

*Author Of The Story  
Hub By Tshepi*

# DELICATE

*Even roses bleed.....*

*Tshepi M*

DELICATE

PROLOGUE

At School

Amelia sat at the far back as she tried to listen to what the teacher was saying but her tiredness didn't permit her. She blinked several times trying to concentrate on what Mr Amos was saying but she failed dismally.

"Amelia! Amelia!"

Her name was called out a couple of times till she raised her heavy head. She rubbed her eyes, the lines wrinkling her smooth caramel face. She released a yawn before she could finally register what was happening. Her eyes widened when she realised all

40 pairs of eyes were on her. She looked down embarrassed and placed her hands on her desk.

"Amelia please see me after class."

"Yes sir"

She responded and her fair complexion didn't show how she was red with embarrassment but deep down she was. She didn't even get enough sleep last night and this was the first time she had been caught out. Usually she sleeps when the lesson is almost over but her math lesson had just started. She released a sigh and she looked at the board. Everything was fuzzy all the same.

Shortly after the lesson when other kids went for lunch, she remained in class as her teacher picked his cane and looked at her.

"Come with this books to my office.."

"Ee rra."

Mr Amos walked out and Amelia stood up from the far side of class. One of her classmates walked inside the class and looked at her.

"Is he going to whip you?"

Amelia rolled her eyes. Maybe she was going to get a warning or something of that sort. She was a fair student. Ranging between Cs and Bs on a good day ot good month. She was not problematic so a warning was all she was going to get.

"Of course. Don't be silly.."

"You're always tired."

"Some of us have house chores and our guardians aren't stinking rich Thero."

"I wasn't saying it in a rude way. It was just an

observation Amelia, no need to be all defensive."

Amelia picked the books and looked at the other half that was on top of the desk. She will come back for it.

"Let me help you. Makes it easier."

"Okay."

She said as she waited by the door and Thero picked the remaining books. Their walk to the staffroom was quiet as Thero quietly observed Amelia. She never really participated in class except in group activities and she didn't talk to her classmates except that girl with the chinese like eyes. They got to the staffroom and placed the books on Mr Amos' desk. It was literally empty except for Mr Amos. Most of the teachers were in the dining hall supervising lunch and even eating there joyfully and that had always been the chance most students

threw digs at them.

"Amelia can I talk to you alone?"

Mr Amos gave Thero a sharp look and he looked at Amelia before he walked out. He stepped outside and waited by the door for Amelia.

"Sit down."

She ran her hands behind her skirt and she sat down to face her math teacher. Mr Amos looked at those little tiny lips. She had always been the most quiet student in his class and well the village was small. Everyone knew what her mother used to be while she was a student so it wouldn't be a surprise if Amelia was like her mother. She was a fair beauty, long black eyelashes that covered her unddr eyes everytime she closed her eyes and that small, pointy nose. He cleared his throat as Amelia placed her

hands on her legs.

"Why were you sleeping in class?"

"It will never happen again sir." Amelia said trying not to say her exact her reasons for not concentrating in class.

"You didn't answer my question."

"I didn't sleep last night.."

She said finally. Mr Amos raised an eyebrow. She didn't sleep? He licked his lips as his gaze ravaged her whole body and Amelia got chills. He wasn't supposed to look at her like that.

"Why?"

"Rra?"

"Why?"

She slowly stood up.

"I had to complete my school work."

"Wa kae Amelia?"

He stood up abruptly and held her wrist. Amelia looked at his body. If he tried anything, he might overpower her and the staffroom was still empty.

"Sir I want to go eat lunch.."

"I can buy you lunch."

Her heart pounded heavy in her chest. She tried to remove her hand but his grip got tighter and tighter that she winced. Mr Amos pushed Amelia to the table and she let out a little scream as he held both her hands.

"Sir, I'll n-never sleep in class again." She pleaded as tears gleamed in her eyes. This wasn't what her life was supposed to entail.



"Si-" Her voice cracked as he slipped one of his big hands underneath her skirt and the tears rolled down her cheeks. She let out another little scream as the buzz outside faded it out. He smiled feeling her smooth skin. She must know how this works, like mother like daughter.

Meanwhile outside, Thero frowned as he looked at his watch. Weren't they done? He walked inside the staffroom and upon hearing footsteps Mr Amos moved away from Amelia who was crying silently. Thero felt the heavy atmosphere and he looked at Amelia who was trying to wipe her tears and Mr Amos who fixed his pants.

Mr Amos cleared his throat. He will get her, even if it's not in the school premises. It was too risky here besides someone was bound to walk in.

"Please see me tomorrow after the lesson." Mr Amos said trying not to make anything too apparent and Amelia just walked away. She passed Thero and Thero looked at his teacher for a few seconds before he sat down on his chair and pretended to look at the books before him. Thero walked out and ran after Amelia who looked like she was picking up her pace.

"Amelia ema.."

She kept walking and he caught up to her. He held her arm and she tried to pull it away but he held tightly.

"Let me go." Her voice cracked as she looked at his hand on hers.

"What's going on Amelia? What happened in there? Did he whip you for sleeping in class is that it?"

He let go and looked at her wrist. It was swelling

slightly and he held her hand.

"Did he try anything?"

Amelia shook her head. No one was going to believe her.

"I'm okay Thero."

"Do you want something to eat?"

"I'm fine.."

Thero watched her half run to class. He knew something happened in there and Amelia just didn't want to talk. He searched his blazer for his money and when he found it he headed to the school tuckshop.

In class Amelia burst into tears. She didn't ask him

to touch her and what if he tells people she threw herself onto him? She was not problematic for crying out loud. She forced herself to stop crying and she stared at the broken ceiling. At least Thero walked in before he could do anything. She consoled herself with that.

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Next insert to follow at 2330hrs and enjoy this bumpy ride.

DELICATE

#01

At School

Thero walked inside the empty classroom to find Amelia with her head on her thighs. He sat on the chair next to hers and placed the canned drink and pie on the desk.

"Amelia are you okay?"

She nodded without lifting her head. She breathed in and out repeatedly but that scene played in her head causing more tears to roll down her eyes. She sniffed and Thero leaned back.

"Ame?"

Amelia lifted her head. She didn't want Thero to get any funny ideas too just by calling her Ame. Thero's features morphed into those of sadness as he saw the white streaks of tears. He placed his hands on his lap to stop himself from reaching out and touching her cheek to wipe her tears.

"I brought you food. You didn't eat lunch."

"I'm okay."

He brushed her off and handed her the food.

"Eat."

Amelia rubbed her eyes and she looked at Thero. What if he had ulterior motives? She hoped he didn't though. She took the pie and drink from him. She placed the drink on the desk and she opened the pie

packet then looked up at him with her owl like eyes.

"Why are you being so nice? What do you want?"

"Nothing Amelia. Eat."

She sighed and took a bite from the russian pie then looked at him with those owl eyes of hers again. Thero stood up.

"I have to go do something. I'll be back."

He walked away before she could respond and Amelia ate quietly in her corner. She didn't realise how hungry she was till she finished the pie and the drink was empty. She stood up and headed to the box which was used as the class bin before she sat down again . She will be fine. She will stay out of the teacher's way and besides only a week was left till second terms ends and then third term it will be more revision for the form 5s. She looked around the

empty classroom and sighed. No one had to know because nothing happened. She didn't do anything and in a few months she will be out of this school.

Two hours later after study time, Amelia picked her bag and she walked out of class. The noise was deafening and everyone had to leave class so that the group that was sweeping that day can do so. Undisturbed.

Thero watched her leave and he rubbed the back of his head. She kept avoiding his gaze in class during study time and all the other students were oblivious. No one really had a problem with Amelia really. He stopped playing with his friends and he gave a lame excuse about going home before he ran to class to grab his bag. He got the bag and ran behind Amelia till he caught up with her.

"Hey."



"Hi."

"Can we walk home together?"

"If you like silence then yes.."

He sighed and walked besides her. They both passed the staffroom jusy as Mr Amos was stepping out. Amelia's heart beat right out of her chest as she kept her eyes on the ground. Thero looked at Mr Amos who was looking at Amelia. He moved closer to Amelia and he thought he saw Mr Amos snare at him but he kept walking till they reached the gate.

Meanwhile Mr Amos wanted to punch a wall. That kid was going to be a problem. Just because his parents were part of the PTA committee didn't give that kids the right to have an attitude. He breathed in and out as he made his way to the staff parking lot to get in his old white Vitz model car.

Outside the school premises Thero bought chips and handed Amelia a packet.

"I'm okay. You were kind earlier."

"Ame why were you crying?"

"I wasn't crying."

She picked her pace and he ran to catch up with her.

"Yes you were.."

"I wasn't."

He gave up and they walked in silence yet again. He was sure maybe Mr Amso tried his luck and she was scared. What if he could be her friend and she will tell him once she was comfortable with him.

"Can we be friends?"

He stopped in his tracks waiting for her reply. It was getting real dark pretty fast. Downside of the winter season he guessed.

"Can people of the opposite sex be friends. Just friends?"

She asked. Without even stopping. He groaned and ran to catch up with her.

"Yes. We can be friends."

"Okay."

"Just okay?"

She nodded and he made her stop by placing his arms lazily around her shoulder.

"Thero just don't touch me."

"We are friends Ame. Friends hug.."

"I don't want a touchy friend especially of the opposite sex."

He removed his arm and she breathed in deeply.

"Thanks."

She continued with her walk home and he followed behind.

"So do you have siblings?"

"I am not ready to disclose that.."

Thero sighed. This was going to be a really hard friendship if she was closed off like that.

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The two went their separate ways twenty minutes

later and Amelia silently walked home alone. Now that she was alone her thoughts ran wild. Was Thero going to try what Mr Amos tried? Would her aunt believe her? Or she was going to call her a wh\*re like her mother? She didn't know so her secret book was going to know about today's events.

As she got closer to home she braced herself for the work that awaited her. She was relieved she didn't have homework today or she was going to be in trouble. She hoped the house wasn't messy as she opened the rusty gate and walked inside the yard. She could hear the kids' screams from the gate and she closed her eyes. She could feel another headache coming.

She opened the door and she started shouting.

"Hey. You guys stop fighting! Le tlhapile?"

The kids went silent and she looked at all four of them. Two of them being her younger siblings.

"Yang go tlhapa, le ska robala le le machila.  
Tsamayang.."

The kids walked away and she looked at the mess made. She walked to the bedroom she shared with her siblings and she sighed yet again. Just another day in Amelia Mogosi's life.

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DELICATE

#02

At Amelia's aunts'

Amelia got started with cleaning the sitting room while the kids were taking turns bathing. She had to finish cleaning then start making dinner which as always was pap and stew. This was her daily routine and she had accepted it. Nothing was going to change. Nothing at all.

The door opened and her aunt walked in holding plastics.

"Dumelang."

"Hello Amelia. Your mother sent money. Ka Saturday you will buy that exam stationery kana ne o reng

akere?"

She nodded with gratitude. Her aunt may be a lot of things but she did bring the money her mother sent to them and apart from calling her mother a wh\*re because of her youth she was okay.

"Are the kids bathing?"

"Ee mma."

She nodded and walked to her room. Amelia finished cleaning and headed to the kitchen where she took out the meat from the freezer. Three hours just to cook and by the time she was done, she would be exhausted.

"Amelia!"

Her aunt shouted from her bedroom.



"Ma?"

"Tshwara phone.."

Amelia headed to her aunt's bedroom to get the phone. She took the phone and walked out to speak to her mother.

"Hello mama"

She said.

"Helll Ame, how are you? Your aunt says you are writing exams next week? I sent her money for you and your siblings. Your sister apparently needs a new shirt and you have to get new socks as well.."

Amelia responded accordingly. Her aunt wasn't lying and as much as she did all house chores she wasn't starved or beaten.

"But you are okay?"

"Ee mma."

"Are you reading Ame? Kana next term you are writing your finals."

"I'm studying. Really hard.."

Her mother talked for a while as she asked about her siblings. She finally hung up and walked back into the bedroom to hand her aunt her phone.

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At Thero's parents Thero sat alone in his room. He couldn't stop thinking about Amelia. He was more than determined to be her friend.

He looked at the framed picture of him and his

brother and he sighed. Ever since his brother left home for University, he had turned into a cynical man. He showed up sometimes and he didn't answer his phone. What a brother he was. He was older than him by seven years or so but he was still his brother. Of course his brother was a big shot known by many but kept his distance from the family and he wondered why.

His bedroom door opened and his mother walked inside the bedroom.

"Papa did you eat? Go eat something."

Then there was his mother babying him at every turn. He was 18 for crying out loud.

"I'm okay mom. I'll eat after studying."

"Okay. If you need anything we will be in the lounge."

He nodded and as his mother was about to walk out he asked her a question.

"Why doesn't big brother come to visit anymore?"

His mother forced a smile.

"He is busy in the city. Have a good night Thero."

She walked out and he sighed. In the lounge his mother sat next to his father.

"He is asking about his brother."

"His brother is not here to answer those questions is he?"

She shook her head and faced the television screen. She still felt guilty after everything that had happened to make her first son detach from the

family he has known his whole life. She sighed and looked at her husband. He didn't even seem affected by his son staying away from the family.

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Later that night, Amelia wrote down in her secret book everything that happened that day. Just a few months she will be done then wait for University after the results are released. She paused and perused through her thoughts the past year. She was okay and whatever that happened at school never happened. She should forget it ever happened as a matter of fact.

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A FEW MONTHS LATER

# DELICATE

#03

At Amelia's aunts'

Amelia spilled the water from the bucket in the ground after she was done with the laundry. The kids were at school and were going to be here after lunch and everything was ready. She walked back to the house. The door knock was what stopped her from heading to the bathroom for her first bath that day.

She walked to the door and a pleasant smile graced her lips as Thero stood by the door.

"Hello, how are you? Maabane I wanted to come but I saw your aunt.."

Amelia laughed. She wasn't supposed to let him

inside the house. He was a really good friend to her and she was happy about that. Who knew she could be friends with one of the rich kids?

"She might get angry at me."

"I figured. I wanted us to go to the river.."

Amelia looked at him. The river? Why?

"So I can drown and be eaten by crocodiles?"

"Have you seen crocodiles wena?"

She shrugged and he looked at her then peeked inside the house.

"Then a walk then since you don't want us to go to the river." He said as a matter of fact.

Amelia sighed and looked at her clothes.

"Okay, let's go.."

She took the key from the other side of the door so she can lock the house.

"It's not a long walk akere?"

"Ame you are always scared. Just live a little."

She locked the house and she covered her face a little as the sun shone her way. She was still plaiting her hair with wool like she used to do in school.

"You want to do your hair?"

"I'm not wasting money on hairstyles le mang ka ditselana e le teng. I am saving up for varsity school and this looks neat."

"I have never seen your hair before."



She walked besides him as he continued to tease her and she laughed. He pulled her to the side of the road as a car approached. Thero swallowed. He touched her sometimes but it always felt so nice touching her. He let her go and they continued walking as she told him her dreams of being a nurse.

"Like your aunt?"

She nodded. As she told him about everything her aunt always told her about in her line of work. She was definitely not going to follow her mother's footsteps. Her mother had done what she could to put food on the table even though it earned her some really dehumanizing names but she was still her mother and she loved her.

