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PROLOGUE

My story starts at a very young age.

I was only 6 years old and should probably have forgotten everything that happened when I was that age but it's all clear as day. I remember everything like it happened hence I'll start from the day my life changed completely.

My father recently died in a car crash, his funeral is today. Mom helps me wear a cute black dress and black pumps, she fixes my hair and we make our way to the lounge to eat so that we can go and attend the service, well in my case not really attend it because kids don't really attend funerals. She hands me a bowl of porridge and I start to eat. I am the only child my mother and father ever had so when I finish eating, I go and play with the other kids my age outside. I am well aware of everything

happening, and how hurt and sad my mother has been, she told me he left us to go be an angel, and as hurtful as it is I am content knowing that he is always watching over me.

My father has been buried and I can't comment on how his funeral was but let's just say it was not bad considering the number of people that attended. Mom seems to be doing well I guess and I couldn't be happier for her to still be standing after losing such a great part of herself. I've never seen my parents fight ever, all I've ever seen in their eyes was love and nothing more, even if they did probably argue but they never made it obvious so I grew up in a home filled with love.

"Bhabhana you remember uncle Sbusiso, daddy's brother? He'll be staying with us and helping us around the house ok?" Mom says and I turn my attention away from the tv to her and uncle Sbusiso.

"He'll be going to varsity here," She says and I nod, he comes and kneels in front of me.

"Hello, Asante." He greets me with his hand held out a big smile on his face, I smile back.

"Hi, uncle Sbu." I say quietly.

"You don't remember me, do you? I last saw you when you were 2." He says and I just smile at him and nod. What could I

possibly say anyway? I was only 3 and to be fair he's never visited us since.

"Are you guys hungry?" Mom asks and I shake my head no and so does uncle.

"I'm tired baby, I'm going to bed and I will see you guys tomorrow. Her bedtime is 9 pm during weekends, please make sure the door is locked and switch off the lights." Mom says and he nods.

"Sho sister," He says and mom kisses my forehead and walks to her room.

We live in a 4 bedroom house in a small township named Mbuqe in Mthatha Eastern Cape and I'm doing grade 2, dad insisted I start early so that I could finish early and go to varsity at a young age and the school was cool with it. We are not rich nor are we broke, I could say we are managing I guess. We are comfortable with what we have, my father was a principal of a school in the rural areas and my mother is a nurse at the local clinic so every now and then she works late but it was never a problem because there was dad to always take care of me when she's at work.

We continue to watch tv when suddenly this uncle rubs my thigh, I shudder tensely.

"It's ok. I'm your uncle and I won't hurt you ok," He assures me with the most genuine smile and I return it. He looks genuine plus he's my father's brother so he wouldn't hurt me. Right?

"Ok Malume," I say and he smiles.

"How are you?" He asks me and I shrug my tiny little shoulders,

"You can talk to me. It's ok to hurt." He assures me and I nod

"It hurts that daddy is gone but mom said he's an angel and he's looking out for me," I say honestly. I don't care how old you are but losing a parent, especially one that's always been there, one that was your best friend, always hurts like hell.

"I can make you feel better

" He says grabbing my attention by returning his hand on my thigh and then he starts to rub me soothingly. I nod skeptically. He tells me to go to my room and that he will be there in a while and I nod and go to my room because we are always taught to respect elders and never to question them. I change into my pajamas.

You see when you are that age, you trust your adults, more especially your uncle who is your dead father's little brother because he is like your second father right? He is now your father, right? At that age, you are easily manipulated into doing things you don't know whether they are right or wrong.

He walks in as I'm about to wear my pajama bottoms, I quickly hide my little assets with my bottoms because that's the one thing my father has always instilled in me.

"You don't have to wear that ok," He says and I frown confused, "It's ok, I won't hurt you ok? I told you Malume will make you feel better ok?" He assures me brushing my cheek with the back of his fingers just to make me relax a little and to trust him that he is being genuine.

My parents haven't given me that '*beware of certain things*' talk yet. In school, we haven't gotten to the whole abuse thing so at this point I don't know much. I don't think my parents ever felt the need because I'm the *go to school and come back straight home* kind of kid, plus they are always with me. And as far as I know

My neighbor has a daughter my age so you can see why we never got to that talk or maybe they are just ignorant people about the things that actually happen out there.

He sits on the bed and opens his legs and tells me to stand in front of him and I do just that, he helps me drink something bitter in his glass and tells me it will help relax me

"This is ugly," I say with a scrunched look and he chuckles

"It's ok. It will make you feel better, it's medicine I take but you can't tell your mother ok? You have to promise me that what

we do today you won't tell your mother or anyone because if it comes out then they are going to take you away from mommy." My curiosity is at its maximum peak because I never want to be taken away from my mother. Who will take me away from her? Why would they take me away? What is actually about to happen tonight that I'm not allowed to tell her? "Do you want to be taken away from your mother?" He asks and I shake my head no instantly. "Yes, good girl"

He grabs my little butt and massages it slowly, "This helps ok?" He says and I just nod and let him. "Are you liking what I'm doing to you?" He asks, I shrug unsure of what to say with what he is doing to me. Something tells me it's wrong, something tells me I should be stopping this but I don't stop him and let him be.

When I don't respond he takes it upon himself to take my underwear off and lays me on the bed. He parts my legs slowly while I try to close them not sure if I want to see this through. My heart rate has spiked up and my senses are on high alert.

"I don't know," I say honestly not wanting to give in to whatever this is.

"You want to forget the pain right?" He asks and I nod, he tells me to part them again and I part my legs still hesitant. He kneels in front of me and lowers his head to my vagina. "It's not going to hurt ok? Do you want me to give you my medicine so

you can relax?" He asks and I nod, he helps me drink from the glass with the bitter content in it. Slowly I feel my muscles relaxing. We try it again and I'm more relaxed with my head feeling a little hot but my body feeling somewhat numb, I guess the conversations in between are helping too.

He dips his tongue between my vagina lips, his tongue is so warm and this alone feels so weird. He licks up and down and I feel something inside me, I don't know what the feeling is but I know I'm not scared nor am I nervous but this feels good that's all I know, a little ticklish though. He continues doing this to me and assuring me that it's okay and for a second I forget that I've lost my father. What he's doing feels good enough to forget. He was right, I am not in pain anymore. I am not even thinking about my dead father.

I am Asante Makula and this is my story. My story is not for the fainthearted, I didn't choose what happened to me at that particular age but I guess it shaped my entire life path from there on.

It was on that day that everything changed, from my dreams to everything in general. I was no longer that sweet little innocent girl and I was never going to be that sweet little innocent girl

after what uncle Sbusiso taught me. At that age I saw nothing wrong with it, even as I grew up I still saw nothing wrong with it because he was teaching me new things, opening me up to new things and I was happy, he made me happy. Until everything came out and he was arrested.

1

-6 YEARS LATER

“Asante Makula,” A teacher calls out my name in class, I raise a hand.

“Come with me please,” She says and I get up and ask the current teacher to be excused, the rest of the classroom is left mumbling which makes me believe I am in trouble. I make my way out of the classroom and follow the teacher that had come to ask for me and we head to the principal’s office. I walk in after her, my uncle is sitting opposite the principal.

“Uhm, please sit,” The principal gestures to the chair next to my uncle’s, I sit next to him quietly. I’m not a talkative child, never was anyway. “I called you here because your uncle has come to the school bearing bad news,” The principal says and I turn and glance at my uncle and back to the principal.

“Asante uSisi ebekwi Ngozi yeMoto endleleni eya emsebenzini. Khange asinde,” (*Your mother was in a car accident and I’m afraid she didn’t make it*) He says and everything goes blank for a split second. I don’t believe I heard him correctly, 6 years after my father’s death on the very same day of my father’s death anniversary my uncle tells me this?

"I... uhm. May I please be excused," I say and rush out of the office and run to the bathroom. I lock myself inside one of the stalls and bury my face in my hands. I can't believe she's gone, it's not possible. How could she leave me too? On the same day my father died? I just cry until I can no longer cry and I have hiccups. The pain I am feeling right now is ten times worse than the one I felt when I lost my father six years ago. Maybe then it didn't make much sense hence I didn't hurt as much but now it hurts, all the emotions I never got to experience when I was younger come crashing down on me heavily burying me deeply into a puit. Words cannot describe what I feel and there's only one thing I believe can make me feel any better.

After washing my face and composing myself

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I return to class and my teacher looks at me with so much pity

"Asante your uncle is waiting to take you home"

She says

"You may be excused"

She adds, I pack up my books and everything else into my bag and make my way to the principal's office. I find him and my uncle standing outside talking. He offers to take my school bag and I let him. My principal offers his condolences and I thank him. My uncle completed his degree 3 years ago and has been

helping mom out around the house. He recently got a job 2 years ago working at a retail store because apparently he can't seem to get a job in his qualification. We catch a taxi home without any of us saying anything to the other. When we get home I walk straight to my room and he comes in after me

“Asa”

He says, I don't respond but instead climb on the bed and bury my head in the pillows

“Talk to me please”

He pleads

“It hurts Malume. It's painful. Please take the pain away”

I beg, looking up at him and laying on my side. He lays beside me and places his hand on my hip

“Are you sure this is what you want Asa?”

He asks I nod slowly, he leans in closer and touches my cheek

“Tell me what you want me to do”

He asks, over the years all we've ever done is oral sex. He's never penetrated me with his shaft but he has fingered me and I'm embarrassed to say I have enjoyed it. In school we recently started learning about sexual abuse and as much as this is sexual abuse, it doesn't feel like sexual abuse. He's kind and

loving towards me, he's not rough and he doesn't make me do things I don't want to do. He respects me when I tell him no, it should feel strange but nothing about our relationship seems strange at all. I never told mom anything and she never noticed anything in my change in behaviour.

Til date I haven't told anyone about what's happening between my uncle and I.

I lean in on his hand on my cheek

"I want you to touch me there"

I say, he comes and kneels between my legs and parts them slowly and kisses me in between my thighs then sniffs my underwear making me shiver.

"Always so ready and needy"

He whispers while taking my underwear off. He parts my folds and licks me all the way up to my clit and he rubs the nub lightly. I let out moans, it feels so good and every little pain I felt about losing my mother is replaced by nothing but pleasure. Licks me and sucks me and screws me with his tongue until I cum. He licks me clean and then he comes up to kiss me with my juices smelling in his mouth. He kisses me so passionately like I'm the only thing that matters while inserting the first finger

"You so wet Asa"

He compliments and I blush and move my waist so he keeps going

“You’re a little greedy aren’t you?”

He says and I moan shutting him up with a kiss. He inserts another finger and it stings at first but he doesn’t stop and the pleasure doubles up. God it feels so good. It feels amazing, I cum violently more than I have, he doesn’t stop there and continues while rubbing my clit with a thumb, I can't even concentrate on the kiss, I’m restless with my face buried in the crook of his neck, he has his other hand cupping the back of my neck.

“Cum again for me”

He demands and as if compelled I cum again this time it's more intense than my last orgasm. It feels so good. He pulls his fingers out

“Open up”

He says with his fingers inches away from my mouth, I open my mouth and close it around his fingers and lick away my juices slowly as he has taught me

2

The next day I wake up and prepare for school, uncle is nowhere around the house. I finish up and make my way to school. I meet up with my friend Lilitha.

“Hey chomee. Mama told me about your mom, I’m so sorry”

She says pulling me into a bear hug

“Thank you friend”

I say and we resume walking to school, when the weather is good enough we walk to school and today it's not raining nor is it super hot.

“Kwanele was asking about you”

She says, Kwanele is this other boy I went to primary with and conveniently ended up in the same school as me just a different grade 7 in school. I’m in 7B and he is 7A. Litha thinks he’s cute but as for me I don’t see none of that, I just find him really annoying and all up in my space

“What did he want?”

I ask rolling my eyes

“We both know he likes you Asa”

I sigh

“I don’t have time for boys Litha please”

I say dismissively

“I understand friend. You can always move in with mom and I”

She offers, I shake my head instantly

“No!”

She stops looking at me confused

“I meant no. I just lost my mother, I can't lose my family home too Litha”

I say walking away and she sighs and walks up to me

“Friend you won't lose your home”

She says

“Besides, I have my uncle to take care of me”

I say

“Asa he's a man. Remember what we learnt in L.O about strangers and taking advantage”

She says, I shake my head and chuckle

“Uncle Sbu is not a stranger and besides, I need to be with family now more than ever”

I say defensively

“Friend are you sure about this uncle?”

I nod

“Yes, what are you implying?”

