo looked at her phone and frowned.

Nonjabulo: What was that about?

She asks herself.

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To be continued...

100 comments BURNING FIRES OF GREED

#28

At night, everyone was slowly leaving and the house was almost empty.

Nhlaka was last seen when they got back from the cemetery, no one wanted to disturb him because he's been taking this pretty hard.

Zano and his family also left and Sma remained with Khanyi. Nandipha was also here.

Khanyi: Tomorrow I am also leaving.

Sma:So soon? We have to wait until the cleansing ceremony.

Khanyi:Have you forgotten that we were chased out of this house?

Sma:This is no time for that. We just lost our father, please don't degrade his memory like this. The soil is still fresh on his grave that we could be starting fights so soon.

Khanyi:Okay fine, I'll wait. Where is Nhlaka by the way?

Sma:He said he wanted to clear his head.

Khanyi:I hope he won't do anything that would land him in trouble.

Sma:Have faith in him. He promised that he isn't going back to crime. He has a good paying job and he wouldn't jeopardize that for anything.

Khanyi:If you say so.

Nandipha was awfully quiet, it's like she wasn't even in the room.

Sma:Nandi.

She lifted her eyes up to them. They were teary..

Nandipha: Yes?

Sma: How are you holding up? With everything?

She shrugs her shoulders.

Nandipha: Do you think karma is real?

Sma: Karma? Why do you ask?

Nandipha:I never really told you guys how I dated Nhlanhla.

Sma and Khanyi looked at each other in confusion.

Nandipha:He wasn't divorced when we met. He was married, to the then CEO at work.

Sma:Huh?

Nandipha:I went to Nonjabulo's office and that's when I had the first encounter with him. He started making a move on me but I walked out before anything

could happen. He then came to my office and we had sex. That's when I started to have thoughts, I wanted him and I wanted Nonjabulo's life. We sneaked around and Nonjabulo would come to me crying about how her husband is cheating on her. I would comfort her and be a friend. Then one day I convinced her to go out for a couple of days in order to make him jealous. She agreed and as planned she went away, she posted pictures of her vacation. I paid someone to photo shop the pictures as if she was with a man and she's cheating. Nhlanhla saw those pictures and that's when their marriage ended. Out of spite and anger, he kicked her out of the company and made me the CEO. She went back to her

mother's house, and since then she's been telling me that karma will visit me for everything I did to her. Maybe this was my karma, to lose my baby.

Sma:Tjoh Nandi that was a lot. But I'm in no position to judge, I have my flaws. You took everything from her.

Nandipha:I am all about the nice life. I didn't steal Nhlanhla, he's the one who came to me. Why isn't she blaming him too?

Khanyi:Well you know how us women are, we rush to attack the other woman instead of dealing with the man. In all

honesty, I am not happy about what you did but you didn't do it alone. Nhlanhla aided and abetted in the whole situation. Nonjabulo should really just move on and stop crying karma. I don't believe in that thing, because I have been wronged so many times in my life but those people are still living happily.

Sma:She's right. She shouldn't even be your focus right now, if Nhlanhla respected and loved her so much he wouldn't have went after you. Maybe things were rocky in their marriage before you came along. But I hope you also realize your mistake in this, she was your friend and you were shagging her husband on the side. That's betrayal.

Nandipha:I know.

Khanyi:Don't be too hard on yourself.
When are you and Nhlanhla leaving?

Nandipha:Monday.

They have to go to Nhlanhla's home for
the funeral of their baby.

Nandipha:I didn't even look at him, they
said I would be traumatized.

Sma:Everything will be okay. Don't
worry.

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At Zano's house.

His brothers were with him and they were just chilling.

Zano: You two seriously need to stop coming to my house.

Sphiwe: Sma is not here nje..

Zano:I know, but limit your visits. One day you'll walk in on us having sex on the counter.

Busani:That's where we put our food.

He said disgusted.

Zano:*Laughing* My house.

Busani:Whatever. Anyway I think I met the woman of my dreams today.

Zano:Mhh who is she?

Busani:I heard by the wind that she's Nonjabulo.

Zano:Nonjabulo? Wasn't she married to that Nhlanhla guy?

Busani:Yeah she was. I think she still have feelings for him.

Zano:I don't blame her, ayy phela u Nandipha washaya esinye istina lapha. (Nandipha stole her husband).

Sphiwe:So are you going to go for her?

Busani: Yes, but first I want to know the type of person she is. From afar, and I need you Zano to find out everything about her.

Zano: Last time I did that to a woman, it didn't end well.

Busani: Sma was being influenced. I want to know who she is before my feelings run deep for her. We have enemies all over the country, I don't want no mistakes.

Zano: Understandable. Consider it done.

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The following day, it was the day of the Will reading and they were all gathered around the living room waiting for the lawyer to start.

Nandipha didn't care much about what her father left her, she doesn't even think he had much assets or money.

Lawyer: Okay everyone is here. This is the last Will and Testament of Zakhele Ibrahim Ngcobo. I testify that this will is authentic and legit. Witnesses were present during the day I made this

document, including Mr Zwelakhe Mahlangu my lawyer.

To my four children, know that I love you all so much. And even though I am gone, I will always be watching over you.

And to my lovely wife, I love you so much and do not be sad that I'm gone. I'll always be your husband.

I'm sure all of you know that I wasn't a wealthy person, or we would have been living in the suburbs.

I raised you all in the best way possible I could think of, and now you are old

enough to take care of yourself. You do not need me.

Therefore, I leave all my assets, including my car, my house and the 10% land portion I had been investing to, to my dear wife Nomuzi Ngcobo.

The kids gasped in shock. They didn't know their father had land.

Lawyer:I leave a sum of R50 000 that is saved on my personal savings account to my dear wife, Nomuzi Ngcobo.

Anything else remaining, I leave it all to my wife, Nomuzi Ngcobo.

The lawyer finished and closed the document.

Khanyi: Seriously!? That's it!? Not even R20s for us!?

Lawyer: Your father said everything should go to his wife. Said you four are old enough to take care of yourselves.

Sma: Wow.

None had the right words to say, so their father was rich? He had R50 000 in his

account! Why didn't he use it to pay the loan shark then!?

Nhlaka stood up and walked out.

Sma looked at Nomuzi and she was smiling.

Nomuzi stood up to walk out the lawyer. They went to his car talk in private.

Lawyer: Good job. Now everything is yours.

Nomuzi: Am I still going to get my cut for that other job?

Lawyer: You will get what's due to you, don't worry.

Nomuzi: You never really told me how you know Zano.

Lawyer: Let's just say, we are old friends.

He wore his sunglasses and got inside his car.

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To be continued...

100 comments.**BURNING FIRES OF
GREED**

#29

Nandipha and Nhlanhla were preparing to go to Nhlanhla's homestead for the burial of their baby. She is not sure if she is ready to meet Nhlanhla's family yet, some of them may still think Nhlanhla is with Nonjabulo so it will just be awkward with her being there. She has only spoken with Nhlanhla's mother over the phone, and she was comforting her for the pain she was going through.

Nhlanhla:If you feel uncomfortable just let me know.

She nods and he helps her get out of the car. There weren't going to be many people since this is going to be a family thing.

They walk inside and enter the main house she thinks. Seated on the couches were older women and one man. Good thing she had a doek on her head and is wearing a skirt.

Nhlanhla greets and they greet her back.

Nhlanhla: This is Nandipha, my fiancé.
And Nandi, this is my mom, uncle and
my two aunts.

Nandipha: Ngiyajabula ukunazi bantu
abadala (I'm pleased to meet you my
elders).

She says looking down as a sign of
respect.

Nhlanhla's mother: You can sit down, I
didn't think you would arrive so early.

Nhlanhla: There wasn't any traffic on the
road.

Nhlanhla's mother:How are you feeling Nandi?

Nandipha:Taking it one day at a time ma.

One of the aunts is looking at Nandipha and she can tell that she doesn't like her.

“Kanti where is Nonjabulo?”, she asks.

Nhlanhla's mother:Awukahle wena(Stop it). Nandipha let me show you around.

She stood up and followed her.

She took her to her room.

Nhlanhla's mother: Don't mind Getty.
She's old and jealous of everyone.

Nandipha: I think she doesn't like me.

Nhlanhla's mother: She doesn't like
anyone, don't mind her.

Nandipha: So how will the funeral be
done? Will I be present?

Nhlanhla's mother: Of course, this was
your child. And it's how things are done

in this family. The funeral will be tomorrow at night.

Nandipha:Okay.

Nhlanhla's mother:I'm really sorry for everything you are going through.

She looked at her in pity, poor thing just lost her father and now her child. She remembers burying her husband, no pain will ever be greater than that..

Nandipha:Can I lie down? I am tired.

Nhlanhla's mother: Okay, I will show you
Nhlanhla's room.

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Outside, Nhlanhla was with his cousins
and brother. His mother has three
children, it's him, Wandile and their
sister, Anele.

Nhlanhla: Wa when did you get here?

Wandile: I came with mom yesterday, we
had go dig.

He nods.

Wandile: Hey I'm really sorry man, losing a child before he's even born must be painful.

Nhlanhla: It is, we were so excited for our son.

Wandile: What happened exactly? I don't know you as a bad driver.

Nhlanhla: I don't know, I just lost control of the wheel and the car spiralled out of control. I thought we would die but luckily we were not hurt that much.

Cousin 1: What if someone messed with the brakes?

Nhlanhla looked at him and thought hard about that. It was lingering on his mind but he didn't want to entertain it. There's only one person whom he thinks had the motive to do that. But nah, she wouldn't do that. Killing a child? It's not like her, she's also a mother. So surely she wouldn't put another woman through that kind of pain.

Wandile: What are the police saying about this?

Nhlanhla:They said they are still investigating. If someone really messed with the brakes, that means that person wanted to kill us.

Cousin 2:People are evil out there mzala.

Wandile:So I see you already found a replacement for Nonjabulo.

Nhlanhla:She's not a replacement. She's my fiance.

Wandile:But you two haven't even been dating for at least six months and you are already engaged.

Nhlanhla:I didn't want my child to be born out of wedlock, but then I love Nandipha man. So I don't regret a thing.

Wandile:I still can't believe Nonjabulo cheated on you. It doesn't sound like her.

Nhlanhla:Well you never really know a person. They are full of surprises.

Wandile:Yeah you're right.

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At Zano's house.

He was on his room working on the assignment Busani gave him. When he was done, he wore his shirt and went downstairs to them.

Zano:Guys.

Sphiwe:Moja ndoda ewu mfwethu.

Zano:Ay ay ay yini manje leyo language!?! (What kind of language be that nah?)

Busani:Don't mind him. Smangele's brother taught him that.

Sphiwe:I'm trying to be cool like other kids.

Busani put a pillow over his face to stop him from talking.

Zano:Can we get serious now? So I found out everything about your girl. Nonjabulo Mdlalose but is now back to her surname Mtshali. 30 years of age, two children from her ex marriage. Was married to Nhlanhla Mdlalose but he divorced her when he found out that she was cheating on him because of pictures

he saw. But guess what? The pictures were photoshopped by no other than Nandipha. She went back to her mother's house, currently not working ;and has been stalking the couple for weeks.

Busani:Whoa what!?

Zano:I'm not done. I think she was having a hard time moving on and trying to convince Nhlanhla that the pictures were photoshopped but he really just moved on from her because he got rid of her from the CEO position and put Nandipha. Nonjabulo has been making calls to someone called Nomkhosi which I'm assuming is a friend and the things

she say paint a clear picture that she hates Nandipha and she wants to make her pay for what she did to her. So, she hired someone to tamper with brakes on Nhlanhla's car when they were coming from the doctor for their checkup, that's how Nhlanhla lost control and they had the accident, causing Nandipha to lose the baby.

Sphiwe: This is just too much. So the girl you are interested in is the reason his woman's sister lost her child?

He claps his hands in disbelief.

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At a strip club.

Nhlaka is by the VIP area and is receiving a lap dance from one of the strippers. There's no better way to get rid of stress than this.

Nhlaka: Yessss baby shake that ass..

The woman laughs and faces him. Sitting on him.

“How about we take this party somewhere private?”

Nhlaka:It's like you read my mind
sweetheart.

He cups her chin and kisses her.

“Hey no kissing the strippers!”, a voice
shouts at him.

He stops and the girl giggles.

They stand up and walk out to one of the
private rooms.

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At Nonjabulo's house.

Nhlanhla is now quiet as to when they can move in to the new house. He also hasn't been answering her calls.

She decides to call the home wrecker.

Nandipha:Hello.

Nonjabulo:Hi, I am enquiring about the house. Why is it quiet now?

Nandipha:Nhlanhla said he was handling that. Please talk to him.

Nonjabulo:He is not answering my calls.

Nandipha:I will tell him.

Nonjabulo:Thanks. Bye.

She hangs up and calls her again.

Nandipha:What now?

Nonjabulo:You sound like you are crying. Has he shown you who he really is?

Nandipha: Not today Nonjabulo please, I'm begging you. I don't have the energy for you.

Nonjabulo: Yet you stole my husband from me. You know I know that man, sooner or later he will get tired of you and come back to me. Where he belongs.

Nandipha hung up on her.

Nonjabulo: Even if you can hang up, you will regret ever messing with me. Losing your child was nothing, I will break you until you have no soul left in you.

Just as she was declaring her diabolical plan, her phone rang and it was an unsaved number.

Nonjabulo:Hello.

“What did I say to you?”

Said a man voice.

Nonjabulo:Askies who is this!?

“Didn’t I tell you to get over him?”

Whoever this was sounded angry. She recognizes the voice from that annoying guy at the funeral.

Nonjabulo:/Busani?

Busani: Yes, didn't I tell you to get over him?

Nonjabulo: Where did you get my number?

Busani: Do I need to kill him so that you will get over him? Why do you even still want him back? After everything he's done to you!

Nonjabulo: Look, I don't know you and you don't know me. I told you to stay out of my business. You don't know what I'm going through and that doesn't give you the right to judge me.

Busani: I'm telling you this for the last time Nonjabulo, get over him!

He hang up just like that.

Nonjabulo: What is it with people hanging up on me?

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At Bongani's place.

He is on the phone with Khanyi.

Khanyi:I can't wait to see you Bhebhe. I miss you.

Bongani:I miss you too sthandwa sami. How is everyone doing at home?

Khanyi:We are slowly adjusting to not having him here.

Bongani: Always remember that I'm here for you okay?

Khanyisile: I'll always remember my love. I love you so much.

Bongani: I love you more. Talk to you tomorrow okay.

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The sisters were in a video call with Nandipha.

Sma: How is the family? They like you?

Nandipha:Some of them. I don't really care hey, I'm here for my baby that's all. But his mother is so nice shame. She even baked scones for me.

Sma:Ncoo, I guess o mamezala are nice these days. Zano's mother is also a sweetheart.

Khanyi:Be strong my dear, I wish we could have been there with you.

Nandipha:It's okay, thank you. Can you believe that Nonjabulo called me again?

Khanyi rolled her eyes.

Khanyi: What did she want?

Nandipha: Angithi phela I came up with an idea that Nhlanhla should get her a house so with everything that has happened I think he hasn't been able to finalize everything. So she called me asking when the house is getting ready and then started insulting me as usual.

Khanyi: She just needs good dick and she will be fine. Sexual hunger does that to a person.

Sma:Speaking of sex, it's been a while hey.

Khanyi:You mean you and Zano have never done it?

Sma:Nop. We would kiss and give each other tongue and head, but when it comes to penetration he would just get off me.

Nandipha:Maybe he's still not used to you being pregnant for someone else.

Sma:Yeah I think that's what causing it.

Nandipha:Have you told Phawu?

Sma:Eish no, but I will tell him tomorrow.

Khanyi:Good thing you have broken up with him. He was just not good for you.

Sma:I see that now.

They continued to talk until it was time to hang up.

Khanyi:U mawakho(Your mother).

Sma:Usuqalile ke usuyahleba(You have started to gossip).

Khanyi: Did you see how she smiled when they told her that she is getting everything? Hee I can't believe dad didn't even leave a mere R5 for us.

Sma: I don't care much about that inheritance stuff, it causes conflicts and fights. You know, I am worried about Nhlaka.

Khanyi: Yeah me too, he is always not home. I'm worried that he will get sucked into his old lifestyle again.

Sma: Nah I trust him with that. I just wish he could talk to us about everything. Him

being the only male child in this family has made him feel like he is invisible. He rarely says even two words with us.

Khanyi: We will talk to him when he returns.

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To be continued...

100 comments

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Thank you for the get well soon messages and recommendations. Sadly I do not have most of the things you mentioned but I will try one suggestion

that I have here. Thank you

 BURNING FIRES OF GREED

30

She is going to see Phawu today and tell him about the baby. Of course she told Zano first and he was okay with it. She doesn't want any secrets between them, already the baby is getting between them. She finds Phawu already waiting for her. She sits down...

Sma:Hi.

Phawu:Hi, how are you? I hear about your father. I am so sorry.

Sma: Thank you, it's hard, but we have each other as a family.

He nodded and tried to hold her hands but he removed them.

Sma: I asked to meet with you because I want to tell you something.

Phawu: Okay, what is it?

Sma: You remember that time where the condom broke and I didn't get the morning pills?

Phawu: Yes I remember.

Sma: Well we made a baby that night, I am pregnant. Two months and a few weeks.

Phawu: You are pregnant?

Sma: Yes.

Phawu: But you broke up with me.

Sma: Yes I broke up with you, but that doesn't have anything to do with my baby.

Phawu:I already have two children.. How will I feed that one?

Sma:Is that all you are thinking of?

Phawu:Eish Sma aren't you dating that rich guy? I'm sure he'll take care of your baby. You know I am not working, I barely have money to take care of myself. Please tell him the baby is his.

Sma looks at him and frowns. What is it with people wanting to pin her pregnancy to Zano!?

Sma:Don't be crazy Phawu. This is your baby, and if you don't want to be a part of him then tell me. I will take care of him on my own.

Phawu:Eish can you try taking care of him? I don't even have underwears, the ones I have are three years old now and are torn. I don't have money to feed yet another child. I'm poor. You know that.

Sma:Excuses excuses! Just say you are denying the pregnancy.

Phawu:I'm not denying because I know the condom broke. I'm just asking you to

hold the ropes until I'm financially stable.

Sma:I don't have time for games Phawu. Will you be a part of this child's life or not?

He looks down and swallows.

Phawu:I will, but I won't be able to maintain him.

Sma:Okay. I will tell you when I have given birth then.