"What are you going to do at University Thero?"

Thero shrugged. He didn't know yet. He was just cruising through this school thing and now he was

lost about his career path.

"Do you want ice pops?"

"Sure. Thank you."

He read the sign on the gate. She waited as he opened the gate to go buy ice pops at that house. She kicked the stones waiting for him. Thero found her waitin by the gate and he gave her the ice pop.

"Thank you."

They kept walking and Amelia looked at Thero.

"Can I trust you?"

Thero nodded his head as he sucked his ice pop. She was naturally pretty and he wondered how she was going to look with make-up in University. Most girls change in University.

"Mr Amos that time tried to rape me." She looked at him waiting for Thero to say something but he was quiet.

"I suspected it. Has he tried anything? I'm sorry."

"Don't be. He hasn't and I have been ignoring him for months now. I'm okay now and thank you for showing up that time."

"Why didn't you report?"

Amelia chuckled.

"Because everyone knows what my mother was or is still is.."

"You are not your mother Ame. You are Amelia and your mother is her."

She shrugged and looked at the cold ice pop in her hand.

"How does the saying go? Children pay for the sins of their parents. Probably everyone thinks ke

tshwana le mama so I didn't want to do anything to stoke that fire. Enough about that boring topic, maloba you said there was a girl you liked.."

He rubbed his head as she smiled at him. Her white straight teeth gleaming and her vaseline oiled lips shining in the sun. Her owl eyes really made her so beautiful. Did she know that?

"Yeah."

"How did it go? Did you tell her? You are old enough ti date kana. You are 18 right? I think you should date a girl the same age, she is tge same age right?"

He nodded. Knowing in his heart of hearts he was lying to her and himself.

"Good. Defilement rra wena.."

She walked with him to wherever they were walking

to.

"Can I hug you?"

"Why?"

"Just.."

She sighed and stopped walking. He held her in his arms, smelling the washing powder over her body. Amelia got uncomfortable. A hug wasn't supposed to last that long.

"You can let go now."

He did and cleared his throat. Amelia looked around. She didn't see any kids around so her siblings and cousins were not yet back from school. The two kept walking.

"Thanks."

"Sure."

"So are you looking for a boyfriend?"

"No. Mama had me at a young age and that's a secret the whole village knows so no. Not sure if I want one."

"Well can you picture your ideal boyfriend. For future references.."

She rubbed her small nose with her free hand and looked at her melted ice pop.

"I've never thought about it waitse. Uhm he must be smarter than me. I'm not dumb but I'm not the smartest either. Do smart guys go for smart women as well?"

"Most do but it's your character that matters. And looks too."

Amelia scrunched her nose. Looks were supposed to matter? How shallow were men?

"So if you are not beautiful they are not going to see a girlfriend and potentially a wife?"

"It's not like that but majita talk."

"Men are shallow."

She said as a matter of fact.

"Not all men Ame.."

"If you say so. Anyway can we walk back to my house kana ke go boledise?"

"Whatever you decide."

They took the route that led to where Thero lived with his parents.

"And you are such a closed book Ame, you should

talk and not bottle it up."

"Is talking about something you can't change help?"

"It can lessen the weight on your heart. You are too young to be even stressing when at school there were counsellors."

She finished her ice pop and threw the plastic on the ground.

"Themma that's littering."

"No one saw me Thero."

He chuckled and sleekly placed his arm around her shoulders and she moved back.

"Thero ng ng.."

They kept walking and he kept his hands to himself. How couldn't she be blind?? Maybe he should confess. If he dies, he dies. He wished he didn't have to have her on his mind all the time.



"Amelia?"

"Hmmm.." Thero stopped along with her and he placed his hands on her cheeks. She looked at him. Confused about his sudden touchy touchy behaviour.

"I have a confession of my own.." he said as he sucked in a deep breath. It was hard to hide the truth when you loved someone. She had a wonderful soul.

Amelia looked up at him as he licked his lips and kept the same eye contact with her. Thero lowered his head till their foreheads touched and his heart pounded in his chest. He hoped he wasn't making a mistake and jeopardizing their friendship.

"Amelia uhm..for the past few months we have been friends I-uhm..urg this is so hard." He stepped back and Amelia followed his movements waiting to hear what he wanted to say.

He faced her and she was just staring at him.

"I-I love you."

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Next insert at 2330hrs

DELICATE

#04

By the road

Amelia frowned. He loved her? Like a friend right?

"Like a friend akere?"

Thero shook his head and she just looked at him. She was waiting for him to say he was just kidding because he joked a lot. Rich boys like him didn't go for poor girls like her. It never worked, from the few stories her aunt used to tell her.

"No. More than a friend. Amelia I want you."

She stepped a few steps back. He was great friend to her, why complicate it? Why? Thero saw the wavering emotions on her face. He was slowly getting demoralised. So far she hasn't responded positively to his confession.

"O sure?"

She asked and he swallowed. He nodded. Amelia rubbed her back. She didn't want to mess this up, they were friends and if it didn't work out what was going to happen? The friendship and the relationship would be over. He wou-

She looked at him. This was confusing the hell out of her. She didn't know what to do. Thero was smart yes. He was always in the top ten at school but she didn't know.

"Think about it? Please say something Amelia..."

She let out a sigh.

"I'll think about it. Let me walk back home."

"Let me walk you back."

"I just need my space. Uhm bye."

She started walking back home and Thero watched her. He stood by the road till he was satisfied she was a bit far. He walked to his parents house all alone. Amelia didn't have a phone so he can ask her if she made up her mind.

He sighed and walked down the dusty road till he reached their house. He opened the sliding gate and stepped inside the yard. He closed the gate and walked to the house. He took out his phone in his pocket and dialed his brother's number. Hopeful that maybe he will pick up and spare him a few minutes from his busy schedule.

The phone rang unanswered for a few seconds and just as he was about to hang up the phone was answered.

"Hello.." his brother's deep voice startled him and set chills down his spine as well. He used to be so approachable but not anymore.

"Hello, ke Thero."

"I know. O batlang?"

And just like that his heart was shattered. So cold and clinical. Detached even.

"I wanted to tell you that in a few months I'll be schooling in Gaborone and I might have a girlfriend too. I just told the girl I was friends with for the past few months how I feel about her."

"Okay. Is that all? I have a meeting in a fe-ah time's

up. Bye."

His brother hung up and Thero's teenage heart was once again shattered by his big brother's cold demeanour. Frustrated, he deleted his number and slid his phone in his pocket. He opened the door and got inside the house. The helper was probably done with cooking lunch and he had just lost his appetite.

He headed to his room and threw himself on the bed.

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At Amelia's aunts'

Amelia unlocked the door and walked inside the empty house. She was about to sit down when she remembered that she didn't even take a bath. She walked to the kitchen and switched on the kettle for

bathing water. She sighed.

If she says no she will probably lose out on this amazing friendship she had with Thero and if she says yes they are going to be more than friends but what if they break up? There was really no formula to this life thing.

She sighed.

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DELICATE

#05

At Amelia's aunts'

Amelia removed the last strand of wool from her hair. Her siblings and cousins were all clean and they ate. She won't be long then she will start on dinner hopefully before her aunt comea back.

She ran the afro comb through her afro. She winced at the pain as she continued to comb that african 4b hair till it cooperated with her. When she was done she removed the towel from around her shoulders and stood up to dust the black dress she wore. It was okay.

She walked to the bathroom to look at her hair and

was satisfied with how it looked and how she looked. She walked out and headed to the bedroom and applied vaseline to her lips till they shined.

"Tsona I'll be back!"

She screamed as she walked out of the bedroom.

"You look beautiful." Her younger sister Tsona complimented her. She said thanks as she ran her hands down her nice dress.

"I won't be long Tsona. Ka boa in an hour or so. Make sure the door is locked and don't let anyone except mmamane in."

She walked out and closed the door, she waited by the door to hear the door lock turn and once she was assured that her siblings and cousins were safely locked in. She walked to the rusted gate and opened it. It was still early and she was sure that she will be

home before 7pm. The sun was far from setting.

She started her lonely walk to Thero's house. She practised what she was going to say to Thero once she arrives. Her heart beat frantically in her chest as she walked making sure no dust covered her toes in her sandals.

This was her best dress and she had thought long and hard about this decision.

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At Thero's parents

Thero laid his head on the bed with his headphone blasting music through his ears. So if she said no, would the friendship end?

He knew that if they were to remain friends it would kill him to see her with another guy in Gaborone if she does decide to date. He didn't hear the knock on his bedroom door, just saw the door open and his mother stuck her head inside his room.

He stopped the music and removed his headphones.

"Ma?"

"You have someone who wants to see you. That Mogosi girl.."

He jumped off the bed and he placed his headphones around his neck. What was Ame doing here? He walked out of his room and headed to the main door.

He found her sitting on one of the chairs his parents usually put outside for guests. He blinked a couple of times taking in her hair and how it made her astonishingly beautiful. Her eyelashes fluttered

against her clear caramel skin. F\*ck Ame was a whole dime and the definition of African beauty. Look at her.

He opened his mouth but closed it again. Her small pointy breasts could be seen underneath the dress. Well the nipples were visible to his eyes.

"Hello. Can we talk?"

Ame asked seeing that Thero wasn't going to say anything. Thero opened his mouth again then closed it. They were literally by the veranda and he didn't want his parents hearing what he wanted to say to Amelia. A walk would be good.

"Sure. We can take a walk-or something."

Amelia stood up as Thero walked behind her. She

stopped by the gate and he opened the gate for her. Once both of them were out of the yard, he closed the gate and they started walking as he slipped his phone in his pocket.

"You look like an African princess by the way."

Amelia touched the top of her afro crown and smiled.

"Thank you."

"You should keep your hair like that more often, brings out the brown in your eyes and add that glimmer to your skin."

She found herself blushing and yet again thanked her mother for this skin tone so her blush wasn't that visible.

"Thank you Thero."

They walked in silence and Amelia stopped walking. She was here to say what was on her chest then walk back home. That was that. Thero stopped in his tracks as well and slowly walked back to where she stopped.

"Uhm I thought about your request."

He swallowed thickly. She was going to refuse, obviously she didn't want a relationship and he just decided to tell her his feelings regardless of that major fact. He kept quiet and watched her lusciously pink lips move. The sunset with it's own mind, made a silhouette of the two and if you were a bystander it would've been a pretty sight to see.

"We have been friends and I have never had friends before. Uhm you get me akere?"

He nodded his heavy head. She was so beautiful did

she know that?

"And after careful thought and deliberation with my mind I decided that this might be worth the risk."

The world stopped moving at his feet and he looked at her as if she was alien. Was she saying what he thought she was saying?

"Ame?"

She nodded with yet a breathtaking smile.

"I'll be your girlfriend. Akere that's it? I mean we were friends before and I think we know each other so yes."

A slow smile graced Thero's lips and he moved closer to her. He placed his hand on her smooth cheek. It felt so good to finally do that. She looked up at him with her owl like eyes and he saw that



silent plea in her eyes. She just wanted him not to hurt her because well-he didn't know but he was not going to hurt her. Not at all.

"Thank you."

She nodded with a smile and he touched her chin. He kissed her cheek as she closed her eyes and moved his hands to her waist. He lifted her up and spun her around as she giggled and that was soft music to his ears.

She was beautiful inside and out.

"Put me down wa go ntiga."

He put her down and she looked at him. He did it. He finally got the girl.

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DELICATE

#06

By the road

He smiled looking into her owl like eyes. He held her cheek as she smiled looking down. She used her foot to write on the ground even though she didn't know what she was writing. He used his fingers to touch her chin and lift her head up. He couldn't believe it.

"Can I kiss you?"

He asked softly looking at her luscious lips. Amelia looked down. She has never been kissed before. She looked up at him while he was waiting for answer.

"I've never been kissed before." She told him in a soft whisper that sounded like a soft melody to his ears. He held her chin and looked into her eyes.

"I'll teach you."

Amelia nodded and Thero brought his lips to hers. She opened her lips as he kissed her. She felt like a useless chicken as he kissed her. His hands wound around her waist and after gentle pushing, she followed his lead. Thero broke the kiss and he smiled as eyelids opened and her eyelashes fluttered. She had beautiful eyelashes.

"I love you."

Amelia wasn't sure if she was required to say it back but she just smiled. Thero couldn't stop smiling as he looked at her. He removed his headphones from his ear and as he was about to place them on her head she moved back.

"Thero my hair." She said laughing and he laughed as he moved closer. He placed them around her neck, but making sure the speakers were on her ears. He slid his phone out to pick a song that was best suited her, it described her in it's lyrics. He went through his playlist and he played Beyoncé's Brown Skin Girl.

Amelia stopped biting her lip as she listened and looked at him. He had his eyea intently on her as she listened. Thero smiled as he saw the smile forming on her beautiful lips. He was falling alright. Well he already fell for her before this moment.

She minds her business and whines her waist  
Boy like 24K, tonight I might fall in love  
Depending on how you hold me  
I'm glad that I'm calming down

Can't let no one come control me

Keep dancing and call it love

She fighting but falling slowly, if ever you are in  
doubt

Remember what mama told me, brown skin girl

Your skin just like pearls

Amelia grinned as she looked at him. She has heard this song on tv and she had always loved it but she never told him that before.

He removed the headphones and they gazed into each other's eyes till Amelia got shy and she looked away shyly. Thero chuckled. He held her hand and started speaking.

"Can I walk you home?" He chided himself seconds after. He didn't even need to ask if he should walk her home or not. He pulled her to him as they started

walking. She was so damn pretty.

He left a wet kiss on her cheek. For now he was okay with this.

"Kana I'm not sure if my aunt is home, will you walk with me till we pass that white house? Are you okay walking alone?"

"I'm fine Ame, don't worry about me. It's you I should be worried about."

She nodded and at that moment she paused then shook her head. She was thinking too much and she should even go there.

The two walked making small talk and when they were by the white house, Thero kissed her cheek and waited as he watched her walk towards their house. A minute later once he was sure that she was home he started walking home.

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Meanwhile at her aunt's place, Amelia opened the gate and the door was open. Her heart pounded in her chest and she used her hands to wipe her lips with fear that her aunt will see. She rubbed her cheeks and took very deep breaths before walking to the door. She lingered by the entrance as she moved her feet back and forth on the door mat to remove the dust.

She finally walked inside the house and looked at her aunt.

"Dumelang."

"Hello, your mother called but ne o seo.." Her aunt said as she stood up. Amelia walked past her and stood by the kitchen entrance.

"What did she say?" She pulled a few strands of her

hair nervously. Her aunt looked at Amelia. She was nervous and she let her hair down. Amelia never lets her hair down, she cried everytime she was combing her afro hair. She did have beautiful hair but that was not the issue.

"Whay are you nervous?"

"Uhm nothing."

She nodded and faced the television screen. Amelia waited for a minute hoping her aunt will say something but she didn't.

"What should I make? Le bone dijo tsa lunch?"

Her aunt nodded.

"Uhm boroso and potatoes. Boil the potatoes, there is bread akere?"

"Ee mma."



"Make that.."

Amelia nodded and walked inside the kitchen to prepare the food. At least her aunt didn't shout or anything. She didn't know how she was going to evade the questions.