I ask and she shakes her head no

“Nothing, I’m just trying to make sure you safe that’s all. Asa you my best friend and I would hate for anything to happen to you while I’m here”

She says assuring and I just nod without a response. If she was my best friend then she would have noticed something at least or maybe I’m just that good at hiding things, none of what's been happening these past years affected my attitude or whatsoever but it did affect my studies but everyone took it as though it was me losing my father

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I picked up though before the year ended with the help of uncle Sbu. I am beyond the word grateful for having him in my life, he’s been of great help especially towards my studies. We get into class and put our bags down and people start coming to wish me condolences and what not. All I can say is thank you even though I’m annoyed to the core by all this. Can this day end already. Our teacher comes in and asks us to pray for me and my family for what I’m going through. I just walk out of the classroom and go lock myself in the toilets. This is the last thing I need, school is supposed to be an escape from reality but

people are just making things worse for me. It's bad enough I'm an orphan and now everyone is just all up in my space. I just sit and cry, I cry for every little thing that has happened over the years including the death of my father and my uncle turning me into this person who uses sex as an escape for feeling emotional pain. I sit on the stall and lick my finger and move it to under my skirt, I just need to not feel just this once. I'm about to insert my finger inside my underwear when there's a knock, I don't respond

"Chomee it's me. Please open"

She says, I sigh annoyed. But I get up anyway and open the door. She pulls me into a bone crushing hug which I don't respond to

"Sorry chomee"

She says and I don't respond. I break out of her embrace and go to the sink and pull myself together and we head back to class.

"Sorry"

I say walking in and going to my seat

"It's ok Asante"

She says. I sit down with Litha and the class resumes. After a few hours the bell rings and it's break time. We walk out and sit

next to our class room, we talking about what happened in class when Kwanele sits beside me

“Sante”

He says

“Hi Kwanele”

I greet

“I heard about your m...”

I cut him off

“Not you too please. If I hear another ‘sorry for your loss’ I swear I’m going to lose it”

I say annoyed, he brushes my knee

“So Kwanza, what's new?”

Litha asks and they engage in a conversation just the 2 of them. My mind is just not here. I can't wait to get home and away from all this. Or atleast that’s what I thought when I left school only to find Litha’s mom at my home. I roll my eyes annoyed walking into the Kitchen. She pulls me into a comforting hug apologising for my mother’s death. I don’t even respond and walk to my room and lock myself in. The sympathy is revolting, the pity is the last thing I need right now. I close the curtains and take off my uniform and stand in front of the mirror and

just look at my naked body with my A cup size boobs pointy and perky. I massage them as uncle normally does, my hands roam around my body and the other makes it's way down to my nookie and rub my clit slowly, I lick my finger making it wet and then return it back to my jar touching myself to escape the pain, the reality. Cumming helps, it makes me feel better for a while and then the misery comes back when everyone reminds me that she's dead or when I see something of hers that reminds me of her. This is my life now. I'm an orphan addicted to sex. Thank uncle Sbu!

3

With the funeral preps Lilitha's mother spoke to my uncle and decided that I go and live with them. I suspect Lilitha was the one that suggested that to her mother. I share the room and the bed with her, there's no privacy in this house. We are woken up to go and have breakfast, Lilitha's mom has prepared porridge. We eat and then both take baths after the other and wear our uniforms over light boring unnecessary conversations.

Do you ever feel like you are too matured for people your own age? That's exactly how I feel when I'm with Lilitha, it feels like she's too childish for me.

When we are done with everything we take our school bags and walk to school. It's been 2 days since I last saw my uncle and had our little fun together all because I've been at my friends home. I miss him, I miss our conversations, I miss his touch on my body and his tongue on my cookie. I've never went this long without his touch. On our way we meet up with Kwanele

"Hey you"

Litha greets him and I just wave at him

"Hey guys"

He says, if I didn't know better I'd say something is wrong with him

“How are you? You look like you haven’t slept”

I say and he shrugs

“didn’t get much sleep last night”

He says, I just nod

“Why?”

Litha asks

“I was studying”

He lies and Lilitha seems to buy what b.s he’s selling

“Why? We not writing anything”

She says and Kwanele chuckles

“I just enjoy studying I guess”

He says. I just watch them chatting discussing a bunch of stuff that doesn’t matter to me.

“What do you think Asa?”

I’m startled by Kwanele nudging me. When did her come in between us?

“huh?”

I say

“What do you think Miss Khuzwayo teaching Maths?”

I look at them confused

“We heard rumours that our Maths teacher is leaving and will be replaced by Miss Khuzwayo”

Kwanele says, that woman is probably the most dangerous and scariest teacher in school. She teaches the high school learners of our school and nobody has anything nice to say about her because she is that cruel and evil. We get to school and Kwanele goes to his class and we go to ours.

“Did you notice something weird with Kwanele today?”

I ask Litha and she shakes her head no

“No, why?”

She asks

“Nah mahn something is wrong with Kwanele did you see the way he walks? He was limping”

I point out and she looks at me blankly

“Nah you seeing things, even if he is he probably hurt himself while playing street soccer”

She says and I just nod. Maybe that really is the case

“Does this mean you care about him?”

She asks with a full teeth smile, I frown

“What? No. Kwanele is our school mate and your friend and that’s as far as my relationship goes with him”

I say and take out my book for the first period

“It's ok to like him. He’s a nice guy and he really likes you”

I laugh

“I’m not entertaining this”

I say dismissively and she takes the hint and shuts up. During break time we go and sit at our usual spot and Kwanele comes and joins us, I roll my eyes annoyed

“You limping for real”

Litha points out

“No I’m not limping”

He says

“you are, what happened to your leg?”

She asks

“street soccer yesterday”

He says dismissively and takes a deep breath before sitting down on the bench opposite us trying very hard to look like he’s not in pain. Litha excuses herself to go to the ladies

“Everything ok at home Kwanele?”

I ask him

“yeah, why would you ask me that?”

I shrug

“No reason. How is your cousin?”

I ask him and I watch him clench his jaw

“he’s fine”

He grits

“is he the reason you limping? Is he hitting you?”

I ask

“What? No. It's nothing like that”

I nod slowly

“You know if he is being abusive you should report to the school”

I suggest and he chuckles

“Why? Is that why you live with Litha’s family? Because your uncle is abusive?”

He asks touching a sensitive nerve

“NO! My uncle is not abusive, he’s a very sweet person and Litha’s parents are just being nice until the funeral”

I say defensively

“No need to bite my head off. I’ll see you around Asante, take care of yourself”

He says and walks away from me. The way he looked at me was so strange and didn’t make any sense. I continue eating until Litha joins me

“Where’s Kwanele?”

She asks and I shrug my shoulders

“He left to sit with his other friends. Why do you always want this guy around? Do you have a crush on him?”

I snap at her annoyed

“What? No. haibo Asa where’s all this coming from? I don’t have a crush on Kwanele. I just think he’s a good guy and you and him would be good together”

She says

“I’m sorry for pushing, it won't happen again”

She says apologetic

“Please”

I say and she silently eats the rest of her food. The bells rings and we go to class. Soon school is over and we walking home but without Kwanele this time around. I wonder where he

disappeared off to. Argh whatever. We get to Litha's home and wash our uniforms and then make something to eat and I start on my homeworks while Litha goes out to play. Litha's mom is not around for a change and with Litha out to play I can finally get some time to myself. I walk to Litha's room and close the door and undress then start to touch myself slowly imagining my uncle doing all of this to me, thoughts about him alone are enough to make me wet.

4

“Asante what are you doing?”

I’m startled by Lilitha’s mother’s voice. I jump off the bed in shock

“I...”

“Asante wenzani?”

She asks me the same question but I still fail to answer her

“Go and wash and we will talk about this when you are done”

She says and I can't even forget the disgusted look on her face. How the hell do I handle this? How do I answer her questions? I wrap a towel around my body and take a quick bath and get dressed then walk out to the lounge and she is sitting there waiting for me

“Asante what were you doing when I walked in?”

She asks after pointing I sit down and have settled on the couch. I shrug my shoulders

“Who taught you what you were doing?”

She asks and I don’t respond still

“Fine then you don’t want to talk. I’ll call the police and maybe they can get the answers out of you”

She threatens

“Please don’t call the cops”

I beg with my hands clasped together

“Then tell me everything”

She says sternly but I play with my hands

“So you still don’t want to talk?”

She asks

“Please don’t get my uncle arrested. He’s the only family I have left”

I plead and she doesn’t hide her shock

“Asante w...”

I shake my head no

“No! he’s never hurt me in anyway, he helped me deal with the pain. Please don’t get him arrested”

I beg her and she shakes her head no

“Asante baby you’re only 12 years old. You shouldn’t be doing what I saw you doing. You shouldn’t know what you were doing Asante, he has ruined you. You’re a child Asante and I am sorry but I have to tell the police about this, you’re a minor”

She says with teary eyes, I can't help the tears rolling down my cheeks too

“Sisi please. Please don't get my uncle arrested, I'll do anything. I promise”

I plead her and beg kneeling at her feet, she shakes her head no

“A child as young as you Asante shouldn't be doing these things. You shouldn't know these things. You lost your mother, that is not how a person deals with the pain”

She says and gets up leaving me in the lounge as I cry out. I've already lost my parents and now she wants them to take away my uncle? I get up and wipe my tears with the back of my hand and walk out going to my parents house to look for him but he's not around. I sit in my room and cry having given up, having lost all hope. Someone walks in, I don't even look up

“Asante”

The voice is that of Litha's mother, I don't respond. She's the last person I want to talk to right now, in fact I am mad at her for wanting to get rid of my uncle.

“Hamba!” (Leave)

I say with my head buried in my knees

“Asante Mt...”

“HAMBAAAA!!!” (LEAVE)

I yell raising my head to look at her with my face full of tears

“LEAVE ME ALONE!”

I shout and push her off the bed next to me

“GO! Hambe uye kwiFamily yakho undiyeke mna!” (Go to your family and leave me alone)

I say angrily, she sighs sadly getting up off the bed

“I’ve called the cops and they will be here. Asante you need help and I will get you the help you need ok? For your parents sake. They would have never wanted you to go through this”

She says and I chuckle in disbelief

“She was here and she didn’t do anything. She was blind to everything”

She gasps and clasps her mouth shook. That did not mean to come out

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I clasp my mouth but I’m too late to take the words back. She sits on the edge of the bed

“Asante baby”

I don't respond and just sob silently. I've already lost everyone I love and care about, I can't lose him too. It hurts, this is the pain I don't think about when I am in my own pleasure world, I get to forget everything and focus on the pleasure on. It's a good substitute for the pain that I am feeling inside, the pain that has no physical plaster. Over the years this is the only I have been able to handle the pain. It's the only way I get to not feel it but embrace something else instead and I am not ashamed to say that it works, it helps me cope with everything that has happened.

“Asante your mother wasn't blind, she loved and she cared for you. If she had known it was happening she would have never allowed it to happen in the first place. She would have gotten him arrested and gotten you the help you need. This is not the way things are done, you don't run away from grief, you grieve until you heal. The pain never goes away and this thing you were doing, it doesn't take the pain away. It only supresses it for a later time in your life. If you don't allow yourself to feel the pain then baby it will ruin you in future”

She says but you know how the mind works? When a person you love and trust tells you something, anything anyone else tells you after that is complete b.s. You never hear any of it because it just sounds like they are lying to you. A child's mind

is easy to pursued but at the same time not very easy to convince.

Lets take this scenario for example, you take your child to school and the teacher tells them that $1+1=2$, if you tell your child that $1+0+1=2$ they will argue with you as a parent because teacher has not taught them that yet and that what you are saying is utter b.s.

My uncle, my father's brother convinced me at 6 that what he was doing was right and to not listen to whatever anyone else said. He convinced me that it was the only way to deal with the pain and I didn't have anyone else to contradict his teachings and so to me it felt right. It feels right.

5

With my mother gone, I have no one. The police came and they arrested my uncle, being a minor there was nothing I could say to get them to release him. I begged them but none of them were willing to listen to me instead they took Litha's mother's word for it.

Today we lay my mother to rest, Litha's mother has been watching me like a hawk! I don't get time to myself alone, I'm forced to be around people at all times and in school when I go to the ladies Litha has to accompany so that I don't pleasure myself in the ladies toilet. It's been difficult for me these past few days. All I've been feeling is the pain of losing both my parents, there's nothing to help me calm down. There's no substitute for the pain, I'm left to just feel everything all at once.

Her funeral was packed, not what I expected but people came through for her funeral and it went well, I lost it when the box went down because it really meant she was never coming back again just like my father. They both left me, what kind of parents leave their own child in this cruel world? Losing my parents was painful and so was losing my uncle but what followed after losing all those people I will live to carry it with me forever.