She stands up and leaves. Phawu remains sitting on the chair feeling hot. Another baby! He really doesn't have the means to feed him. He's already struggling with the two current ones, and his baby mommas are loud. Everyday they want money from him, he doesn't know where they think he will get it because he's not working. Finding a job in South Africa is like trying to get to the North Pole.

He sighs and also stands up to walk away.

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She was walking to the rank. She thought of calling Zano but he's probably at work.

She suddenly feels cramps hitting her hard on her stomach and she stops for a minute.

She walks again but the cramps hit her again hard that she just screams. People walking by suddenly stop and attend to her.

“Mam are you alright?”

Sma:I don't know, I am feeling cramps.

“Are you on your period?”

Sma:No, I'm pregnant..

Then, a car stops next to them and a man comes out. He rushes to Sma. She recognizes him, it was the Lawyer, Zwelakhe.

Zwelakhe:Are you okay?

Sma:I don't know, I have cramps.

Zwelakhe:Okay I'm taking you to the doctor.

Sma looks at the woman who was helping her and nods.

Sma:I know him, don't worry.

He takes her to his car and drives her to the doctor.

Zwelakhe:How do you feel now?

Sma:They are getting better. I need my phone, I want to call my boyfriend.

Zwelakhe:I will call him when we get there. Save your strength for now.

He is driving like a maniac going to the doctor. He finally arrives and quickly helps her get inside.

By luck, they find the doctor dealing with pregnant women by the corridors. They share a look with Zwelakhe and he takes Smangele to one of the rooms.

Zwelakhe remains with Sma's bag. He looks for his phone to call her boyfriend. He is surprised to find that her phone has no security option. Does she really trust people that much?

He sighs and goes into her contact. There's someone saved as "Mine" with heart emojis. Must be him.

He calls him.

Zano:Babe.

Zwelakhe:This is Zwelakhe, her family's lawyer.

Zano:What are you doing with her phone? Where is she?

Zwelakhe:I found her by the rank and she was complaining of cramps. I took her to the doctor.

Zano:Why not the hospital?

Zwelakhe:Are you really asking me questions when the woman you love is hurt?

Zano:I am just trying to understand why you would take her to a private doctor, instead of the hospital. Who did you say your name was again?

Zwelakhe:Zwelakhe Mahlangu. You better get here because I am leaving.

Zano:No wait for me, I am already there.

Zwelakhe:You don't even know which doctor I took her to.

Zano: You don't know none about me.

Zwelakhe drops the call and put the phone back on her bag. She goes to the room and his doctor was still busy with Sma. He placed the bag and told Sma that he was leaving. He quickly walked out before Zano could find him there.

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When he got the call that Sma was with the doctor, he quickly got into his car and followed where the tracker of her phone

was leading him. And the man he was speaking to just doesn't sit well with him. Why would he take her to a doctor when there are plenty of hospitals around here? And him dropping the call confirms that something fishy is going on. He finally arrives at the doctor and gets inside.

He asks the receptionist where Sma is and she tells him the room number.

He rushes there and he sighs relieved when he sees her awake. The doctor was also with her.

Zano:Babe. What happened?

He asks already holding her hands.

Sma:I don't know, I just had these cramps. But the Doc said it's nothing to worry about, could be that the baby was turning or something like that.

Zano:Doc is she okay?

Doc:Yes, those were normal cramps. She will be fine, there's no need for her to be kept here.

Zano:Okay, thank you.

Doc:I will give you space.

He walks out.

Zano:How are you feeling?

Sma:Better than before, I felt like a knife was being stabbed into my abdomen. He gave me an injection and I feel better.

Zano:I'm glad. So who bought you here?

Sma:Dad's lawyer, he quickly left before I could thank him.

Zano:Don't worry, you will get the chance.

Sma: Well we can leave now.

Zano: Okay, I'm just going to sort out the payment and come back.

He kisses her and walks out to find the doctor.

He arrives at his office and he was on the phone call with someone. Zano closed the door and went to his side. He grabbed him by his coat and pinned him against the wall.

Zano: I've been in the game for too long. I know when I'm being lied to and fucked over.

Doc: Sir what are you talking about?

He asked trembling...

Zano: Why did he bring Sma here?

Doc: I don't know, I'm only a doctor. I don't control who comes here.

Zano: I am going to ask you again, why did he bring her here?

Doc: I don't know anything. Please don't hurt me.

Zano lands a punch on his face and bangs his head against the wall repeatedly until the Doc passes out.

He goes through his phone for any suspicious activity but doesn't see any foul play. He smashes the phone against the wall and walk out.

He calls his brother, Sphiwe.

Sphiwe: Yes.

Zano: I just had a phone call, I need you to extract the recording and figure out who the voice belongs to.

Sphiwe:What's going on?

Zano:I don't know, but someone just took Sma to the hospital and his voice sounded familiar. You know we don't let suspicions to rest, we investigate.

Sphiwe:I'm on it.

Zano:He said his name was Zwelakhe Mahlangu.

Sphiwe:Okay, let me get into it.

He hangs up and he goes back to Sma.

Zano: We can leave now..

He takes her bag and they walk out.

Sma: I miss staying with you.

Zano: It's only a few days until you do the cleansing.

Sma: Yeah I know.

Zano: So how did the Will reading go?

Sma:Hay dad left everything to his wife, and said we are old to take care of ourselves.

Zano:Really?

Sma:Yeah.

He nodded and continued driving. He parked by her home and took out a phone from his dashboard. It was those old models of Nokia.

Sma:What is this?

Zano:I need you to call me with this phone when you want to talk to me.

Sma:What's going on? Are we in trouble?

Zano:Not yet, but my gut is telling me that something is going to happen. And I think your phone might be hacked.

Sma:Hacked? Who would do something like that?

Zano:That's what I'm trying to figure out. Here, call me.

She took the phone. So this is what he meant when he said the life he's living can be complicated?

She hopes she's not going to get kidnapped or killed. She's seen movies, your enemies usually get to you using the woman you love.

Zano:I will come back on the afternoon to check on you okay?

Sma:Okay. I love you.

Zano:I love you too...

He kisses her.

Sma:Bye.

She walks out.

Zano sighs and looks at her until she enters the house. There was something off about the voice of that man, he's heard it before. He can't afford to have his enemies resurfacing now, not when he just got the woman of his dreams. Sma is just too fragile and soft for this dangerous life. He doesn't know if she'll be able to handle everything. Because sooner or later, he may need to teach her how to use a gun.

He shakes his head at the thoughts he's having.

Sphiwe calls him.

Sphiwe: You better get here fast.

Zano: You found something?

Sphiwe: Yes.

Zano: I'm on my way.

He drops the call and drives away.

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Later, Sma is waiting for Zano to arrive as promised.

Khanyi went to see Bongani and she's left alone with her mother. Nhlaka went out as usual, she's worried about him. She is scared he might lose his job.

She is pressing the remote when she suddenly feels something slimy against her thighs. It can't be her period, she's pregnant remember?

She opens her legs and she screams when she sees blood.

After that, she starts feeling pain on her stomach. This was worse than what happened earlier. She felt like something was getting sucked out of her by force with the way it was painful.

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In the bedroom, Nomuzi is on the phone call with Zwelakhe.

Nomuzi: So she didn't suspect anything?

Zwelakhe: Nothing.

Nomuzi: Okay, so about Zakhele's policies. When are they paying out?

Zwelakhe: By next week, everything will be finalized. I won't let you down.

Nomuzi: I know you won't. I trust you, and I thank you for giving me the prompt to get what belongs to me. Ngcobo played me for years, he had so much money on his accounts and he never told me.

Zwelakhe: I also can't believe it, and you were swimming in debts but he never did anything when he knew he had the money.

Nomuzi:A whole half a million! I want it all. His brats won't even get a mere 20 cents.

She clicks her tongue. She was still angry at the amount he had. What was he saving it for? And when did he start saving it? They had to lie and say it was only R50 000 in front of the kids so they don't get suspicious.

Zwelakhe:Don't worry. We will get them all.

She hears Sma screaming.

Nomuzi:It must be working. Call you later.

She hangs up and goes to Sma. She finds her curled on the floor crying with blood all over her.

Nomuzi:Oh my God, Smangele what is happening!?

Sma:It hurts... It hurts.... I'm losing my baby...

Nomuzi:Okay... Let me take you to the hospital.

Good thing she knows how to drive. She helps her with so much struggle to get inside the car.

Nomuzi: We are going to save that angel baby. We are almost there.

She says and starts driving as slow as a turtle trying to finish a race.

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To be continued...

100 comments

BURNING FIRES OF GREED

31

Nomuzi arrived at the hospital with the unconscious Smangele and asked the nurses and doctors to help her.

They wheel her away and she wipes off the blood on her hands using her shirt.

She sits on the benches and sees Zwelakhe from a distance.

She stands up and meet him halfway.

Zwelakhe:How is she?

Nomuzi:They just took her to help her.

Zwelakhe: You did well. Her boyfriend must be on his way right now with his brothers.

Nomuzi: Okay time to put on my best act again.

Zwelakhe presses his phone and seconds later, her phone beeps with a money in notification. She looks at him in surprise.

Nomuzi: Thank you.

Zwelakhe: There's more where that came from.

Nomuzi: Okay go go go now.

He walks away, leaving her staring at her balance. Never had she thought she'd have so much money. Money really is the root of evil, seeing all the things she's done to get her hands on it! But she doesn't regret a thing, even if she does regret it in future she would have spent and enjoyed the money.

Seconds later she sees Zano with his brothers and she laughs to herself, it's exactly as Zwelakhe said he would do.

She clears her throat and waits for them.

Zano:Ma what happened? I got a ping that Sma was in the hospital.

She wonders how he knew Sma was in the hospital. This guy is dodgy!

She starts crying and causing a scene.

Nomuzi:I don't know, I was in my room when I heard her screaming and crying. When I went to check on her, she was bleeding and there was so much blood between her thighs. I have never seen so much blood.

Zano:Where is she right now?

Nomuzi:The doctors took her.

She closes her eyes and opens her one eye looking at his direction. He seemed lost and hurt, you could tell from his facial expression. He was hopeless!
Perfect!

Nomuzi:I need the bathroom.

She walked away to the bathroom.

She took her phone and made a phone call.

Nomuzi:Yes they are here.

Zwelakhe:Did they buy it?

Nomuzi:They did.

Zwelakhe:I wish I was there to see his face.

Nomuzi:So what's next? What do I do?

Zwelakhe:Nothing yet, keep them there for at least two hours.

Nomuzi:What are you going to do?

Zwelakhe: You don't need to know that.

He hung up.

She wishes he could tell her what his plan is, or what beef he has with Zano and his brothers. But she doesn't want to ask too many questions. He's a big man, and he knows what he's doing.

She walks out and passes by the children's ward. Well she's lost. She was about to ask for help when she passed by an open room where a mother was breastfeeding her baby. She stopped for a moment and watched them. It was adorable to watch.

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Meanwhile, Zwelakhe and his friend are outside Zano's house.

Zwelakhe: We need to disable the cameras first.

Friend: I can do that.

He plays with his laptop.

Friend: Done.

He opens the gate remotely and they sneak inside.

They get to the door and it was locked.

Friend:Do you mind?

Zwelakhe steps out of the way and lets him do his things.

The friend opens the door and they get in.

Zwelakhe:You sure the cameras are switched off?

Friend: *Rolling his eyes* I know how to do my job.

Zwelakhe looks around the house and the hate inside him just intensifies. He goes to Zano's room and looks at the King sized bed. He is living large he sees.

His friend comes in and they start installing the bugs everywhere in the house.

Zwelakhe: Okay, let's hope they don't realize. He's smart, I'll give him that.

Friend: They won't.

Zwelakhe:Let's leave before they come back. But there's one last thing I need to do.

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At the hospital.

They were still waiting to hear about how Smangele is doing. They have been with her for hours, and he's starting to get

really worried about her. What could be wrong? Bleeding between her thighs? That screams miscarriage but he doesn't want to think it is that. She would never heal from that.

“Smangele Ngcobo”, a doctor calls them. They all rush to her.

Doc:First things first, she's alive. I'm sorry, but the baby didn't make it. We found abortion poison in her system, it was slowly destroying the placenta and eventually got to the baby. I'm sorry.

Zano:What about her? Is she going to be okay?

Doc: Yes, no damage was caused to her uterus. You can see her.

He wastes no time and goes inside her room alone.

He finds her awake with tears in her eyes. When she sees her, she cries even more and he rushes to her.

Zano: I'm sorry I'm sorry.

Sma: My baby Zano my baby...

Zano: I know it hurts baby. I know.

Sma:I don't understand, I never drank any abortion pills. I wouldn't have killed my baby.

Zano:I know you didn't my love.

Her cries were breaking his heart, he knew she wouldn't do anything like that. If someone really fed her something, then that someone is about to pay real bad!

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At Nhlanhla's.

They have returned to Durban from the trip home. The burial went well, it was a private and intimate thing. She's sure their son will rest in peace. Although she is glad to have left that place. 80% of the family didn't like her, understandably so. They know Nonjabulo and now Nhlanhla just came with her. Some said her losing her baby was her karma for what she did to Nonjabulo.

She has been thinking about it all the way home, everything that happened has been playing in her head like a movie. She is starting to feel guilty, something she doesn't like. She also wouldn't like it if someone did to her as she did to

Nonjabulo. Yes Nhlanhla was the one who made the first move but she shouldn't have entertained him. She was friends with Nonjabulo and she trusted her, she confided in her and told her things. But she used that in order to worm her way into her life.

She looks at Nhlanhla and all she could see was how she broke another woman's marriage. She's staying in her house, sleeping in her bed, cooking in her kitchen, using the same things bought by her. She sighs as the wave of remorse hit her.

She thinks of Nonjabulo and how she must be feeling right now. All this while, she always thought she was bitter and couldn't handle the rejection. But honestly, who could blame her for the way she's acting? Imagine you are married to someone, you suspect he's cheating and your friend advises you to make him jealous by going out. When you return, you find out that someone photoshopped your pictures, making it seem like you were cheating, then he divorces you and kicks you out of the house. He removes you from his company and you are left alone with no source of income. Who really can blame Nonjabulo? There's no such thing as "move on, and dust yourself". How do

you do that with your heart broken beyond repairs? Nonjabulo isn't bitter, she's just hurt and in pain , Nhlanhla was her soulmate and joy and she just took that away from her. All because she wanted power and the man. Was it all really worth it?

Nhlanhla comes to her and kisses her cheek.

Nhlanhla: We are going to be okay. We still have a lot of years to make more babies.

He wipes her tears that she didn't realize were even falling.

She nods at him and continues to unpack their clothes.

Nhlanhla: So do you think the option of me to pay lobolo for you is still available?

Nandipha: With the way things are happening at home, I don't think it's the right time. We should wait a bit.

Nhlanhla: I understand.

Her phone rings and it was her mother.

Nandipha:Ma?

Nomuzi:You need to come to the hospital. Smangele did an abortion and it backfired.

Nandipha:Whoa what!?

Nomuzi:Hurry.

She hangs up. Nandipha is left confused about what she heard. Smangele and abortion? She was so against that.

No she needs to go to the hospital and hear what happened.

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At Nonjabulo's.

Nhlanhla's number was still sending her to voice mail.

She has been calling all day. She is giving up now.

She lays on the bed and sighs, looking at how her life quickly took a dramatic turn. She had it all, a husband, a job, a loving and warm home. But that all vanished right in front of her eyes. She loved Nhlanhla, and it hurt that he thinks she cheated on him, she would never cheat.

He was the one cheating but never accounted for his flaws.

She has turned into this crazy, bitter ex wife who is always bothering her ex husband. How quickly he just moved on amazes her. Whereas she is still stuck on him, she can't handle the separation she'll admit. She finds it hard to let go of him.

She looks at her phone and takes it to type a message.

'I guess you were right. I should take the L and move on. Maybe it's time, I accept that it's over between me and him. It's time I try to move on with my life.

There's no use fighting for someone who clearly is over you and wants nothing to do with you. Your words were harsh and you are rude, but you were right. So thank you'

She sends the message to Busani. Why? She doesn't know but she just feels like letting him know.

Nhlanhla calls her back and she sighs before answering.

Nhlanhla:I'm seeing so many missed calls from you. Is something wrong?

Nonjabulo:No.

Nhlanhla:Sorry for not replying, I was on the road.

Nonjabulo:Okay.

Nhlanhla:So what did you need? Are the kids okay? I still haven't forgotten my date with them tomorrow, I will pick them up in the morning I promise.

Nonjabulo:Thank you, I wanted to ask about the progress of the house.

Nhlanhla: Oh, I will finalize the payment tomorrow and by the end of the week, you should move in.

Nonjabulo: Okay, thank you. Bye.

She hangs up and places her phone on the side.

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To be continued...

100 comments.. **BURNING FIRES OF GREED**

32

Unedited. Please excuse the errors

At the hospital.

Sma just woke up from her nap, and she finds Zano sitting next to her. She sits up and looks at him.

Zano:Hey, how are you feeling?

He asks holding her hand.

Sma:I don't know. I thought if I sleep, I would wake up feeling better and the pain would have subsided but it still feels the same.

Zano:I'm sorry this is happening. I know you didn't drink that medicine they are talking about.

Sma:I just want my baby. That's all.

He got closer to her and squeezed her hand. This was going to be hard for her, but he's going to be there for her every step of the way.

Zano:Your sisters are here. Do you want to see them?

She nods.

He walks out and calls Nandipha & Khanyi.

They get inside and immediately feel sad seeing their sister like that.

Nandipha:I'm sorry.

That's all she could say, she knows the pain of losing a baby. It's deep and nothing can take away the pain. She is starting to feel like her family is cursed, so much bad luck has been following them for weeks.

Khanyi:Mom said you did an abortion. Is that true?

Nandi looks at her and shakes her head. This was definitely not the time to ask that.

Sma: I didn't do an abortion.

Khanyi: You said the baby came at the wrong time.

Sma: I'm not sure what you are insinuating.

Khanyi shrugs her shoulders.

Khanyi:I'm just saying. Just yesterday you were complaining about how Zano doesn't seem happy with your pregnancy and now you "drank" abortion pills.

Nandi:Okay that's it. You need to leave, now!

Khanyi:I was just asking...

Nandi stood up and pushed her out. She was not going to let her be insensitive topic like this. If she wants to make jokes and be comical, she should go to her boyfriend.

Nandi:I'm sorry about her. Don't mind her.

Sma:It's okay, I know I didn't do anything.