\*\*\*

At Thero's parents

Thero walked inside the house and his mother looked at him.

"I hope it's not anything serious.."

"Ma?"

Her mother shook her head. Mothers knew best and

she knew that although her son kept on saying that girl was a friend, she wasn't sure if he was saying that to make her stop asking.

"That Mogosi girl. She is not the kind of woman you build your future with, I know this is just teenage fun and obviously you are allowed to explore. Your dad and I talked to you about that stage, use protection because girls trap boys with unwanted pregnancies.."

Thero just agreed and as he was about to head to his room, his mother stopped him yet again.

"Think about your future okay?"

He nodded and walked there. Amelia finally agreed to be his girlfriend and she might be younger than the legal age but he was prepared to wait for her.

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DELICATE

#07

At Amelia's aunts

Her aunt talked on the phone with her sister as she narrated her own point of view. She sighed and listened to her older sister before she agreed and then said goodbye.

She placed the phone down thoughtfully and stood up on her feet. She tied her robe and slipped her feet in the brown stained pink slippers. She knocked on the bedroom door and opened it to find Amelia busy with wool doing her own hair.

"Ame can I talk to you?"

"Ee mma.." She replied as she removed her hands

from her head and her aunt walked out. She wore her sandals and got up from the floor following her aunt.

She stepped inside the bedroom and sat down on the bed a few centimetres away from her aunt on the same bed.

"I know you must think I'm stupid but your mother and I were once your age."

Amelia just looked at her aunt. She could already see where this conversation was heading.

"I once talked to you about boys and I know you said that boy is your friend but it's more than that."

Amelia swallowed as her aunt kept her shrewd eyes on her. Her jaw ticked as she just tried to maintain eye contact.

"Is he your boyfriend Amelia?" Amelia didn't respond for a few seconds before she opened her mouth to finally answer.

"Nnyaa mma. We are just friends." Her voice came out shakily and her aunt just folded her arms. She wasn't stupid and if they didn't talk to Amelia she might come back home pregnant and then there will be regret ontop of regret.

The aunt sighed.

"Amelia you do know you are still underage. Your 18th birthday is next year. The rest of this year tla bo o le ko skolong waitse akere?"

"Ee mma."

The aunt unfolded her arms and released a heavy sigh.

"Amelia I just want you to know that the future lies in your hands. As underage as you are, defilement e tlo

tsenya another woman's child in prison. Men want sex from pretty young girls like you and leave them pregnant and alone to face the music ba le nosi. Tota I want you to be a wise young woman, your mother is called names and I do call her that sometimes but after she fell pregnant with you, she did what she could to ensure that I go to school and didn't lack anything. Right now she has an okay job and I'm just saying that kana nnaka, basimane ga ba hele. They will be there after you finish school and you will be able to marry a rich one cause le wena you are educated and have your own money."

She paused and looked at Amelia who was listening.

"I want you to be the nurse you said you want to be and your mother is working really hard for the family she is working for just so she can save for your school essentials Ame. I know you and Thero are dating and in all honesty, Ame I want you to focus on yourself. That sounds selfish I know ngwanaka but

akere you are in the village and you might be the prettiest girl he has ever seen in Bobonong but ko Gaborone kwaa wa go kopana le ba ba go phalang ka bontle ngwana wa kgaitse die.."

Amelia nodded as her aunt looked at her. Once. Twice before she breathed in and out.

"In the case of you having sex with a boy, please stay safe. I know if we say stay away from boys completely, you are going to do the opposite. At least wait till you are of legal age, then ask me of contraception you can use to protect yourself. Don't forget that HIV and STIs exist out there. We don't want that for you Amelia. Do you understand?"

Amelia's heartbeat beat gently in her chest. She wasn't sure she was breathing because this was so serious and her aunt was advising her on her future.

"Just know that your future is in your hands and you also have your siblings who look up to you. Le you little cousins do Ame. Tota you are still a child and we are allowed to reprimand you when we see you going off the rails. Your mother did ask me to talk to you and le ene she will call and talk to you as well."

"Ee mma."

Her aunt stood up as Amelia quietly stood up.

"Goodnight, I understood." Amelia said before she walked to the door and her aunt nodded. The minute Amelia closed the door her aunt sighed. She hoped Amelia heard her loud and clear, wouldn't want the same thing that happened to her sister happen to Amelia when a simple talk could have stopped all of this.

Amelia thoughtfully sat on the bed and her earlier pause when she was with Thero came to mind. She had just turned 17 in January and schools opened in August, so she wasn't turning 18 till next year while



There would be 20 by next year because this year he is turning 19. She sighed. He will understand she is underage and she wouldn't want to ruin his future by defilement plus she was also not ready.

She slipped her feet from the sandals and watched as her siblings snored softly while sleeping. She was okay and she wasn't going to do anything stupid.

She walked to the door and closed it before she switched off the lights and darkness consumed the room.

\*\*\*

The clock on the wall clicked and it struck twelve midnight. He rubbed his jaw as the light from the open window was the only source of light in the dark room. He leaned back on his chair and continued rubbing his stubbled jaw as a million thoughts raced

in his head. The final decision lay with him and what he was to do as he looked at the white envelope on top of his glass table. A subtle knock was what brought him to th present moment.

"Come in."

The large door opened and a smile formed on his face.

"I am here master.." the soft squeaky voice sounded and she walked towards his desk in nothing but her birth suit. She takes instructions really well.

On second thoughts maybe he should take the deal. He looked at the white envelope and for now stopped thinking about it. He was going to let his d\*ck do the thinking for the next hour.

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DELICATE

#08

At Thero's parents

Theo lay awake and couldn't help thinking about his brother and how he brushed him off earlier on.

He didn't know how it went wrong or why his brother rarely came home. Inside the blankets, he switched on his phone and searched his brother on Facebook. He was even lucky that big guy didn't block him there or even block his number in his phone. He just didn't know how it all went wrong.

He typed in the name and surname and waited for the search results to load. He saw the picture and he clicked on the profile. He once tried sending a friend

request but soon after stopped the process. He was going to think he was desperate which he was but his brother didn't need to know that.

He clicked on his profile picture, it had been a while since he stalked his brother on Facebook and this was a new one. He got chills just looking at the picture and his light skinned brother. Another question he always had too.

Why was his brother light skinned than the rest of them and his parents including him were not even light skinned like his brother? His mother always brushed it off as the gene pool from previous ancestors coming to play on his brother. He just casually believed that but then again his brother looked like his dad and he did too.

He sighed as he looked at the picture, he looked just as cold as he usually sounded over the phone. Other brothers are always there for their little brothers but not his. He exited his brother's Facebook profile and

placed his phone down. Amelia didn't even have Facebook or a phone to begin with. If she had a nokia torch phone maybe he would call and send her sweet text messages but he loved her and he knew that before he dated her.

He wondered why her aunt or her mother don't buy Ame a phone, they completed their form 5 last year November and they were now in February awaiting their results, she still didn't have a phone. Maybe they will buy it for her and he was thinking too much about it. He pushed the blankets back just so he can breath.

His phone beeped with a message. He frowned. At that late hour? He went to WhatsApp to read the message.

' Hey stranger. I lost my phone months ago, setsadi ke gone se rekang. Hey.'

He smiled. His used to be crush. He laughed alone, before he even developed feelings for Amelia he was talking to her and funny thing is they had never met. Then she suddenly stopped texting and he didn't know what to do from thereon, he just assumed she deleted his number. You can never put anything past girls these days. He texted her back.

Thero:Hey yourself stranger Here I was thinking you ghosted me.

Her:Then your ghost is back. How have you been?

Thero:Okay Just waiting for the results.

Her:You smart ass, kana you passed.

Thero:Says the smartest girl in Maruapula. Your results came out last month kana..

Her:A few A\*s and As here and there..

Thero:A levels?

Her:Definitely I am not sure about my career path

but something in science.

Thero: Congratulations Lizzy.

Lizzy: Thank you. I was just announcing my  
reappearance            good night kana ke good  
morning.

Thero: Mxm    Night.

He placed his phone down and he closed his eyes  
finally sleeping.

\*\*\*

The following morning at Amelia's aunts' Ame got  
the younger ones ready for school as her aunt made  
breakfast. She made soft porridge before she left  
and that left Ame in charge.

"Tsona make sure that everyone is ready tthemma,  
six is close and you know you have to walk to

school." Her sister nodded and in ten minutes they were done and eating breakfast.

Amelia left them in the sitting room and headed to the bedrooms to check if everyone made their bed. The beds were made so it was time to start cleaning the bathroom. She was sure by 8am she would be done then start ironing yesterday's laundry before she ate her breakfast and rested.

She wondered if Thero was going to check on her today, shd touched her lips and smiled. That kiss was one from the movies, or was it she lacked experience? Either way she liked.

She rubbed her lips and let out a soft laugh. A friend and a boyfriend in one? She didn't know it was possible but Thero made it possible. She went to check up on the young ones before proceeding with her house chores.



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During the course of the day, Thero came to check on Amelia and he was a little disappointed that she quickly reverted to her usual hairstyle but he smiled as she stepped out of the house and locked it.

"So today, we are going out on a date.."

Amelia laughed as she slipped her feet in her flip flops and her radiant skin shined as she stepped in the sun. Thero looked at her, she was beautiful and wasn't even trying.

"I've never been on a date before waitse. Is it like in the movies?" She asked as Thero opened the umbrella he came with and walked besides her in the black umbrella.

"Not at all princess.."

That endearment earned Thero a blush from her and she looked the other way so she couldn't see. Thero wasn't sure if it was appropriate he holds her hand or was she going to be uncomfortable with that, especially with people watching.

"So what will this date encompass?" She asked eagerly as they walked. Amelia had no idea where she was going but it seemed like Theo knew so she will just have to trust him.

"Patience princess Amelia. Patience."

"Okay. I'm patient. How are you? Did you sleep well?"

"I am okay and I didn't sleep well.."

She frowned as she slowed down.

"Why? Is it the results anxiety? Kana you are so smart Thero I am sure you did extremely well.."

"Well it's my brother..."

Amelia frowned. She had heard that Thero had a brother but she had never seen him before because she only got used to Thero back in senior school when they ended up in the same class.

"Kana batho ba re you have a brother, that's nice. Is there anything wrong with him?" Thero slowly picked her hand and held it. Amelia squeezed his hand back.

"We just stopped talking and maabane when I called him he was cold.." Amelia let out a sad sigh on his behalf. She couldn't imagine not talking to her siblings and no matter how much they got on her nerves she would never give them a cold shoulder.

Her mother told her time and time again that bana ba motho ga ba latlhane so she shouldn't abandon her siblings. Family first because eventually

strangers will leave. She was sure her mother meant her mother. Of course there was that void only a father could fill but she was grateful that her mother and aunt raised her.

"When did you guys lose communication? Ga ke tshware sentle koore, forgive me for being slow.."

Thero looked at her soft face and how her softness soother his heart. Did she know she was gem? A rare one at that.

"When he went to varsity, my parents never told me why. I remember most of my childhoo-"

He paused. He did didn't he? Although sometimes it felt like there was something he couldn't remember but he had a happy childhood alongside his brother who had a slender frame at the time if his memory serves him well. Now he was buff, his picture said it

all.

"Nevermind princess but it's a topic for another day.." He quickly dismissed the topic he raised up and Amelia just went with the flow. They walked till they reached Mma Nuni's eatery. Well there was shade and chairs and a table for customers.

"Well, this is it..wait till we get to varsity and I will take you out on dates ko bo Nandos then hotels bo Avani.."

Amelia giggled. She loved this, this was so genuine and sweet of him.

"Sit down and let me see what to buy okay?" She nodded and she sat down as he closed the umbrella and placed it on the table. He went to where Ma Nuni was dealing with customers.

Amelia looked at her toes before she looked around

where some guys were playing their radio loudly. She looked at where Thero was. He took out a P50 note and she faced the other way. She didn't want to make him spend a lot of money on her, time with him was enough. She guessed.

One of the guys who was at the table where the radio was playing looked her way and she happened to look his way. The man winked at her and she shook her head silently then looked at the table. She moved her feet up and down patiently waiting for Thero to be back. Ten minutes later Thero walked back and he placed the two P5 coca cola cup drinks on the table before he stole a kiss and she laughed softly looking down. She looked around to see if people saw that then she took one drink and placed it in front of her. He came back with a plastic full of magwinya and a big takeaway.

"What is in there?" She enquired as he sat down next to her.

"Mokwetjepe. Is it fine?"

She laughed and opened the takeaway. The aroma had saliva building in her mouth. When was the last time she had this? It was simply heaven

"It's like you knew it has been a while since I ate that. Thank you.."

Thero smile as Ame took a legwinya then parted it before dipping it in the mokwetjepe. Thero did the same and they talked with her cracking up silly jokes and he smiled. While eating, their meal was interrupted by hearing the news on the loud radio.

Amelia stopped and her legwinya fell into the take away and she suddenly found it hard to swallow the food that was in her mouth. Everything sounded so distant as the news registered in her head.

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Next insert around midnight.



# DELICATE

#09

At the eatery

Thero paused as he watched Amelia. He could tell the fear was setting in for her since she was just an average student but towards the last months she had studied really hard.

"Princess are you okay?" He asked as she swallowed the food in her mouth. He watched her and she sniffed as she picked the drink and bit the straw. She couldn't even drink and as Thero held her hand he could feel the light tremors. She was scared. It was normal especially when it concerned something big as results, of course he was nervous but he was sure he passed. He just wasn't sure if it was the grades he expected but he passed. His main

concern here was Amelia and nothing else.

He took the drink she held with the other hand.

"Hey princess it's okay. It's okay autwe?"

Amelia kept quiet. She breathed in and out with tears in her eyes, what if she failed and wasn't going to go for nursing.

"Ame, it's okay. Breath in and out."

She did that and sighed. The food didn't look so appetizing anymore. Thero closed the takeaway and he forced her to stand up on her feet. He picked the plastic that had magwinya and the takeaway that had the mokwetjepe. He reminded her to pick the umbrella as they walked away.

"Do you want to go home or we can stop

somewhere?"

He asked as she opened the umbrella. He looked at the food he held in his hands as his tall frame got under the umbrella.

"Can I go h-home? I can't think."

She replied honestly. She was sure her aunt was going to check the results for her.

"Okay. Let me walk you home princess..."

Their walk to her aunt's house was silent and when he stopped by the gate he looked at the food in his hands.

"Go with the food.."

"No you go with it..."

She replied. He made the job easier by pouring some

of the contents in the takeaway into the magwinya plastic and he took out two magwinya to put them in the takeaway. He handed her the takeaway.

"Easy peezy.."

Amelia gave him a serious look and she found herself laughing as she took the takeaway. She will warm this up once she wasn't nervous because right now she wasn't sure she could stomach anything. She looked at him and he smiled back. They shared a brief hug that ended with him pecking her lips.

"See you tomorrow? And promise not to stress..."

She nodded as they hugged again and he told her to go with the umbrella since they are meeting tomorrow. She opened the gate and walked inside the yard. She unlocked the house and she looked behind her to see him still standing.

"I'm gonna be okay. Don't worry.."