It's a Monday and I didn't go to school, I've been sick ever since my mother's funeral. I've lost so much weight and it's just been terrible. I can barely stomach anything solid so all I've been doing is drinking water and juice only. Litha's mother was sceptical about leaving me alone but her husband assure her that he would be working from home today. He did work from home some days and some days he didn't. I never really knew what the man did and I never asked.

I wake up and go puke, I don't know what's wrong with me yet. Litha's mother promised to take me to the doctor in the afternoon to find out what's really wrong with me. My emotions as of late have been haywire, I get angry for little things, I barely get any sleep at night just tossing and turning until morning, some days I'm hyperactive and most days I'm grumpy and bored. I get super lonely and yet I'm around people, I sometimes struggle to even focus in class and my mind just wanders off to having sexual fantasies. It's been a rough couple of days for me.

Someone knocks on the door as I am puking my lungs out, the person walks in

“Hey Sante”

He says startling me. I wipe my mouth with a tissue and throw it in the toilet then stand

“Hi”

I say

this man and I have no relationship. Even his own daughter doesn't know how to get through to him. He smiles and I frown confused

“Are you ok? Did you eat something you shouldn't have this weekend?”

He asks and I shake my head no

“I don't think so, I ate the same food everyone ate. He nods

“Are you ok? I mean with everything that has happened?”

He asks and I shrug without a vocal response

“I'm sorry about your parents and your uncle”

He says and I just nod. I walk to the sink and rinse my mouth, I'm startled by him standing behind me so close that when I stand straight I bump into him. He runs his hands down my upper arms slowly, it feels so good. It's been so long since I have been touched in any sexual way

“You're a pretty girl Asante”

He says looking at me in the mirror over the sink. I am a little tall for my age, my body looks amazing, I'm naturally skinny but I have curves in all the right places.

“Thank you”

I say, he takes a deep breath while still brushing my upper arms

“Tell me what you want Asante”

He says

“Whatever your uncle did I can also do to you. I know you need it, at the moment you are having sexual addiction withdrawal. The anger, the irritability, boredom, loneliness... It's all signs of withdrawal. You are so used to feeling that you can't live without it”

He says and turns me around to face him

“I can help you Asante, if you let me”

He suggests and dips down to kiss my parted lips. I am so horny right now and he's right. I do crave to be touched and to feel. He breaks the kiss and looks down at me, I nod and he smiles and takes my hand and leads me to Litha's room. He picks me up and places me on the bed and kisses me all over my body all the way to my cake, he muffs me and then he comes back up and rubs his tip on my clit making me feel a whole new level of satisfaction.

“Does that feel good huh?”

He asks and I nod

“Yes it does please don’t stop”

I beg him, he continues rubbing me until I can no longer take it and cum violently shaking that my limbs even feel weak.

“I want you to kneel in front of me ok”

He says and pulls me off the bed and sits on the edge while I stand in front of him, he pushes my shoulders down and I drop to my knees

“Don’t be scared, I won't bite”

He assures me and I nod. He takes my hand and places it on his dick with his over mine and then starts to stroke himself with my hand.

“You can put it in your mouth but just don’t bite it ok?”

He instructs me and I shake my head, I have never gone this far with my uncle and this person’s thing is too big to fit in my mouth

6

“It's ok”

He assures me but I shake my head no

“I can't”

I say and he sighs heavily

“Asante, I made you feel good didn't i?”

He asks and I nod

“Yes I did now it's your turn to make me feel good. That's how this thing works”

He says

“I'm scared”

I say honestly and he sighs

“Ok fine for today. But next time you going to suck me ok?”

He warns and I just nod. He continues stroking himself with my hand until he cums on my hand and then he gets up and pulls me up with him and takes us to the bathroom to get cleaned up. He tells me to wash and prepare to go to the doctor with his wife who will be home soon. I do as told and take a bath while he watches me, he offers to even help me just so he can rub my boobs and squeeze them in between, he goes as far as

inserting a finger in my vagina, it feels so uncomfortable that I ask him to stop.

“Asante this is the second time you denying me”

He says with his voice hoarse

“I’m sorry. It just feels really uncomfortable”

I say and he sighs

“Fine. Finish up”

He says getting up and walking out of the bathroom. I finish washing and then go back to the room and get dressed then wait for Litha’s mother. She takes me to the doctor while her husband stays home. When we get inside the doctor’s office I’m examined and doctor finds nothing wrong with me but says she’ll prescribe something to help with the nausea. I ask to speak to the doctor alone and Litha’s mother is sceptical but she leaves anyway.

“So what would you like to talk about?”

She asks and I play with my hands unsure about what I want to do because I’m afraid it might come back and bite me in the ass

“This past weekend we buried my mother. My uncle was also arrested for molesting me”

I say and she's shocked because Litha's mother didn't mention the things I just mentioned

"I am sorry to hear that"

She says, I take a deep breath and then let it out

"Today my friend's father played with me down there"

I say and she's unable to hide the shock. I don't know what I'm hoping to gain out of this honestly but I'm scared of Litha's father and what he might do to me

"What do you mean?"

She asks

"He inserted his fingers inside my vagina"

I explain, she takes off her glasses and places them on the table

"How long has this been going on?"

She asks

"He started today. I didn't go to school because I've been feeling sick, he implied that I was having sexual withdrawal symptoms and that he wanted to help me and it helped. Having him play with me helped until he wanted me to put his thing in my mouth"

I explain and the look on her face is distraught

“Asante you are only 12

a child your age shouldn't even be speaking like this”

she says and I shrug

“I was never scared when my uncle touched me but he scares me. My uncle never pushed me to do anything I didn't want and he never got angry when I wasn't comfortable with it but him, he got angry when I didn't want to suck his thing”

“Did you tell Litha or her mother?”

She asks and I shake my head no

“I'm scared she will think I want to send her husband to prison. Doc I don't have anyone but them and I don't want to lose them, they the only family I have and Litha would never forgive me if I got her father arrested”

I say and she sighs

“Asante by law I am supposed to report such incidents. Did you ever get counselling for what your uncle did to you?”

She asks and I shake my head no

“Asante what your uncle did was wrong and you were supposed to undergo counselling for what he did to you. I am going to talk to the police and social workers and get you the help you need ok?”

She assures and I just nod, she places her hand over mine

“It's going to be ok. I promise”

She says and I just nod

“Litha’s mother is going to hate me. Where will I live?”

I ask suddenly remembering the consequences of my actions

“Don’t worry, the police and social workers will take care of everything. Can I call her in and tell her what's going on?”

She asks and I shake my head no out of fear

“She has to know what her husband did Asante”

I still shake my head no

“It's ok, she’s not going to do anything to you”

she assures me, I don’t respond and she takes it upon herself to bring Litha’s mother back into the room. She starts to narrate what I told her and Litha’s mother laughs sarcastically

“She is lying! Is this why you didn’t want to go to school today? So that you could stay home and try and seduce my husband?”

She asks sounding really angry

“Mrs..”

She shakes her head no as the doctor tries to intervene

“This child is the devil! What child her age masturbates huh? Something is wrong with you. No wonder you lost both your parents! You are now lying on my husband?”

She yells at me

“And you! You are stupid to believe this lie, this child is lying about my husband! My husband would never touch a child her age!”

She says pointing her finger at the doctor and pushes her chair back

“Find your own way home. I don’t want you anywhere near my house or my daughter!”

she says and storms out leaving me in tears. The doctor walks over and sits next to me and pulls me to her chest and lets me cry it all out

7

I get to school and everyone is saying something about me behind my back. I go straight to class and sit down. Yesterday Litha's father got arrested and as for me I was taken to this other home for children without parents. I'm lucky my mother pays all my fees in advance because I can still go to my school. I have been told that as of today after school I will be seeing a therapist to help me deal with what I have been through, I can't say I am excited but as long as I'm getting the help I need I guess. The home was very welcoming to me so that's good. Litha walks in and her eyes land on me, I don't know what to make of her expression. I smile but she doesn't return the smile so I'm left there confused. She walks over to me

"hey"

I greet but she doesn't respond and instead takes out her things under our desk

"Litha"

She looks at me but doesn't say anything

"I didn't lie about your father"

She chuckles

"Is that what you tell yourself to sleep at night? Because your father died and your only living father figure is arrested you

decided to take away mine too? Why Asante? What did I ever do to you for you to hate me?"

She yells and the whole class is now looking at us

"Stay away from Asante! We are no longer friends!"

She says and walks away with her things to find an empty seat leaving me heartbroken. This is why I didn't want the doctor to act upon what I told her. Now I just lost my only friend. I bury my face in my folded arms on the desk and just cry. Everything is a mess! I feel someone rub my back

"She's just angry and sad that's all"

I don't even look up, it's a girl's voice that much I know but the question is who?

"I'm sorry you going through whatever you going through Asante. You don't deserve all of this"

She says brushing my back but I still don't respond and just sob instead. She doesn't say anything further and I grateful. When I am finally calm I raise my head and wipe my eyes

"Here"

She says handing me a tissue

“Thank you”

I say in between hiccups. I wipe my face but I still need to wash my face

“Don’t mention it. I’m Esona”

She says with a very sweet smile

“Asante”

She smiles

“Nice to meet you”

She says and I nod and get up

“I’ll accompany you”

She says getting up with me and we walk out with people whispering and saying somethings and some aren’t as subtle and plainly tell her to stay away from me and that I’m cursed

“Don’t mind them”

She says taking my hand into hers

“They will talk and talk about you only because nobody is willing to listen when they talk about themselves”

She says and that makes me smile

“Why are you nice to me?”

I ask and she shrugs

“because I was raised up to be nice to people”

She says and I smile

“Thank you Esona”

I say and she nods. I wash my face while she goes and pee, I dry my face while waiting for her, she comes out and washes her hands and then we walk out

“Your friend shouldn’t have said all those things. You know, I used to watch you guys and wish for a friendship like that but I haven’t been so lucky. People only become my friend because of my surname and my family’s status in this town”

She says and I look at her

“I’m sorry to hear that”

I say and she smiles

“Don’t mention it. I hope you and I can be good friends?”

She asks with a hopeful smile

“You not scared of me being a curse and everything that Litha called me?”

I ask and she shakes her head no

“Girl, whatever you curse me with will come back to you 10x worse”

She jokes and I laugh

“Oh you a witch? No wonder you not afraid of me”

I joke and she laughs

“As long as you keep it between us”

She whispers making me laugh as we walk inside the class.

Everyone looks at us or rather at me

“If any of you have something you want to say to Asante just know that you are saying it to me and know that my father will deal with you personally”

She says as I walk to my place looking down in shame

“Asante didn’t do anything to ya’ll. She doesn’t deserve the way you are all treating her. If I hear one more rumour or whispers about her

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I will report you!”

She says and people around class murmur amongst themselves

“If you have something to say then come and say to my face you bunch of cowards!”

She says but nobody steps up to her, she walks to sit next to me

“You didn’t have to”

I say and she shrugs

“Nobody messes with my friend and gets away with it”

She says proudly, I smile

“Thank you Esona, what you did means a lot to me”

I say honestly and she places her hand over mine

“Don’t mention it.”

She says and just then our teacher walks in and greets all of us. After 3 periods the bell rings and it's break time, we walk and sit at my spot with Litha. We eat over light conversation, she’s the one doing most of the talking while I listen. She’s telling me about her family and siblings. Someone joins us “Sis”, She says

“Hey Linathi, this is my friend Asante. Asa this is my sister”

She says and her sister shakes my hand

“Can I join you guys?”

I nod and so does Esona

“We twins but we not identical and she’s in grade 7B. Why are you sitting with us today?”

Esona asks her

“Heard what you did in class today, that was bold of you”

She says and Esona shrugs.

8

Having a friend like Esona has been good for me, she's been a light in my very dark life. She and her sister, also Kwanele has been a very good friend to me and very supportive. I couldn't be more grateful to have them in my life. It's been a few months at the hostel and so far things have been good. Therapy has been working and I haven't been masturbating as much as I used to. Matter of fact I don't masturbate anymore and I write instead whenever I feel the urge, my doctor gave me a book to write down whenever I felt tempted and so far it's been going all so well.

Esona and Linathi come and visit me at the hostel on weekends and bring me nice things and sometimes I spend the night at their home. They have a big house in Myezo, I have met the rest of their family and they have a beautiful family. Her mother is a really beautiful loving woman and I am lucky to know their family. It's a Saturday and I'm going for my session, I finish getting dressed and our matron drops me off at my sessions. I knock and walk in, the doctor that used to counsel me is not here but instead it's some guy wearing a lab coat and glasses reading a file. I clear my throat and he looks up at me

"I think I'm in the wrong office"

I say still standing at the door, he looks at the file and then back up at me

“Asante Makula right?”