Nandi:It's really weird. Don't you remember eating anything unusual?

Sma:No, I only ate food that was cooked by mom in the afternoon..

Nandi:Where is she by the way?

Sma:I don't know.

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Outside, Zano and Sphiwe are waiting for further updates and talking about their current situation.

They see Khanyi walking out...

Zano: You done already?

Khanyi: They chased me out. I need to call Bhebhenene.

She walks away.

Sphiwe:Kuyahlanya lokhu(This one is crazy).

Zano laughs.

Zano:Someone is playing mind games with us. Sma's phone hacked.

Sphiwe:Do you think it's that Zwelakhe guy?

Zano:I wouldn't be surprised. Please don't stop digging onto him. I don't trust him.

When Sphiwe called him earlier, he told him that Zwelakhe Mahlangu is another person who is living far away and has no connection with this lawyer. So clearly he is an imposter. Question is, who is he? They had no luck finding out where Zano knows his voice from.

What was more surprising, is when they found out that he was not Zakhele's lawyer.

Zano:I want to see this guy.

Sphiwe:We are not dealing with an amateur here. He covers his tracks pretty well. I couldn't find even a single trace

of him being at the hospital when he brought Smangele.

Zano sighs and puts his hands on his pockets. When he signed up for this life, he knew the risks and consequences. He knew that he would always have to look over his shoulder, he knew that he would make enemies who would not rest until they get their revenge. Right now, he's concerned about this new unknown enemy. Sma losing the baby just sounds like something an enemy would do. Probably to get him distracted and focus all his energy to his vulnerable and weak girlfriend, giving the enemy a chance to attack.

Sphiwe: We will find him, and we will deal with him like we always do.

Zano: Where is Busani?

Sphiwe: To see his woman.

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He is parked outside her mother's house. After getting that text message from her, he didn't waste anytime and came straight to her. He called her and asked her to come outside. He sees her approaching and his heart jumps a bit.

Aish! If this is love, then he hates how it makes him feel.

Nonjabulo:How did you know where I live?

Busani:I did a background check on you.

Nonjabulo:You what?

She was shocked and he was confused.

Busani:What!?

Nonjabulo:You invaded my privacy?

Busani:I didn't invade your privacy. I needed to know what I was getting myself involved into. I have been played before, and I don't want to enter a relationship blindly.

Nonjabulo:A relationship?

Busani:Uyazibona ke ukuthi u slow? Mina nawe siyathandana nje(Do you see how slow you are? Me and you are dating).

This was not supposed to make her blush like this. He used that as an opportunity to grab her by her waist. They were so

close to each other and he smelled so good. There's something about a man who smells good.

Nonjabulo: What are you doing?

She asked with a shaky breath. Its been long without a man and he was surely tempting her. She had her body against his.

Busani: I got your message. Are you really over him?

Nonjabulo: Yes.

Busani:Good. I need you to leave him alone, if there's anything you need, rather tell me not him. You are not going to remind him to take care of his children, if he doesn't, let me know and I will sort it out. Okay?

Nonjabulo:Okay..

She doesn't know why she was being so submissive like this. Snap out of it Nonjabulo! You don't even know this man.

Busani:I'm not a romantic man, but I will try just for you because I really want us to happen. I don't have time to waste

busy courting you, I believe in being straight and forward.

She nods again.

Busani: Good now that's out of the way.
What do you want to know about me?

Nonjabulo: How old are you?

Busani: 38.

Nonjabulo: Do you have children?

Busani: Yes two, from my ex wife. You don't have to worry about her though, we are co-parenting healthily.

Nonjabulo: I see.

Busani: The basics, I have two brothers, Sphiwe and Zanoluhle. My brothers are my life, nothing is going to separate me from them. I'm telling you because previous women in my life have tried to separate me from them.

When you are with me, I want you to get used to seeing things that won't make sense. You need to adjust to abruptly waking up in the middle of the night and running..

Nonjabulo:Are you like a criminal or something?

Busani:No, I just love money. So are you giving me a chance to prove myself?

Nonjabulo:I don't know. My divorce left me so much heartbroken that I don't think I want a relationship again. But at the same time, I love your honesty, not many guys can be truthful like you are. Your life sounds dangerous and I don't know if I want that. I'm not only thinking of myself here, I have children Busani. I don't want them to see me jumping from

men to another man. And I don't want to put them in danger.

Busani:I would never allow anything to happen to you or them.

She sighs and looks down. He touches her chin and raise it so she looks at him. He leans in and reaches for a kiss. Her lips were so soft and the kiss was slow, they were not rushing it. They let out their emotions and feelings through the kiss.

Busani:Please think this through. I want you in my life.

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Nandi has returned home and Nhlanhla was waiting for her..

Nhlanhla:How is she?

Nandi:She's fine, but she lost the baby.

Nhlanhla:I'm sorry.

Nandi:Thank you. I'm going to take a bath and go to bed.

Nhlanhla: Oh, I thought we would watch our favorite movie and have some popcorn.

Nandi: Maybe tomorrow, I need to sleep.

Nhlanhla: Okay, goodnight.

Nandi: Nightt.

She walks away, leaving him wondering why she is giving him the cold shoulder. Did he do something wrong maybe? Ever since they arrived from the burial of their baby, she's been distant. This is the time

where they need each other the most. He switches off the TV and goes to the bedroom to join her on the bed.

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At the Ngcobo House

Nomuzi returned home after Smangele was kept in the hospital for overnight observation, and they would need to remove the baby from her. She's alone in the house and the peace she feels is unmatched.

She is thinking of ways to spend her money.

She pours the wine she bought on a glass and sits on the couch. She browse through the couches on the magazine and thinks of choosing a new one. She needs to change her whole furniture. All eyes would be on her!

She is drinking her wine when suddenly the picture on the wall falls on the floor and cracks all over. It was a picture of Zakhele.

She screams a little and stands up to pick up the glasses.

Zakhele better not be haunting her, not now. He should stay dead.

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At the hospital, the following day.

She just had an operation and they removed the foetus from her. She asked to see him, she has been shattered ever since. He looked like he was not even human, he had not developed fully yet.

She was taken back to the ward and told she has a visitor. To her surprise it was Phawu.

Sma: What are you doing here?

Phawu:Khanyi called me and told me what happened. Are you okay?

Sma:I'm fine, they have removed the baby.

Phawu:Why didn't you call me? That was also my baby.

Sma:I'm sorry I was too busy mourning the loss of my child that I forgot to tell you.

She says sarcastically. Honestly she had no time for him. Him being here was pointless.

Phawu:Okay I'm lol lol lol lol., but I deserved to know. I'm the father. We should discuss the funeral arrangements soon.

Sma:Can't we discuss that some other time? I'm not okay Phawu, please spare me.

Phawu:There's no time to cry. This needs to be done as quickly as possible.

Sma:How could you be so insensitive like this? I just lost my baby and you are talking about burying him already.

Phawu:What do you want to do then Smangele?

Someone clears his throat behind him and he turns back. He sees a man.

Phawu:Who are you?

“Question is, who are you bothering and making my woman cry like this?”

Phawu looked at Sma and she was crying.

Phawu: This is none of your business. She is the mother of my child and we are discussing important things.

Zano: Which child do you have with Smangele? The one you said she must pin on me?

Phawu looked down embarrassed that she told him that.

Zano:I don't know who raised you boy,
but this is not the way to do things.
Leave.

Phawu:I'm not going anywhere.

Zano:You don't want to make me angry.

Sma:Phawu please leave before you
embarrass yourself even further.

She said trying to dilute the fire, she saw
how angry Zano was.

Phawu:Fine I am leaving.

He walked out.

Zano:Did he touch you?

Sma:NO.

Zano:Okay.

He closed the door and sat next to her.

Zano:I need to ask you something.

Sma:Okay.

Zano:How much do you trust your mother?

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To be continued....

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At the hospital.

She is shocked and confused by the question he is asking.

Sma:What do you mean?

Zano:I'm just asking, how much do you trust her?

Sma:She's my mother.

Zano:Okay, I don't want to burden you with many problems. But please be careful around her, in fact you are not going back to that house. I spoke to your doctor and he said they will discharge you after three days maybe.

Sma:Zano what's going on?

He looked at her not sure if he should tell her what he is suspecting.

Zano:Nothing, your mother is just up to no good and I don't want you in the crossfires.

Sma:Stop being ridiculous. She's my mother, what could she be up to?

Zano:I'm going to see your doctor and enquire about your well being.

He walked out to find her doctor.

In the ward, Zwelakhe entered Sma's room.

Sma:Mr Mahlangu, what are you doing here?

Zwelakhe:Your mother told me that you are not doing well. I came to check up on you.

Sma:I'm not sure why she told you that.

Zwelakhe:Your father entrusted me to look after his family.

Sma:Okay, well I feel fine. I lost the baby, but I will try to move on. I'll never forget him obviously, but I don't want to stop him from crossing over because of my heart not accepting that he's gone.

Zwelakhe:Yeah that's right. I hope you get better.

Sma:Thanks, I will. My boyfriend is the strongest support system I have.

His faced changed at the mention of her boyfriend. He looked at the door and cleared his throat.

Zwelakhe: Well I should go. Take care of yourself.

He walked out. A few minutes later, Zano entered and frowned.

Zano: Who was here?

Sma: Dad's lawyer, he said mom told him I was not okay.

Zano: Your mother? She told him?

Sma: Yes. That's what he said.

Zano nodded and thought about it.

Sma:What are you thinking?

Zano:We should go home. They said you are out of danger, we will come for check ups or stuff like that. I'm really not comfortable with leaving you here.

Sma:Zano what really is happening? You are scaring me.

Zano:I can't talk here. Let's go home. I will pack your things. You can shower in the meantime. I bought you clothes to change.

She obeyed and went to take a bath.

When she came back, Zano was already done packing her things and even made the bed. She wore the clothes he came with.

They went to sign the discharge papers and walked out to his car. He helped her get inside and they drove off.

He drove them home.

Sma:Are your brothers here?

Zano:No.

She was glad, as much as she enjoys their company, she does not need their hyperactive energy right now.

They get inside the house and she sighs heading to the bedroom. He follows her.

Zano:Do you need anything?

Sma:No sit down.

She pat an empty space next to her.

Sma:What's going on? Why are you so jumpy and panicking like this? Are we in trouble with the law?

Zano:No it's not the police. I really didn't want to bring you into this, but I think someone is after me and my brothers and they are using you in the process. Your dad's lawyer was not Zwelakhe Mahlangu, it was Samson Mnyandu and he was found dead a month ago. Your mother has been making endless calls to this Zwelakhe, and we don't know who he is.

Sma:So the Will could have been fabricated?

Zano:We suspect that. Your mother is working with this man, her bank account has been receiving a huge amount of

money for the past week. That's why I asked you if you trust her, because I don't anymore.

Sma:Wow I can't believe my mother. So all of this because of money?

Zano:You will be surprised at the lengths people go to get money.

Sma:I did suspect that something was fishy about her when dad just mysteriously died. She didn't seem like a person who just lost her husband of more than 30 years, but I brushed it off. Dad's death is still a mystery, even though they ruled it a natural death. My father was a

healthy man, and he regularly went to check up on his health. Before his death, when mom chased us out, she didn't allow us to see him.

Zano:She didn't allow you to see him?

Sma:Nop, he was always cooped in their room.

Zano:Do you think she did something to him?

Sma:I wouldn't be surprised. One time I found her looking at furniture on a magazine. Whatever it is, please

investigate and stop her. If she really has a hand in my father's death, she needs to pay. She robbed us of our father.

Zano:I promise you. I will find out what is happening.

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At Bongani's place.

Khanyi has been quiet and sulking ever since she came back from the hospital.

Bongani: Okay spit it out. What's going on?

Khanyi: What's going on with what?

Bongani: You. What's up? Talk to me.

Khanyi: *Sighs* I don't know, but I feel like Nandipha and Smangele are excluding me from their lives.

Bongani: Why do you think so?

Khanyi: Yesterday when I asked Sma if she really had an abortion, Nandi chased

me out and said this was not the time to answer such questions. The two of them know the pain of losing a baby, they share the same pain and I'm left out. The three of us have been getting along so well for the past few weeks, it's the best sisterhood we've ever had in years and I don't want it to end. I just feel like they will think they are better than me now. Sma is dating Zano and that guy is so rich, even his brothers scream rich. He can buy Sma and her whole workplace. Nhlanhla is also rich, he even made her a CEO at his company.

Bongani swallowed looking at her. This is why he hates dating. He is not a rich person, he made it to where he is through

hard work. Nothing was given to him for free, he doesn't know hand outs. He had to work for what he has. The promotion he got, he has been applying for it for years. He knows that most girls want to be spoiled, be given money, taken to expensive holidays. He can't do all that. He has a daughter and mother to look after.

Khanyi seemed like a different person, he really thought he found the one this time. But her recent behavior is worrying him. He wouldn't love anything more than to spoil his woman but he doesn't have the means. He knows the R500s and R700s he gives her are nothing she expects but it's what he can afford at the moment. He is building his mother's house back at

home, and there is a lot of material to be bought.

He looks at her one more time before walking out without saying anything.

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Busani sends a message to Nonjabulo that he will see her later and focuses his attention on Sphiwe.

Busani: I'm thinking of bringing my children to live with me permanently.

Sphiwe:I don't think that's a good idea, at least not now when we are facing this dilemma.

Busani:Yeah about that, where are we?

Sphiwe:Nowhere. It's like this guy is a ghost, I can't find him anywhere.

Busani:Why don't we ask Sma for help? She's seen his face.

Sphiwe:Zano said he doesn't want her involved in this.

Busani:But we are running in circles here while this guy is making his moves.

Sphiwe:I will tell him.

Busani:Please do.

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Meanwhile, Zwelakhe is looking at his laptop and watching the three brothers as they get on with their lives in their houses.

“I just don’t know what’s your plan. Stare at them the whole day”, his friend asks him.

Zwelakhe:I need to know if they start to get close into suspecting me. They are smart, they will figure it out soon.

“I wonder what did they do to you”

Zwelakhe:They took everything from me. What you see is just a shell. Those brothers tool my soul. I hate them so much and I made it my life mission to make them pay.

He says with tears in his eyes as he remembers everything that happened.

He takes his phone and makes a call.

Zwelakhe: Yeah, his children are coming back from school now. Make it look like a car accident.

He hangs up and continues to watch.

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Later, Busani is with Sphiwe and they are doing their search.

Sphiwe: Well Sma said this guy came at the hospital but nothing is showing up on the footage.

Busani: Obviously he took care of it.

Sphiwe: Who is this!?

He asked frustrated. It was angering him to have to fight an unknown person. He believes if you have beef with someone, you face them head on like a man, and not use other people.

Busani: I need to see Nonj_

He was disturbed by his phone ringing. It was his mother, he answered her.

Busani:Ntomb'endala.

He heard sniffs and cries.

He stood on his feet alarmed, Sphiwe stood up too. He put her on loudspeaker.

Busani:Ma what's going on?

Nomthi:Busani please come to the hospital.

Busani:Hospital? What's going on?

Nomthi:Just hurry.

She hung up. They looked at each other not sure what was happening.

Sphiwe:Let's go. We will call Zano on the way.

They rushed out and drove to the hospital.

Finding their mother and father by the waiting area.

Busani:What happened?

Nomthi:It's Naledi & Andiswa.

Busani felt his knees getting weaker.
Those are his girls.

Busani:What happened to my children
ma?

He wasn't sure if he wanted to know the
answer. His mother being at the hospital
means that something happened.

Mr Mthiyane:Son, we don't know what
happened. We got a call from their driver
that they just had an accident. They were

rushed here. We haven't heard any updates.

Busani: So the driver is alive and making calls while my children are in there fighting for their lives!?

Nomthi: Ehlisa umoya Busani (Calm down Busani).

Sphiwe pat his shoulder. He was scared too, this had that Zwelakhe written all over it. The way to an enemy is through his family in this illegal war, you get them distracted so they won't see you coming.

Both his brothers are going through horrific situations for now, and they won't have time to continue with the search. Not that he blames them and stuff. Now this is all up to him, to find out who is doing this & why.

“Naledi and Aphelele Mthiyane”, a doctor calls out.

They rush to her anticipating to hear what is the progress.

Busani:How are they Doc?

Doc:First, they are alive, both of them.

They sighed in relief.

Doc:But Naledi suffered a huge blow to her skull and she needs to undergo an operation as quickly as possible. Her life is hanging on the balance.

Busani:We can do it. Where do I need to sign?

Doc:I will take you to my office.

Mr Mthiyane:What about Aphelele?

Doc:She is fine, a few minor scratches and broken ribs, but it's not causing any damage. Mr Mthiyane please follow me.

He followed her to sign whatever he needed to sign. This was his child's life and he will do anything to get her help. Nothing matters at this point other than his daughters.

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At Zano's house.

She is cooking, even though he told her not to do anything but she can't just sit around and not do anything.

She called Khanyisile earlier on and she was so cold that it left her confused as to what's happening.

She dishes up for herself and goes to sit down. She was hungry. She eats and finishes up her plate.

After that, she goes to the sink and wash it.

Zano enters as she was putting it back on the cupboard. He didn't look okay..

Sma:Are you okay?

Zano:My daughters are in the hospital. They had an accident, Aphe is fine but Naledi is not. The doctors are not sure if she will live or not. Tomorrow morning they are taking her for the operation.

Those are Busani's children. She hasn't met them, but Busani showed her pictures.

Sma:Ohhh baby I'm so sorry.

She hugs him and helps him to sit down.

Zano:They are just children. Naledi is only seven years old. Why would this guy do such a thing?

Sma:You think it's him?

Zano:It's him.

Sma:Where are you with finding him? I don't have his picture but I can point him out.

He sighed and held her.

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Meanwhile, Sphiwe was at the crime scene where everyone happened. The police had taped it to be a crime scene and that no one should enter, but he needs to see something. The tire tracks.

The car was double checked and he can confirm that the brakes were not messed with. So it's either someone bumped into them, or the driver was in on this.

Speaking of the driver, how come he didn't have even a single injury?

He steps away from the scene and goes back to his car. He calls Smangele.

Sma:Hello.

Sphiwe:Makoti where is my brother?

Sma:Sleeping, his heart is heavy.

Sphiwe:Understandable, but I need your help. Are you in any pain?

Sma:No, I drank the pills they gave me.

Sphiwe:Okay I need you to come to me, but don't tell Zano.

Sma:What are we going to do?

He kept quiet and thought about how Sma's phone is hacked.