He smiled and when she stepped inside he waved at her then she waved back. He walked away. Amelia closed the door and placed the takeaway on the table before she closed the umbrella throwing it on the sofa. She didn't know what she got and if she was going to make the cut.

\*\*\*

At the hospital the aunt stole a moment away from the patients as she sat down in the bathroom. She had saved Amelia's candidate details and she used them to send a message to the sms number to get the results.

She slipped her phone in her nurse uniform pocket and sighed. She will wait an hour or two. Probably thousands of kids were sending messages and the system might be overload.

She walked out of the bathroom and went to resume her daily work.

\*\*\*

At Thero's parents, Thero sat down and he took out his phone as it vibrated. Must be messages from his WhatsApp contacts asking if he passed or not. He was so nervous.

He looked at the messages as they beeped and he placed his phone down, taking a good moment to say a short prayer. God he hoped he did really well. Extremely well at it.

Not more than a minute later, he picked the phone and he went onto the website to enter his candidate details. He waited as it loaded. The clock sounded louder than usual and that added to his anxiety. He tapped his shoe on the carpet, at this exact moment

he had long forgotten that his mother didn't want anyone to step on her carpet with shoes. His heart pounded in his chest as it finished loading and his eyes landed on his results.

Jaw dropped, goosebumps covered his skin and his mind stopped working at the reality he was seeing on his phone screen.

"Fuuuuuuck!!" He said once then said it louder as he dropped his phone and covered his mouth. What the f was going on? He did that?

He picked the phone again and looked at the details and that was his name right there. That was his fucking name right there. Fuck! Placing the phone down he breathed in and out. In and out. His eyes must be playing tricks with him.

He picked his phone yet again and looked at the

results.

"What tha fuck?" He said again and breathed into his hands. He wasn't sure if it was seconds later, minutes later or even an hour later but the excitement set in and he took a screenshot of his results. He wanted to tell Amelia immediately but he was sure she hadn't seen her results yet and he might add to her worry.

He went on to WhatsApp and with a white heart replied his inboxes, evading the question about his results. He sent hia parents hia results and he didn't know what made him send his brother the results as well but he did.

He breathed in and out. His phone rang and he saw Lizzy's name flash there. He answered the call.

Lizzy:Aaannnnd??



She went straight to the point and he laughed.

Thero: System e down. But crossing fingers.

Lizzy: Don't be nervous, I trust you..

Thero laughed awkwardly. It felt weird lying about your results when you already knew them.

Thero: I'll call later, my mother's calling.

Lizzy: Alright..and I'm sure you did good.

He said his bye and he watched his phone beep. Messages from his parents and he smiled. Okay now that the important people knew then he could do the honours. He typed a status on WhatsApp showing a screenshot of his 9 A\*s

\*Ke beast Put some respect on Thero Carter's name \*

He sent the status and he placed his phone down. His phone beeped and he chuckled. So this means? He was part of the country's top achievers? Damn this was huge.

\*\*\*

Three hours of the worry gnawing at Amelia she finally warmed the food she had brought from her date with Thero. She had even cooked food and was done but the anxiety was still there. Her siblings and cousins arrived as she started eating and she shooed them away. She wasn't sharing this with them.

She was stressed and she didn't know how she performed. Now she was stress eating and she needed more food after she finished the food that was in the takeaway.

She walked to the kitchen and took her plate to sit in front of the television screen. The door opened and her aunt walked in. Amelia's heart pounded and all of a sudden her throat was dry.

"Well Ame, if-know what see for yourself.."

The aunt took out her phone and gave it to Ame who slowly read her results under her breath and when it registered she screamed for joy.

"Yoh!"

"Congratulations baby."

She screamed louder and hugged her aunt with tears streaming down her face. She did it. She did it. She finally did it.

Her aunt rubbed her back. She was proud and these

results were excellent looking at Amelia's past reports.

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DELICATE

#10

At Amelia's aunts'

Amelia broke the hug and looked at the results again. The phone rang in her hand and it was her mother calling. She wiped her tears with a smile and answered.

"Hello mama..I passed. Ka go nna nurse mama.."  
She said with a shaky voice as more tears rolled down her eyes and she sniffed wiping them.

"I know baby. Congratulations. I am so proud of you autwe Amelia?"

She nodded as if her mother could see her. She handed her aunt the phone and she sat down. Digesting the news and all. She passed, she was

going to be a nurse.

The aunt watched her niece. She did well. So well and she hoped it wasn't going to end here. Amelia couldn't wait to tell Thero that she was finally going to varsity and she did really well in her finals. She walked out of the sitting room and headed to the bathroom to wash her face. This was a dream come true, a whole nurse Mogosi. Oh God!

\*\*\*

Thero scrolled through Facebook as he trended among other nine students who did extremely well in their results. He had hoped that Kingsley, his brother would call or even send a congratulatory message but there was none.

His phone rang and he picked up the call from Lizzy.

Lizzy: Congratulations are in order..

He laughed as he leaned back on the couch.

Thero: Guess who will be at Maruapula this June..

Lizzy screamed and he laughed some more.

Lizzy: A levels yes?

Thero: You bet Liz.

Lizzy: See? I told you you were worrying over nothing kana Thero, you made it to the top ten crack ke wena..

Thero: Tswa ha tlhe..

Lizzy: Can't wait till you land Gabs, koore bro you did it. Shoot for the stars from hereon.

Thero: Yes mam. I still don't know what to study.

Lizzy: I also don't know but these things you will see as you go, maybe in a few months or so you will know which school to apply for after completing A levels. I want to go to Oxford University..

Thero: Britain isn't that bad. I'll see as it goes.

Lizzy: But congrats tthe mona..

Thero laughed.

Thero: Stop speaking setswana you sound so funny as you ain't a native citizen.

Lizzy: Leave me alone Mr Carter..(laughing)

He chucklef as they talked some more. He heard the gate slide open and he decided to say his goodbyes and hang up. His parents were already excited and he casually changed the tv channel.

The door opened and his mom walked in dancing.

"I have a top achiever in the house.."

He laughed trying to act cool but man, it felt so good to know he did his parents and the whole school proud. It was such a warm fuzzy feeling in his chest that he didn't want to end. His father laughed and he



patted his back.

" You did well boy." That in Thero's eyes was everything. Just a pity that Kingsley was so distant that it hurt sometimes.

\*\*\*

In the outskirts of Gaborone at G-North Kingsley saw the message his "brother" sent him and he chuckled. He was sure they brainwashed him so that they can make out him to be the bad guy. Life had been okay the first few years till that castle of lies they had built around him came tumbling down and he saw them fir what they were. Snakes and nothing but snakes. Anyway he wore his black coat and stepped out of his house just as the sun set. He looked around his porch and he had to admit he did well for himself. He had to give himself that. He walked back in the house and passed by his home bar and poured half a glass of whiskey before he placed it on the counter

and headed to the garage. His phone rang and he tapped his wireless earphones twice to answer.

"King.."

"I'm on my way to the club. Don't f\*cking mess this up or you'll have more problems.."

His hoarse deep voice sounded as he stepped inside the garage. The person on the other end remained silent.

"Ke bua le wena dammit!"

"M-my apologies, I didn't mean to piss you off. Everything is okay and running smoothly."

"Good."

Kingsley hung up as he unlocked his car and got inside. He started the car as the garage door opened and he reversed, the gate sliding open as well.

He placed his phone on the phone stand as he made another call.

"By the time I come back, you should be here and yes it's an order."

He cut the call as the gate slid closed. He drove off leaving a dusty trail in his wake.

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The following day Amelia was the one who headed to Thero's house. She pressed the intercom and the gate opened. She stepped inside and walked to the door. She knocked and Thero frowned before smiling. He cut short the call he was on before he walked to the door.

"Hey princess, you look happy. How are you?"

"I'm good. Well I couldn't wait to tell you.."

Thero smiled as they walked to the chairs that were by the veranda. Amelia had even forgot his umbrella at home.

"Well I passed and I got 45 points. I know I am no-"

"Hold up, wa re 45?" He interrupted her.

She nodded with a huge smile. Thero got off his chair to hug her.

"Congratulations baby girl. Congratulations you deserve it."

"Thank you. I am so excited gore kana. I am going to be a nurse koore.." she stopped to breath and he laughed. She looked at him.

"Wena how much did you get?" He smiled slowly and he held her hands.

"You're looking at a top achiever baby girl.."

"Oh my God! Bathong wena! You-oh congratulations. I am so happy for you. Wow!"

She said and he chuckled.

"Nine A\*s?"

He nodded and she kissed his hands and he laughed. She was growing out of her shell alright.

"So my boyfriend is smart and he is a top achiever as well? How did I get so lucky?"

"No, how did I get so lucky to have a beautiful, smart and did I mention beautiful wife with a future brighter than thr sun?"

She laughed. He was over exaggerating now.

"I love you." He said softly and her smile softened.

"I love you too.." Thero masked his excitement and kissed her hands instead as she giggled.

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FIVE MONTHS LATER

## DELICATE

#11

At University of Botswana

Amelia and her mother stepped out of the cab. Amelia was so grateful that her mother was staying with her back at the servant's quarters of her boss's home. She didn't particularly like the man who was said to be the boss's son because he gave her weird looks but other than that, she was grateful for the shelter.

Amelia's mother took a picture of the block number and she looked at Amelia. They took out Amelia's bags and all the things they had bought for her.

"Akere you don't need anything more?" Ma Amelia

asked as placed the last bag down. Amelia shook her head.

"What is the process, I don't understand.." Ma Amelia asked and Ame looked at her mother. For someone who has done so much for her and even dropped out of school because she fell pregnant with her, she was good. She was lying of course her mother was gorgeous and regardless of the fact that she was working as a maid, she was gorgeous.

The two picked the bags and walked inside the block. They greeted the security guard and went back outside for more items. Once they had placed all the items in front of the security guard Amelia looked at her mom. She scrolled her phone looking for the note she saved all important details in.

"I'm going to the resident assistant's(RA) room to sign in.." Her mother nodded and Amelia climbed the stair. She didn't even know her roommate because in this huge school she didn't know anyone.



Downstairs the security lady looked at Ma Amelia. The lady was beautiful and so was the girl. Maybe they were sisters. Most probably sisters. Ame came back ten minutes later and she looked at her mother.

"Mama gatwe room 130, this side." She said and the security guard looked at the two. She was her mother?

"Hello again, uhm can you watch our bags while we take the others to the room?" Ma Amelia asked humbly. The lady nodded and Amelia picked her blanket bag first while her mother got the first suitcase. They climbed the stairs and Amelia went along the rows of rooms till she saw room 130. The door was opened.

She placed the blanket bag down and knocked. A pretty light skinned girl turned her head, her straight

hair moving to the side. She looked like one of those South African celebrities, she forgot the celebrity's name but they looked alike.

"Hello..uhm you must be my roommate?" She said with a smile.

Amelia nodded as she asked to step inside. Her mother followed and placed the bag in the middle of the room. The roommate greeted Amelia's mother and she greeted her back before she walked away to get more stuff.

"I'm Amelia.." She extended her hand and the girl gave her her manicured hand with long painted nails.

"Ke nna Kgosi.."

Amelia frowned. A girl named Kgosi? That was weird.

"I get that a lot, my parents aren't exactly well- your typical people anyway nice to meet you Amelia. Beautiful name does it belong to a flower maybe?"

Amelia smiled. Kgosi was okay. She was still to see her for who she was for the next two semesters.

"I don't know, I haven't even tried to google the name. Let me go get some of my bags.."

Kgosi nodded and proceeded to pack her stuff just as she had been doing before Amelia came. Amelia's mother was going upstairs and Amelia went downstairs. It took them twenty minutes to be done and Amelia walked down stairs with her mother.

"Ame remember what we talked about ngwanaka.."

Amelia nodded as they exited the block and they started walking to where the gate was.

"Study hard and if you need food don't hesitate to call me autwe? Don't you dare make that Carter boy the centre of your life, he has his own life and even a

boy choose to break up with you, there are better boys out there who will treat you like the queen you are.."

Amelia nodded. She didn't know what was her mother and aunt's problem with Thero. He was absolutely everything and she didn't want to tell anyone that she actually saw herself as his wife in future and carrying his kids. Thero wasn't going to break her heart, she was absolutely sure about that and she can confidently scream it to the whole wide world that he was the definition of love and support. Amelia talked to her mother and she was a bit sad when they hugged by the gate. She knew she could check on her mother when she was free but still, the past month staying with her mother was so nice and they really got to bond so much, it was as if they were never apart.

"I love you mama."

"I love you my sweet flower..take care and call me

every night to tell me about your varsity experience, call on your aunt as well to check up on them. We are all rooting for you Ame.." Her mother squeezed her tighter and Amelia laughed as she suffocated under the hug. The warmest hug she had ever had, minus Thero's.

Her mother finally broke it and kissed Amelia's cheek.

"I have to go mma. Bye bye.."

"Bye.."

Amelia moved back and her mother stopped a taxi. Amelia walked back into the school and she took out her phone. She put on her headsets and called Thero. He answered after a minute.

"Hello baby. I just arrived in school and well I'm walking to my room. I'll show you my room..how are you though? How is Maru-a-pula?"

Thero yawned as he smiled slowly turning on his side.

"I was taking a nap and I'm tired honestly. School is nice?" He asked as he sat upright on his bed.

"Sorry for disturbing your sleep. I wanted to update you. Lesson start on Tuesday and I honestly can't wait.."

He chuckled.

"I can hear that."

"Are you free ka Saturday? For movies motshegare? This one is on me..."

"Uh-uh I don't think I can manage that princess, I have to study for a test and I just want hundreds and nothing less.."

On the other side, Amelia's smile fell but she quickly

fixed it as she walked to her room.

"It's okay. I know you will ace it."

"Thank you for believing in me princess. I have to go. I will call later okay?"

"Okay. I love you okay?"

"I know.."

Thero hung up and Amelia held her phone and picked her pace walking. She still had a lot of packing to do so she had no time to waste. Five minutes later she was in the room and Kgosi was making her bed.

"Oh you're back."

"Yes. I still have to pack some more.." She said as she opened the wardrobe. She had to clean it before she placed her clothes there.

"What course are you studying?" Kgosi asked as she

looked at Amelia. Those black braids looked nice on her and she gave off African princess vibes. She looked at Amelia closely and smiled. She had a good aura around her. She wasn't the type to harm anyone so she was okay.

"Ke dira Nursing and you?" She bent down as she poured her sunlight liquid into a bucket.

"Double major in economics and statistics.."

"Wow! The way I'm so scared of numbers, it's not bibig short of a blessing that I got a B in maths.."

Kgosi laughed and sat on her ready made bed.

"Do you have a boyfriend? I have one , I think but it's complicated and just so we can like give each other privacy if one of our boyfriends come here.."

Amelia frowned and looked at Kgosi.



"Boys are allowed?"

"Apparently till a certain time but yes.."

"Okay I didn't know that. I do but he doesn't school here.."

"Okay.."

Kgosi slid her phone out and Amelia got busy. It was only two hours later when she was completely done and was now sweeping the whole room. Now it looked nice and smelled so nice.

She went on to WhatsApp and she saw Thero's status of him with his study buddy Lisbeth. She replied his status.