He asks and I nod

“Come in and sit please”

He says and I’m a little sceptical at first but he’s a doctor and what harm could he possibly do to me? I walk in and sit opposite him

“How are you?”

He asks

“Good thanks and how are you?”

I ask

“I am good. I’m sure you must be wondering about your doctor, she recently got a better position elsewhere so from hereon I will be your doctor”

He says with a smile but I don’t return it

“She left me too”

I say looking down. I liked her, we would talk and go through my stories in my book and do other things to get my mind off all of this and make it not feel like a therapy session. She was an amazing therapist for me. When I didn’t want to talk then we would sit and each draw something on paper and then show the other person and have to interpret our drawings and what

we were each thinking when we drew them. Therapy didn't feel like therapy but like a preschool drawing time. I sigh out loudly
"hey, she didn't leave you. I'm here"

He says in a comforting tone, I shake my head no

"She left me just like my parents and just like uncle did"

I say and break down, I feel him touch my shoulders and I cringe at his touch terrified if not shocked. I don't know what I'm feeling right now but I know that it hurts more than anything. Every time I seem to get close to someone they end up leaving me. What's wrong with me? Was Litha's mother right about me? Am that dirty that God just takes everyone I get close with? Why would he take her away from me? He massages me slowly

"Asante breathe"

He says but I can't

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my breath is caught up in my throat. I can't seem to breath, it's too painful

"Asante listen to my voice and breathe slowly"

He says still massaging me, I don't respond

"Breath Asante. Slow deep breaths"

He says and I try and suck in a breath slowly and let it out

“Breathe child”

He says, I slowly start to breathe in and out listening to his calming voice

“You’re a beautiful little girl and you will overcome all of this. I am here for you and I will help you Asante”

He says, I’ve heard that one before and it's because of that last line I am even here today.

“My uncle said he would help him too and look where that got him, in prison and me addicted to sex at a very young age”

I say and start to sob loudly unable to hold back the tears any longer. I push back the chair and run out of his office to the nearest bathroom and just cry in one of the stalls. This is my first breakdown since I started therapy. I was doing so well. I hear a knock but I don’t respond, the person doesn’t stop until I’m annoyed and get up to open. She pulls me into her arms and just holds me tight allowing me to sob and make her dress wet. It's an old woman, she doesn’t say anything but just lets me cry telling me that it's all going to be ok

“Kuzolunga mntanam”

She says as I cry until I have hiccups. I don’t know how many times I have longed to be held like this, to feel a mother’s love

and right now this feels like home. So warm and motherly.
When I am calm we walk to the sink and I wash my face while
she watches me intently

“I am sorry about your dress”

I say and she giggles

“Don’t worry about my dress. How are you?”

She asks

“I’m ok, thank you”

I say and she smiles

“I don’t know what could make you cry like the way you just did
but God is here my child and he will never forsake you. He
won't start now, he’s brought you this far”

She says but I don’t respond, I am at a point where I don’t
believe in God. He’s taken so much away from me, he doesn’t
love me. He’s only ever forsaken me til date

“maybe you should pray, I’ll pray for you child that God helps
you with whatever it is that is bothering you”

You know how we all have a favourite subject in school? Would that subject still be your favourite subject if you didn't have the best teacher? Of course not. Most of the time we fall in love with a certain subject because of the teacher responsible for that subject and that's how life is, that's how therapy is. If you have an amazing therapist then you are bound to enjoy therapy and begin to heal but once they change your therapist you become sceptical to give the new therapist a shot because chances are he's better than the first one or nothing like the one you know and only makes you want to give up on this whole healing process. I've been attending to this new doctor for a week now and there's nothing to like about him, I've relapsed over the little period of seeing him. I'm back to masturbating at every opportunity I get, my mood swings are haywire.

I walk home alone from the shop from getting myself chips when someone taps my shoulder startling me

"hey"

The person says walking beside me, I look up and it's my uncle

"Malume"

I say excitedly throwing myself into his arms, he hugs me tightly

"How are you?"

He asks

“Good now that you are back”

I say and he breaks the hug

“I love the sound of that Asa”

He says

“I’m sorry you got arrested because of me”

I say and he chuckles dryly

“It wasn’t your fault”

He assures me brushing my cheek, I lean in on his touch

“Thank you for coming back for me”

I say, he sighs

“I’m not back, I came to say goodbye actually”

He says, I frown and move back from him

“What do you mean goodbye?”

I ask him

“Asante it's not safe for me to be here”

He says, the tears roll down my cheeks before I can even stop them

“Bhabhana please don’t cry you breaking my heart”

He says cupping my face and wiping my tears with his thumbs

“You living me just like my parents left me”

I cry out and he pulls me into his arms

“Of course not, I would never do that to you Asa. You my niece, I love you”

He says and I actually believe him, he is the only person that loves me

“Asante I don’t want to hurt you, I don’t want to ruin your life”

He says brushing my hair and kissing it in between

“I would never hurt you intentionally”

he assures me, I just cry

“But you hurting me now. You leaving me”

I cry out with sad sobs in between

“I don’t mean to hurt you but Asante I have to go. I can't stay here”

He says, I don't respond. He pulls me away from his chest and cups my face

“Let's make a deal. You finish school and then I promise you I will find you and we will be together”

He says looking into my teary eyes

“I promise you I will find you Asante it doesn’t matter where you go”

He assures me

“I miss you”

I say, he leans in to kiss me. It's slow and unrushed and making me feel all the right things in all the right places and then he breaks it

“I miss you too”

He says and his arms drop from my face

“don’t”

I plead taking his hands

“Don’t leave me

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please”

I beg him, he takes a deep breath and lets it out

“Asa you going to be fine. You’re in a better place. Go home ok and be a good girl, at least be a good girl for me”

He pleads, I look into his eyes. So compelling, I find myself nodding at his request

“ok”

I say, he leans in to kiss me again

“Take care of yourself my little Asante”

He says and then he runs off leaving me in the empty street, I touch my lips savouring his lips on mine. I had missed him so much and now he’s gone away from me. I return to the house with hopes to meet him again some time in the future. I can't even tell anyone about meeting him else they going to be dramatic about him and try and find him. I get home and greet the other kids that weren't around when I left and go straight to the room and start eating my chips while starting with my homework but my mind is elsewhere, it's only thinking about my uncle, the kiss we shared. How do I forget him? How do I concentrate on anything else but him? My phone rings and it's Esona, I answer it

“Hey girl”

she says

“Hey friend, what are you doing?”

She asks

“Trying to do the maths homework”

I say and she chuckles

“It's quite tricky, can we come and fetch you so that my father can help us with the homework?”

She suggests, I think for a while. With how talkative Esona and Linathi are chances are it will get my mind off my uncle.

“I would appreciate that chomee, I’ll go and ask Matron for so long”

I say

“Ofcause, see you in a few”

She says

“Bye friend”

I say and we say our goodbyes and end the call. I make my way out of the room to our matron’s room, I knock and she tells me I can come in

“Aunty hi”

I say

“Hi Asante”

She says with a welcoming smile, she’s not a bad person but she can be super strict

“Uhhhm...”

I start off, she smiles and gestures for me to sit down on the bed beside her

“Talk to me”

She says

“I was trying to do my maths homework when Esona called me offering that I go and sleep over at her home. Her father is going to help us with our homework”

I say

“is he going to be fetching you?”

She asks with a flirty smile, I think she has a crush on Esona’s father since she’s always so giggly and blushy when he’s talking to her

“I think so”

I say and she smiles

“Ok you can go but call me when he’s here so I can talk to him”

She says and I just nod holding back a laugh

10

6 YEARS LATER

“Asante Mntanam you are going to university but this is your home and it will always be your home my baby. You are always welcome here ok?”

Our matron says and I smile

“I know Mah. Thank you for taking care of me and shaping me into the person that I am”

I say and she smiles and pulls me into her arms. We break the hug

“Don’t forget to call ok? Everyday”

She says and I chuckle

“I will call you everyday Mah”

I say and she smiles and hugs me one last time before I get on the bus and find myself a seat by the window.

Nothing has changed over the years, if anything things only got worse. My therapist turned out to be a rapist. You see, when the one person that you are supposed to tell your problems to turns out to be the culprit you end up losing faith in people and that’s how it was for me and still is. I kept what happened in his office to myself because he convinced me that nothing would

happen to him and that nobody would believe me, he convinced me that things would only turn out the way they did with Litha and her family and when you're a kid it's easy to be convinced especially when it's happened before. The only thing keeping me sane was school and I am happy to say that I completed my matric with flying colours and got acceptance to study Psychology at WITS university.

The only good thing I had going on was my friendship with Kwanele, Esona and Linathi, things between me and my childhood bestfriend never changed. She had this hate towards me and eventually she changed schools leaving me in our old school.

As the bus takes off, I leave my old life behind to start over in Joburg, I can only hope and pray that things for me will turn out differently for me when I get there. Esona and her sister will be studying in Cape Town. Kwanele will be studying at WSU in Mthatha. The bus stop's in Durban and a young lady that looks my age sits beside me

"Hey"

She greets with a smile

"Hi"

I say coldly

"I'm Asavela"

She says with her hand held out

“Asante”

I say and her smile grows wider

“So you’re also an Asa. So what are you going to do in Joburg?
I’ll be studying at Wits and I have no idea where the heck I’m
going to live. I’m so stressed bruh”

She says, she’s so annoyingly talkative but then again her
situation is just like mine

“I’m in the same situation actually”

I say and she covers her mouth

“What are the chances? Where will you be studying?”

She asks

“Wits, you?”

I ask

“Same. Don’t you have like a bursary?”

She asks and I shake my head no

“I still haven’t gotten a response from NSFAS yet so I have no
idea how I’m going to survive”

I say

“Don’t worry we’ll figure things out”

She says and I just not

“We’re in this together ok?”

She says holding her pinky out

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I hook mine into hers

“I have a feeling we going to be good friends”

She says and I fake a smile. All the way to Joburg we were talking and getting to know each other and I came to learn that she and I weren't so different but I wasn't ready to open up about my life. I only told her the basics like how I lost my parents and landed up in an orphanage home which is the same story as hers but unlike me she has a little brother back in the home and is hoping to make it in Joburg and help her little brother out. By the time we reach Joburg we each have about a R1000 per person and it has to last us for the month or rather until we get a bursary.

“And we here”

She says happily as we both get off the bus, I chuckle

“We here”

I say, I stretch feeling a little tired. We take our bags

“Where do we go from here?”

I ask and she shrugs

“To the university I guess. I suggest we catch a taxi because an uber will be super expensive”

She says and I nod

“Who do we ask, I heard Joburg isn't safe hey”

I say and she nods

“It's wise we ask the bus drivers instead”

She suggests and I nod, we walk over to one of the drivers and ask them to point us to taxi's that will take us to the university. One of them walks us over to the taxi rank and then leaves us in front of a taxi that is set to take us straight to the university. We thanked him and got on with other students. I won't lie I was terrified being here, in a new city and all, I can't say I'm excited honestly but what choice does one really have? We get to the school and make our way inside the university gates asking our way around to the admin office where there a long line. There's different school parties with their tables outside the admin each offering help to students

“Which party are you joining?”

She asks and I shrug

“I have no idea, I’m not about that life. I’m here to study and get out after rather than wasting my time with politics”

She says

“Those same politics are the ones that will help you when you need help”

Someone behind her says and we both turn to see a beautiful darkskinned girl

“I’m Pamela”

She says

“Asante”

I say

“Asavela, call me Vela and call her Asa”

She says and we both smile shaking Pam’s hand

“So what will you be studying?”

Vela asks

“Psychology”

She says and I smile

“Me too, she’s going to be studying Law”

I say

“I need a friend in law”

She says dramatically and we all laugh

“So where do you stay?”

Vela asks

“Well I haven’t gotten a res yet but my cousin offered me a place to stay until I get my own. What about you guys?”

She asks and we both shrug

“We don’t know anybody here”

Vela says

“I’ll talk to my cousin and see if we can't find you guys a place to stay”

11

None of us are able to register because none of us have been approved yet by NSFAS, Joburg was supposed to be my big break but instead it seems to be worse than home was. We have asked for assistance from someone in the SASCO organization and he told us he would try and assist us amongst many other students. Honestly being here without having rested isn't helping the situation at all, I am tired and I would kill for a long bath but I still need a school, being approved doesn't help if you don't have money for registration.