Sphiwe: Don't act like you don't know. I've seen the way you look at me. I will send you the address. Come quickly before he sees you.

He hangs up before she can say anything else.

He takes his burner phone and sends a message to Zano's burner phone.

He knows Smangele has it.

‘Don’t tell anyone and don’t act suspicious. Get out of the house. There will be a car waiting for you.

This is Sphiwe’

He sent a message to someone to pick Sma up from Zano’s house.

After that, his phone rang.

Sphiwe:Sure.

“Sphiwe baba I am getting unfamiliar activity around your family”

Sphiwe:Zithini? (What is happening?)

“Eyyy someone bugged your houses. The three of you.”

Sphiwe:Damn it! Fuck okay, please send someone to disable those bugs. I can't go home now. I have another task I need to do.

“Sure thing”

He hungs up and starts driving. Bugging the house, an old trick, he'll admit, he did not see that one coming.

He arrives at the place and Sma was already there.

Sma:Bhuti what is happening? I just left the house and an army of tech wizards came rushing in.

Sphiwe:Someone bugged our houses.

Sma:What!?

Sphiwe:Yeah. This is Xander, a good artist. I need you to explain to him how Zwelakhe looks like and he will draw him.

Sma:Okay, anything to help.

She sat down in front of the sketch artist and started explaining to him.

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At Bongani's place.

Khanyi was looking at the weaves that were on special. They looked good and one of them would definitely suit her.

Khanyi: Babe please buy me this hair. It's on special.

Bongani:How much is it?

Khanyi:R4600.

Bongani:I don't have money to spend on hair! Engaka!

Khanyi:Welele I knew you would say that. Zano would have bought it for Smangele.

Bongani:Well I'm not Zano. Will I be forever compared to him? Engathi uzoqala ukungdina Khanyisile (You are starting to annoy me Khanyisile).

Khanyi:I'm just saying. Other men can provide for their women and all I get is R700 or R400.

She says shrugging her shoulders.

Bongani stood up and went to the bedroom. He called his mother.

“Bongani how are you?”

Bongani:I am fine ma, how are you?

“I'm more than happy ndodana yami. What you are doing for me is more than enough. They are almost finished with

building the house. Your daughter is always bragging that her father is building us a house.”

Bongani:Anything to make you happy mama. I know how much you struggled with raising me, and I promised you that I would do everything for you. If only you agreed to move here.

“ Wee I don’t like the city Bongani. I can’t leave my husband here”.

Bongani:Okay, schools are closing soon. Can you and my Miracle come to visit? I miss her. I’m sure she misses me too.

“She misses you. She hasn’t seen you for months.”

Bongani:Can I talk to her ?

“Miracle your father is calling you”

He smiles when he hears his daughter’s name.

“Baba unjani(Daddy how are you?)”

She asks giggling.

Bongani:My miracle I miss you.

Miracle:Uthi u Gogo siyeza ethekwini sizokuvakashela(Granny is saying we are coming to Durban to visit you)..

Bongani:Yes, mekuvalwa iykole(When schools close).

Miracle:Mina baba ngifuna ukuzohlala nawe. U Gogo uthi ungitholele umama omusha. Muhle? Sengijahe ukumbona. (Daddy I want come and live with you. Granny said you found a mother for me. Is she beautiful? I can't wait to see her).

He is suddenly not sure if he wants Khanyi to meet his daughter now. They

are not in a good space and he doesn't want his daughter catching that toxic energy.

Bongani:Uzomubona(You will see her).

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Back to where Sphiwe and Sma are.

Xander was finally done with the sketch.

Xander:Are you sure this is the guy?

Sma: Yes it's him.

He gives the picture to Sphiwe. He frowns when he sees who it is, his heart jumps a bit.

Sphiwe: It can't be. This can't be happening.

Sma: Do you know him? What's happening?

Sphiwe: It can't be. He's dead. We killed him. We made sure of it.

It was the first time seeing him scared like this. She wondered who exactly this guy was..

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The following day, Zwelakhe is packing his things and cleaning the place.

Friend: You are running?

Zwelakhe: They are on to me. I need to move from here.

Friend: Where are you going?

Zwelakhe:I'm not going anywhere. I'm just moving from this place.

Friend:Do you need any help?

Zwelakhe:I want you to let them find me.

Friend:Are you sure? What fi they kill you?

Zwelakhe:Just let them find me.

Friend:Okay.

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The Mthiyanes are gathered in the hospital and praying for a smooth operation for Naledi.

Sphiwe hasn't told his brothers about Wh Zwelakhe really is, he will tell them after the operation. He can't afford to stress them more than they already are.

Zano:She will be fine bafo, the doctors know what they are doing.

He comforted him.

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At the hospital, they have been waiting for about four hours. With every minute that passes by, Busani feels like he's losing his breath. Anita (the girl's mother) took the first flight available to get to the hospital. She was angry that they called her so late, but this was not a time to fight. They needed to be there for each other.

Sphiwe was outside making endless calls and organizing bodyguards, if this guy is really alive then he won't have mercy.

He'll want to finish the entire Mthiyane clan.

After organizing bodyguards for every family member, he sends out a message to his people that they should find this person. There's no time to waste.

He goes back inside just in time as the doctor came out to update them.

Busani:How is she Doc?

The doctor sighed and lowered his mask.

Doc:The surgery was not successful.

Nomthi:Oh nkosi yami! (MY God!)

She cried out. Busani just balanced with Zano.

Doc:We did manage to remove the unwanted tissue and blood clots from her brain, but it was just too many of them and little time to have her opened up.

Zano:So what does that mean?

Doc:She is alive, but it comes with complications. That could include paralysis, speech problems, seizures, memory, a lot of things. The next 24

hours are seriously critical, I suggest you pray to God if you are believers. Even if she wakes up, she won't be the same child you know. You may see her when the nurses are done with her.

Sphiwe:Okay thank you Doc.

The doctor walked away.

Anita just broke down into a heart piercing cry, her mother told her multiple times to take the children from Busani because the life he lives will always get him in trouble. And this time, her daughter had to pay the price.

She lifts up her head and hit Busani with her bag.

Anita: This is all your fault. Your ways of crime could cost me my daughter. I begged you multiple times to stop being a thug but you never listened to me. Even when I was kidnapped and severely raped, that still didn't give you enough reason to live this life. And now our daughter is fighting for her life in there and there's a chance that she could be paralyzed if she wakes up. This is on you Busani, you did this! You are the reason our daughter is in that room connected to many machines!

Nomthi holds her down and hugs her.

Nomthi: Please calm down Anita, this is not the time to be fighting. I know you are angry, but we can't give the enemy the chance to think he has won.

Anita: No ma, I am tired of your son. He hurt me in our marriage and I even left him because he didn't want to change. Look where we are now!

Busani: Anita I'm sorry, I'm really sorry. I wish I could turn back the hands of time.

Nomthi:Let's go see Naledi.

She took her away because she was too angry.

The men remained behind.

Mr Mthiyane:What has the three of you gotten yourselves into this time?

Zano brushed his head.

Sphiwe:We are in trouble baba.

Mr Mthiyane:What happened?

Sphiwe:An old enemy has surfaced. His mission is to finish with our family.

Zano:But we don't know who he is yet.

Sphiwe:I know. Sma helped me with identifying him.

Busani:Who is he? And why didn't you tell us?

Sphiwe:We were worried about Naledi. I would have told you after her surgery.

Zano:So who is he?

He looked around.

Sphiwe:It was the first person we
uplifted ourselves with. Thabiso Ndlela.

Zano:Fuck no.

Busani:No ways.

They were both shocked.

Zano:We killed him. He is dead.

Busani:I pulled the trigger.

Sphiwe: Well he isn't dead. He's here and he did promised us that we would pay back then.

Mr Mthiyane: I don't know who Thabiso is, but I need you three to fix it and take care of it. I didn't raise you to be criminals, but you went for this life with open eyes. You knew the risks it came with, you knew you would create enemies along the way. Find this guy and take care of him. Today! Busani, I need your head in the game, don't worry about Naledi, because I'm sure he's busy hurting everyone around you with the hope that you will be distracted and he will have the upper hand.

Zano:Yebo baba(Yes dad)..

Mr Mthiyane:Eyy I don't want to have to involve myself in this because I won't have any mercy when the animal in me is awakened.

Sphiwe:We will take care of it baba, no need for you to come back.

Mr Mthiyane:Good, don't worry about anything else. Find this guy.

They walked out.

Zano: Fuck I can't believe it's this guy. I thought we killed him.

Sphiwe: Did we really?

Busani: I pulled the trigger.

Sphiwe: Did you look where you were shooting? We were young back then and didn't know anything.

Busani kept quiet as he went back to that day. He is sure that he pulled the trigger, or he didn't?

Sphiwe: My guy has found him. Let's go.

They got inside the car and Sphiwe drove them. They arrived at the place and it looked like a normal house, in a suburban area. It was quiet.

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At Nomuzi's.

She has made the order for new couches and she was happy to hear that it won't take a month for them to be delivered.

She smiles to herself thinking of how nice her house is about to look.

Nhlaka disturbs her by entering the house, he was drunk as a skunk.

Nomuzi: You are drunk again?

Now this one was worrying her, he was still her son and she loves him. The way he's acting shows he's not over his father's death.

Nhlaka: Wabulala ubaba wena (You killed my father).

He said and fell on the couch.

Nomuzi: You will leave my house if you come back drunk to spew nonsense from your mouth.

Nhlaka: I know you did. My father was okay and you killed him. You killed him.

He said and broke into tears holding his bottle.

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Sphiwe gave them their guns and they got out of the car..

Zano: We are walking into a trap.

Busani: I wouldn't be surprised. The way they found him was too easy and quick. He wanted to be found.

Sphiwe: Trap to not, we are already here and one of us is dying. Either him or us. Let's go.

They loaded their guns and walked inside the premises.

As Zano guessed, the yard was buzzing with bodyguards who immediately

surrounded them and ordered them to drop their weapons.

They did as told and they were escorted inside to the big boss, Zwelakhe or shall we say, Thabiso?

The guards took the brothers to the open space and threw them on the floor.

Thabiso stood up from his chair and went to stand in front of them.

He looked directly at Zano, who was spooked that he really is alive.

Thabiso: You don't remember me, do you?

Zano kept quiet and thought of a way out.

Thabiso:Let me refresh your memory.

He took out a picture of two little girls from his pockets.

Thabiso:Do you remember them?

Zano looked at the picture and gulped his saliva.

Thabiso:Oh you don't remember them?
You don't remember how you blew my

seven years old daughter's brain? You don't remember how you strangled my six year old to death?

Just saying it woke up the anger and pain he felt those years ago. He found himself on top of Zano giving him endless punches all over his face.

Thabiso: You killed my daughters. They were young, what did they do to you!?

He hit him again and stood up from him. Sphiwe and Busani were being held by the other guards.

Thabiso:How about you huh? Busani! Do you remember my wife? Do you remember her!

Busani kept quiet. It's true they did all that, but he is still being a coward if he needs so many bodyguards to get to the three of them.

Thabiso:She was pregnant and you killed her together with my baby. You killed the two of them. With no mercy. What did she do to you!?

Busani:I was only doing what I was told.

Thabiso: Oh okay, a life for a life Busani. I heard your daughter's surgery was unsuccessful. Perks of having doctors as friends.

He winked at him.

Busani: *Angrily* You paid a doctor to mess with my child's surgery?

Thabiso: You don't get to be angry. The three of you don't know what pain is. Pain is, me coming back home from work, to find my whole family slaughtered like their lives didn't have any meanings. And then, you three wait up for me, only to try and kill me. One

question was ringing through my head that time, “why?” I was asking myself why would you do that to my family. I was not an honest man that I know, but you could have just faced me if you had any beef with me.

Sphiwe:Thabiso look, we didn't know you or your family. We were young, trying to get into this life, and we were given the task to assassinate you and your family. That way we could find a spot on the ladder.

Thabiso chuckled and looked at him.

Thabiso:I have spent all these years, hiding, and running from you. Until I decided that it was not enough, you remember when you had that gun pointed at me? I promised you that when I get my revenge, I will kill even your chickens. Nc nc nc nc.

He said shaking his head.

He took out his gun and put it in Sphiwe's hands.

Thabiso:One of the three of you is dying today. You choose who you want to shoot.

Sphiwe:I'm not going to shoot my brothers.

The guards were holding very tight.

Thabiso:Don't worry, I'll help you. Aim and shoot.

He stood next to him and helped him aim the gun at Zano.

Sphiwe:No, I don't want to do this.

Zano:Zalo it's okay, kill me. Do it.

Sphiwe:No I can't. I won't.

He shook his head repeatedly.

Busani:Sphiwe ungayenzi leyonto mfethu(Sphiwe don't do that).

Thabiso:Do it Sphiwe, kill one of them.

They were all speaking at once and it was driving him crazy. Without looking where he was aiming at, he just fired three gunshots and the whole room went silent.

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To be continued....

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Busani:Sphiwe ungayenzi leyonto
mfethu(Sphiwe don't do that).

Thabiso:Do it Sphiwe, kill one of them.

They were all speaking at once and it was driving him crazy. Without looking where he was aiming at, he just fired three gunshots and the whole room went silent.

They all looked where the sound came from, and Sphiwe had shot himself three times in the head.

Zano:Sphiwe Mfethu!

He called out for his brother who was now on the floor, swimming on his own pool blood.

Busani:Sphiwe! Sphiwe ungayenzi leyonto bafo Vuka!(Sphiwe don't do that! Wake up).

He broke free from the grip of the guards and went to his brother. Same as Zano.

Thabiso stood at a distance and smiled. This was nothing than what he had in store in them.

He looked at them and disappeared out of the room.

Zano: We can still take him to the hospital.

He said pumping his chest. Sphiwe was just laying there with his eyes closed, blood coming out from his mouth and where he shot himself.

Busani:Ibhodile le ntwana Zano(He is dead Zano).

Zano:No he can't be. We need to get him to the hospital. They can save him.

Busani got closer to Sphiwe's body and held him by his shirt.

Busani:Why would you do this to us Sphiwe?

Zano looked around and it was only the three of them remaining in the room. He

picked up Sphiwe and went with him to the car. Busani followed after him.

Zano:*Driving* We are almost there.

They arrived at the hospital, but unfortunately Sphiwe was declared dead at his arrival.

Zano screamed his lungs out crying for his brother, he blames Thabiso for all of this.

Zano:What will we say to dad!?

Busani tried to comfort him, but he was also hurting. His daughter was fighting

for his life and now his brother is dead.
Just a blink of an eye and he's dead!?

Busani: We need to find Thabiso. He has taken almost everything from us.

Zano: I didn't see him. He must have ran.

Busani: I don't care but we will find him and this time I'll make sure that he's dead for real.

Zano: What will we say to our parents?

His phone rang and it was Sma. She was calling with the burner phone. He walked away to answer her.

Zano:Babe.

Sma:My love I have been calling, is Naledi okay?

Suddenly a huge lump was blocking him from crying. He sniffed.

Sma:Babe are you okay? What's going on?

Zano:It's Sphiwe. He's dead.

Sma: Wait what?

Zano: He shot himself. We went to confront Thabiso and the odds were against us. He got so confused and shot himself. We rushed him to the hospital but he was declared dead upon arrival.

Sma: Oh my God baby I'm so sorry, I was just speaking with Sphiwe in the morning and now he's gone.

Zano: Yeah, and I don't know what I'm going to say to my father. I told him to relax and let us handle this, but it blew right into our faces.

Sma: Maybe you guys should ask for his help, this guy doesn't sound like he's playing. So how was Naledi's surgery?

Zano: It went south. Thabiso paid the doctors, who knows what they did to her. I will tell Busani to move her from that hospital. I don't trust anyone now. Please stay in the house. Don't open for anyone. I'll be home soon.

Sma: Okay baby, please be safe. And catch this guy.

Zano: Okay, I love you.

Sma:I love you too.

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At Zano's house.

After speaking with Zano on the phone, she stood up and locked all the doors inside the house, and the main house. Now she wishes this house had some sort of lock down mode or something. Just thinking about how Zano said Sphiwe is dead sends shivers down her spine. It

can't be. He was alive just now and now he's gone. A life is gone!

Her mind takes her to when Zano said her mother was working for this person. What could she have been doing for him? She thinks of calling her but decides against it.

She paces up and down the room thinking of something to do. She can't just sit by and do nothing, she needs to do something.

An idea pops in her mind and she goes to their bedroom to change into a black tracksuit. She opens the drawer to where she once saw Zano putting his gun at.

She looks at it and takes it in her hands.
Whoa it was heavy! How do people
make it so easy?

Her hands were shaking as she put it
behind her waist. It was cold.

She walked out of the house and locked
again.

Too bad she can't drive, but she will
Uber no worries.

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At Nhlanhla's house.

Things were just too sour, you could make a whole lemon juice with the sour tension in the house.

Nhlanhla: Are we going to talk about what's happening?

Nandipha: What do you mean?

Nhlanhla: I mean this tension between us. You are giving me a cold shoulder and you don't even want me to touch you. Did I do something wrong?

She sighs and faces him. Honestly, guilt has been eating her up lately. Her soul is

not at ease. She wants come clean about everything that happened.

Nandipha:I need to tell you something. I know that you will hate me after I tell you this.

Nhlanhla:I'm listening.

Nandipha:There was a time where me and Nonjabulo were so close that she told me everything. She told me that she suspects you are cheating, and that was during the time where you and me were sneaking around. I was the one who gave her the idea to go away and make you jealous by posting sexy pictures.

Nonjabulo didn't cheat on you, those photos were photoshopped. I paid someone to do that so that you would divorce her.

Nhlanhla: You did what!?

He asked and let go of her hands.

Nandipha: I'm sorry.

She said with a low tone.

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Zano and Busani have told their father what happened and he gave them a few slaps to get their heads working.

Mr Mthiyane: What did I say to you? I told you to get your heads in the game. How could you enter a trap knowing it was a trap? You had no backup, no protection, not even bulletproof vests! Stupid!

Busani: We thought we could take care of it.

Mr Mthiyane: I am giving you two hours to find him. Bring him to me, I will deal

with him myself because you two are failures. And that has cost me my son's life.

Zano: We are sorry dad.

Mr Mthiyane: Two hours! How will I even explain this to your mother!?

They stood there.

Mr mthiyane: You are still here!?

They rushed out and went to the car.

Zano:So what do we do? How do we even find him?

Busani:I managed to hide a tracker inside his jacket. He didn't see me.

Zano:Okay.