Amelia: Keep working hard baby.

Thero: Thank you love

Then he was offline. She placed her phone down exhausted. She closed her eyes.

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DELICATE

#12

At University of Botswana

Amelia was woken up by a ringing phone and she smiled as she saw the caller id. It was a video call too. She sat upright and rubbed her eyes as she answered. She smiled.

"Hello baby.."

"Hello princess, I'm done studying so you have my attention.." Amelia let out a cute smile as she yawned and he smiled.

"I was just telling you about school.." She looked around the room and Kgosi wasn't there at all. She sighed and looked at the phone screen. She took a

screenshot of their video call and she smiled. Her stomach started rumbling and he laughed.

"I don't know where Kgosì went kana waitse.."

Thero frowned at the end of the line.

"Kgosì? Aren't you supposed to share with a girl?"  
Ame smiled.

"She is a girl and her parents named her Kgosì.  
Weird right?"

"Yoh, I don't see myself naming my little princess  
Kgosì."

"Oh really? What would you name her?"

"I know she is going to be beautiful like her mother,  
something like Ame.."

Amelia blushed. She was glad that they were on the same boat, they were so transparent with each other and the time he really won her heart was when he said he will wait for her to be ready for sex and that

he was a virgin as well so they will break their virginity together as a couple. If that wasn't love then she didn't know what was really. This boy was one in a million.

"Why is my princess blushing?" He asked with a little smile.

"It's nothing. I'm just so lucky to have you and to think my mom think you will break my heart.." she laughed it off shaking her head and Thero cleared his throat.

"I would never do that..I literally tell you everything.."

"Exactly and our monthversary is fast approaching. I can't wait. It's been five months of us since we became a couple.."

He smiled just so she can not talk about that.

"And babe, is it okay I check you at school? I would really love to meet your study buddy Lisbeth. She seems like a nice girl.."

Thero rubbed the back of his neck.

"Babe she is just a friend.."

Ame nodded. She knew that, he didn't have to say it twice.

"I know, I just want to meet her and you can meet my roommate Kgosì as well."

He nodded and he let out a fake smile.

"Baby do you think we need to meet the people we both school with? Aren't you being a bit paranoid?"

Amelia frowned. She didn't know she was asking a lot from him, she let it slide and smiled.

"It's okay. I don't have to meet her. She just seemed like a good person that is all. I'm sorry if I come off as paranoid or insecure, I swear it wasn't my intention at all."

"You don't have to apologise babe.."

She nodded and stood up.

"Let me switch cameraa so I show you my room.  
She switched the camera as she walked around the  
small dorm.

"It's pretty and nice, isn't it?"

"It is."

Amelia switched back to the front camera and  
smiled.

"Maybe we will schedule a date on our monthversary?  
I last saw you two weeks and you have been busy.."

"Yes baby..uhm Ame?"

"Yes?"

He rubbed the back of his head.

"I wa-anyway let me not ruin the surprise. I love you  
okay?"

"I love you to the moon and back love. Bye and I will

call later.."

She blew kisses and he pretended to catch them and he hung up.

Amelia sat on the bed and opened her bag. She took out the orange money card her mother helped her make so she can get money in there. She knew where the cafeteria was located so she had to buy food.

She looked for her set of keys and placed it around her neck. She stepped out of the room and closed the door with her phone and card in hand. She had forgotten to ask Thero if he had any luck getting to his brother or progress maybe. She didn't know his name and she didn't have Facebook for that matter just WhatsApp because Thero told her how people drag other people on Facebook and how toxic it was. She wasn't the one for fights especially when he told her how people can insult you for no reason so she



was just on WhatsApp.

Recently she saw Instagram and Twitter, they seemed like nice social platforms along with Tik Tok so she was going to try those ones instead. She didn't even have Kgosi's number. Great!

As she walked down the stairs she saw Kgosi who had two takeaways with her.

"Hi Ame, I bought food for you because you were asleep."

Amelia was about to decline because Kgosi was a literal stranger but she thought about her and bought food.

"Should I pay you back? I have a few coins but madi a mo karateng.."

"No need. You are pretty by the way."

They both walked up till they reached their room and Amelia unlocked the door. They sat down by Amelia's desk and Kgosi placed the food down and she started eating hers before Amelia started eating.

"Amelia I didn't even get your number.."

"I had the same exact thought earlier. How do you manage with long nails?"

Kgosi shrugged.

"Well I got used to them once we closed form five, now I can't live without getting my nails done.."

Amelia chuckled. She looked at Kgosi. Maybe she can look really pretty for her monthversary and surprise Thero.

"Amelia don't think I am being forward, I just didn't have a lot of friends growing up."

"Me too, my boyfriend was my friend first and he

became my boyfriend. He asked me."

"Cool, those sort of relationships last because you both know each other. Are you on Facebook? So I can add you as my friend?"

Amelia shook her head.

"My boyfriend said it's toxic.."

Kgosi paused as she stopped eating.

"Facebook is the it thing to get information my love. I will help you make one, kana the school has a first year's group where they post important information. You should have Facebook baby.."

"Uh-I'll think about it."

Amelia said uneasily. She ate her food silently and Kgosi looked at her. Why would a boyfriend dictate jos girlfriend's social media? But she will find out eventually. She shrugged and ate her food.

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At Maru-a-pula private school

Thero leaned back as he thought about his plan. Well this was easier than he thought and school was such a breeze. He smiled. He thought it would be so hard to do this but it wasn't that hard.

He checked his Facebook and she had tagged him on some cheesy post. He heart reacted on it before he replied on the post. He then checked his notificationa and saw the shares he had on his cover picture with cheesy captions.

He moved on to WhatsApp and saw Amelia's status. It was a picture of him with her when he took her to Nandos.

He took a screenshot and he texted her.

Thero: I love this.

Amelia Mogosi:[typing]I love it too and you more

He texted back and he moved to his settings seconds later. He changed the settings to viewed by and clicked Amelia's name. When the settings were saved he posted the screenshot to WhatsApp with the caption "The only Princess in my life, ke go rata ke sa ikhutse "

He posted it and placed his phone down. He had tried reaching out to his brother but instead he got blocked and his number didn't go through. Kingsley really cut them off but they did nothing. He did nothing to him, he couldn't even be happy that his little brother topped the school. Maybe he was better off without that recluse.

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DELICATE

#13

At Amelia's dorm

Amelia looked at her timetable for next week. She couldn't wait though for the first lesson to start. Kgosi was singing along to the music playing in her headsets. She sighed. She wasn't sure about that Facebook thing but she will think about it. Thero's call came through and she smiled.

She answered immediately.

"Hello love..." the moment Amelia said that, Kgosi removed an airpod and listened onto the conversation. In her opinion Ame was stupid not to have Facebook because a boyfriend said so. If her parents said so she would understand but a mere

boyfriend?

She went onto Facebook and typed a post.

[How do you know that a boyfriend is making you a clown?

Asking for a friend]

She posted and waited for the comments from various ladies and young girls on her friend list. She even made the post public.

She went to WhatsApp and saw Ame's status. Could never be her posting niggas out in these streets shem. Her last ex showed her flames and never again. She read the energy and she ignored it. Hell she saw the red flags and freaking made them green because she was a clown. She sighed and listened in on Amelia's conversation but it was day one of being with her roommate and already she could see herself being counsellor here.

Meanwhile on the phone Amelia smiled as she wrapped a single braid around her finger.

"Okay I can't wait for the surprise.."

"I'll pick you up, jusy give me the block number and I will call once I have arrived." Amelia giggled. So he actually had a surprise planned for their five monthversary.

"Okay now I am under pressure to look pretty."

"You are always so pretty princess, I love you. I have to go."

"I love you more. Bye." She hung up with a content smile. Kgosi minded her own business.

"Kgosi?" Amelia's soft voice sounded in the room.

"I'm listening."

"So my boyfriend and I are celebrating like five months together in a week, I don't know much about being fancy nor do I own anything fancy. Can you help me?"



Kgosi sat upright and she smiled. She will see how this will play out.

"I can help do your hair ka di styling gel and I have pretty pins as well. Uhm I can also help ka your nails and I learnt how to do makeup ka my spare time.."

Amelia grinned.

"I don't know if I have money to pay for that. I want to look for a nice dress ko Mr Price.."

"I will help you look, when are you going out?"

"Ka Saturday, not this Saturday though. This one he is busy studying he has tests.."

"Where does he school?"

"Maru-a-pula.."

"Wow! Okay. I will help out babes, don't worry about a thing."

"Thank you so much tlhemma. We just met but thank you.."

"You are stuck with me for two semesters we might as well be friend Amzozo.."

Amelia smiled. No one has ever called her name like that. She looked at the time and she sent her aunt a message that she will call tomorrow to talk to her siblings. She placed her phone down and looked at Kgosì.

"Do you pray?"

"I do, is it okay if I light candles?"

"I don't think there is nothing wrong with that."

"Thank you, I use them with different prayer points and each candle has a significant meaning. Ga ke lowe autwe Amelia kana yoi might tell people gore o nale roommate wa moloi.."

Amelia laughed and waved her off. She got off the bed and changed her clothes while Kgosì went back to Facebook to check how far with her post.

Comment 1:When he told me that he has to go home every weekend to see his parents but moguy had a baby mama and they were still together. Clowneria street here

Comment 2:He once told me to get inside the wardrobe, his mother didn't like it when he brought girls to his house kante it was his main chick. From there I never looked back.

Comment 3:Told me to cut off my friends, they were hindering the progress of our relationship and like a fool in love I did.

She saw Lisbeth typing and laughed. Girl was in the most stable relationship and it was everyone's sbwl. Imagine a guy who pushes you to study and takes cute videos of you while you are acting all goofy.

Lisbeth: Men are trash. Just scrolling through the comments.

Kgosi replied.

Kgosi:Lis you have a good guy and you are in love. How long have you guys been together?

Lisbeth:Three months This relationship is everything sis but let me follow the comments. I never knew what I was missing out when I took so long to rekindle our former bond sis.

Kgosi chuckled and read more comments.

Comment 4:Slept with my best friend and I forgave and broke up the friendship. Guess what? He cheated and out of hurt I went for his closest cousin now I am happy with the cousin.

Comment 5: Kgosi you are asking for yourself akere? Bua nnete re ka se go jaje sis..

Comment 6:When are men dying vhele? Spawns of satan.

Kgosi chuckled as she read more of the comments and she saw the number of comments. She just made a whole thread and some of these stories

were really heartbreaking. Some of these ladies haven't healed from such treatment. She sighed. Men.

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At the club

Kingsley stood by the top as he watched the people downstairs enjoy the club. Downstairs it seemed like a really normal nightly club but those who knew knew it was more than that. The top floor was where most people's darkest fantasies were fulfilled. His too on occasion. He made the right decision buying this club while it was a sinking ship now look at how it was. He swirled the cognac in the glass and smiled. This switch from his daytime job was fulfilling and knowing he was the secret king pin in the city was exhilarating too. His workers were sworn to secrecy about the boss's identity. He never passed by in the afternoon because well, too much

attention. He had a reputation to uphold out there.

One of the women who personally served him his drinks when he was in his office at times like this walked inside in a tight little black skirt. She bent down by his desk to place the tray down exposing her clear arse and he drunk his drink in one instance. He walked inside the office and closed the door. The worker smiled. Her plan worked. Bingo.

She turned and gave him a smile. Kingsley didn't smile back but he slipped his hands in his black jeans. His erection was visible in the semi dark office and the lady licked her lips. She knew what she was getting herself into sleeping with her boss.

She let out a soft breath and Kingsley moved forward, he fitted his large hand around her slender neck. He breathed against her cheek. She wanted to know what it was like. She looked up with her big eyes at him before she spoke, the fact that she gave

him a random erection was so very satisfying. His hold around her neck got her so wet and she bit her lip.

"I heard from a friend of a friend that that dick was a ten out of ten" she whispered softly looking at his dark eyes.

Kingsley laughed and tightened his grip around her neck.

"Doll, she lied to you.." He let out one heartstopping smile before he bent her over the desk. The friend lied, the dick was a 100 out of ten. She let out a shudder, his eyes held darkness and that looked so exciting. She was playing with fire but she knew what she was getting herself into, besides this was an exclusive whore house.

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TWO WEEKS LATER



: DELICATE

#14

At Amelia and Kgosi's dorm

Amelia sat down on the chair as she started to undo her braids, tomorrow was the day and Thero had told her to get ready for them to celebrate their monthiversary. The past two weeks have been hectic, from having to make bank cards to learning where the lecture halls were. To navigating the school's online learning system as well.

Kgosi was also busy with the same but now she can rest and it was exciting knowing that in two weeks time she is going to receive her first allowance as a tertiary student. Such little milestones were really important. She sighed as she looked for a toothpick to undo her braids. She really loved her timetable for

Friday. And her last two lectures were cancelled so she was here in her room. Midday undoing her hair.

The door opened and Kgosi smiled.

"Hey there.."

She threw her bag on the bed and threw herself on the bed as well.

"I think I am ready to quit school now.."

"Still too early Kgosi."

Kgosi closed her eyes, her back hurt and she had practice questions to do, was she the one who chose this course because she was already feeling the heat.

"Kgosi will you still do my hair tomorrow? Le di nails? Last week ka free day yame I managed to look for a dress ko Mr Price and I found it."

"Sure, what did you say your boyfriend's name was? My mind was tired the last time you told me."

"Ke ene Thero.."

Kgosi nodded and sat upright.

"Come sit here so I can help you with your hair, re dire ka bonako."

Amelia sat on the floor by Kgosi's bedside as the two started working on her hair.

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At Airport Junction

Thero smiled as Lizzy sat down opposite him in Spurs.

"Order placed. I like that every Friday all our classes

end by midday, I am always so tired."

"Lazy ass.."

She laughed as he placed his hand on top of hers. His fade suited him. She held her phone with her other hand.

"Pictures again babe?"

She laughed.

"You can never have too many pictures..smile My future heart surgeon.."

He grinned and she snapped a picture.

"Did you manage to talk to Kingsley?"

Thero let out a breath. He decided to let his brother be, he knew where he wrked but he was sure he was going to be chased out by his own brother.

"Look babe, try to see where he is coming from a-"

"Liz, I literally grew up with him and suddenly he decides to be cold. I don't know what he has going on with our parents but it doesn't even involve me. Not at all. I just wanted my brother to love me, is that a bad thing? Am I asking for a lot?"

She shook her head and sighed. He wasn't. When it came to family a lot transpired so it wasn't easy judging a situation like this.

Thero sighed and held both her hands. Kissing them across the table.

"Sure tomorrow you don't want us to go for movies?"

"I have a few things to take care of. But I'm all yours ka Sunday afternoon."

She smiled as she waited for their order. They talked about their goals and their future. Thero knew this was where his future was at, Lisbeth was smart, witty and so pretty. Not the rough diamond pretty but the well raised pretty and magazine kind of

pretty. He grinned. She knew what she wanted in future, the marriage type. He was blind or was it the small village blinding him?

"Uhm on Sunday do you want us to watch the movie Kissing Booth?"

She grinned in surprise. Thero got a sense of de ka vu because it was Amelia who suggested the movie after she saw it in passing on tv and they genuinely enjoyed it together.