“Look guys, I think we should go to my cousin's place. Sitting here won't help any of us”

Pam says after we've basked in the sun for over 5 hours

“I am hungry”

Vela says getting up, I hold my hand out to her and she helps me out

“Where are we going to get something solid to eat?”

I ask dusting myself up

“We'll find a place”

Pam says and we all walk out of the university to catch a taxi over light conversation. We catch a taxi to Braam and then taxi drops us off in front of the flat where Pam's cousin lives. It's not

far from the shops so we can go and get something to eat after washing. We get to the room and Pam knocks before opening the door.

“Pam is that you?”

Someone shouts

“Yes cuz it's me. I brought some friends”

She says and the person comes out wearing bum shorts and a lace cami

“Hi ladies, I’m Zizo”

She says

“Asavela and this is Asante”

Asa responds for us both, I wave

“Nice to meet you. I can't stay, I’m going out. There's no bread but the money is ontop of the counter so help yourselves”

She says and returns to wherever she was coming from

“She seems nice”

I say and Pam smiles

“Trust me she is. So come let me show you guys around”

She says and leads us inside further into the flat and i’m left wondering what her cousin does because her flat looks too

good to belong to a student or maybe students here in Joburg get such flats? She shows us the bathroom and the room we'll be sharing with her. Vela joins me in the bathroom and locks the door

"And then?"

I ask about to take off my clothes

"I'm here to wash too. Do you trust her?"

She asks and I shrug

"I don't know, do you?"

I ask and she shrugs

"Students don't live in such places"

She says and I frown

"how do students live then?"

I ask and she shrugs

"I don't know but they definitely do not have a 2 bedroom apartment that looks like a home!"

She says

"Maybe they come from money. Lets not be nosy and be grateful to have a roof to sleep under"

I say and she sighs

“Fine but if they not what we think they are then we leave”

She says and I chuckle getting inside the tub, she gets in with me

“You are weird”

I say and she shrugs

“We saving water”

She says and I laugh

“you’re an idiot”

I say and we wash and then get out and clean the tub over light conversation. Vela is actually a sweet person, she’s those characters you can't help but love. When we done we brush our teeth and then get out and head to the room where Pam is laying on the bed pressing her phone.

“Get dressed so we can go and get something to eat”

She says and I don’t respond while Vela chats her up about her cousin

“She has a rich boyfriend”

Is her response when Vela asks what the cousin does

“And he pays for all of this?”

Pam nods

“Yeah, he does everything for her. Even now she went out with him”

She says and Vela can't hide her shock

“Wow

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what pill did she give him?”

Pam laughs

“Who knows, apparently Joburg has a lot of such guys”

She says

“What do you have to do in return? I mean surely this life aint for free”

Vela says and Pam shrugs

“I don't know, be a good girlfriend. Argh get dressed and stop being nosy”

Pam says and Vela pulls out her suitcase and takes out something to wear. I'm wearing a vest and jeans with flip-flops. Vela wears a short dress that shows of her thighs while Pam remains in her jeans and t-shirt. When we all done we make our way down using the lift and then head out of the building

“So I Asa I have to ask, is that your real hair?”

She asks and I nod

“Yeah it's my real hair, why?”

I ask, so many times I've been asked about my hair in the past and I've never been able to answer people because I'm a Xhosa girl with Xhosa parents, as for why it's as long as it is I also don't know

“It looks like a weave girl. I can only dream of having hair like yours, so you like Pearl Thusi?”

She says and I laugh

“I guess”

A car stops in front of us as we are about to cross the road

“Ladies”

The person in the car says, it's a man wearing shades and his car looks really expensive

“OMG!!!”

Vela says excitedly

“You are Aaron Langa”

She points out and I won't lie I am blank when it comes to celebrities, he chuckles and gets out of his car

“yes I am”

He says taking off his shades and I won't lie he looks YUMMY with his brown eyes, chains around his neck, a long white t-shirt and jean shorts wearing adidas push ins

“And you ladies are?”

He asks

“I am Asavela, this is Pamela and this is my best friend Asante”

She says and his eyes linger on me for a while before returning his attention to Vela

“Nice to meet you, I don't usually do this but Asante can I have your number?”

12

“I don’t know you like that”

I say and he chuckles

“your friend will fill you in on who I am, I don’t really have all day”

He says with an attitude

“No, you rude”

I say and he rolls his eyes

“Here is my card, when you change your mind about me shoot me a text”

He says holding out his card which I look at but Vela takes it from him

“Thank you”

She says

“She will be in touch”

She says and he smiles

“I look forward to it. I’m shooting a music video, you should hit me up if you need some quick cash”

He says getting into his car, I don’t respond

“I need a leading lady Asavela”

He says and my friend screams all so excited

“I will definitely contact you”

She says and he nods putting his shades back on

“Bye ladies”

He says and they wave at him as he starts his car, I can't help but feel like he's looking at me behind those shades he's wearing. He drives off

“Who was that?”

I ask and Vela chuckles

“Who is that she asks?”

She mocks and I roll my eyes

“Guys we have to get going, this is Braam and it's not the safest place”

Pam reminds us

“That was Aaron Langa, the grandson of Sandiso Langa. Gosh you don't know him aswell. Sandiso Langa is the greatest music producer to ever live, born and breed in Mthatha then moved to Joburg and studied Sound Engineering or something along those lines but anyway he became the best music producer to

ever live. He's best known for the song he did with Amahle Ngesi Bess a..."

Pam cuts her off

"Yeah smarty, get to Aaron already"

She says and I chuckle because she's right. The other information is irrelevant

"Ok fine. Aaron is a singer, song writer and rapper, he's 21 years old and he just completed his degree in music and is due to graduate at WITS top of his class. He made his first song when he was 16 if I'm not mistaken. Don't you guys know the song Lights?"

She asks and I look at her blankly, Pam has taken the bread and is paying for it

"All I see is lights flashing

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lights blinding but in the midst of it all you the only light I see"

She says trying to sing and I laugh because she's terrible

"sounds familiar"

I say honestly

"my friend loved it"

I say and she nods

“So you see he’s the ish?”

She says and I shrug

“he has an attitude problem”

I say

“He’s Aaron Langa. He’s allowed to have an attitude problem babe. If I were him I’d have an attitude problem too. He has written music for some of the most famous people and even has a song with Percy Leon”

She says

“I love Percy Leon”

Pam says

“Percy Leon?”

I ask

“Under what rock do you live under?”

Vela asks and I shrug

“I’m not big on music guys”

I say and they laugh

“Yeah obviously”

Pam says and I roll my eyes, we on our way back to the flat chatting about this Aaron and how Vela is going to take him up on his offer but as for me the last thing I want is to be a video vixen for some jerk. We get to the flat and make something to eat while each getting to know each other

“So where’s your boyfriend?”

Pam asks Vela

“I don’t have one, I never had the time”

She says

“but you had the time to crush on Aaron”

I say rolling my eyes and they both laugh

“You saw how hot he is! But nah, I’m not a relationships kind of girl but maybe this year I’ll meet my varsity sweetheart”

She says and I roll my eyes because it's merely just a fantasy. After life took it's toll on I don’t believe love exists, nobody could love someone like me. Someone so dirty.

“What about you?”

Vela asks nudging me

“Me?”

I ask

“Yeah”

I shake my head

“Love doesn’t exist in my world”

I say and take a sip of my drink

“Well that’s cold, why?”

Vela asks and I shrug

“I don’t know, I’ve never been interested in men”

I say

“Then maybe you lesbian”

She says and I laugh

“Maybe”

I say and stuff my mouth with bread to avoid this topic even further. How do I tell them that the only man I ever fell in love with was my uncle without sounding mentally disturbed?

“What about you Pam?”

I ask

“We broke up because I was coming to Joburg”

She says

“Sorry babe”

We say and she shrugs

“It's whatever, Zizo said it's a good thing because then I'll meet someone who will take care of my every need and want”

She says and I can't help the confusion that washes over my face

“I don't know about you guys but I am not planning on staying broke forever. If NSFAS doesn't respond then I'm getting a man to take care of my education”

She says

“And what do you give in return?”

I ask and she shrugs

“sex, what else?”

She says laughing, I side eye Asavela and she shrugs

“So you going to sell your body in order to get by?”

Vela asks and Pam shrugs

“It's just sex guys, it's really not a huge price to pay if you ask me. I mean the guy will do anything and everything for me and all I have to do in return is open my legs to him. How difficult could it be?”

She says and I just look at her

“Life hasn’t been kind for all of us, I come from poverty and I’m just trying to make it guys and I don’t need my own friends judging me for my choices. My siblings rely on me, I have to make it for their sake”

She says

“What happened to getting a job?”

Vela asks and Pam chuckles

“What's a job going to get me huh? I have no qualification or whatsoever. Guys this is life! My cousin is currently doing her masters and she still hasn’t managed to get a job with her degree. Lets be realistic, there are no jobs in South Africa without having to work for them”

13

“Lets call him”

Vela suggests after we’ve had supper, washed the dishes and are dressed up for bed

“No, you do that”

I say annoyed

“Give me your phone”

She says

“No!”

I say

“You the only one that has minutes here Asa, please”

She says making puppy eyes at me, I roll my eyes and hand her my phone. She dials his number and it rings for a while

“I hope he doesn’t answer”

I say sticking my tongue out

“he’s going to answer you wait and see”

She says and the phone just rings, we all waiting in anticipation of whether he’s going to answer or not. I have my fingers crossed that he doesn’t answer his phone and sadly the heavens aren’t with me because he answers

“Hello”

He says

“Hi, may I speak to Aaron Langa”

She says with her most humble voice

“This is he speaking, may I ask who this is?”

He says

“Asavela, we met today at Braam and you gave me your card”

She says and he goes silent for a while

“Asante’s friend?”

He asks and Vela looks at me all so happily

“Yes”

She says

“Oh I remember you, where’s your friend?”

He asks and I signal to say I’m not around

“She’s sleeping”

She says

“That’s sad, I really thought she’d come around”

He says

“Sadly, so about the video”

She starts off

“If your friend agrees to go on one date with me then you got the role”

He says and Vela looks at me with her big sparkly eyes

“I will get back to you on that tomorrow. This is her number by the way”

She says

“Nice. Enjoy the rest of your night Vela”

He says

“Thank you, you too”

she says and he cuts the call on her, Vela is annoyingly too excited. She hands me back my phone

“So friend you have to go on date with him”

She says sitting up resting her chin on her hands

“No that’s out of the question”

I say

“Friend please do this for your bestfriend”

She says making those cute eyes at me

“I’m not sold friend!”

I say

“Come on Sante, do this one little favour hle”

Pam pleads and I shake my head no

“The guy will be annoying the shiit out of me guys, no ways!”

I know better than to go out on a date with a man, my experience with man hasn’t been pleasant

“Guys I can't do this for you

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I don’t know this man and I am not willing to risk my life like that. I’m sorry”

I say and cover myself with the blanket

“Look, I understand you new and the anxiety is overwhelming. Lets do this, we’ll tell him you bringing one of us along and if he doesn’t want to then we’ll drop it. I promise”

Vela says, I keep quiet

“Please friend”

She pleads, they both beg me.

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It's been a week in Joburg and today is the day I go out on a date with Aaron and I can't say I'm excited because I don't know the guy but he's been calling and sending me texts and gifts up until today. I'm not used to getting this much attention from a guy so it's both scary and overwhelming. My walls are so high and he's slowly trying to break them but I'm not easily impressed by the gifts and everything, I told Esona about him and at first she didn't want to believe me until I sent her a picture but she still didn't believe me and said she will see when I go on a date with him. I don't even know why the heck I would lie about a man I not interested in.

"This is a nice dress"

Vela says holding it out

"Yeah it is"

I say

"And expensive too, a Sage Hirayama original"

She says reading the label, from what I have gathered this Sage Hirayama is a big deal. I did google her when I got the dress and I won't lie I wouldn't have believed it's an original if I hadn't seen a picture of them both online. Her clothes are super expensive so to be able to get one of her dresses is an honor

“Yeah and half of it is missing”

I point out and Vela laughs, the dress is too short for me

“this is what people wear friend and you will be rocking it. You have an amazing body”

She says

“I don’t know, this dress sends the wrong message”

I say

“Stop overthinking everything. I will be there with you”

She says, I sigh

“Fine”

I say and just then Zizo walks in, I won't lie I haven't seen her in a while. She's been MIA this week and I think she only came back now

“Babies”

She says and throws herself on the bed

“hey”

we respond

“How's school going?”

she asks and we shrug

“We still haven’t gotten anywhere, we heard there might be a strike”

Vela says

“It's possible. NSFAS is a long shot especially if you a Wits Student”

She says and I frown confused

“Even if you get NSFAS they won't pay out immediately. What's your plan B?”