He took out his laptop from the back seat and gave it to him. Busani did his things and found Thabiso's location.

Busani:Found him.

Zano: Okay we need a plan before we comprehend him. First, call the boys. We need as many backup we can get.

Busani: We shouldn't fuck this up again!

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Smangele arrives at what was once her home and feels the gun on her back.

Good it was still there.

She went inside and locked the door when she got in. Nomuzi almost had a heart attack when she saw her.

Nomuzi: You scared me.

Sma: Is anyone here?

Nomuzi: No it's just me.

Sma: Good. No one will be here when I do this.

Nomuzi: When you do what?

Smangele took out the gun from her waist and pointed Nomuzi with it.

Nomuzi screamed seeing a gun pointed to her.

Nomuzi:Smangele please don't kill me my child.

She begged for her life.

Sma:Wam'bulalelani ubaba?(Why did you kill my father?)

Nomuzi:Smangele please put the gun down. I didn't kill your father.

Sma:I'm going to ask you again. Why did you kill my father? Zwelakhe Mahlangu was not dad's lawyer, Samson was. Dad didn't have R50 000 in his

savings account, he didn't have any piece of land. He didn't have nothing to his name. So why did you kill my father? This Zwelakhe, what did he promise you?

Nomuzi:*Crying* Smangele I swear he told me that Ngcobo had all this money, he's the one who convinced me to kill him so I could claim the money.

Sma:Oh so you agree that you killed my father?

She asked with teary eyes.

Nomuzi:I didn't mean to Smangele, I regret it now. I was just praying when you got here, I asked God to cleanse my heart and change me to be a better person.

Sma:What did Zwelakhe want you to do for him?

Nomuzi:He only gave me money and asked me to report to him everything you do with Zano.

Sma:My baby... Were you responsible for my miscarriage?

Nomuzi:No, I would never do that to you. I would never kill my grandchild.

Sma:Why are you lying mama? What were you doing for Zakhele? What did he promise you?

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Outside the house where Thabiso is at.

He was with his bodyguards and friend inside the computer room and they saw

Zano, Busani and their army outside.
They were armed to the teeth.

Friend:What do we do now?

Thabiso:Let them in.

Friend:This is getting serious now. We
can still run.

Thabiso:I don't run. Even if they kill me,
I will rest in peace knowing I took
everything away from them as they did to
me. Is Smangele still with Nomuzi?

Friend: Yeah, she's still pointing at her with the gun.

Thabiso: She better not crack and kill that old hag. She has served her purpose to my plan. Let's go meet our guests.

Friend: I care for my life. I'm running. If you want to commit suicide, then go to them.

Thabiso shook his head at his cowardness.

He walked out to another room and Zano and his army had already invaded the place. He raised his hands up in

surrender and let them tie him on the chair.

Zano called his father and told him that they got him.

He moved toward him and threw a punch at him.

Zano: You thought we wouldn't find you huh!?

Thabiso: I was counting on it, trust me.

Zano: My brother is dead because of you.

Thabiso:I didn't pull the trigger. He chose the cowardly way and killed himself.

Zano:Because of you.

He hit him with the back of his gun.

Thabiso:So you called daddy to fix your mess?

Busani:Shut up!

He slapped him.

Thabiso:I bet this is how powerful you felt when you killed my entire family. I made you a promise that I would make you feel the pain I felt, and I will keep that promise.

Zano:I don't know if you're blind or stupid, but we have you surrounded. There's nothing you can do now.

Thabiso:I have been planning this for years. I have multiple back ups. Right now your love of your life is a few seconds away from killing her mother, who killed her father.

Busani: So you convinced her to kill her husband?

Thabiso: She was more than willing to help me, she went out of her way and did more.

Zano: What are you talking about?

Thabiso: The miscarriage of your baby.

Zano: That was you!?

Thabiso: Clean wasn't it? Now you know the pain of losing a child.

Zano:Sma was not carrying my baby.
Your sources told you wrong info.

Thabiso frowned and silently cursed.
Nomuzi lied to him. She told him Sma
was carrying Zano's baby, and he didn't
bother to double check.

Thabiso:Either way, you love her and
you are in pain when she's in pain.

Busani:I'm going to kill you!

He tried to hit Thabiso again but Zano
held him.

Zano:Dad is almost here.

Speak of the devil. He entered the room with the coldest look ever.

Mr Mthiyane:This is him?

Zano:Yes.

Mr Mthiyane:You killed my son!?

He asked Thabiso.

Thabiso:Your son was a pussy and he chose the easy way out.

Mr Mthiyane: You gave him the gun
didn't you?

He punched him and he almost fell from
the chair. Okay he felt that.

Thabiso: Do all you want, but no one is
walking out of here alive.

Busani: Buddy, you are tied on the chair.

Thabiso: Like I told you Busani, I
promised you that I would make you feel
the pain I felt. I promised to hurt you and
those you love. This whole place is

rigged with timed bombs, and your house, and Zano's house, your parents' house, Sphiwe's house, Smangele's home. This timer gets to zero all those places including this one goes boom. We will all die together.

Zano ripped out his(Thabiso) jacket and indeed there was a bomb strapped to him. And it was already at five minutes remaining.

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To be continued...

109 comments **BURNING FIRES OF GREED**

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Thabiso: Like I told you Busani, I promised you that I would make you feel the pain I felt. I promised to hurt you and those you love. This whole place is rigged with timed bombs, and your house, and Zano's house, your parents' house, Sphiwe's house, Smangele's home. This timer gets to zero all those places including this one goes boom. We will all die together.

Zano ripped out his (Thabiso) jacket and indeed there was a bomb strapped to him. And it was already at five minutes remaining.

Thabiso: You can kill me, I have nothing to lose. No one will mourn me because you killed my entire family.

Zano paced up and down feeling so hopeless. There wasn't enough time to evaluate everyone, even if they did evacuate them, who knows how much area the bomb will explode in?

Thabiso starts singing and blowing a whistle.

Busani: Tell me how to disarm it.

Thabiso: You're smart, figure it out.

Busani looked at his father and he sighed. This guy planned everything, he was right when he said he has multiple back ups.

Thabiso: Three minutes....

Zano breathed in and out. He needed to think. They were taught this, they were taught how to get themselves out of sticky situations.

He crouches in front of Thabiso and looks closely at the bomb.

Zano:It's a collapsible design. Usually we'd have to cut the yellow wire but there is no yellow wire here.

Busani:So what do we do? We are running out of time here.

Zano:We need to freeze it.

Busani:Okay, let me look for ice here.

Zano looks at the walls and notices that there was insulated piping.

Zano:Here.

He jumps out and breaks one of the pipes. White visible smoke comes out and he aims it directly to Thabiso's chest where the bomb was.

Busani:Sixty seconds.

He continues aiming at the bomb until it freezes, and eventually stops counting down.

They sigh in relief.

Zano:Dad please get everyone evacuated. We need to get those bombs out of there.

Thabiso:Damn it.

He says that out loud without realizing.
These boys get to win again, why won't
the Universe be with him this time?

Zano:I don't even have the strength for
you. What we did to your family was not
okay I know, but you should have faced
us and left our family out of it.

Thabiso:Like you left my family out of
it?

Zano:We were just doing what we were
told. Why didn't you go after him?

Thabiso: Oh I long did, he's dead wherever he is.

Zano: For what's it worth, I'm really sorry.

Thabiso: You are just saying that. You are not sorry.

Zano: I am. We were young back then and we wanted to climb the ladder that we were willing to do anything. I'm sorry your family got caught in the crossfires. You have gotten your revenge. You hurt us, and we feel the pain. Don't

you think it's time to put this behind us now?

Thabiso: You don't get play therapist on me and mess with my emotions. You don't get to do that. Not after brutally killing my family like that. Not after everything you have taken from me. You took the only one thing that made me happy. You took my reason for living. So you might as well just kill me, because if you let me live I will always be hunting you and your family until no one is left.

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At Nomuzi's.

She was still pointing the gun at her when her phone rang. She answered it.

Sma:Hello.

“Smangele this is Zano's father. I need you to get out of the house. Thabiso planted bombs in there, but Zano managed to freeze them in time to give us time to get them out. There are people coming there to take them out”

Sma:Huh? Okay baba. Thank you.

She hung up shocked as ever. So they almost exploded?

She put the gun back in her pockets and looked at the witch in front of her.

Sma: This is not over.

She smirked and walked out.

Nomuzi sighed relieved and rushed to call Zwelakhe, she needs to tell him that this child almost killed her.

Nomuzi: Zwelakhe hello, Sma was just here pointing a gun at me. She knows that I killed her father, I bet it's that thug

of her boyfriend. You were right about him, he's not good for my daughter. I hope you have killed him.

She waits for him to reply but nothing, instead he hangs up on her.

Nomuzi:Hawu!

She exclaims shocked. He can't Mize her, not when he has not paid her the full amount he owes her. She still needs Zakhele's monies. But what Smangele said about her father having nothing scares her, because that would mean she killed her husband for nothing.

Outside, Smangele closes the recording and smiles to herself.

Sma:Got you. This is enough to lock you up for years.

She says to herself before walking away. She was recording her the entire time. She was never going to kill her, but Zano once told her that people squirm under threat.

She ubers back to Zano's place.

She finds people walking around wearing protective shields.

Sma:What's going on?

“Mam please wait outside for a bit. We are searching for the bomb”

Sma:Oh, okay.

She stands far away to not disturb them.

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At Nhlanhla's home.

He has not said anything yet, other than just looking at her with a blank expression.

Nandi: Please say something at least.

Nhlanhla: What do you want me to say? You watched me acting crazy accusing Nonjabulo of cheating on me when you knew that you were responsible for my accusations.

Nandi: I'm sorry. I was just envious of her life that I wanted everything she had. I was jealous and greed consumed me, I'm really sorry Nhlanhla. But one thing

I never lied about, is loving you. I love you Mdlalose.

Nhlanhla: You made me divorce my wife.

He said in a whisper. He thought about all the times Nonjabulo begged her and pleaded that she didn't cheat. He didn't believe her, he's the one who was cheating on her the most and he couldn't handle it when it was done to him.

Nandipha holds his hands with fear inside her. She doesn't know what he will do. But it feels good to have confessed and told the truth, now she needs to apologize to Nonjabulo and

come clean about everything she did. She knows she won't forgive her but it's worth a shot.

Nhkanhla:I trusted you Nandi. I loved you, meanwhile you were making me a fool and laughing to my face. I gave you everything, you didn't have to do what you did.

Nandipha:I was scared that you were going to leave me. I wanted you Nhlanhla.

Nhlanhla:I need some air...

He stood up and took his car keys.

Nandi:Nhlanhla where are you going?
Don't leave me please baby..

Nhlanhla:I said I need some air.

Nandi:Please sit down and let's talk.

He pushed her and walked out, banging
the door on his way out.

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At Nonjabulo's home.

She was packing the last of her things and preparing to move into the new home tomorrow. Finally.

She hasn't heard from Busani for like days now, and it hurts. Her pride is also too big that she can't call him. Maybe he moved on.

Her phone rings and she's surprised to see Nhlanhla calling at this hour.

Nonjabulo:Hello.

Nhlanhla:Hi, I'm outside.

Nonjabulo:So?

Nhlanhla:Please come out. I want to talk to you.

Nonjabulo:Okay.

She hung up and wore her sleepers and walked out of the house. She walked to him. He was standing outside his car.

Nonjabulo:Hi.

Nhlanhla:Hey. How are you doing?

Nonjabulo:Better under the circumstances. How about you?

Nhlanhla:I'm not okay at all. I just found out something that made me regret my actions and decisions.

Nonjabulo:What are you talking about?

He pulls her towards him and grabs her waist.

Nhlanhla:Nonjabulo I am sorry for even thinking that you could chest on me.

That's unlike you. Nandipha deceived the two of us, she photoshopped your pictures.

Nonjabulo:What!?

So all along she was right? She told them but no one believed her. Everyone called her crazy!

Nhlanhla:I'm sorry babe.

She steps away from him.

Nonjabulo:First of all, don't call me babe. Me and you are divorced. I told

you about your girlfriend that she did something but you didn't believe me. I begged you to believe me when I said I didn't cheat, but you believed her over me. I don't know what you were hoping for when you came here. I'm never going to get back with you Nhlanhla. You humiliated and embarrassed me to a point that I was this close to being insane. I'm trying to get over you because life doesn't revolve around you. You kicked me out of my house, took the company from me, took my cars. What makes you think I want to hear anything coming from your mouth?

He was about to speak when Busani's car stopped next to them. He got out of the car and frowned seeing Nhlanhla.

Busani: And then ndoda?

He asked Nhlanhla.

Nhlanhla: Who are you?

Busani: Her boyfriend. Who are you?

Nhlanhla: Wow so you have moved on!?

Busani: Didn't you also move on!?
Nonjabulo what is this fool doing here?

She shrugged her shoulders and went to stand next to Busani.

Busani: You can leave now.

Nhlanhla: It will end in tears just like it did for me.

Busani: Tsek nenxenxeleba Yama tatoo.

Nhlanhla clicked his tongue and got inside his car and drove away.

Nonjabulo turned to face Busani.

Nonjabulo:I thought you have forgotten about me.

Busani:I'm sorry, a lot has happened.

Nonjabulo:So much that you couldn't even call me?

Busanii:I came here to relax and talk to my woman.

Nonjabulo:I just don't understand why you would say you love me and then Mize me.

Busani:My brother is dead and my daughters were in a car accident, Naledi is still fighting for her life in the hospital.

She immediately regretted her tantrums and softened her heart.

Nonjabulo;I didn't know. I'm sorry.

She opened her arms for him.

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Good morning bahlali. 100 comments don't forget.

BURNING FIRES OF GREED

38

After spending some time with Nonjabulo and her comforting him, he had to go back home. They have so many problems, like arranging funeral plans for Sphiwe.

They are at the parents house for the moment, all of them.

He goes to find Zano to ask about Thabiso and he finds him with their father.

Busani:Hey I'm back.

Mr Mthiyane: Where were you?

Busani: I just needed some air, everything is just happening too fast. What happened with Thabiso?

Zano: I let him go.

Busani: You what!?

Disappearing for a few hours and he has made such a big decision!

Zano: Thabiso is what he is because of us. We created that monster, he's angry and

in pain because of what we did to me.
We owe him that much.

Busani:How do you know he's not going to come after us again?

Zano:He won't. He got his revenge, we are even now. And he promised. You know he doesn't break his promises.

Busani nodded but he was not sure about this, he doesn't like the idea of his enemies roaming around freely. He will find him on his own and take care of him since Zano is getting soft. Enemies are meant to be eliminated. There's no being even in this life. No balance at all.

Mr mthiyane: We have to go back home for funeral. I have already called my brothers and sisters and told them to let the rest of the family know.

Busani: How is ma?

Zano: Lying down. She didn't take the news well.

Busani: Understandably so.

Zano: I can't believe Sphiwe is gone. It's like I will see him walking through the door and say he is not dead, it was just a

prank. But he's really gone. This is all my fault. I was too distracted and we walked right into a trap.

Mr mthiyane: Blaming yourself will not help. We don't know why Sphiwe chose to kill himself, but what matters right now is that we give him a dignified funeral and honor him as the good son and brother he was.

Busani: This is all too much hay.

He walked away to find Anita. She was somewhere around the house.

He found her in one of the bedrooms.

Anita:Hey..

Busani:Hi, how is our princess doing?

He was asking about Aphelele who was on the bed.

Anita:The doctor said she's recovering really well. My only worry is Naledi. She is too young for all of this Busani.

Busani:I trust the doctors. They will save her.

Anita:I really hope we can trust these ones.

She sighed and brushed Aphe's arms.

Anita:Is there a chance that you could stop being a criminal?

Busani:Anita we have talked about this.

Anita:How many more people do you want to lose before you realize this life is not right? Me losing my womb because of the rape wasn't enough? Losing your brother wasn't enough? Your daughter has a 50% chance to live. That still

doesn't give you reason to walk out from this life? You are already rich, you have businesses, you made a name for yourself, people know you and fear you. When will it be enough? You've already tasted how much fires of greed can burn you. How much more can you take?

He listened to her as she spoke and swallowed hard. No matter how much he can shy away from the truth, but the gangster life is not nice. Sure the money and the power is good, but the consequences it comes with, it leaves you scarred for life. Anita divorced him and relocated to Joburg because she was kidnapped for days by people he was owing, they sexually traumatized her that

they damaged her uterus. She will never be able to carry children again. All because of him.

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At Bongani's place.

He felt suffocated in his own house.

Khanyi is breathing down his neck and he's fed up. If he was petty, he was going to chase her out, but he loves her.

Khanyi: I'm trying to call Sma but she is not answering.

Bongani: Maybe she's busy.

Khanyi: I'm sure Zano took her to some vacation. Rich people.

Bongani: Okay I've had enough
Khanyisile!

He shouted.

Khanyi: Whoa, you do not get to shout at me Bhebhe!

Bongani: It's because I'm tired of you.
Everyday you are comparing me to your

sisters' partners and its sickening. You knew I was not rich when you agreed to be with me. So where does this attitude comes from?

Khanyi:It's just that I also want to be spoiled.

Bongani:Awuzwa wena(You don't listen).

He stood up and went to her. He grabbed her by her neck and kissed her. She kissed him back, the kiss was rough.

Bongani: You just need me to fuck this attitude out of you. I won't lose you Khanyi, I love you so much.

Khanyi: I love you too Bhebhenene.

She said panting as Bongani's finger was sliding in and out of her pussy. How his hand got there so fast is a mystery she's not prepared to solve.

She was wearing a skirt with no underwear, so he just lifted it up and slid in his dick inside her. She gasped feeling him entering her.

Khanyi:Fuc....

She cried as he slammed in and out of her. He was rough but she liked it.

Bongani:You will stop this attitude right?

Khanyi:Yess... Baby... I'll stop....

He takes out his dick and looks at her.

Bongani:I said you will stop. You know my financial situation. You will not cause me depression and make me feel like I'm less of a man. Your sisters relationships are not our concern. We

love each other and I don't want to pretend to be something I'm not. You hear me?

Khanyi:Ngiyezwa Bhebhe, please put it back in.

Her clit was throbbing and she needed him to finish the job.

Bongani:I want you to say it Khanyi. Your attitude is hurting me.

Khanyi:I'm sorry Bhebhenene, Ngyaxolisa sthandwa sami (I am sorry). I don't know what got over me. I just

became so jealous of them. I will stop I promise.

Bongani: You promise?