"I would love that. Kana I wondered if you were going to agree to watch another romantic film with me.."

"I would suffer through any romantic field with you, when are you visiting Bobonong?"

"I would have to talk to my parents but if they agree since we will be going on a short break I might..."

Thero found himself telling her about his favourite spots and the river by their farms there at Bobonong. Lisbeth was oblivious to the way Thero swallowed, some of those spots Amelia had shown them to him and told him that they meant a lot to her. He pushed down the guilt. Amelia was funny in her own way and her humbleness plus soft voice when she spoke. Her voice always went squeaky when she tried to argue and she would end up crying.

He swallowed and faced the way. He frowned and he knew he would recognize that face from anywhere. He quickly got out of his seat and when Lizzy tried to speak he was already gone and running towards the man in black.

Thero caught up to Kingsley and he said his name.

"Kingsley, it's me. Thero."

King stopped and turned. He looked at the boy, who

couldn't even match up to his height. He looked like he was 5 foot 11 and compared to Kingsley's 6 foot 5 he looked way shorter.

"Hi. I have been trying to reach out an-"

"Don't. You're blocked for a reason." His deep voice in person made Thero's knees wobble like jelly.

With that simple sentence Kingsley walked away. Too much dramatics from his so called brother.

That was when Thero felt the full impact of the rejection. He didn't even acknowledge him as his brother nor did he address him by his name. He walked back to where he was. Defeated.

Lizzy's heart cracked. Family feuds were the worst and they also drained one's energy.

"Was that him?"



He nodded with his head down and Lizzy held his hands. Rubbing them.

"It's okay. He will come around. Don't force him..."

Thero sighed and lifted his head with tears gleaming in his eyes. That broke his heart and Kingsley was just that stone cold. Did he really not give a damn? It hurt knowing that your brother treated you like a stranger or worse, a piece of gum stuck under his expensive shoe because he looked expensive and so was the damn cologne that surrounded him.

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At Amelia and Kgosi's dorm

Three hours later the girls were done and Kgosi exclaimed. She had such a beautiful crown, she

hadn't expected this.

"Ame wee, we are going to curl it. Mma ekete o le black American. Sure your dad is not from there because girl damn.."

Amelia laughed and didn't even talk about the dad in question. She didn't even know her father and her mother just said her dad denied the pregnancy and was never seen again.

"Or wait, flip look at that shoulder length fro, and look at how it hides your pretty forehead baby and you have such naturally bushy eyebrows, your long natural lashes are a bonus. No, you just need lip gloss and you are sorted. African Queen, queen step on me because you are freakin pretty.."

Amelia laughed. She had gotten lighter too in the last three weeks. So much lighter so she was sure that if Kgosi had seen her back home she wouldn't be saying this.

"Amelia mma, I love your hair...what do you do so it doesn't shrink?"

"Ke loga lemang ka ditselana when I sleep. I haven't washed it yet so I need to wash it first. I twist it and wash it then let it sun dry.."

"Let us do that then sis. Umuhle sesi and I will never stop saying that. We will just do your nails tomorrow but otherwise, face card ya re yes and the hair is gorgeous. How long have you had it?"

"Three years love.."

"I love it. I am sure your boyfriend will love it.."

Amelia laughed as she touched her hair.

"He loves playing the song ya Brown Skin Girls..."

"As he should..wait you said the one on the status ke ene Thero?"

Amelia nodded.

"Wait, it just clicked...uhm."

Kgosi grabbed her phone and she went to the screenshot of Amelia's statuses. She showed her the picture and Amelia nodded.

"Thero Carter?"

Amelia nodded. She didn't have Lisbeth's number, Lis was just a Facebook friend so...

She searched for Thero on Facebook and clicked on his cover photo of him with Lisbeth. She showed Amelia the picture.

Amelia's heart pounded in her chest as she looked at the picture. What was Kgosi insinuating?

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DELICATE

#15

At Amelia and Kgosi's dorm

Ame looked at the picture and it just had a heart.

"They are just study buddies.."

"What? Amelia don't tell you believe that.."

"He told me himself they are studying together and I do see her on his statuses as well ga ba bala Kgosi. Can't a male have a platonic friendship with a person of the opposite sex?"

"Wow! Ame batho ba ba jola tlhemma wena.."

"I have known Thero for two years and we have been friends for six months and we dated for five months,

I do know him and I know what he wouldn't do to hurt me."

Kgosi clapped her hands once. Twice then covered her mouth. What the hell?

"Amelia whu doesn't he post you on Facebook?"

Amelia shrugged.

"Maybe because I don't have Facebook. Why would you post someone on a platform that they don't have?"

"Bathong you are so stupid Amelia do you know that?"

Amelia breathed in and out.

"I am not stupid Kgosi. I am choosing to trust someone I have known longer than I know you."

"Oh wow! Just wow! Anyways roomie, I'll be here to comfort you when he breaks your heart and I'll be the one putting you to sleep once you start breaking down for this arrogant fool. He is a three months relationship with another girl and you still believe he valued the five months with you? Ijakg. Motho a ye go reka dijo..."

Kgosi took her phone and her set of keys as well as her wallet then walked out. Slamming the door and that made Amelia jump.

Amelia picked up the phone with a pounding heart. Thero would never do that. That was just a mere picture and she knows Lisbeth and has seen her pictures before on her boyfriend's status. Ame called Thero and his phone just rang. She hung up and called again till it seemed like he hung up on the other side without even answering. She sighed and went on to WhatsApp to type him a long text.

Amelia:Thero would you cheat on me? Please answer me I need to know.

She sent the message via WhatsApp and placed her phone down. She breathed in and out. This was just a huge misunderstanding. She started to twist her hair. Most probably Kgosì wasn't going to do her nails tomorrow.

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At Maru-a-pula

Once Thero said goodbye to Lizzy after they shared one hot kiss that had a promise of more happening later, he finally took out his phone and he went to Amelia's message. His heart pounded and he knew he ddclined her call earlier. He called her and she answered immediately.



"Amelia what is all of this?"

"Thero I asked a question.."

Hr sighed.

"Is this your reason to break up with me? Trying to find faults that aren't there?"

Amelia kept quiet. He has never raised his voice at her and it broke her heart. Tears filled her eyes and she sniffed. She knew her voice will be so squeaky if she tries to defend her point. She just asked a question.

"Th-Thero I asked a question. I just wanted to know if you are cheating on me because Kgosì says you are in a 3 months relationship with Lisbeth..."

"Now she is filling your head with nonsense. Why would I cheat? I love you and only you princess. Don't allow friends to dictate our relationship. What we have is special and you want to ruin that with rumours?"

Amelia burst out crying and Thero rubbed his chest trying to ease his own guilty conscience.

"I didn't mean to shout at you princess. People hate seeing other people happy and it hurt me so much that you think I can do that? Have I ever given you a reason to doubt me?"

"N-n-no." She wiped her tears as she sat on the bed.

"Don't cry okay princess, I am still very much in love with you and I will never cheat on you. Don't listen to the people out there, they don't know how far we've come.."

Ameloa nodded as she wiped her tears. Kgosi wasn't back yet. She was going to relate with Kgosi for the next few months so she should just pretend this never happened her.

"I love you okay? Wipe those tears my princess.."

She smiled as she wiped them.

"I love you too.."

"I'll pick you up tomorrow okay love?"

"Okay.."

"I love you and rest.."

She nodded once again before she hung up and the door opened and Kgosi walked in.

"Do you believe me now?"

Amelia sighed as she continued twisting her hair.

"Let's not talk about it."

Kgosi placed the food down and she wanted to say something but decided to keep her peace.

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At Maru-a-pula

Minutes after Thero hung up, he looked for Lizzy. That was so close and he thanked God for Amelia's humbleness and naivety otherwise he could have been in some deep shit. He found her and he whispered in her ear. She smiled as she stood up from where she was and they walked to their favourite spot. It didn't have the security patrolling and stolen moments were the best.

Thero and Lizzy met at their favourite spot as they shared a hot kiss. There was heavy breathing as Thero slipped his hand under her skirt.

"Do you have condoms on you babe?"

She asked. He nodded. Lizzy wasn't ready to be a mother and he wasn't ready to father a child as well.

He removed his hand and broke the kiss. He checked his back pocket and bingo they were there.

He kissed her neck as he pulled her skirt up. Lizzy's hands shook as she unzipped his pants releasing his hard on. She has slept with three people prior to Thero but so far he was the best. Fuck!

Thero removed the condom from the back pocket and Lizzy pushed down his pants along with his boxers.

She held his piece of meat as he ripped the condom and he #EXPLICIT

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DELICATE

#EXPLICIT

#15

Thero removed the condom from the back pocket and Lizzy pushed down his pants along with his boxers.

She held his piece of meat as he ripped the condom and he rolled it over his hard on. Lizzy held her breath as she looked at him. She closed her eyes waiting for the penetration that was to come from his hard d\*ck. Boy knew how to use his weapon and damn she was already wet.

Thero slipped his hand underneath her skirt and he shifted her panties to the side before he got closer

and she gasped. He french kissed her as she wrapped her arms around his neck for stability. Thero lifted her leg and made her wrap it around his waist and he rubbed his condom wrapped d\*ck around her wet entrance.

Lisbeth always ready for him. He grunted as he pushed inside her folds and she moaned.

"Fuck."

He said as he looked at her. He kissed her forehead with a smile.

"I love you Liz.."

She nodded as she threw her head back and he slowly started to thrust in and out of her as she moaned in his ear.

"Ah..I love you-ah..yes...just there.."

She said as he held her waist tightly thrusting in and out of her with brute force. She couldn't help the moans that came out of her mouth as he did that...She was close to release when he quickly pulled out and placed her leg down. She lost balance as his d\*ck dangled with the half full condom. He removed it and threw it away before turning her and held her waist.

"Akere you are on the pill?" He asked a dazed Lisbeth who nodded. She just wanted to come. Why did he do that?

He slowly found her entrance from behind and she moaned. He grunted as he slowly bent her and he got more deeper.

He started to thrust her as she moaned his name declaring her love for him as he fucked her from behind.



He groaned as she screamed, creaming over him and he came inside her teenage womb. He stopped and she kept her eyes closed feeling him inside of her.

Minutes later, he slid out of her warmth and he held her waist as he breathed against her neck.

"I love you.."

"I love you too..."

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DELICATE

#16

At Maru-a-pula

After their quickie session, Thero kissed Lizzy.

"I love you beautiful.."

"I love you more.."

She replied as they fixed their clothing. They had to go eat and also there was curfew but man she missed him already. Minutes later, Thero placed his free arm around her waist. They started walking and talked like how a normal couple does.

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At Amelia and Kgosi's dorm

Amelia placed the spoon down after she finished eating. She might have to sleep with these twists because her hair was far from dry.

Kgosi decided to break the ice and she spoke.

"I didn't mean to upset you. I was just helping."

Amelia just nodded. She was going to shut it all out and it will be okay.

"It's okay. I understand. I'm going to sleep okay?"

Amelia said as she threw the takeaway in the dustbin then found her head scarf to wrap around her semi wet twists. She got undercover as Kgosi sat cross legged on the bed. Amelia covered herself with the blankets and tears rolled down her eyes. She held in her sobs and chided herself to trust Thero. After thirty minutes of endless tears she finally closed her eyes and slept.

Meanwhile kgosi just looked at the bed and she clapped her hands. She didn't want Amelia to hurt herself more with this boy but maybe experience is the best teacher in everything. She closed her eyes as she rubbed her chest. She hated this feeling because someone was sad and it wasn't her. She hated being such an empath but she couldn't help it.

She got off the bed to go switch off the lights and she got on the bed. She went on Facebook and she really got angry at this Thero, he thought he was so smart playing Amelia. Amelia proved to be one of the good ones, the ones who didn't deserve the hurt coming their way but at times we blame fate when we also have ourselves to blame. For not reading the signs.

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The following morning

At Amelia and Kgosi's dorm

By eight Amelia was already up and checking if her hair had fully dried while Kgosi slept in. Amelia's phone beeped with a lot of texts from her boyfriend. She was going to enjoy this milestone of theirs.

Amelia opened the curtains and the sunlight filled the room. Kgosi groaned.

"It's a Saturday and it's morning."

"Good morning to you too.."

"Morning."

Kgosi replied before she pulled the blanket over her head and tried to go back to sleep. Amelia hummed as she picked her phone and replied Thero's texts with a smile. Today was going to be a really good day.

She placed her phone down and walked to her wardrobe to get her toiletries so that she can go take a bath. She left Kgosi who was covering herself with the blankets.

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At Ma Amelia's workplace

Ma Amelia that morning took the landry baskets from all of the rooms in the house. This was what put food on the table and she was grateful for thia genuine job. The boss's son passed by the laundry room holding his cup of coffee. She smiled at him.

"Hello. Is there anything you need that I can help with?"

"No ma. I wanted to see if you are okay.."

Ma Amelia smiled as she looked at him.

"I am okay. And thank you for asking.."

"Welcome. Uhm I never see your daughter Amelia here anymore. She went back home?"

Ma Amelia paused as she looked at him. It was weird that he was asking about Amelia out of the blue.

"Well it wouldn't be ethical of me to live with my child forever where my bosses live..."

He nodded with a tight smile. She still didn't say where Amelia was. The two looked so alike but the daughter was a catch.

"Oh well let me get on with work.."

She said and he nodded as he walked away. Another time then. Fate always played right for the right people.

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## DELICATE

#17

At Amelia and Kgosi's dorm

By twelve midday Ame was all ready and pretty. Kgosi looked at her roommate with adoration. Amelia looked so beautiful in that dress from Mr Price. Simple and yet pretty. She wore black sandals and well Kgosi ended up doing her nails regardless of her stand on the issue.

"Bathong wena! O montle gore."

"Thank you so much."

She said. Her hair was shining and man she was just so beautiful. Who can cheat on all of this? Kgosi had the answer already. A fool who doesn't know what

he wants in life, that's the kind of person to cheat on that.

Amelia's phone rang and she smiled looking at the caller ID.

"Hello? You're outside? I'm on my way.."

She hung up and put the phone in her small handbag. She looked at Kgosi and smiled.

"I'll probably be back later. Byee."

"Bye bye and enjoy."

"I sure will.."

With that Amelia walked out the room and made her way down the stairs with one hell of a smile. She received compliments as she went down and kept on saying thank you repeatedly.

She walked out of the block and looked around. He said he came with a blue cab. She spotted the cab and walked to it. Lo and behold there he was.

Thero looked at Amelia and the guilt in his brown eyes had Amelia frowning. She ignored that and she smiled.

"Hey. You look handsome and I like that cut.."

She said as she got inside and sat next to him. Thero smiled and swallowed. She looked so darn beautiful and innocent. He hugged her and kissed her cheek.

"You look beautiful by the way.."

"Thanks.."

Looking at her with her natural hair all out, knowing how princess-y she looked and he was sure the UB

boys were hitting on her. He swallowed as that little bit of jealousy consumed him, what if she agreed to date them and she gave those boys her virginity instead of him?

"So we are going to have brunch and I hope you'll like it. I also have a surprise for later as well.."

"Okay. I am sure I will definitely like it.."