She asks and we look at each other

“You guys are really pretty and smart too based on the courses you will be studying. I know how it is to struggle in a new city without any kind of family but I can't keep supporting all four of us. I’m giving you kids a month to find your feet”

she says, Vela and I look at each other

“We can pay you or help you with the groceries, please don’t kick us out”

Vela says and she smiles

“I’m not kicking you kids out but all I’m saying is that this is Joburg and it's wise that you find another source of income either than NSFAS. My bills are more than they should be, you going out with Aaron aren’t you?”

She says that's referring to me and I shrug

"He's monied! He can do anything for you as long as you keep him satisfied. A friend of mine used to be busy with him and he took good care of her. He can do the same for you, get you an apartment, a car and everything you need. See he's already sent you a designer dress? Just imagine everything else he could do for you. You wouldn't have to rely on NSFAS money or a place to stay"

14

I'd be lying if I said Zizo's talk didn't leave me thinking a little about my life here in Joburg, who else would know better than her right? After a couple of minutes my phone rings and Vela tells me it's Aaron

"Hey"

He says

"Hi"

I say coldly

"I am outside"

He says

"Coming"

I say and cut the call before he can say anything else. I turn to Vela and tell her we can leave, we take our things and head downstairs via the elevator and make our way to the main entrance and get outside looking for his car but nothing. He calls me

"Hi"

I say

"Black Porsche"

He says and I look around, I don't know cars

"Black Porsche"

I say to Vela and she points at a black car parked opposite the road. I drop the call and then look both ways before crossing the road with my friend. He gets out

"Hey Asante, you look amazing"

He says and I smile politely praying that this day ends sooner than later

"You too Asavela"

He says and Vela smiles

"Hi Aaron"

She says with the biggest smile. He opens the door for me in the front passenger seat and then he closes it while Vela opens the door for herself, he's walking to his side.

"Asavela I hope you don't mind, I invited a friend of mine to join us"

He says looking at her through the mirror

"I don't mind, thank you for inviting me"

She says

"Not like I had a choice. Pretty sure your friend did this for you"

He says coldly stealing glances at me while focused on the road.
She chuckles

“Had to beg her to do this for me”

She says and I roll my eyes, we at the robots when he leans in
closer to my ear and whispers

“The things I would do to you if we were alone and you did
that”

He says that squeezing my thigh before returning his hand to
the gear leaving me so confused. Was that supposed to scare
me? He raises the volume

“That’s you singing”

Vela points out

“Yeah, it's the song I’ll be shooting a video for, it's still in the
works. Sante what do you think?”

He asks stealing a glance at me

“Sounds nice I guess”

I say

“I love it, like your every other song”

Vela says like a love sick fan

“Thank you but none of you can talk about this song or mention it to anyone”

He says

“Don’t worry about me opening my mouth”

I say quickly

“Don’t worry my lips are also sealed”

Vela says too and he nods moving his head and singing along to his song. I won't lie it's nice

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it's different from the stuff Vela played for me the other day. It's was mostly hip-hop and I’m not into that kind of music or maybe I haven’t found a sound I like since I’m not big on this whole listening to music thing. He drives all the way to this beautiful location with beautiful houses

“Welcome to Sandton ladies”

He says and drives around and parks at the parking lot of a mall. Again he gets out to open my door and we walk around while he converses with Vela as if I don’t even exist. We get to the restaurant and he opens the chair for me before settling down. A lady waitress brings us menus and then walks away

“this is my favourite restaurant”

He says and I just nod

“Your friend doesn’t talk much does she?”

He asks the question to Vela and she shrugs

“I guess you need to work a little harder”

She says and he nods, his phone beeps and then he checks it before typing quickly to whomever then returns it to his pocket

“My friend Luminathi should be here in a minute but don’t call him that, he prefers Lumi or Nathi”

He warns and Vela giggles, my friend is just making it obvious that she has a crush on this guy. As if on Cue he gets up to greet a guy that’s approaching our table who is as handsome and beautiful as he is. They walk over to us and he introduces Lumi to us

“Nice to meet you ladies”

Lumi says shaking each of our hands

“May we?”

He says holding out his hand to Vela, she looks at me and then at Aaron

“Don’t worry, you guys will only be a table away from us”

He says quickly and I just nod seeing that I don’t have a choice. When they have gone to their own table we are left alone

“You really pretty Asante”

He says

“Now that you finally took me out, when do you start shooting with my friend as the leading lady?”

He chuckles

“You don’t waste time do you?”

He asks and I raise an eyebrow

“Fine, we’ll resume shooting tomorrow if that’s what you would like but only if you promise to be there”

He says putting yet another condition

“I am not doing that”

I say annoyed

“If something happened to your friend I don’t think you would easily forgive yourself for it. Imagine her alone in a studio full of men”

He says and he has a point

“What? No! That’s not safe”

I point out and he shrugs

“I guess you going to have to be there for her incase”

He says, I have been alone most of my life so the last thing I would want is my friend going through what I went through

“How do I know that she and I will be safe in your company?”

I ask with a straight face

“There's only one way to find out Snowflake”

He says

“Snowflake?”

I ask confused

“So have you decided on what you going to have?”

He asks and I shrug

“No, the menu looks complicated”

I say looking down embarrassed

“that’s ok, I’ll order you something I think you’ll like and if you don’t like it you can order something else”

He says and I nod

“Is this how you normally dress?”

He asks and I won't lie I’m taken back by his question

“Not really, why?”

He asks

“You seem a little uncomfortable. Don’t you like the dress?”

He asks and there's that little voice in my head telling me to say no but I decide to be honest

“It's pretty but it's not my style”

I say and he gets up

“Come lets go”

He says holding his hand out

“Go where?”

I ask

“We’ll be back real quick”

He says

“And my friend?”

I ask

“As I said, we will be back real quick”

I take his hand and push the chair back and then we head out of the restaurant. He takes out his phone and makes a phone call and another to his friend telling him we’d be back soon. We get to Hirayama and walk in.

“Pick something that’s more you”

15

I almost choke on my saliva

“Mr Langa how may we be of service today?”

A lady asks smiling flirtatiously with him

“She’s looking for something she’ll feel comfortable in”

He says, she takes a look at me from head to toe and then back up

“Cute, project of yours?”

She asks, I don’t like the tone she’s using

“I don’t want to come across as rude but call her a project one more time and you’ll never work in a boutique ever again”

He says sternly and blood drains from her cheeks and she suddenly looks pale

“What would you like?”

He asks the question squeezing my hand

“Huh?”

Not that I didn’t hear the question but I’m in disbelief

“jeans and a top or a dress?”

He asks again

“dress I guess”

I say because I’m worried a jean and a top will be more expensive. The lady leads the way and we follow, his hand in holding mine not that I didn’t try but he’s not letting go of my hand at all. There's people taking pictures of us

“People are taking pictures of you”

I whisper

“no, they taking pictures of you”

He says

“No, you the celebrity”

I say and he chuckles

“You cute Snowflake”

He says

“Here we have the latest collection of dresses, they were delivered on Monday”

The lady says bringing us back to the reason we even here. I run my hands on the dress rack and they feel expensive and look it

“They look expensive”

I say and he squeezes my hand

“fit for a queen don’t you think? Pick one you like”

He says

“are you serious?”

I ask and he nods, he lets go of my hand and then walks to sit down on the couch. I pick out a few dresses I like and then go and fit them on then walk out

“and?”

I ask but he’s focused on his phone sipping champagne, I clear my throat and he looks up

“So?”

I ask, he takes a long lingering look before clearing his throat

“You look perfect”

He says

“Everything you wear looks perfect on you”

He says and I smile

“try on another one, I want a show”

He says and I find myself smiling returning to the fitting room to try on the two more dresses, I finally settle for one of them

“Where are the rest?”

He asks

“I returned them”

I say

“Didn’t you like them?”

He asks

“I liked them”

I say

“then bring them”

He commands in a tone that says this is not up for discussion. I return to fetch the 2 dresses and he pays for all 3 dresses. I go and change into the one I liked most and then put the one I was wearing in the paperbags feeling more comfortable

“comfortable?”

He asks

“yes, thank you”

I say as we return to the restaurant and we manage to find our table empty. He opens the chair for me and then sits on his side

“Aaron I appreciate the dresses but please don’t ever buy me clothes again”

I say

“I’m all for respecting boundaries and wishes but I can't do that

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if I see something I think will look good on you then i'm going to get it for you and you'll just have to deal with it"

He says and I let out a sigh

"You look beautiful Snowflake"

He says

"Thank you"

I say and he smiles, our food is placed in front of us and it looks delicious. I slowly begin eating and the food tastes amazing

"Hows your food?"

He asks after a while

"It tastes nice"

I say

"that's good, glad you like it. So tell me about yourself Asante?"

He starts off

"There's nothing to tell"

I say stuffing my mouth

"I don't believe that. I am Aaron Langa, I'm 21 years old and I'll be graduating this year top of my class Sound Engineering. My

father is Sanele and my mother is Adriene Langa, my father is a business man and my mother is a doctor with her own surgery. I have 2 siblings younger than I am, Sienna being the last born and Songezo. I don't have many friends outside family, the last time I was in a relationship was when I was 18. We broke up for reasons I will not get into just yet. What about you?"

He asks, I take a deep breath and then let it out before answering

"I am Asante Makula, I am turning 18 years this year. My father died when I was 6 and my mother followed when I was 12"

I say

"I'm sorry to hear that"

He says

"I don't have any siblings either than the children I grew up with at the orphanage home. I also don't have many friends. I came to Joburg to study Psychology at Wits but that's doesn't look possible and yeah, that's me"

I say and quickly gulp my drink

"Why do you think it won't happen? Did you get accepted?"

He asks

"I did but now I'm waiting on NSFAS to respond"

I say and he nods

“and have you thought of getting a bursary?”

He asks

“I applied but there's still nothing. Can we talk about something else please?”

I say and he nods

“Whatever you want to talk about. Miss Makula please, if you need help don't hesitate to ask”

he says and I frown

“You've already done enough. I'll get a bursary”

I say trying to sound really confident

“Asante this is Joburg, this place is hell and I would hate for you to turn into something you are not. Whatever happens, no matter how hard life gets for you, please don't fall victim into the life of these girls have fallen for. I am here and I want to help you when you need help”

He says, I frown confused

“eat up Snowflake”

“Are you comfortable?”

He asks resting his hands on the chair I'm sitting on caging me, I nod. I'm here with Pam and Vela for the Video shoot. I'm happy to say he managed to convince me to see him again and to accompany Vela and Pam for the video shoot. He's not all bad either than his stinky attitude towards other people, he's a little disrespectful at times and how can I forget his sexual innuendos? Its my first time being on a video shoot, Aaron has introduced me to so much in less than a week. It's Friday and the weather is amazing, it's almost 4am in the morning and they want to get the best lighting to shoot the scenes they want to shoot today. We waiting for the director to arrive and then we can start shooting. He's asked me a couple times to play the lead but I refused because the lead means they'll be looking all sexual on camera and given my past I can't do that to myself. I can't say I'm not addicted anymore but at least I've cut down on the masturbating ever since I moved this side so i'm not looking for no temptations and Aaron is a temptation. Classes begin next week and I am sad to say that none of us have gotten a response yet from NSFAS and honestly I'm slowly giving up, maybe all this stress is not worth it.

“Yes I'm comfortable thank you”

I say and he looks at my lips before looking back up into my eyes

“You hard to figure out”

He says and I frown confused

“Meaning?”

I ask

“Usually pretty girls have a bitchy attitude and want to be taken care of and all that other stuff but you are simple and don’t want none of those things”

He says and I shrug

“Ok everybody I am here. I am so sorry I am late, is everyone here”

We are startled by someone shouting walking in on set

“That is the director. Andile Ntambo, he is the best director there is and has worked with some of the best in the game”

He says and then turns around to stand beside me

“So where is our leading lady?”

He asks and Vela raises her hand answering

“Here”

She says shyly

“Oh, come here. Aaron”

He calls out and he whispers to me that he will be back before walking over to the director. They talk and discuss how things will be and then he sits on the chair besides me written ‘DIRECTOR’ on the back. Everyone goes to their assigned spot and then he yells

“Action”

The song starts playing and people start doing as they should or have been briefed to

“You are?”

He asks me

“Asante”

I say

“Aaron’s girlfriend?”

He asks and I giggle

“no, my friend is playing the lead”

I say and he nods

“Aaron must really like you to let you sit in on a shoot

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he doesn't do this ever! Why didn't he ask you to play the lead?"