Khanyi: Yes I promise. Now please put it back in. Please...

She cried real tears as she brought her body close to him.

He laughed and lifted down her leg. He put his dick back in his pants and walked away.

Khanyi:Bhebhenene Awukwazi
ukungshiya kanjena(you can't leave me
like this).

She cried out for him but he didn't come
back.

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To be continued

100 comments **BURNING FIRES OF
GREED**

39

Days later, the Mthiyane clan was
gathered at their homestead at

Mnambithi. Every relative came out in numbers, to celebrate the life of Sphiwe Mthiyane. He was loved by many, and he will surely be missed. Nonjabulo and Smangele were also here, even though they shouldn't because of cultural reasons. But Zano and Busani asked that they come, for moral support. They have been introduced to everyone, and there hasn't been any drama.

Smangele was in the kitchen with some of the cousins, she didn't want to just sit around and not do anything, otherwise they will just gossip about her.

“So you and my brother huh?”, The girl she was with ask. She has realized that they call each other brother and sister, even though they are distant relatives or cousins.

Sma: Yeah me and him.

She smiles nervously. She wasn't sure whether she likes her or not.

“You look old though. How old are you?”

Sma: I'm 35.

“Oh. Not bad. You are beautiful, your skin tone is beautiful”.

Sma:Thank you.

“My name is Londiwe by the way, and I’m 36”.

Sma:Nice to know you Londiwe.

“Where is the one? Lo omnyama ubani u Nonjabulo?(The dark one Nonjabulo?)”

Sma:She’s somewhere around the house. I don’t know.

Her and Nonjabulo haven't heard that much talk yet.

Londiwe:Let's continue, the men are about to come back and they will be hungry..

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At Nomuzi's.

Ever since that encounter Where Smangele almost killed her, she hasn't been able to get ahold of Zwelakhe. His

number is just not going through. She is angry, because he sold her dreams. She went to the big offices and enquired about Zakhele's money, and she couldn't have been more disappointed to find out that Zakhele had no money. Not even a single cent! Zwelakhe played her real good. He played her. She thinks of all the things he has made her do and she can't help but feel stupid. First he convinced her to kill her husband using slow poison, and he paid the coroner to fake the autopsy results. Then he made her slip in deadly pills on Sma's drink that would kill her baby. She doesn't know what harm that might have on Smangele, he told her that it was dangerous but she went right ahead and did it. All because

of what? Money? Non-existent money? What has she really gained from all of this. Zwelakhe was always about his revenge against Zano and his brothers.

When did she turn into this person? She looks at Zakhele's picture on the wall and she just cries. It was only dawning in on her what was happening. All this time she was blinded by the money she could get. She was greedy and just wanted more and more, that she was willing to hurt her children.

As she was busy with her thoughts, a loud knock erupted on the door.

Nomuzi:I am coming, no need to break down my door.

She opens and she finds police officers in her door. She gasp in surprise.

Nomuzi:How can I help you?

“Are you Nomuzi Ngcobo?”

Nomuzi:Ye...s

“You are under arrest for the murder of Zakhele Ngcobo”

Nomuzi:No.

She opened her eyes wide. This was definitely not happening. She hasn't even spent her money. Zwelakhe promised that nothing would come back to her.

Nomuzi:I did not kill my husband.

“Ma’am we have a recording of you admitting to the kitchen and murder of your husband, and we found transaction slips of you purchasing the poison that killed your husband.”

Nomuzi:Poison...? Ngiyasukelwa
Nkulunkulu wami. I didn't do it.

She closed the door on them and ran but she didn't get far, as she tripped over the carpet and fell down. Her skirt rose up and left her bare and her bums visible for anyone to see.

She cried and the police opened the door.

“There's no use running. You are under arrest”

They lifted her up from the floor and handcuffed her as they read her rights to her.

Nomuzi: This is a mistake. I'm old, I would never kill my husband.

They dragged her outside, and that caught the attention of the neighbours because they were outside watching (disadvantages of living e lokshini).

Nhlaka came up just as they were shoving her behind the van.

Nomuzi:Nhlaka my son, please talk to them. Tell them I didn't do it.

Nhlaka:What's going on?

“Who are you?”, The police asked him.

Nhlaka:I'm her son, she's my mother.
What's going on?

“We are arresting her for the murder of Zakhele Ngcobo”.

To say he was shocked would be an understatement.

Nhlaka: You mom? You really did it?

He asked her.

Nomuzi: My son you have to believe me.
Please call your sister and ask her to get a
lawyer for me.

They pushed her inside the van and they
drove away with her.

Nhlaka sighed and went inside the house.
He called his sister, Sma.

Sma: Hello.

Nhlaka:Sisi, ma was just arrested. They say she killed dad.

Sma:Oh.

Nhlaka:Oh? Is that all you are going to say?

Sma:I am not in Durban for now I'm at Zano's home for his brother's funeral. Mom needs to pay for what she did. She took our father away from us, because of money!

Nhlaka:She really did it?

Sma: Yes. I confronted her and she admitted. I'm sorry, I know you loved her. But she is not what she used to be before. She's not the mother we knew. The love of money changed her.

Nhlaka: Oh okay, so what am I supposed to do?

Sma: Stay low, I know she'll want to manipulate us into feeling sorry for her. But this woman killed our father.

Nhlaka: Okay sisi. See you when you return.

Sma:Okay, bye.

She hung up.

His hands are on his waist as he looks around the house.

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At Mnambithi.

The yard is full, with people going up and down and preparing.

Nonjabulo is on her way to find Busani. She doesn't know what she's doing here because she's just a girlfriend, but Busani begged her and asked her to come. She had to come with her children, no way she was going to leave them. Everyone must be talking badly about her, she can see the way they are looking at her.

On her way, she comes across a beautiful light skinned woman, she hasn't seen her.

She stops her with a smile.

“Hi, my name is Anita. Busani's ex wife”

Oh she's the ex wife. It took a lot in her to not ask what she's doing here, but hey she also doesn't have enough reason what she's doing here. Heck she didn't even know Sphiwe.

Nonjabulo: Nice to know you, I'm Nonjabulo. The girlfriend.

Anita: You look beautiful.

She said with a sad smile.

Anita: The two boys I saw, are they yours?

Nonjabulo: Yes.

Anita: I'm not trying to sound like a bitter ex or anything, but sweetheart your relationship with Busani will be your doom. I was also in love with him, I was crazy about him. But, the life him and his brothers live is the reason why we are divorced, it's the reason why we are burying Sphiwe, it's the reason why my daughter still at the hospital unconscious. His enemies got to me and kidnapped me, they tortured me for days and had their way with me. All sorts of sexual trauma was inflicted on me that they damaged my uterus. When Busani found me, it was too late. The damage had

already been done. That's when I got the wake up call that I should leave this man before I lose my life. I couldn't take my children because he wouldn't allow me, but I was visiting them every now and then. So I'm saying to you too, run Nonjabulo, while you still can.

She held her hands and then walked away.

Nonjabulo remained on the same spot taking in everything she said. It was a mouthful, and the sadness in her voice couldn't be missed.

She sees one of the aunts coming towards her.

Aunt:Nonjabulo come and help me this side.

She nods and follows her.

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At Nhlanhla's house.

He is sitting in the dark and drinking straight from the bottle. He is hurting so much. Nandipha deceived him.

He feels stupid that he didn't even think of digging further about those photos.

How stupid is he!?! Nonjabulo was good woman, she gave him his place as a man and she made their home warm.

Nandipha is also great but nothing compares to Nonjabulo. And seeing that she has moved on with someone just kills him, that's his wife. He was just confused back then, but now he wants her back. Nandipha can throw herself in a hole if she wants. He only wants Nonjabulo.

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At the Ngcobo House.

Nandipha comes dragging in her suitcases and Nhlaka stands up to help her.

Nhlaka: *Confused* You are back?

Nandipha: Yeah. It's like she said, he's bound to discard me at some point. It ended in tears.

She said and walked away to her room.

He brushed his head and followed her. He is not that close to her sisters, but they do talk.

Nhlaka:I'm sorry it didn't work out.

Nandipha:It's fine, the way I got him was bound to come out anyway. It's fine.
Where's moms?

Nhlaka:You didn't get my message? She was arrested, apparently she's responsible for dad's death.

Nandipha:Whoa what!?

Nhlaka:Yep. I was shocked too.

Nandipha:I'm not surprised though. Her recent behavior was suspicious. She was nothing like the woman who raised us.....

Nhlaka:That's what Sis Sma said too.

Nandipha:Hay okay, let me unpack my things.

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Back at home, in Zano's room.

They were lying in bed and holding each other close.

Sma:How do you feel now?

Zano:Taking it one day at a time.

Sma:Nhlaka told me that mom is arrested. Can't believe she really poisoned him..

Zano:Love of money.

Sma:She will learn her lesson where she's going. Thank you for everything Zano.

Zano:It's a pleasure babe. I love you.

Sma:I love you too. I won't ever leave you, no matter what happens.

She reassured him.

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To be continued...

Don't forget to comment, 100
comments.**BURNING FIRES OF
GREED**

40

At Bongani's house, he was preparing for work and he was running a bit late.

Khanyi kept her up the whole night asking for sex. He couldn't deny her that, he believes she has learnt her lesson and her attitude will stop. He wishes to marry her someday, but he needs her to be committed to their relationship and not crave for things he can't do.

Once his mother's house is finished, he can then use his money in a way that could be beneficial to her too. He loves her he won't lie, but making his mother happy is one of his number to do list.

Being raised by a single parent in this time is not an easy thing, especially when the father didn't run, but died. His

mother had to risk it all for him. He doesn't know how women do it, but they are so strong and brave. That's why they are called "imbokodo", because they are as strong as a rock. Mothers are just everything, even when you are a 33 year old like him, there is a time when you just need your mother and you know you will be okay.

Khanyi comes to him with his lunchbox and puts it inside his lunchbag. She also sneaked in chocolate, she knows he doesn't like sweet things.

She gave him a kiss.

Bongani: Thank you. I love you.

Khanyi:I love you too.

Her hands land on his pants and she quickly unbuckles his belt. She takes out his dick and stroke hlhim.

Bongani:Fuc... Khanyi what are you doing??

Khanyi:Go to work babe.

She removed her hand and smiled at him.

Bongani:You are lucky because I'm late.

Khanyi:Go to work.

He stole a kiss before running out. She was left alone smiling, thinking about how she almost lost him because of her attitude. Bongani is her soulmate no matter what, the heavens are with their relationship and abafazi are with supporting them too...

She cleaned up after him and prepared to do his laundry. She was not working today. It's the least she could do, after all he gave her a roof over her day when Nomuzi chased them out. Speaking of her, she got a message from Nhlaka

saying she's arrested. She still doesn't know what to think her mother killing her father. Why? And how? Those are the two questions she wants to ask her. Knowing her mother, she will probably spin this whole thing and make herself to be the victim.

She picks up Bongani's clothes and something falls out from one of his pants. It was a box. She picked it up and opened it. Her mouth was hung open when she saw a diamond ring. It was shining. Where did he get money to buy diamond!?! And is the ring for her or its for someone else? She can't control her excitement and tries it on.

She looks at her hand and it looked good on her.

“Mrs”

She whispers that word. Sounds nice. Definitely won't be bad if he proposes. She puts it back and continues with the other stuff.

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In Mnambithi.

Both Nonjabulo and Smangele were in the kitchen and it was awkwardly quiet between them. They just didn't know what to say.

Sma: Okay the silence is killing me.

She finally says.

Nonjabulo: Me too. I'm here thinking why won't you talk to me.

Sma: Because you are also not talking to me.

Nonjabulo: This is stupid. I'll admit, when Busani told me that you are Nandipha's sister I felt some type of way. I don't have a problem with you, just that what your sister did to me could never be undidn't.

Sma: I understand. I also thought that could be the reason, but I am not responsible for my sister's actions, and I try my level best to stay out of people's business.

Nonjabulo: Thank you. You seem like a nice person.

Sma: Thank you, you too.

Now that was out of the way, they could chat freely.

Sma: So did Bhuti Busani also give you the speech about how you should accept who they are?

They laugh.

Nonjabulo: Girl, he said I must be prepared to wake up in the middle of the night and run.

Sma: Zano said that to me too.

Nonjabulo:I'm scared a bit though.

Sma:How?

Nonjabulo:His ex wife, she told me scary things and said I should leave while I still have the chance.

Sma:You mean Anita?

Nonjabulo:Yes.

Sma:I don't know about her, but I just don't like her.

Nonjabulo:Hawu Smangele!

Sma:I'm serious, it's not her it's me. But, I think she still has feelings for Busani, their divorce was not pretty.

Nonjabulo:She told me she had to leave him because of the life he led.

Sma:Well it's not a nice life I won't lie to you. I was also in a rigged with bomb place unknowingly, if it wasn't for Zano and Busani, I would probably be dead by now. Zano asked me before we dated if I would be able to handle everything and I said yes. Tomorrow is not promised to anyone, I can just die even now and will

regret it on the other side as to why I didn't give my heart what it wanted.

Nonjabulo: You're right. Busani is just the man I need after my ex. He's so different and much more caring, even though he can be rude but I see a future with him, and I don't want to regret it some day when I am miserable and wondering why I didn't give him, us a chance.

Sma: So you are staying?

Nonjabulo: *Smiling* I'm staying.

Sma:Great. I'll enjoy having you around.

Nonjabulo:Me too.

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At the police station.

She slept on the cold, smelling cell yesterday. This is not the life she wants and needs. She can't believe that she is arrested. When she thinks about Zwelakhe, she just wants to dip her head

in the toilet. She was no naïve and he too advantage of that.

She sees a police officer walking by and she shouts for her.

Nomuzi:Hey, can I have my phone call?

“It’s not the time for phone calls”, she said and walked away.

She sighed and sat back down on the bench. There were other two women in there with her. One looked very young and she has been crying since yesterday, annoying her.

The detective who arrested her comes at the cell and opens for her. She stands up in a hurry thinking they are letting her go.

Nomuzi:I will sue you for this, wrongfully arresting me.

Detective:Do you even know how to spell “sue” wena?

He laughs and pulls her to the interrogation room.

Detective:So sit down and let me explain this to you. You and your accomplice

have been apprehended. He has already admitted to everything, he admitted that he gave you the name of the poison and that you were the one who poisoned your husband and daughter. You are facing up to 30+ years in jail.

Nomuzi:Ithi uyadlala detective(Say you are joking detective).

Detective:I'm not.

Nomuzi:3...0 years??

She asked whispering. By the time she comes out, she'll probably be 80 and

approaching 90, and that's if she comes out. People die in prison. It's not a nice place.

Nomuzi: Awww kodwa Nkulunkulu wami Shembe ongcwele ngangenzani?

She complained crying with her hands over her head.

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At Nhlanhla's house.

He didn't even notice when Nandipha left but he is glad she did, if he wants to fix things with Nonjabulo, he needs to show her how serious he is.

He has cleaned the house and cooked her favorite food. He's going to ask her to come over with the kids, and they are going to have a nice dinner, talk about their relationship and fix things.

He takes his phone and calls her. Instead he hears a man speaking.

“Yeah”

Nhlanhla:I want Nonjabulo.

“And you are”

Nhlanhla:I'm sure my number is saved.

“Okay bye”

He hung up on him. He looks at his phone in disbelief and tries calling her again but the number doesn't go through, instead he receives a call from another number. He answered

“This is Nonjabulo's boyfriend. I don't like people who bother me, stop bothering my woman and I will stay out

of your way. You had your chance at her and you blew it. You're going to watch me love her right and make her Mrs Mthiyane while you are pulling your mucus from a distance. I don't want to call you again about this, I'll just put a bullet through your skull. Patience is something I don't have. I know where you live shlama"

He said and hung up. Nhlanhla swallowed and looked around the house.

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Outside, Zano called Busani to the side.

Zano:I want to talk to you about something.

Busani:Okay.

Zano:We are burying Sphiwe tomorrow, and I know our hearts will have a hard time accepting that he's gone. But, I want to get out.

Busani:Get out of what?

Zano:This life, I don't want it no more. I'm with Sma now and she's my happy

place, I don't want anything bad to happen to her. I don't want her to spend the rest of her life looking over her shoulder. We are going to have children some day, I want them to grow up in a safe environment. The thug life has gotten us everything we needed, it's time to hand over the ropes to someone else.

Busani: You do understand that no one would respect us again right?

Zano: I know, and I don't care. I love Smangele bafo. I want to give her everything, not pain and tears.

Busani:Ngiyakuzwa (I hear you). Anita said the same thing to me.

Zano:It's time to leave. It's not worth it anymore. We can't afford to lose anymore lives.

Busani:What about Thabiso? I don't trust that he'll just lay low.

Zano:Yeah, he's arrested. For aiding and abetting a murder, and his past crimes caught up with him.

Busani:If he gets out?

Zano: We'll deal with it then.

Busani: Okay, I guess from now on we are law abiding citizens. Fuck women will make us do crazy things!

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FOURTEEN MONTHS LATER...

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To be continued...

Don't forget to like, comment & share.
109 comments **BURNING FIRES OF
GREED**

41

FOURTEEN MONTHS LATER.....

At Zano's.

Wow! A year and two months later! So much has happened. Sma and Zano have gotten more strong and happy over the months. They now live together permanently. Zano did the right thing three months ago and went to pay lobolo for her, so now she's traditionally his wife. So they can live together in peace. She quit her job at the retail store, no offense to anyone, but there was no way she was going to continue being a cashier

while her husband has so much money. He gave her the money to start her own business, going to school is a farfetched dream now, and she is no longer interested to be honest. She can only consider part time learning at this point, just to have a qualification to her name. She opened a flower shop, she didn't know people buy flowers this much. She is even thinking of branching out, with Zano's support she can do anything. Now she sees the importance of dating a man with money, very important ke leyanto. Not someone who you would ask him for R100 and he will say "usazohlela(he will see). She just wishes that she met Zano earlier in life, before making all the wrong decisions in her love life.

Even though it was overdue, she had to go to Phawu's home and get cleansed for the loss of her baby.

Their lives have been quiet and peaceful, no enemies coming to attack them. And the brothers really put that life behind them. The family is growing and getting stronger. Nonjabulo and Busani just welcomed their twins a month ago, they are so cute.

She is also expecting. Yep, she's pregnant again. She had complications at the first trimester because of the abortion poison her mother gave her. But God had

other plans and kept her baby. She's on her 7th month now, and she cannot wait to meet her daughter. She hopes she is an exact copy of her. She mustn't betray her and look like her father.