The cab driver reversed out of the parking spot and drove off.

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At Riverwalk Mall

Thero stepped out of the car with Amelia and she smiled as she walked next to him. She waited for him to take her hand but he didn't and instead

walked while she followed suit. In minutes they were by 267 kitchen and bar and they sat down on the comfy couches. Amelia looked around.

She had never been here before and it wasn't even full of people. It was so relaxed and she liked that.

"This is fancy, I've never been here before.."

He smiled and finally held her hand after making sure he didn't see anyone he knows. He was sure most of his school mates weren't here because most of them agreed to go to Game City today so there was no pressure. He looked into her pretty owl eyes and she blushed as she looked the other way. This was the Thero she knew and loved.

He called for a waiter after minutes of looking at their menus then ordered for the both of them.

From thereon the two talked and Amelia listened attentively as he told her how he was still confused on which course to pursue.

"But you want to go to Oxford?"

She asked as she removed her hands from under her chin. She could gaze at him all day and never tire.

"Yes. It is one of the best schools in the world and I like it. Just not sure which course I want to pursue there."

Amelia smiled.

"What do you love? As an individual? Personally I like helping people and gape I like nursing a lot. My mother says if I am serious I can also do medicine with my nursing degree so yeah. Not many know what they want to do so it's okay to look around. Right now akere you are still studying hard and o tla bona in a year or so. Your passion will come.."

She finally said and smiled at the waiter who smiled at her. He placed the food on the table and bowed as she said thank you. Thero watched closely. As the waiter walked away he looked at her.

"Were you flirting with the waiter?"

She gasped.

"No, I just said thank you. Why would i flirt with him?"

"I don't know. Akere just yesterday you accused me of cheating, maybe you are the one cheating because cheaters always ask such questions..."

"What? I apologised for jumping into conclusions and I have no reason to cheat. I am not loose.."

He shrugged and looked around. The men around the eatery were looking at her and a part of him wished she looked like the village scrub who always plaited with wool and nobody didn't see her true beauty.

"Why did you undo the braids?"

Amelia looked up from her plate.

"They were old and gape I had to look nice to celebrate our day."

"They looked okay, you knew you would get everyone's attention with your hair right?"

Amelia stopped eating and she looked at him. Since when has her hair been a problem? It was just hair for crying out loud. Just hair.

"Ever since you came to the city you do braids and now you are shlwing off your hair you rarely wanted to show off.." he said as he drunk his juice.

"Akere mama pays for my hair and she found a hairdresser for me so that ke tshwane le batho ba bangwe.."

He shrugged.



"Okay.."

She shook her head and ate. The food lost taste all of a sudden and she just forced it down her throat just because it was paid for. She wanted to go back to her dorm. He might be in a mood because he was stressed about school but she was already bored and didn't want to spend the day with him all grumpy and insecure.

Thero waited for her to say something but she just ate in silence and didn't even look at him. He sighed and lifted his head.

"I'm sorry, I'm just stressed about school.."

"Okay.."

She said and continued eating.

"Princess I said I'm sorry. I just want us to enjoy our

day.."

"Mmhmm..after this akere the day is over?"

She asked as she sipped on her drink and looked at him.

"No, I have one more surprise.."

She raised her eyebrows. She should give him the benefit of the doubt then.

"Okay.."

"I'm sorry and you can stop sulking princess.."

She rolled her eyes as she laughed.

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Two hours later the couple sat by Milkylane to get their milkshakes. Thero said he called a cab so it was going to pick them up and take them somewhere. The cab arrived and they got inside as he directed the cab where to take them.

"I am sure you will love this surprise love.."

She nodded as she used the straw to mix her milkshake and looked out of the cab as it reversed out of the parking spot and drove off.

There was silence in the car for the next 20 minutes till they arrived at thwir place. Amelia held her bag as they stepped out and Thero paid the cab driver. It was a Bed and Breakfast. The gate slid open and they walked inside and Thero greeted the lady by the reception before he held her hand and led her to the room he booked.

He opened the door and she gasped seeing the red roses and the balloons.

"Happy anniversary babe.."

He kissed her neck as he held her waist and closed the door.

"I love you okay?"

She nodded and he turned her to look at him. He kissed her lips softly with his head low and lightly squeezed her waist. He deepened the kiss and she broke it. she looked at him and he smiled. He kissed her again and this time with more aggression and she broke it again.

"What is going on? The-Thero we agreed to wait till our one year anniversary and till I am legal of age, sa ntse ke le 17 kana.."

She said softly and he sighed letting her go.

"Okay. What if I changed my mind and don't want to wait?"

"You'd rather go to jail?"

"Who would know you are sleeping with me unless you tell them, besides you are in varsity.."

"Still..."

She looked around the room. She didn't know where they were..

"Just a few months, my birthday is in January and we'll do it then.."

"I can't wait that long. Look it's either we do it or we call this relationship off.."

Her lips quivered.

"I wanted us to celebrate in a special way but clearly you are holding to something that is just a piece of flesh.."

He added and tears filled her eyes. She loved him. He knew that so why would he threaten to leave the relationship just because of sex. There was more to a relationship than that. They were doing great for the past five months. She rubbed her eyes and breathed in and out.

"Okay. I'll do it.."

She said and he smiled. He held her waist and pulled her to him. He kissed her lips while speaking.

"You won't regret this, I promise love.."

With that he walked with her to the bed and he gently pushed her onto the bed and he #EXPLICIT

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DELICATE

#17

#EXPLICIT

At the Bed and Breakfast

"You won't regret this, I promise love.."

With that he walked with her to the bed and he gently pushed her onto the bed and he slowly got on top of her. Amelia's heart pounded as he kissed her and he slipped his hand underneath her dress.

She closed her eyes trying to stop her heart from beating and telling herself that she was going to do this and he will never hurt her. Thero pulled down her

panties and he placed his hand in top of her vulva but she wasn't wet. Just dry. Nothing.

He breathed in and out and told himself that she will feel the pleasure soon. It was only a matter of time.

He smiled and threw her panties across the room and he started removing her dress. He came into full view with her under developed adolescence breasts and he kissed her neck but she was just stiff.

"Princess, relax.."

She nodded swallowing hard trying to will her body to relax. He kissed her neck and moved his lips to her stiff breasts as she shuddered. Tears stung in her eyes and she tightly held the sheets and bit her lip trying not to cry out loud.

Then he moved his lips to her belly button and he then kissed her bushy area. Why didn't she shave like how



Lizzy did? A shaven one looked neater and was more appealing to the eye.

He will talk to her about that. He stopped and looked up at her. He wasn't about to go down in that bush. What if her hairs got stuck in his mouth? He went back to kissing her lips and he removed his pants and his t-shirt.

He was left with his boxers and he looked at her. Maybe she will relax once he put it in. He pushed down his boxers and Amelia's heart pounded as she looked at him. She has never seen it in person and tears rolled down her eyes.

Thero placed his head by her entrance and Amelia moved.

"Stop. Use condoms at least.."

She said as she moved away closing her legs.

Thero sighed.

"You'll get morning afters and your first time won't be nice if we use condoms.."

Amelia wiped her tears.

"I don't know your HIV status..Thero ga ke sematla lesa go ntira sematla.."

She said as she sat by the corner of the bed. His erection went soft. Why was she being difficult?

"I am negative Amelia and us not using protection shows that we trust each other.."

She shook her head as he crawled up to her and held her hands.

"Look at me Amelia, I love you and I want to make your first time special.."

She wiped her tears removing her hands.

"If we aren't going to use a condom forget it.."

"Why the hell are you being fucking difficult Amelia? It's just sex.."

"To me it's not just sex and you keeo talking as if you also didn't say you are virgin. Kana ba gk breakile banyana ba Gaborone?"

She asked?

He looked at her and chuckled. When did she get so cheeky now?

"So I booked all of this for nothing? You are going ro refuse because there are no condoms?"

"Yes. Akere ke mmele wame.."

He looked at her and he raised his hand and she caught it.

"Fine. It's over ee. Go have sex with you "study buddy" nna ga ke batle ebile ga o ka robalana le nna ke ya police.."

He fumed silently looking at her as she got off the bed.

"I can't believe you would do this to me. I love you but now you want to force me to have sex. Ga ke ready but I was willing and e le unprotected le gone?"

More tears rolled down her eyes as she picked her panties.

"If you walk out it's over.."

She nodded and she started getting dressed.

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# DELICATE

#18

## At the Bed and Breakfast

Amelia wiped her tears as she wore her dress and slipped her feet into her shoes. She looked at him as he sat angrily on the bed.

"I have to go."

She said and picked her bag as she walked out of the bed and breakfast. She couldn't stop the tears that rolled down her eyes as the gate opened and she waited outside the gate. She broke down crying as she sat by the gate on the ground and cried some more. She screamed into her hands letting all those tears out. Her heart cracked some more and she just

covered her face with her hands and as cars passed her by. They ignored her, women in Gaborone really loved dramatics and she was being dramatic.

A black car stopped by. He didn't know why the hell he stopped by but the man stepped out. His tight fitting turtle neck exposed his physique. He watched her and he sighed as he ran his hands in his soft curly hair. He recently got rid of the dreads that had somewhat become his signature look for the past two years but that wasn't the issue.

"After being dramatic and crying, you can stand up to call a cab.."

He said as he kept his shades on. Amelia looked up with teary eyes. She was in pain and a stranger was being rude.

He did a double take as Amelia sobbed some more. He watched her cry and she didn't look like someone who was going to stop.

"Do you know where to go?"

He asked and she stopped crying as would a child and looked up at him shaking her head. Her phone rang in her bag and she removed it. She saw the caller ID and burst into more tears again. The handsome stranger looked at the caller ID and back at her as she cried. He should have known it was a boy problem. Why women centre their lives around men was a mystery because he for one knew he would never let a woman get to close to him.

"Do you want ice cream?" He asked. Amelia frowned and wiped her tears. She wanted to be alone and think about her decisions and cry about what her life has come to be and a stranger ask about ice cream? Couldn't he see she was crying? She was genuinely hurt.

"Now you stopped crying. Get up people have been watching and they might make you trend on

Facebook.."

She didn't want to get up but she finally did and she dusted her black dress. Her hair was a mess already and she was a mess too.

"O nna kae?"

He asked and she wanted to scream at him. He walked to the car and got inside. He opened the other door.

"I can drop you off.."

She shook her head and opened her bag to look for money for a taxi but she didn't find any notes just a P5 coin. How she left her room without any money was beyond her but she was drunk in love she guessed. She looked at the stranger and gave in.



Nothing could worsen her day at this point.

"Where do you live?"

He asked as she closed the door and she sighed.

"Phakalane.."

He nodded and she buckled up as the car sped off. She sniffed and rubbed her eyes before she pulled down her dress. More tears burned her eyes and she faced the other way trying to not make them roll down her cheeks. She rubbed her chest as it ached. She looked at her phone and she was sure calling in this state was only going to make her cry some more.

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When the driver was around Phakalane he asked for directions and Amelia gave directions to where her

mother worked. She stopped by the gate and thanked the driver who didn't even ask for her name or her his and he drove off.

She pressed the intercom and said her name before the gate opened seconds later. She stepped inside the yard and the gate closed. She walked to the servant's quarters where her mother slept in and she knocked on the door. She opened the door but it was locked. She knocked again and she tried to open again.

She sighed yet again with tears burning in her eyes. The boss's son walked that side and he smiled. Speak of the devil, he was thinking of her today and poof here she was.

"Amelia right? How can I help you?"

"D-dumelang. I'm looking for my mother."

"She went out to run errands.."

"Oh. I'll come back tomorrow.."

She was about to walk away when he said something.

"She will be back in ten minutes. Come sit down for a glass of water, you don't look so good.."

She rubbed the back of her head and she was sure it was her eyes that gave her away. Ten minutes waiting for her mother was nothing. She nodded and followed him to the verandah. She sat down on one of the chairs and looked around.

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DELICATE

#19

At Phakalane

Phefo walked inside the kitchen with a little glass bottle containing the Gamma-hydroxybutyrate and he used the syringe to pull the liquid out. By the bottle where there was only air he injected the liquid in a small amount. He shook the water bottle and he watched it and the water looked normal.

He smiled as he looked at his watch. There was no gate movement so she was still sitting outside.

Meanwhile Amelia wiped her tears. She was a fool. She should've seen by the brown guilty eyes and the little white lies that she played down. Tears stung in

her eyes and she covered her mouth. He wanted sex from her? He degraded her from the love of his life to a girl he demands sex from and he didn't even feel sorry, she was sure he doesn't feel sorry for the way she hurt. He was a traitor and her teenage heart burst at the seams. She placed her head on her thighs as her lips wobbled but she bit down her lower lip trying not to cry.

She had brought her up and he said she was paranoid. He betrayed her, he must've gotten sex from somewhere and he was even willing to lose her. She lifted her head and sniffed rubbing her eyes. God, her mother and aunt were right. She was the village girl whom he was using to pass time.

God, she wished she had thought this through before she went ahead and fell in love with him. Every part of him she thought she knew, he gave her his word that he wouldn't cheat and the rose coloured glass was no longer blurring her eyes and

more tears rolled down her eyes. They were perfect for each other but she guessed she was not enough for him.

With shaky hands she clicked on the Facebook app that had come with the phone. She didn't have an account on Facebook but she might as well make it now even if she was going to hurt herself with it.

She went to the create an account button and clicked on it. From there on she followed the instructions and she did as it said. She had created an account in ten minutes with her actual name and surname.

First thing she did was search his name up on Facebook and he popped up. She clicked on the profile and she looked at it. She scrolled down his timeline and saw pictures of him and Lisbeth. She closed her eyes. She was the fool here and they were a happy couple while she was the village fool.

She rubbed her chest and was so close to screaming when Phefo came with a tray. It had bottled water and a tray of ice cubes along with a glass.

"Uhm sorry I took so long. I wasn't sure if you would like bottled water or water poured in a glass. Are you okay?"

She nodded and she picked the bottle as soon as he placed the tray down. her throat was even dry from the crying.

"I think after this I should go. I'll call my mother and tell her I was here.."

"You don't look okay. Calm down first and you look like you have been crying.."

She laughed with tears placing the bottle down. He followed her movement as she rubbed her eyes. She breathed in and out but the pain in her chest

wouldn't go away....

More tears rolled down her smooth gleaming skin and she looked up licking her lips. She silently begged God for strength to move on from this because she loved him. God she loved Thero so much that she wondered if there was something wrong with her.

"Whatever that is going on, it will be okay. Drink water to calm down.."

She wiped her tears and looked at him.

"You lived here for a month and you never asked for my name. My name is Phefo..."

She just nodded. This time he wasn't giving her those creepy looks he used to give her everytime



they bumped into each other in the yard. She picked her phone and she looked at the time. She has been here for ten minutes and her mother wasn't here as of yet.

She breathed in and picked the water bottle yet again and twisted the cap opening the water. She took a few sips and placed it down as it wet her parched throat.

She went back to Facebook and went through his timeline. Hurting herself with the posts he and Lisbeth commented on. More tears filled her eyes and she drank the water to calm herself down. She closed her eyes for a moment before she went on to WhatsApp as Phefo stood up leaving her there.