He asks and I shrug

"He did but I refused. I don't want to be some video vixen"

I say and he chuckles returning his attention to the screen before yelling

"CUT"

Everything stops immediately

"Miss Asavela are you ok? You seem a little stiff"

He says and Vela nods she's fine

"I'm fine, just a little nervous"

She says

"You cute and all but if you don't do this right I won't hesitate to replace you. I need more than a pretty face for this role, I need sexual appeal. Hav you never been with a guy before?"

He asks and she nods

"I have been with a guy before"

She says

“Then act like it. I need to see it in your body language. You need to look like you interested in him but don’t want to give away too much”

He says and she nods

“Good. Lets take it from the top”

He says and everyone returns to their spots, I see Aaron whisper something to her ear and she nods before they return to their spots. I won't lie they look amazing together, I am a little jealous of how good they look together right now. I don’t know how many times Andile had to yell CUT before they finally decided to take a break. The time now is around 6

“I can't believe we’ve been doing this for 2 hours and still haven’t gotten anything solid.”

He says in a frustrated tone. Aaron walks over to us

“And then?”

Aaron asks

“This is why I always prefer professionals. Where did you get this girl? She’s all over the place Aaron. If you want me to do my job then I suggest you get someone who knows what they are doing”

He says and I get up because I don’t think I’m comfortable sitting in on this conversation

“Where are you going?”

Aaron asks

“To check on my friend”

I say and then run off without waiting for his response. I run off to the direction I saw Vela headed to. I knock on the door and let myself in, I find her sitting with her face buried in her hands crying

“I suck at this thing. I shouldn’t have agreed to this”

She says sobbing

“I’m sorry my friend”

I say brushing her back

“He hates me and after this I can never get a job as a video leading lady. This was supposed to help me pay for my tuition Sante”

She cries out, I sigh and pull her into her my arms hugging her tightly

“Look, you weren't that bad and you were a little overwhelmed by the cameras and everything else. You can do this friend”

I say but she doesn’t respond and just sobs even more. We are disturbed by a knock

“Come in”

I shout out

“Is your friend ok?”

The person asks, when we turn it's Aaron

“Aaron?”

I'm startled to see him here, he never seems to show that he cares about anything. Vela breaks herself out of my arms and then turns to see Aaron

“What are you doing here?”

She asks

“I came to check on you”

17

We leave Vela cleaning herself up

“So what now?”

I ask Aaron and he shrugs his shoulders

“Honestly I don’t know. Come lets go for a walk around set”

He says taking my hand into his and then leads us to where they were shooting

“You beautiful Asante”

He says and I look down blushing

“Thank you”

I say and he leans in to kiss my cheek

“HEY!”

I say and he chuckles

“got you to look at me didn’t I?”

He says and I roll my eyes

“You sneaky”

I say and he gets on the bed

“I am, what are you going to do about it?”

He asks and I pull a pillow and try to hit him with it, we end up pillow fighting and laughing and making fun of each other. He starts jumping on the bed

“You going to get us in trouble”

I say and he laughs

“join me”

He says holding his hand out to me, I’m hesitant but I take his hand and allow him to pull me up then we both jump on the bed like little kids. For the first time in a long time I forget all my troubles, from the things I went through all the way to the school issue. Aaron kind of has that effect on me. He makes me forget my troubles and worries for a while. I throw myself on the bed and he throws himself next to me, I turn my head to face him and he removes the hair covering my face

“hey”

He says with his million dollar smile

“hi”

I say trying very hard not to blush

“You should smile and laugh more often”

He says and I smile unintentionally

“And she smiles”

He says and I blush even more

“You annoying”

I say and he chuckles

“I like you Asante”

He says

“Can we continue shooting”

Someone shouts startling us, my eyes shoot open

“I’m going to get into trouble because of you”

I say and he chuckles

“come, there's something I want to show you”

He says sitting up, I shoot him a look

“Come on”

He says sliding off the bed with his hand still held out to me, I place my hand into his and he pulls me off the bed. I stand up straight and dust feathers off me and he removes some off my hair and then we walk over to the director

“She’s perfect”

Andile says as we approach him

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I raise an eyebrow

“don’t be mad”

He says and I squint my eyes, we stand side by side Andile and he presses play on his screen and there we are playing on the bed and everything we were doing looking like idiots

“there's cameras around the studio and we were caught on camera”

He explains as we watch ourselves on the screen. I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t embarrassed but we also somewhat look good on camera

“what do you think?”

They ask in unison and I shrug

“This is the content we need. This is exactly what the song is about, love”

Andile says looking up at me and I shrug

“I don’t think I want to be in a music video”

I say and then walk away, I feel Aaron following behind me

“Snowflake please wait”

He says and I come to a stop

“What?”

I ask

“Look, we can't use the footage without your signature anyway but Asante I am begging you. We won't do anything you are not comfortable with, if we do then you have every right to call cut”

He pleads

“Talk to your friend about it and get back to me”

He says and I nod. I head out to find Vela and she is with Pamela

“Friend”

I say sitting beside Vela

“You and him look good together”

Pam says

“She's right you know. Aaron likes you Asante and you'd be an idiot if you didn't do this shoot”

Vela says

“Are you sure? I know how much you want this”

I ask and she shrugs

“I may want it but you look better doing it”

She says, I let out a sigh

“I don’t know guys”

I say

“What you and Aaron have is really the story being told by the song. You the girl he wants but is not interested in him or rather is pretending to not be which is perfect. Do the shoot with him, I don’t mind as long as one of us gets to be on tv and besides we’ll be extra’s in the background playing your friends”

Vela says with her widest smile

“fine”

I say and then they get up and pull me up to go for hair and make up and a change of outfit. When I step out I’m wearing the exact outfit I was wearing when Aaron and I first met

“This is how we looked when we first met”

I say to the girls

“Yeah so?”

Pam asks and I shrug

“I don’t know about this guys, the song is not about me. It was recorded before I even knew the guy”

I say defensively

“Say what you will but that song is about you!”

Pam says and pushes me off to set. We are told to replay the day we first met. After an amazing day of shooting Aaron drives us to grab something to eat and then we drive back to Braam. The girls get off and leave me in the car with him

“So what did you think of the song?”

He asks and I shrug

“Is it really about me?”

I ask and he shrugs

“Depends on what you want to hear snowflake”

He says pecking my nose with his finger

“I’m seriously asking Aaron”

I say and he shrugs

“the camera loves you Snowflake. You looked like a natural, the song will be aired next week Friday and the video will be aired on my graduation day”

18

I signed the contract and it clearly states that I will only get paid after the video has been released and people respond to it which sucks because I need the money for tuition now. Classes have began and our squad has grown a bit though I feel some type of way about Pam, she's a little corrupt by her cousin it's scary. As for Vela, she has also made her own friends in her own course. As for my fees that is still a problem, I have no idea how the heck I'm going to pay but thanks to the SRC we managed to register but who knows how long that is going to last?

Aaron and I have been going out for a month now, he's nothing like I thought he would be. He's a great boyfriend but then again he's the only boyfriend I have ever had. I'll admit he is an ass at times but there's so much to like about him. My friends from high school are doing great at school and are happy. As for me, I spend most of my time in the library and go home to sleep, I can't afford to fail. I need to get a bursary!

"we going out tonight, you joining us?"

One of my new friends asks as we get out of class, her name is Kuhle

"You know I'm not into that life"

I say

“Or you just going to spend the night at your boyfriend’s place”

Pam says and I roll my eyes, most of my weekends are spent with him at his apartment

“How did you manage to get with Aaron Langa anyway?”

Anathi asks and I shrug

“I don’t know, he just liked me I guess”

I say

“I understand this is your first relationship but don’t get too comfortable, this is Joburg and celebrities take advantage of newbies all the time”

Anathi says and I frown

“Don’t listen to her friend, you different than the rest the fact that he is with you. You’re an amazing person”

Kuhle says in my defence, I don’t understand why Anathi would say such a thing but then again she has been against my relationship with Aaron for quite some time now

“No offense my friend but you really not the type of girl he usually goes for”

She adds

“That’s enough Anathi!”

Pam says clearly annoyed, my phone rings and it's Aaron. I smile to myself

“Excuse me”

I say moving away from them answering his call

“Hey Snowflake”

He says and my smile grows wider

“Hey”

I say, I still haven't gotten to the nickname stage yet

I can't bring myself to call him something cute

“Still haven't gotten around to giving me a pet name yet?”

He asks and I giggle

“How are you Aaron?”

I ask and he chuckles

“I miss my girl, what are doing?”

He asks

“I just got out of my last class”

I say

“So I can come and fetch you? There's somewhere I want to take you”

He says and I smile

“Where?”

I ask and he chuckles

“Chill Snowflake”

He says in his annoying ever chilled voice, he has those sexy lazy voices

“so you not going to tell me at all?”

I ask and he chuckles

“Which entrance should I wait for you at?”

He asks

“Gate 1”

I say

“See you when I get there, don’t miss me too much”

He says and I smile alone

“Bye”

I say

“Bye Snowflake”

He says and we cut the call. After talking to him I return to the girls and by the grace of God they are talking about something else.

“Judging by that smile you were talking to Aaron?”

Pam says and I just nod

“That’s cute”

Kuhle says and I smile

“He said he’s taking me somewhere”

I say happily

“That’s amazing, aaaah friend where?”

Kuhle asks

“I have no idea, he didn’t say”

I respond

“That’s so cute, look at you all blushy”

Pam says and I can't help the smile on my face. I decide to talk about something else instead because I am a little uncomfortable with this whole conversation. This having a boyfriend thing is not me and I’m still trying to get used to it. Aaron and I have kissed before, lots of times but we haven’t had sex yet, he tries to initiate it but he stops himself before we

get far. My phone rings and it's him telling me he's waiting outside for me.

"I have to go you guys"

I say and then leave them heading to Aaron. I find him waiting outside his car surrounded by a group of girls, I've asked him time and time again to not get out of his car when he's fetching me. I clear my throat and he looks up at me while signing some girl's book

"I have to go, the Mrs doesn't like to be kept waiting"

He says with his brown eyes burning through me with that cocky smile of his, everyone else turns to see me stand awkwardly looking at him trying so hard to not blush. Some take pictures and some give me envious looks. He makes his way in between everyone and then walks up to me and slips his hand under my chin making me look up at him

"Hey cutie"

He says and I smile looking down

"Can we just go please"

I say and he chuckles planting a kiss on my lips, my boyfriend enjoys the attention while I on the other hand, not so much. I quickly push him way and he laughs

"Shall we?"

He says taking my hand and opening the door for me, I get in and he says his goodbyes to his fans and then gets into his side and starts the car

“That was so unnecessary”, I say and he laughs

“So she can talk after all”, He says and I roll my eyes

“I don’t know how many times I need to warn you about that”

He says squeezing my thigh

“Where are we going?”

I ask impatiently

“How was your day?”

He asks completely ignoring me

“It was long and boring. How was yours?”

I ask

“Busy-busy-busy. The video is ready”

He says and I smile

“That’s amazing babe, I can't wait to see it”

I say and he keeps quiet

“What?”, I ask

“You just called me babe”

19

“So what do you think?”

He asks walking out of the fitting room wearing a designed tux looking yummiier than ever! It's the tux he's planning to wear for this graduation

“you look handsome as always”

I say and he smiles

“So you think I always look handsome?”

I asks with a cocked eyebrow and I blush looking down

“It's so sad because my girlfriend never tells me that”

He says and I look up

“That's not fair. You look amazing”

I say walking up to him, he's pouting and that makes him look more handsome and cute. He pulls me by my waist

“And I have a little something for you”

He says and I frown, he smiles

“Don't give me that look”

He says

“What look?”

I ask

“That suspicious look of yours”

He says and I frown still

“Let me change real quick and then we’ll go somewhere else”

He says and kisses my forehead before letting go of me, I decide to just look around the store

“I’ve never seen him with a girl before”

The store owner says and I frown

“Meaning?”

I ask

“He must really like you for you to be everywhere”
he says and I’m confused

“Everywhere?”

I ask and he chuckles

“yeah, everywhere. Haven’t you checked the news?”

He asks and I shake my head no

“you should. You beautiful and you seem really humble, I don’t blame the guy”

He says and I smile

“Take care of him, he may be a jerk and disrespectful at times but he has a big heart”

he says and I smile

“I’ve noticed”

I say and just then Aaron comes out fully dressed in what he was wearing before

“I will be back for it before graduation, don’t forget the changes I asked you to make”

He says and the guy nods, we say our goodbyes and head out

“Where to now?”

I ask and he chuckles

“Somewhere”

He says and I frown, he kisses my hand

“hungry?”