Her sisters are also doing well, and Khanyi has improved a lot with her personality. Nandipha... Well.... She's okay. Just that she thinks she's losing it a bit. She is always crying for her baby, and says she sees him at night crying for her. They have tried everything they could to help her, but this is beyond them. It is a psychological issue and they committed into getting her the help she deserves. They admitted her into a mental institution, she's been there for

three months now. They visit her often and she's making so much progress. She hopes she can get out in time for her wedding.....

Her and Zano are getting married. Next week. Traditional wedding. They opted to start with the traditional wedding, then do a white wedding last. Everything is ready, and in check. She's just waiting for her day, and Zano will be hers forever. She's always going to be thankful for this man. The love he shows her is nothing like she's seen before....

“Ahhh babe, you said two minutes”, he speaks behind her... She has forgotten

that she came to drink water and were to return to the bedroom..

She giggles and he pulls her to him.

Sma:Sorry. I got so distracted.

Zano:It's okay. Were you thinking about Sunday?

Sma:Yep. I can't wait to be your wife.....

Zano:You're already my wife nje...

Sma:You know what I mean.

He brushes her arm.

Zano:So.....

He says pulling up her dress.

Sma:Nooo Zano, I'm tired.

Zano:Kancane nje babe...

He said already lifting up her leg and inserting himself inside her. He just can't get enough of her.

She moans holding on to the table with the table.

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KHANYISILE

Mrs Mchunu . Yep that's who she is. The diamond ring is shining on her finger and she can't help but smile every time looks at her hand. It's been exactly four months since they tied the knot with Bongani.

His daughter, Miracle now lives with them full time. His mother didn't want to relocate, said she doesn't want to leave her husband, and by that she meant his grave.

Miracle is an amazing child, and she is more than happy to be a mother to her. Their two months old son, Alwande, is just so cute that she is always staring at him. Having a child at 31 is something that is frowned upon by many, but she is glad she waited until she had a baby with the right person. Bongani's the perfect father and perfect husband. They now live in the suburbs, and eat Danone with a fork.

She also got a promotion at work because of her outstanding performance, she doesn't know how many times she has been named "Employee of the month". She thinks now it's time to start her own business, she just needs to gathers

enough strength and make sure that her capital is enough.

Miracle and Bongani went to the stores, to buy an outfit for Sma's big day.

Speaking of her sisters, she talked to them and apologized for the way she acted previously. They forgave her and they moved on. The only person who is worrying her is Nandipha, she wishes she could get out of that place and come back home. Nhlaka is still alive and behaving, surprisingly. He just got himself a car and is renting a fancy apartment downtown.

Their home is vacant and locked. It just brought up too many sad memories for

them. Nomuzi is rotting in jail, hopefully. She hasn't went to see her and quite frankly she's not interested. She doesn't want to see the woman who killed her father. Maybe some time later she will go see her, but not now. Nomuzi destroyed their family. Everything went upside down because of her. Her love of money destroyed their family, and she killed her husband for what? Because she didn't get even a cent.

She sighs and looks at her son, just even thinking about her mother upsets her. What she did was so wicked and wrong. She wonders if she feels any remorse or guilt for everything.

She heard them coming back and picked up Alwande to meet them in the lounge. She found them arguing, like always.

Miracle:Daddy I told you to take the red skirt but you took yellow.

Bongani:Well how was I supposed to know which one you wanted?

Miracle:Daddy I told you. Red!!

She takes the yellow skirt and shows it to Khanyi.

Miracle:Mama how will I wear this?
Mommy Sma said we should look
beautiful for her wedding. Angifuni u
yellow mina(I don't want yellow).

Khanyi:Your father will go and buy you
your red skirt baby.

Miracle:Thank you.

She walked away with her clothes
excited to try them on.

Khanyi looked at him and laughed.

Khanyi:Just buy her red skirt baby.

Bongani: Fine. But Miracle will drive me crazy.

He takes Alwande from her..

Bongani: My son really took after me.

Khanyi: He looks like me a bit.

Bongani: You wish. Everything about him is mine.

Khanyi: Mxm.

She sulks and just drools looking at him.
No but her man has gotten so hot over
the months, he dedicated himself to the
gym and oh Lord! He looks like a dream.
His abs and his strong arms! Shuuu!
She brushes her arms and licks her lips.

Khanyi: Too bad I'm still waiting for my
stitches to heal, or else I would be tying
you to the bed and riding you until you
cry.

He chokes on his saliva.

Bongani: There's a child here.

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NHLANHLA

Things hasn't been nice for him, everything just went south. He really lost Nonjabulo and there's no hope that he'll ever get her back. His company is close to being shut down, his other businesses were long shut down. He no longer managed them properly, workers were leaving top, bottom & center. He hates to admit it, but Nonjabulo was a good CEO. She managed the place like a well oiled machine. Nothing went wrong under her

presence. He sure fucked up. The pain of just seeing him happy with someone else! Knowing that someone sticks his dick inside her just drives him crazy. She got married and their marriage was all over the news and social media. He even cried real tears seeing her, she really moved on from him and his shit. He lost a diamond. All for Nandipha! Nxx. He wishes that he never even started to cheat, none of this would be happening. He would be happy with his family and raising his own kids. Having his kids live in another man's roof somehow bruises his ego, but what will he say? He's broke now and his house is about to get repossessed. He'll have to go back to his

mother's house. This life, no balance at all.

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In prison, she is holding out her plate and the lady splatters a disgusting biki biki pap on her plate. She moves over to the curry section and it was like dog poop.

She took her food and went to sit down.

She started eating, it definitely tasted bitter and bad. It's been a year in prison, she was given 30 years like the detective said. So 29 years remaining.

None of her children have come to see her.

She wishes they could come, just so she could get the chance to apologize and fix things with them.

Being here in this place really woke her up, made her realize how everything that happened was her fault. If only she didn't give in to the greed. None of this would have happened.

An inmate sits next to her and they greet each other.

She sighs and continued eating her food. Even though her one eye was closed due to the bruise she got this morning, she could see a bit.

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NONJABULO

Everytime she thinks about how her life has changed, it always leaves a smile on her face. Her family means everything to her and she will forever cherish them.

Her twins are growing, and her children. They live with her full time, she doesn't trust Nhlanhla around them. Busani's daughter Aphelele also lives with them. Anita went back to Joburg, she asked

them to take her the following year because she was still trying to find employment. Sadly, Naledi didn't make it. A month after she got out of the hospital, she died. Busani was shattered and so was she. She was so young.

She is glad that Busani and Zano decided to leave the crime life. It makes her happy and it took away her fears.

Nothing bad has happened and she wishes it stays that way forever.

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**DAY OF THE TRADITIONAL
WEDDING PART I**

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To be continued...

Please comment. Comment. 120
comments. **BURNING FIRES OF
GREED**

FINALE

42

**DAY OF THE TRADITIONAL
WEDDING PART I**

It is in the morning and everyone is
going up and down, preparing for the big
day. Zano's mom was overseeing things

at the kitchen department to make sure they serve real tasty food.

They didn't sleep at all the previous night, they had to uphold all traditions that needed to be done.

Sma was now in her dressing rooms with her sisters, Khanyi and Nandipha.

Nandipha got out of the hospital two days ago, and she is happy with the person she now is. She looks happy and vibrant.

Sma: I'm glad you could make it.

She says to Nandipha smiling..

Nandipha:I wouldn't miss it for the world.

She says back to her. It bothered her that she would see Nonjabulo, things are not that fine between them. The day she tried to go to her and apologize, Nonjabulo embarrassed her in front of everyone and told her that she wants nothing to do with her. She really wishes she could forgive her.

Being admitted at the mental institution really helped, she was really going insane, thinking her son was haunting her.

Khanyi:Bongani will come later with Miracle.

Nandipha:Miracle doesn't get tired of talking Yoo.

Khanyi laughs.

Khanyi:I'm used to it. Wait let me change this one.

She says holding Alwande in her arms.

Sma:Please help me put this on.

She was talking about the beads for her feet. She was wearing a beautiful cream traditional dress, that was embedded with beads and beautiful decorations. For her hair, she decided to wear “Inhloko”. Her make up artist was late and it was causing her stress. She can't walk out to people looking ugly.

Nandipha helps her and then looks at her.

Nandipha: Dad would be so proud right now.

She dropped a few tears..

Sma:No, please don't make me cry.

She cried too.

Nandipha:No, this is a happy day. We only need tears of joy. Wherever dad is, he is looking down at us smiling.

Sma:Yeah he is.

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In the other room, Zano was also getting ready and happiness was written all over his face. He couldn't hide how happy he was, marrying Smangele and official making her his wife is boosting his happiness. He has been smiling ever since.

Busani: Finish up, the guests are here.

Zano: I'm almost done.

Busani: You look beautiful.

Zano: Ayy fusegi wena.

He laughs.

Busani: Okay, but seriously you look good. Go get your wife bafo.

He whistles and that makes Zano to feel himself.

He opted for “Ibheshu”, The fool on outfit not some shirts and pants.

MawuMzulu akucace ukuthi uwuMzulu (If you are Zulu that must be clear). He wants to dance for his wife esgcawini later on.

Zano: Is everything ready?

Busani: Don't worry yourself about that.
Mom and Nonja took care of it.

Zano: And security?

Busani: Very tight.

Zano: Okay, I need to see Smangele first
before the ceremony starts.

Busani: You can't see the wife before the
wedding.

Zano: I know, but I just need her.

Busani:Ayy Zano I hope you are not talking about having a quickie.

Zano:Dude. Just get my wife here.

Busani:Fine.

He raises his hands and walks away to find Smangele.

He finds her with her sisters and she looked amazing. His brother really chose well. The pregnancy is just a bonus because it adds to her light complexion.

Busani:I'm sorry to disturb you ladies,
but Sma my brother needs you.

Sma:Okay.

She stood up and followed him.

Busani:We have to go through the back
so that people don't stare at you.

She nodded and followed him. He led her
to where Zano was and left them. Zano
locked the door and spent a few seconds
just watching the beauty in front of him.

Sma: You are making me shy. You know we don't have to see each other yet.

Zano: You look amazing baby.

He brushes her stomach and kisses her.

Sma: You also look amazing.

She runs her hands all over his abs.

Zano: Come.

He takes her hand and leads her to the bedroom.

Sma:What's going on?

He opened the drawer and took out a document. He gave it to her.

Sma:What is this?

Zano:Open it.

She opens it and starts reading. By the time she's finished, her mouth is wide open.

Sma:Zano no.

Zano: Yes baby.

Sma: This is too much babe. I can't accept it.

Zano: You deserve the world and more sthandwa sami.

Sma: You can't give me your company. It is your pride and joy.

Zano: And you are my pride and joy. It is one of your wedding gifts from me.

Sma: There's more?

Zano: Yes, but we'll save it for later. That is a contract, I'm giving my whole company to you, meaning every decision making will be passed to you. I will not have any say or any share. It's yours babe.

Sma: Zano I can't... I.. Don't even have the qualifications.

She says crying and ruining her make up. He wipes her tears and kisses her again.

Zano: I love you so much Smangele. From today onwards our lives will never

be the same. We will be husband and wife. I can't promise you that I won't hurt you because we don't know what the future holds but I can promise you that I will never hurt you on purpose. I don't want to say you are the first woman I have ever loved, but your presence in my life has been one thing I have been longing for forever. No one has ever been able to make my heart jump like you do, I wake up everyday and I just think to myself how lucky I am to have you.

Sma:Babe please.. Don't make me cry..
You are making me cry.

The hormones were making it worse because her tears couldn't stop falling.

Sma:I love you too Zano, so much baby. I know you will never hurt me. For the year and a few months we've been together, you've shown me what love really is. You believed in me and made me realize that I can do better and be better. Everyday you inspire me to be the best version of myself. For that I'll forever thank you.

He moves towards her.

Zano:Will we be able to put this back on?

He asks lifting up her dress.

Sma:Haaa baby we can't have sex, guests are waiting.

Zano:I want to be inside you though.

Sma:Fine, but be quick.

He smirked and helped her get out of the dress. He also removed what he was wearing and remained naked.

He gently placed her on the bed and got on top of her.

Zano:I don't want any crazy styles, I just want to look at you as I make love to you.

She nods. He starts kissing her all over, worshipping her body. She loves how he doesn't stop at the lips only, he explores other body parts.

After romancing her and making her wet enough, he strokes himself and first slap her pussy entrance three times before sliding it in. They both gasp, almost like they don't believe ukuthi lingenile.

He starts to move slowly while looking straight at her.

She has her hands on his arms and moaning under him.

There was just something different about today's sex. It was so emotional and heavy, almost like they were sleeping together for the last time.

She enjoyed it so much that she didn't want him to stop.

Zano:Ngiyakuthanda Smangele (I love you Smangele).

He confesses while giving her deep and hard thrusts.

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Hours later, the couple was now seated in their chair in the tent and facing the guests. The décor was giving!

They have been dancing and singing and exchanging gifts between the two families, now it's time that they sit down and eat.

From the seats, Nonjabulo gets a call from the nanny that Nhlanhla is at their house and demanding to see his children. She sighs and tells Busani.

Nonjabulo:I'll go deal with him babe.

Busani:No. He knew you were attending a wedding today because you told him. Let him run mad on the gate. Tell Mantu to not open for him.

She nods and focuses back on the ceremony.

On the other seats, Khanyi was sitting next to Bongani and Miracle next to him. Alwande was with Nandipha inside, she took him to sleep.

Khanyi: Weddings are a vibe. My sister is so happy. Look at her.

They looked at Smangele who was blushing as Zano was whispering something to her.

Bongani: She sure is. Where is your brother? I haven't seen him.

Khanyi: He is here somewhere. I saw him when he arrived. Nhlaka is a man now, I think he has a girlfriend. He had love bites on his neck.

Bongani: Why were you looking that far
nawe?

Khanyi: It would be great if he had a
girlfriend so I could get someone to hate
on for no apparent reason.
Unapologetically so!

Bongani: You will never change.

He said laughing. With Miracle now
living with them, it's a house on fire.
These two never get tired of talking.

Khanyi: Ahh there he is.

He spots Nhlaka and calls him over.

He comes to them and greets Bongani.

Nhlaka:Sisi.

Khanyi:Yah, so where is makoti?

Nhlaka:*Laughing* I told you I don't have a girlfriend.

Khanyi:Fine, but I need uskwiza so I can gossip about her ebafazini.

Nhlaka:Ayy sisi bhabhayi(BYE).

He walks away laughing, since everyone was eating and not minding what was happening in the front. He went to his Sister, Smangele.

Sma:*Smiling* I saw you but I couldn't greet you because you were far.

Nhlaka:I saw you too. So, Are you happy with him ?

Sma:Very. The day has went well.

Nhlaka:I'm glad you are happy. Zano is a good guy. I'm what I am today because of him. Thank you sbali.

Zano nods.

Zano:I did what I had to do.

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Inside, Nandipha was putting Alwande to sleep and he reminded her so much of the son she never held. She wonders how her son would have looked like. He would have been a big boy by now. She wonders if the police will ever solve the

case of what happened with their car accident.

She kisses Alwande's small lips and covers him with his blanket.

She is hoping she doesn't cross paths with Nonjabulo. It's just going to be so awkward. She is so over that drama happened because she doesn't even have feelings for Nhlanhla anymore. He was the worst mistake she ever made. She heard he is going insane and broke.

Tough!

It's his karma. She has gotten hers, now it's his turn.

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Back at the tent.

The musician was performing and Sma couldn't help herself, she sang along.

Sma:*Smiling* Thank you for today.

Zano:Thank you too my wife.

Sma:Myeni wami(My husband).

She didn't even know that she could do a traditional dance kodwa wenze

ezibukwayo esgcawini. She didn't allow her pregnancy to stop her from having fun.

She was just about to say something when she felt a sharp pain through her abdomen. She frowned and tightened the grip around Zano's hands.

Zano:What's wrong?

Sma:I don't know, but I just got hit by a cramp.

Zano:We are giving birth?

Sma:But I'm on the 7th month.

She looked down and her water hadn't broken yet.

Zano: Okay, I'm taking you to the hospital.

He moves his eyes to Busani and he immediately stands up and comes to them with Nonjabulo.

Busani: What's happening?

Zano: She's giving birth. Take us to the hospital.

Busani:Okay, let's go.

Nonjabulo:Sma be strong baby. We are right behind you.

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To be continued....BURNING FIRES
OF GREED

FINALE PART I

43

Busani takes out his car keys and they were about to stand up when they saw police men approaching.

Zano:Ayyy what now!?

He asked annoyed.

Everyone was confused as to why the police are ruining such a beautiful wedding.

Zano and the others moved from their seats and tried to move away because they have to take Sma to the hospital.

Police:We are looking for Nonjabulo Mthiyane.

Nonjabulo:Me!?

She asked shocked.

Police: You are Nonjabulo?

Busani: What's going on here? What do you want with my wife?

Police: You are under arrest ma'am.

Nonjabulo: Under arrest? For what?

She was on the verge of tears, and people were looking at her. This was highly embarrassing.

Police:For breaking and tampering with a civilian's car Nhlanhla Mdlalose , causing an accident that led to the loss of a life. You have the right to remain silent, anything you say can and will be used against you in the court of law.

Her mind takes her to memory lane and she sees the disappointment in the guests' eyes. Busani has a pity look all over him, he said he took care of it.

Nandipha:Whoa whoa!! Nonjabulo you! You were the one who caused that accident!?! You killed my baby!?!

Nonjabulo:I'm sorry.

The police handcuff her and walk away with her but they stop midway when the place suddenly gets filled with gas smoke. Everyone starts coughing and covering their mouths.

Zano looked around hoping to see what was going on but he didn't see anything. There was too much smoke.

They tried to evacuate everyone but to no avail.

His hand never left Sma's. He didn't want to lose her in this panic. Who was doing this? And why!?

The smoke finally clears out and by then everyone is dizzy and tired.

He sees a man with a troop of armed to the teeth men standing by the tent and the guests scream in panic and hide under the chairs and table.

Zano sighs and looks at his wife. For the first time, he was scared. He doesn't know the outcome of today, no wonder he woke up feeling down, because something was about to happen.

The troops apprehend the police and Nonjabulo and throw them with the other guests.

He move to where Zano and Busani are.

Thabiso:Hello boys. Good to see me?

Busani:Not you again. Please not you.

Thabiso laughed out loud and looked at Smangele who was in terrible pain.

Thabiso:Don't worry, you won't live long enough to see that baby. So even if she dies, you will see her on the other side. Ahh the game is fun.

He laughs once more and looks at the traumatized civilians. Even the police were here, whole party mtakabawo!

Zano:Look, you can do anything to me. Just let everyone go. You have a problem with me and my brother. No one else needs to get hurt..

Thabiso:You know Zano, I used to think you were smart. But no, you are just an empty head. How could you seriously let me live? Take me to jail? Like that will hold me. I told you that you should kill me when you had the chance, because if you let me go, I will make it my mission to hunt you and your family until no one

is left. So what better day than a wedding where everyone is gathering at? The whole combo. Boys, do the job. But leave the family, they are all mine.

He calls out for his men to do the job. They come with their guns and start shooting to kill the guests, leaving out the Mthiyanes.

Nonjabulo cried seeing the policeman next to her dead. She was so scared. She was starting to remember Anita's words when she told her to run while she still had the chance.

Thabiso: Get everyone here!

The men run around collecting people and brought everyone. There was no way in or out.

Sma:Baby please do something.

She cried to him. He felt powerless, what could he do? He did not plan for this, because he did not see him coming. He thought they were even and he wouldn't get out of jail. He didn't listen to Busani when he told him that they should kill Thabiso because he will cause problems for them in the future.

Sma:Ahh....

She screams feeling another cramp hitting her hard.

Sma:Please, please just take me to the hospital. I'm begging you.

Thabiso knelt in front of her and cupped her chin.

Thabiso:I also had a wife. She was beautiful too, and was pregnant.

Without hesitating, Zano pushed the gun away from him and threw him on the ground and tried to fight him but one of

Thabiso's men shot him on his back shoulder.

Thabiso pushed him off of him and threw him on the ground.

Thabiso: Try that one more time I dare you!

Zano groaned holding his shoulder that was bleeding. Sma pulled him toward her and put her hands on the wound.

Zano: I'm really sorry sthandwa sami. I failed to protect you. I promised you that my past life would never hurt you but here we are. I'm sorry.

Sma:No baby this is not your fault.
Please save your strength. You are losing
too much blood.

Seeing them caring for one another
angered him so much that he just shot
Sma on her stomach. She screamed
feeling the bullet penetrating her
stomach.

Sma:My baby...

Zano tried to stand up but he was getting
weaker and drowsy.

Khanyisile was holding Bongani close. She was scared for her son who was sleeping inside the house. What will be of him? She regrets even coming to this wedding.

Khanyi:I'm scared Bhebhenene.

She whispers with tears in her eyes.

Bongani holds her hand tighter. He was also scared, but he had to be strong for the two of them.

Busani:Thabiso please don't do this. I am begging you. I'm kneeling in front of you

today, please don't do this. Please don't do this bafo ngiyakucela.

Thabiso:No I will do this. I will kill all of you and then I will kill myself. There's nothing I'm living for in this world anyway.

He spotted Busani's daughter who was hiding behind Nomthi and smiled..

He shot Aphelele on the head, killing her on the spot.

Thabiso:Minus one.

Busani:Nooo.....

He cried out in agony and tried to stand up but Thabiso shot both his legs.

Nonjabulo's children were also hiding behind Mr Mthiyane and Thabiso went for them and killed them too.

Nonjabulo:Nooo..... Nooo...

She screamed and wailed so painfully. Thabiso came to her and shot her on her stomach.

Thabiso:So where are the twins? I bet they are cute.

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To be continued....

I need comments bahlali. Exercise the
comment button  BURNING FIRES
OF GREED

FINALE PART II

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Nonjabulo's children were also hiding
behind Mr Mthiyane and Thabiso went
for them and killed them too.

Nonjabulo:Nooo..... Nooo...

She screamed and wailed so painfully.
Thabiso came to her and shot her on her
stomach.

Thabiso: So where are the twins? I bet
they are cute.

He asked looking around.

Busani: Please don't do this. I'm begging
you.

He looked over at Zano and Sma, and
Sma was unconscious and losing a lot of
blood.

Nonjabulo was also laying in her pool of blood and choking on it, her hand was on her stomach.

Thabiso: Too bad so Many people had to get hurt over this.

Nomthi: My son please have mercy. I don't know what my boys did to you, but please have mercy on us. You have already killed more than twenty people. You have so much blood on your hands. It's not too late to change. Please have mercy, I'm begging you.

Thabiso kept quiet and looked around. Almost everyone was dead. Smangele was losing a lot of blood and Nonjabulo was close to passing out or dying.

Everyone who was alive was scared and hiding behind the tables.. He looked at the gun and swallowed.

Thabiso:I wasn't always like this, you know? I was an ordinary man making a living for myself. Until one day I found myself in a wrong place at the wrong time, and I stumbled upon a gruesome act where a person was being killed. The person who saw me, came for my head and wanted to kill me so there would be no evidence of what he did. I tried all I could to run from him, part of me was

scared because I wasn't even going to report him. Then, he sent these three to kill my family and me. When I came back from work, that's when I found my family brutally murdered by your sons. My wife was pregnant but they didn't spare her, they killed her along with my child. My daughters were young, didn't even know anything but they were killed. Then they waited for me and tried to take me out too. Well they thought they did but they didn't. I spent years depressed and crying for my family. Then I decided to get up and fight like a man. I watched, observed and acted. I never forget faces. I found out that you were sent by that person I saw, and believe you me that was my first time taking a life. I didn't

even regret it. Then I knew that I would have to come for the one who actually killed my family. That's when I came for you. The initial plan was to find you and take you out, but that was too simple and lacked excitement. That's when I decided to hurt the ones around you first, then hurt you last. I think I have proven my hurt enough, you took my family from me. So why do you deserve to have a your life family? Why do you get to have a happily ever after when I didn't get it? My daughters weren't given a chance, why should I spare your children? Why am I suddenly a bad guy? What about what you did to me? This cold, soulless monster you see in front of you was

created by you. You are the sole reason for my pain.

Nomthi stood up and went to him, fearing that he might shoot her.

With her heart pounding, she gave him a big hug and didn't let him go.

He tried getting out of her grip but she was holding him tightly that he ended up feeling the warmth he so long needed...

Nomthi: I know you are hurting and you are angry, but the killings are enough now. Your family is resting son, they are in a better place. Do you think it makes them happy seeing you like this? Do you think it's what they would want? For you

to keep on killing innocent people in their name? Huh?

Now she just sounded like his mother.
May she rest in peace.

Thabiso:I don't want to feel like this, but I made a promise to my family that I would make your sons pay. I can't break my promise.

Nomthi touched his hand and reached for the gun.

Nomthi: Time to drop the weapons son. There are ways to get help to get over traumatic experiences.

The gun was now in her hand.

Thabiso looked around once again and saw just how much people are dead because of his revenge. People who have nothing to do with any of this! This does not make him any more better than Zano and Busani. He has killed too many people to get his revenge. How did he allow it to get this far? Why was no one warning him?

He ordered his army to get out of here.

Zano was only worried about his wife at the moment and he feared if she was still alive or not. She has not been breathing for a while.

He slowly gets up and asks for help from Bongani.

They get her inside the car and he drives them to the hospital.

Same as Nonjabulo and Busani, Nandipha is the one who drove them.

Thabiso remained at the scene and just broke down, surrounded by the dead bodies.

Thabiso:I'm sorry. I'm really sorry.

He said and put his hands over his face.
He was really sorry..

Nomthi:It's okay.

He snatched the gun away from her and pointed it at himself.

Thabiso:*Crying* I'm a broken man ma, and I don't want to convince myself otherwise but I'll always want to hurt this family if I live. I told them before that if they let me go, I will never leave them in peace. I'll always be hunting them. I am

just an empty shell, I'll never get over the loss of my family. Killing myself will save everyone the trouble.

Nomthi:Don't do this. We can find you help. You still have a chance to change. By letting us go that shows there's still a good man left inside you.

Thabiso:No there isn't.

He opened his mouth and put the gun inside and fired the trigger.

Nomthi:Nooo....

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BURNING FIRES OF GREED

#44(CONTINUATION)

At the hospital....

Smangele was given immediate help and she had to be operated on to Remove the bullet and see if the baby has any chance to life.

Zano was also patched up but he's been shot at before, this was nothing and he was worried about Smangele. The amount of blood near her was scary.

He paces up and down and sits on the bench, he sees his father approaching for like an hour later.

Zano:Baba.

Mr Mthiyane sighed and looked down ashamed. Somehow he felt guilty about how he didn't even try to do anything when Thabiso had them hostage. He was once a feared person back in the day, but today he just turned into a boiled potato ready to be squashed for a mash.

His wife had to step up and do something while they were hiding.

Mr Mthiyane:How is Makoti?

Zano:I haven't heard anything. I'm still waiting. Busani and Nonjabulo?

Mr Mthiyane:Nonjabulo is still with the doctors, Busani is fine. Just they suspect he could never walk again but they said they will run more tests.

He nodded.

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At Joburg, Anita was still stuck on the same spot after watching the news. Her

Aphelele. Her only daughter, gone just like that. She always told Busani about his life but he never listened to her. She told him repeatedly. First it was Naledi and now Aphelele. She has no children now...

She bites the pillow and screams into it. She needs to take the first bus back to Durban.

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In Jail.

Nomuzi's mouth was wide open after watching news. Her children. Which monster would do such a thing? Kill so many people??

She pays more attention.

News lady:It is said that the suspect responsible for all of this gruesome murder of more than 30 people also shot himself and was declared dead. His name was Thabiso Ndlela...

They show his picture and she's surprised to see Zwelakhe. So he ran away with her money and now he's

butchering her family. She is worried, worried if all her children are safe or not.

She knows Sma is shot because they listed the names of the victim on the screen.

She looks at her cell mate.

Nomuzi:I need a phone.

“It’s not free”

Nomuzi:I’ll do anything. I need to call my children.

“Follow me”.

She follows her outside and she gives her a phone.

She goes to hide on a corner and calls Nandipha.

Nandipha:Hello.

She sounds like she was crying.

Nomuzi:Hello, Nandi it's me.

Nandipha:Mom?

Nomuzi: Yes. Nandi what is happening? I just saw the news? Are you all okay?

Nandipha: I am, but Sma is still in theater. She got shot on her stomach, Khanyi and Nhlaka are fine. Mom I'm coming to see you tomorrow. After today I have seen that tomorrow is not promised.

She smiles hearing that..

Nomuzi: I would really appreciate that. I will keep Smangele in my prayers. I have to go before they see me talking with a phone.

She quickly hung up and put her hands together to pray.

Nomuzi: God I know I am a sinner and me being here I am paying for my crimes, but please spare my daughter's life. She has already lost a child. Please save her. Amen.

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Back at the scene, the dead bodies were taken by the officials and the mood was

just somber. No one had the strength to talk or say anything.

Khanyi came rushing out with her baby in her hands. Nandipha stopped her.

Nandi:Where are you going?

Khanyi:To the hospital. I need to see Smangele. God Nandipha I have never been so scared like this. Miracle is still shaking.

Nandi:Eyy I was scared too. Nonja's children are dead, and Aphelele. This man was ruthless. He gave himself an easy way out by killing himself. He needed to be tortured severely for days.

Khanyi: There is Nhlaka. He's going to drive us.

They went to his car and he drove them to the hospital..

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At the hospital.

The doctors were finally done and came out to update the family. Everyone stood up to hear what's going on.

Doc:Sorry to keep you waiting. Well, Smangele is alive, and so is the baby.

Zano sighed relieved. Thank God!

Doc:Luckily the bullet didn't hit the baby, it missed her. She is a premature, so she will have to be placed under NICU.

Zano:But is she going to be okay?

Doc:Yes, the little angel is a fighter. The mother should be up in a few hours. Do

not disturb her. Only two people are allowed to see the baby at once.

Zano: Thank you doctor, thank you for saving them. Thank you for saving my family. Thank you.

The doctor nodded, this is what he loves about his job. Saving people. It was a difficult case he won't lie, but with the best team by his side, they saved the both of them.

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On the other side.

Busani was wheeled with a wheelchair to Nonjabulo's room.

Busani:She's alive?

“Yes.”.

Busani:Are you sure? I don't want to lose another person today.

“She's okay sir. Bullet was removed successfully”

Busani:Thank you.

“I’m going to give you space”.

He pushed himself to her side and she was sleeping so peacefully. How does he look at her in the eye when she wakes up? Her children are gone, his daughter is gone.

He wishes he had listened to his instinct when it told him to kill Thabiso and just get it done.

Busani:I love you so much.

He kissed her hands.

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The following day, Outside Smangele's room.

They were waiting for her to wake up.

Bongani was carrying Miracle who was a bit better but he was worried about her.

What she saw is sure to leave a scar, but he will make sure that he gets her help.

Khanyi recommended therapy, so he will take her to that. Anything to make her forget about yesterday . Even him as an adult, he is still traumatized and shaking.

How much more a child!?

A nurse came out and told them that Sma is awake and only one person can come in to see her..

Zano went in. As soon as she saw him, tears fell from her face.

He was wearing a sling over his arm and supporting his injury...

Zano:Mama.

He hugged her with his one hand and planted a kiss on her forehead.

Sma:My baby.

Zano:She's alive. They put her in intensive care.

Sma:Our daughter is really alive?

She asked almost not believing. She thought she was dead,, she thought her baby wouldn't make it.

Zano:She's alive baby.

Sma:I want to see her.

Zano:Okay, let me get someone to help us.

He walked out to find a nurse. They found a wheelchair for her and they walked to where their baby was.

Sma:She's so pink and tiny Zano.

She said looking at her through the glass.

Zano:She's amazing. I can't believe we are parents.

He found himself crying. He almost didn't live enough to witness this. He thanks his mother for the bravery.

Sma:I want to hold her.

Zano:I don't think we can, can you see how many pipes are connected to her?

Sma:Mhh okay. She is tiny though.

Zano:They said she will develop fully, that's why they have to keep her here for now.

She ran her hands on her tiny body and cried silently.

Sma:What do we name her?

Zano:What do you want to name her?

Sma:How about Owenkosi?

Zano:I love it. Owenkosi Mthiyane.

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At Nonjabulo's ward room.

They said she would take time to wake up, Busani was in her room. His knees still were weak, and he hopes the doctors do something. He can't be bound to a wheelchair forever.

Someone comes into the room and it was Nhlanhla.

Nhlanhla: So you two finally succeeded in killing my children?

Busani: None of us planned for what happened yesterday. I'm sorry man.

Nhlanhla: My boys are gone.

He threw himself in Busani's lap and he found himself comforting him.

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At Sma's room.

Sma: So what happened with Thabiso?

Zano: He killed himself.

Sma: *Sighs* Good. He would have killed us. He was not stable mentally.

Zano: Babe I was thinking, how about we move from South Africa?

Sma: And go where?

Zano:I don't know. Even Mars. This place is toxic.

Sma:So we are running away?

Zano:Maybe. Or we just need a fresh start. So much has happened.

Sma:I hear you, and you are right. That's a good idea. I want to see my mother in prison first before we do that.

Zano:Okay. I love you.

Sma:I love you too.

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They have returned home and put
Miracle to sleep.

Khanyi:I'm worried about her.

Bongani:Me too. But that therapist said it
will take some time for her to want to
open up to her. We just have to be there
for her.

Khanyi:Yeah.

She sighed and sat down.

Khanyi:Kunzima(It's hard). I swear I saw my life flashing right in front of me yesterday.

Bongani:No lies, but I was scared too. Maybe I should also get a gun.

Khanyi:No guns please Bhebhenene.

Bongani:I'm joking. You know I'm lucky to have you as my wife.

Khanyi:I'm Lucky to have you as my husband too. I love you. I knew you were

the one when you took me to KFC and asked us to split the bill.

He laughs as he remembers.

Khanyi:”Nawe lento efike igqoke ingubo ende emhlophe engathi uyobhabhadiswa(You came with a long white dress like you were going to get baptized)”, said you.

He laughed some more.

Bongani:Babe please. That was a long time ago.

She laughed and held his hands.

Khanyi:I wouldn't have it any other way though. Forever wena sthandwa sami!

Bongani:Those stitches better heal. I think I want to be tied on the bed now.

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Two weeks later...

Nandipha went to see her mother as she promised, and they had a long talk. She still doesn't understand why she did what

she did, but she can't stay angry forever. She is going to try and mend their relationship.

Right now, she's going to see Smangele before going home.

She passes by Nonjabulo's room, she was still unbelievably unconscious.

She entered and stood next to her.

Nandipha: I wish you could wake up. I am sorry for everything. The boys were buried last week, sorry you couldn't be there but I was there. Nonjabulo I am sorry for everything. I hope you can forgive me some day.

She was about to let go of her hand when she felt her touching back.

“I forgive you and I am sorry too”, she said back with her dry voice.

Nandipha: Oh God you are awake. Let me get you water.

She got her water and she slowly drank.

Nonjabulo: I was just too afraid to wake up. Everything felt heavy.

Nandipha: I understand.

Nonjabulo:But I realize I was being selfish. Busani is close to going insane. He's always here.

Nandipha:I'm glad you are up.

She spent some time with him and then proceeded to Smangele who was very talkative . Apparently they are moving out of South Africa. She wishes! A fresh start would do her good too.

She goes back home after seeing Smangele.

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Nhlaka was content with what he had, what happened at the ceremony didn't scare him that much. Because he's been held hostage before, so it was like going down memory lane.

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Later, Zano comes to check on her again.

Sma: You didn't have to come back.

Zano:If it was possible, I was going to move in with you two here in the hospital.

She laughs.

Zano:But my wife is beautiful. Just look at you.

She blushes and hides her face.

Zano:We are going to Canada.

Sma:Really?

She asked excited.

Zano: Yep, we are moving there. When our daughter is okay to travel we will move.

Sma: Thank you baby. How is Busani?

Zano: Getting better, I came with him and we started at Nonjabulo's room. She's awake now.

Sma: I'm glad. But baby I need you to promise me something.

Zano:Anything baby.

Sma:Please promise me that you will never be power hungry and greedy for money again and end up doing things that would catch up to us in future. The burning fires of greed is not something I want to go through again.

Zano:I won't baby, I promise you. I'm an honest man now.

Sma:That's my baby. You should be a pastor so you won't even get tempted.

Zano:Now you are pushing it.

She laughs.

Sma:I'm joking.

They stared at each other thinking about the love they have for one another, the love that has withstood so many storms. He doesn't see his future without her. She doesn't see herself surviving without him. She smiles at him and takes his hand.

Sma:I love you.

Zano:I love you too.

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□ >THE END>>