He asks and as much as I always say I’m not he still feeds me

“does it matter what I say?”

I ask and he laughs

“not really”

He says opening the door for me. He goes to his side and drives to a place I have never went to before. He parks and we get off

“whose house is this?”

I ask as he leads the way

“a family friend”

He says opening the gate. It's not a big house, it's pretty and simple. Looks homely and cosy. He knocks on the door and someone opens the door

“Aaron”

A lady opens with the widest smile

“And who is this? She is so beautiful”

She says referring to me, she doesn't look old enough to be his mother though

“hi Precious”

He says hugging her and then breaking the hug

“This is Asante”

He says and Asante pulls me in for a hug

it's so warm. She breaks the hug

“nice to meet you”

I say and she asks us about how we are, just the basic greeting as she leads the way

“Precious here is a designer”

He says as we follow behind her, she's so talkative and seems friendly

"That's nice, what are we doing here?"

I ask again

"We are here to fit our outfits"

He says as we walk into her sewing room

"So this is what I came up with, I think we'll have to tweak it a little more. She is skinnier than you said she was"

She says revealing the most beautiful dress I have ever seen in my life with a matching suit

"What's going on?"

I ask

"Well, there's an award show coming up and I need a date"

He says and I frown still

"please be my date?"

He asks and I shake my head no

"What?"

He asks

"I can't"

I say and he sighs

“I’ll leave you two”

Precious says walking out

“Why?”

He asks

“For a million reasons but top of the list is that we would be moving too fast Aaron. I am not like you, I don’t like being in the spotlight. I don’t even understand why you would date someone like me”

I say and he frowns

“Because you’re an amazing girl Asante and I’d be an idiot to not fall for you. And I’m sorry for not respecting your wishes. I’ll tone it down”

He says with so much sincerity in his voice and on his face. He pulls me closer to him

“I like you Asante and I don’t want to lose you. I’m sorry for coming on too strong, I will try and change”

He says and I smile

“Thank you”

I say and he kisses my forehead

“So you not coming?”

He asks and I shake my head no

“Please, go with someone else instead”

I say and he sighs

“I wanted to share the moment with my girl but it's cool. You can wear the dress elsewhere”

He says and I smile

“I love it by the way, it's beautiful”

I say standing on my tip toes to kiss him, he smiles

“that’s a first and I must say I enjoyed it”

He says and I smile shyly

“Lets talk to precious and then we’ll head out”

He says and then we walk out to find precious. I fit the dress on and then she takes down my measurements and she was right the dress is a little big. We leave as happy people and we drive off to a remote area until a house comes into view. It's a huge yard with a huge house, it looks like a triple story from the outside. You could fit a whole location in their huge yard

“Where is this?”

I ask

“This is my parents house”

He says carelessly

“huh?”

He chuckles at my response

“Yeah, they invited us over for supper but I knew if I had told you then you would have rejected”

He says and turns to scan his face before the gates open and he drives in the long driveway to the front door.

“A warning at least?”

20

He knocks once and opens the door, they have a beautiful house. My palms are all sweaty and itchy as he leads me through the house trying to talk me into this whole dinner thing. We make our way through to the kitchen which is silver and white.

“Cici”

He says and the girl turns around and smile

“Aaron”

she says happily and runs to throw herself in his arms ignoring my existence. They greet each other and then break the hug

“This is my girlfriend Asante”

He says to her and she turns to me smiling

“You so beautiful”

She says and then pulls me into a bone crushing hug, I steal a look at Aaron who is smiling like he just got some. We break the hug

“thank you. You beautiful too, you must be Sienna”

I ask and she nods

“Nice to meet you”

She says and I smile

“like wise”

“Where are the parents and Songz?”

He asks

“Songz is upstairs and the parents are out in the garden”

She says and he nods

“shall we?”

He says holding out his hand, I place mine into his and he leads the way to the dinning room into a sliding door that leads to a beautiful green grassed garden with different kinds of flowers.

“This is beautiful”

I say as we step out into the lawn

“yeah it is, it's a sanctuary”

He says leading the way to where his parents are taking a walk holding hands and bumping into each other every now and then giggling like cute little teenagers.

“Parents”

He calls out and they come to a stop and turn around

“Aaron...”

She freezes

“And a girlfriend”

The father adds. His parents look so young. We walk over to them and stop in front of them

“This is my mother Adriene and my father Sanele Langa”

He says and his mother pulls me into her arms

“Oh honey she is so beautiful. It's so good to finally meet Aaron's girlfriend”

She says breaking the hug

“You have a beautiful home Mah”

I say and her smile grows wider

“Hello Mr Langa”

I say shaking his hand

“Nice to meet you too, Miss?”

He asks

“Makula”

I say and he nods. We talk a bit while headed inside and they seem like nice people. I find out that Adriene had Aaron when she was 16 years old and the father was 19

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Sienna is 16 years old and the brother is 18. We get inside and sit around the dinning table just conversing but I'm guessing

Aaron warned them about me not having parents because they didn't ask much about my background and family. Dinner with his family was so nice and we ended the nice with dessert and them inviting me to Aaron's graduation.

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3 MONTHS LATER

It's been 3 months in Joburg and today is my boyfriend's graduation day and the day the music video drops. NSFAS finally responded to Vela and I now live with her in res while hoping and praying that I'll be as lucky too. We moved out 2 months back and the location our res in is the same as the one Pam and her cousin live in so we still hang out together every now and then. It's a Friday and lucky us our classes end at 1pm. I call Aaron when I get home, my dress has just been delivered and Pam decided to stay back with our friends while Vela is still in class.

"Babe"

He answers

"Hey boobear"

I don't even know why I call him that but I find it cute. We still haven't had sex yet but our relationship is growing and my style is slowly changing because of him.

"I'll never get used to that. What are you doing?"

He asks

"The dress has just been delivered"

I say unable to contain my excitement

"You sound happy so I am assuming it's everything you hoped for"

He says and I smile

"It's beautiful babe. Thank you"

I say

"I'm happy that you are happy. I'll send you a driver to fetch you to take you to a make up artist"

He says

"you know that's not necessary"

I say and he chuckles

"can't you just say thank you and not make my life difficult just this once? Anyway I have to go, I'll text you everything"

He says

“Thank you BooBear and bye”

I say

“Bye Snowflake”

He says and cuts the call. I go and take a shower and then get out and pack what all I’m going to need and then wait for him to send me the details of my transport. The driver drives me off to Sandton to a salon. I walk in and stand awkwardly while the driver talks to the owner who then assigns someone to me.

“Hi, I will be doing your hair and make up today. Aaron sent over a few pictures of styles he would like on you”

She says handing me the phone

“Oh... uhm ok”

I say

“Pick what you like and I’ll do it.”

She says and I go through the phone and all I am seeing are styles that will require a weave and I don’t want to bother him. I have long curly hair and I want something done with my hair instead

“can we just highlight my hair instead and make it curlier? I don’t want anything complicated”

I say and she nods

“Whatever you would like miss”

She says

“We’ll wash and treat your hair first”

She says and I just nod. When we done washing my hair and treating it she applies blonde dye on it at the tips and then sits me under the dryer. Someone comes to do my nails and pedicure while we wait on the dye. When the dye is done we wash it off and then curl my hair. By the time we are done I look like a million dollars. My phone rings and it's Aaron, my make up is done and all that’s left is the styling of my hair

“BooBear”

I answer

“Snowflake are you done?”

He asks

“Almost done, you?”

I ask

“I’m getting my hair cut. My driver will drop you off at my place so you can change there”

he says

“And what about you?”

I ask

“I’m at the apartment”

He says and I chuckle

“rich people problems”

I say and he laughs

“get your pretty ass here”

He says and drops the call on me. The ladies finish with me and then we leave. When we get to the car I ask the driver about paying and he tells me that Aaron’s parents own the salon I was in. We drive to his apartment and he carries my things for me and takes me to Aaron’s door. I open and then we head in, he places my things on the couch and I look around for Aaron and find him in his room sitting in front of the mirror getting his beard trimmed.

“Boobear. Hey”

I say greeting his barber

“hey”

The barber says

“Snowflake”

He says looking at me through the mirror

“you look amazing”

He says and I blush

“Thank you”

We continue chatting until they done. He takes a shower and then comes back and we change into our outfits. I help him wear his graduation gown and then we take a couple of pictures before heading out

“So what time does the video drop?”

21

My phone rings and it's Esona, I happily answer it. It's been a while since we last spoke

“OMG”

She screams the minute I answer her call such that I remove the phone from my ear laughing

“Friend”

I call out trying to calm her down

“Lets videocall on Whatsapp”

She says and drops the call quickly, I laugh because she's so crazy

“and then?”

Aaron asks and I chuckle

“That was Esona”

I say and he chuckles, he actually likes Esona and Vela but doesn't like Pam and some of the friends I've made, he feels like they don't go with my personality and just the way I am I guess. My phone rings and it's a videocall, I answer

“Honey!!!”

she screams out and I laugh

“What has you so excited?”

I ask but she doesn't respond, I wave my hand

“You look like a princess. What's the occasion?”

She asks and I chuckle

“Hey Eso”

He says and she smiles

“Hey you, where are you guys off to? You look amazing!”

She says and we smile

“Thank you”

we say in unison and then look at each other and giggle like idiots

“We off to my graduation”

He responds and she screams even more, we laugh

“By the time we get there I won't even be able to hear my name”

He jokes and she rolls her eyes at us

“You called me all excited”

I say and she chuckles

“I just watched your man's video. You look like a natural”

She says and I giggle

“I’m glad you like it”

Aaron says and pulls my hand to plant a kiss on it

“I loved it and so does everyone else. It's trending on twitter hashtag New Girl”

She says, he renamed the song to new girl

“and people are asking who you are babe!”

She says looking all so excited

“We’ll check it out later”

He says

“Anyway, you kids enjoy the day”

She says and then blows a kiss

“Congratulations Aaron”

She says and drops the call without waiting for our response leaving us laughing

“Your bestfriend is something else. I can't wait to meet her”

He says and I smile

“Some day you will”

I say. The most unexpected thing happens, my new therapist Dr Qikane was invited as the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony, I tried so very hard to keep it together

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to pretend that he didn't exist, that I didn't see him at all and it worked because after the whole ceremony we left and went to his parents house. The day went well and tomorrow it will be his graduation party, dinner with his family made me forget running to him but I couldn't get him out of my mind. His family is amazing and I feel bad for hiding my life from him but Joburg was supposed to be my big break and so far it's been great.

After dinner we drive to his place, I get out of my dress with his help. He runs his hands on arms slowly and kisses my shoulder when the dress drops to my feet leaving me in nothing but lingerie

"You beautiful Asante"

He whispers making me shiver

"thank you"

I say, we standing in front of the mirror and I'm watching him caress my body with his gentle hands but something ruins the moment.

"you so sexy Asante"

I suddenly get flashbacks of my last doctor doing the same thing and him not being as gentle

“Don’t touch me”

I scream moving away from him leaving him startled. I cover my body with my hands

“Snowflake did I do something wrong?”

He asks looking really confused, I stand backed up against the mirror with him in front of me. He takes a step

“Please don’t come any closer”

I plead and he comes to halt instantly

“Asante what's going on?”

He asks with so much concern in his eyes, I slide down the mirror as memories come in floods. How he touched me and made me feel worthless, how he would force himself on me when he’d had a bad day. Everything comes in floods and I just cry burying my face in folded arms on my knees. He touches my shoulder and I flinch

“Asante please talk to me”

He pleads in such a low gentle voice but I don’t respond and just cry. I don’t know why this particular moment triggered me

because he's used to touching me and it hasn't done anything to me until now.

"I'm calling mom"

He says and gets up to take his phone and he calls his mother. I just sit there motionless as everything comes crushing down on me. Why did he have to show up now? I was making so much progress. My life here was going so well and he just had to show up and ruin everything. For the first time since I arrived here I feel dirty, unclean, I can even smell his cologne on me, I can feel his touch on me. How he would whisper in my ear things like "I'm going to give you the greatest fuck of your life" or when he said "You so fucking sexy right now" when I was trembling in fear and crying begging him to stop but he never did. All I can hear is his voice, I block my ears

"Stop. Please"

I cry out begging and pleading him to stop whispering in my ear but that's all I hear, his voice

"Asante"

Aaron calls out but his voice sounds so far yet he's right in front of me

"It's me. Nobody is going to hurt you"

He says trying to touch me but I scoot back trying to run away from him but there's nowhere else to move to

“I’ll never hurt you Snowflake. Please let me help you”

He begs but his voice is barely audible when all I can hear is Dr Qikane

“I will never hurt you”

.....The End.....

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