She opened her chats with him and recorded a voice note.

"Thero I hope you are happy that you made me a fool. I hate that I still love you. I still love you very much and I hate that. You betrayed my love and I know why my mother said to stay away from you. I hate youu..."

She trailed off as she cried. She pressed send and she recorded another one.

"I hope she was frea-freaking worth the betrayal. Know what I don't love you. I hate you! I hate you! I hate you! And I hope you remember when you said you want to give me the world, but good for you that you found my replacement while you were with me. I hate you Thero Carter I hate you and I hope nothing ever goes right in your life because I am suffering because you led me on and you even swore to God that I was the only. Screw you. Screw you...."

She sent the vn and rubbed her head. Feeling a headache. Too much crying. She picked the water

bottle and drank more water. She placed it down.

She tried to stand up and she sat back down. She placed her head between her thighs as the headache hit at full impact and everything felt so fuzzy. She tightly held her phone and clicked the side button four times. She clicked it four times again as her headache worsened. Phefo stepped out and smiled. The drugs won't knock her out but she will be semi-conscious.

He picked her up along with her phone and walked into the house. Amelia screamed but it was not loud enough. She felt like she was floating.

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DELICATE

#20

At the mall

Ma Amelia's phone beeped as it reported with a five second audio recording and pictures from Amelia's phone. Her heart skipped as she called her sister.

"Hello, Kaone? Did you get the same mesaage?"

She asked her younger the moment sge said hello.

"I did. Amelia has never sent an SOS message before.."

"I know that's why I'm worried. Tla ke tshube mobile data ke bone location le wena.."

"Will do so and update the police.."

"Ee..."

She hung up and connected her phone as she waited for the location of where these messages were sent from to show. She pushed the trolley while tapping her foot impatiently in the queue.

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At the Bed and Breakfast

Thero got dressed decently as he picked up his phone. He saw the voice notes she sent and he tried to call her but it just rang. She was going to calm down.

Amelia was a sweet girl and she was probably scared because she saw dick for the first time. He would give her today to calm down then call her so

that they can talk. Get tested even and use the bloody condom she insisted on just to reassure her he wasn't cheating. He didn't deny nor confirm that he was dating Lisbeth so it was easier for him to throw in a bunch of tears and begging here and there for her to believe him. He knew Amelia and she was gullible. She didn't even report that attempted rape from their teacher back in high school so she wasn't going to report him.

She was just throwing around useless bluffs to think that she was smart but she forgot that he was way smarter than her. He looked at the room and he sighed. All that money gone to waste because a village girl decided that she was smart? Well she wasn't going to outsmart him. He deserved her virginity for putting up with her and all those things he did for her. He will convince her anyway, she still loved him and according to the books, love just doesn't disappear overnight.

He walked out and he went by the receptionist telling her he was leaving. He had long paid for it but it seemed as if things didn't go to plan.

He put his headsets in his ear to listen to her long vns. Probably crying and spurting nonsense. He listened a bit bored as the gate slid open and he waited by the road to catch a taxi or a cab. He was going to end this bad day with cuddles and sex from Lisbeth. A girl who knew exactly what she wanted.

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At Phakalane

Amelia opened her eyes feeling much more energetic. She looked around the room with wide eyes as she tried to move but couldn't. Not even one bit.

Her mouth was gagged and she could feel the cold breeze hit her bare skin. Her scream was muffled by the gag and out walked Phefo. Her eyes widened and tears filled her eyes. She didn't know how she ended up here but she blamed herself for not leaving sooner.

The tears rolled down her skin and Phefo smiled looking at Amelia. Her being here was dangerous, he should probably move this pretty doll from here. He picked up her phone as it rang and she looked at it. He hung up and switched it off. With it off, she won't be traced.

"You doll might make me a lot of money with your beauty, don't mind me I want you. I really do but I like a willing woman. There are people who don't and I do need the money to clean up my messes without my parents having to scold me about responsibility.."

Amelia cried some more under the muffled gag and



she couldn't move while she was tied up. Tied up and naked. She was a stupid fool. He switched off the phone and she didn't know if her guardians saw the SOS messages.

Phefo admired her and damn she was beautiful. All he had to do was to get her prepped up like he had been told and he would get money. He picked her up in her nakedness and walked out of the house. He got to his car and he opened the boot and put her in there. Amelia's tears didn't stop rolling down her cheeks and her heart beat in her throat as he closed the boot and darkness consumed her. Her chest constricted due to the cut in her oxygen supply.

Phefo walked back inside the house and sprayed his cologne overbefore he made his way to the bedroom and he picked her clothes along with the phone. He walked to the car with the clothes and put them under his seat. Just at that moment the intercom rang and his heart skipped a beat.

He pressed the gate key that was attached to his car keys and the gate slid open. Ma Amelia walked in with plastics and he rubbed the back of his head.

"Hi ma..."

"Hello.."

Ma Amelia looked around. Amelia's phone had said she was here. It had pin pointed this exact location. She had been calling while she was in the cab.

"Have you seen my daughter?"

She asked and Amelia cried some more in the boot. She was tied up and she couldn't scream. She tried moving her body to hit the top of the boot to make a sound or for her mother to notice. She was just so close but too far.

"She was here but she left, she was crying about some boy.."

Amelia's mother looked at Phefo and she just walked insdie the house. Phefo breathed in. That was close. He looked at the boot and he followd their hoise helper.

"I'm going out for a while.."

"Okay and why is the whole house reeking of your cologne?"

He shurgged.

"Bye.."

He jogged out of the house and he got inside the car.

He started it and in a minute he was driving off to  
God knows where with Amelia in the boot.

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DELICATE

#21

At Phakalane

Ma Amelia checked her phone to try and find the location but there was nothing now. She called but it said currently unavailable. She closed her eyes as she leaned against the kitchen counter.

She called her sister Kaone who answered immediately.

"Did you find Ame?"

"Her phone is unavailable.."

Kaone sighed as she stood up. She bit her lip and

sighed.

"I don't know now, check her at school and ask her roommate to see if she can help. I'm too far and there is nothing I can do ke le mo Bobonong.."

Kaone said. Ma Amelia sighed and she nodded before she hung up. She got her bag and walked out of the house, making sure to lock it and she opened the gate. She prayed her daughter was more than fine and it was just a false alarm.

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At Amelia and Kgosi's dorm

It was thirty minutes later when Ma Amelia had asked the security guard if she could check on her daughter in room 108. She said the name in full and was granted permission.

Now she stood at the door of the room and knocked, praying and hoping her daughter is safe and fine. She knocked once again. The loud knock woke Kgosi from her sleep and she yawned as she got out of bed in nothing but shorts and a sports bra. Amelia was back? She wanted to hear how everything went on her date with her cheating boyfriend.

She covered her mouth yawning and stretching her body.

"Coming.."

She walked to the door, barefoot and half frowned when instead of Amelia, she saw Amelia's mother.

"Dumelang.."

"Hello my child. Is Amelia here?"

Kgosi moved from the door and Ma Amelia stepped inside the room. It was okay now that the girls had settled in. She faced Kgosi who was obviously confused.

"Amelia went on a date around twelve midday. Uhm I was expecting her to be back before sunset.."

Ma Amelia held her hip. A date? Phefo said Amelia came over at the place and she left now Amelia had been on a date. This wasn't making any sense to her.

"Amella was with that guy gatweng ke ene mang? Thero Carter..she left with him.."

Ma Amelia looked at Kgosi as if she had grown horns.

"Thero the one who schools at Maru-a-pula?"

Kgosi nodded. She wasn't sure about what was happening but it seemed as if something was off.



"Is something wrong?"

"Amelia sent an SOS message and now her phone is off and I can't trace it anymore. The last time it showed the location e le ko the place I work at and now nothing.."

Kgosi looked at Ma Amelia and the worry that radiated off that woman worried her and she closed her eyes. She wouldn't want to think anything bad happened to Amelia, she would probably be back before sunset.

"Let me go ask that Thero boy if he knows something. Do you have his number ngwanaka?"

"Nnyaa mma.."

"Okay. Thank you for your help."

She said and walked out. Kgosi closed the door and sat on the bed. Silently praying that Amelia was alright and she would be here.

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At Maru-a-pula

It took some time for Ma Amelia to finally see Thero who walked into the matron's office. Thero's heart skipped a beat as soon as he took his seat and locked eyes with Amelia's mother. Did she know that he wanted to sleep with Amelia and she was here to jeopardise his chances of going to school abroad?

He cleared his throat and greeted her mother.

"Thero, Ms Mogosi has a few questions for you. I hope you won't mind answering them."

"Not at all.." he tried by all means to keep his voice even and not to crack under the interrogation he assumed he was going to go through.

"Hello Thero, I talked with Amelia's roommate and

apparently Amelia went out on a date with you. Do you by any chance know where she is?" Ma Amelia went straight to the point.

"Amelia and I parted on bad terms. We had went out on a date and it ended up badly. She took a taxi. To where I don't know. Look.."

He showed her the last time he called Amelia and her last seen on WhatsApp.

"That's the last time. I don't know where she went."

Ma Amelia looked at Thero and she knew he would stand to lose a lot from Amelia's disappearance. She nodded.

"Thank you. Uhm I will go now.."

She said and stood up. Thero breathed easily as soon as she left but his relief was short lived. Wait.

He put two and two together, if she was looking for Amelia it meant that she was missing and if sh- No! No!

He stood up and said bye to the matron. Amelia might hate him now but that didn't mean he wished her bad, as naive and as a gullible as she was she didn't deserve to be kidnapped if she was kidnapped. He-was she really missing or maybe it was a prank to see if he still cared for her? Of course he did. At some point he loved her, heck she was a wonderful soul what isn't there to love about Amelia? She was always smiling and saw the brighter side of everything, her skin always glowed with radiance and complete happiness.

He forced his memory to remember how she looked a few hours ago when he was with her. He didn't see any of that glow nor the way her eyes had always been expressive. If it was anything to go by, her eyes looked clouded and dull. That happiness far from

being seen and the smile she had given him now looked fake as compared to those smiles she threw his way back at Bobonong. He muttered a curse under his breath as he walked to his room.

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Somewhere in the outskirts of Gaborone

Tje boot finally opened and the cold air that hit her naked form forced her awake. She had forced herself to sleep because it had seemed like Phefo had been driving for hours when it was just for an hour or so. Her body quickly adjusted to the temperature and she looked around. It really looked like she was in the middle of nowhere. Was she going to be a sacrifice of some sort?

Tears burned her already red eyes as she looked at that hut.

"Now let't get you ready and you won't ever have to

see my face ever again.."

He picked her up and walked with her into the hut. Her willpower to resist died as she knew she couldn't do anything with her being tied up like a damn prisoner. Phefo placed her down on the mat on the floor. How can someone who grew up rich see it okay to ruin a poor person like her her life?

Phefo walked back into the car and took out the small bag that was under that seat. She was going to be recognised so he had to do something about her. He walked back inside the hut and took out the scissors. He started to cut her big afro and all Amelia could do was cry, she saw the big chunks of hair fall down and her heart was too sore to fathom that just like that, he was taking away everything that was her. Once he cut her hair he untied her legs and she tried to kick him but he placed the scissors by her throat.

"Try anything, I will cut your throat and leave you for dead. Nyla."

She stopped and he used the same scissor to cut her pubic hair. He cut it till it looked decent. Who would want to sleep with a girl with a bush between her legs?

"Now we can go on and go to the main place and you are going to do everything I say, got it?"

He asked and she nodded.

"Good."

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At the police station

Ma Amelia stood at the desk. "I would like to report someone missing.."

The desk attendant just looked at her as he took out a notebook with a sigh.

"How long has it been?" He asked.

"Just a few hours.."

With that he closed his book.

"We can only help you if it has been 48 hours since the last person was seen. For now maybe the person is still yet to reappear so you will have to wait. Have a good day."

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## DELICATE

#22

At Phakalane

Ma Amelia sat on her bed, still very much worried about her daughter. Hours turned into days and days transitioned into a full week with Amelia missing without a single trace. Tears filled her eyes as she got off the bed and kneeled on the floor.

"Dear God, I hope you keep my little flower safe wherever she is, she doesn't deserve whag is happening and I hope your shining light will guide her back home. Amen."

She said when she couldn't think of anything more. She stood up and sighed. The police wasn't making any progress and everything didn't make sense

about her disappearance. They had posted on all social media platforms for someone to at least know where she was but there was no trace. Just countless shares on her pictures and no leads. She never missed the pitiful looks her bosses gave her because of her missing child. She wasn't a rich woman but now she was always asking about Tsona and Lola's safety back in Bobonong. Kaone worried about the kids with her as well but Kaone was nurturing a new relationship with a man who could potentially be her husband so she wasn't pressuring her sister.

The kids were taken care of and Kaone assured her all the kids were safe with her and that the doors were tightly locked at night. She walked out of her room. The whole week she hasn't Phefo as well, maybe he found a job like his parents always asked him to because he was old and he needed to make a living.

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## At University of Botswana

Kgosi sat in the empty lecture theatre as she scrolled through Facebook. She saw the shares on Amelia's picture and she was hoping for someone to contact them with information about where she was. Just something tangible to work with but there was nothing. She rubbed her eyes and sighed as she went on WhatsApp. She posted Amelia's picture again along with numbers to contact in case anybody saw her. Kgosi placed her phone down and placed her head on the wooden desk.

She breathed out and she couldn't help the tears that formed in her eyes, just like that? Without a trace? It seemed like something off an American film and was it was hard to believe that someone she knew and was starting to actually love had been kidnapped.

For someone like Amelia who didn't know a lot of people, it was an obvious case that she was kidnapped. All those stories about women being trafficked flooded her mind and the tears rolled freely down her cheek. She didn't want to imagine Amelia being hurt or sexually abused. She couldn't fathom that so she forced happy thoughts into her mind. Amelia was okay wherever she was. She was okay. She has to be, God took care of His own right?

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At Thero's dorm he went through the comments hoping that Amelia was found. If it wasn't for him letting her go like that she wouldn't be missing. There was a knock on his door and he quickly placed his phone down. The door opened and in walked Lisbeth with food.

"Hey, you looked down. This whole week you haven't been yourself. What is wrong?" She asked as she sat

next to him on his bed and Thero sighed. His heart instantly regretting his last interaction with Amelia. She must be so scared, he couldn't imagine those owl like eyes that shone with brightness being dulled by such an experience.

Lizzy shook him and he snapped out of it. He looked at Lisbeth. She was really trying to cheer him up and he appreciated the efforts so he forced a smile.

"Tell me, what's wrong?" Her soft voice resonated in his eyes but her soft voice couldn't match Amelia's. Amelia was soft in every way and it scared him how scared he was on her behalf and about her whereabouts.

"Is it about the missing girl?" She asked.

He looked into her eyes and he couldn't lie and say it wasn't because it was scary. He was with her then all of a sudden she disappeared. Life was so cruel. Was this the earth's way of showing him that he should have appreciated Amelia more and shouldn't have taken her for a ride? She has never done

anything wrong and she loved him so open heartedly that back at Bobonong he used to pinch himself asking himself if he was dreaming.

Lisbeth's chest rose and fell and she wanted to say something but she kept quiet.

"She was a classmate who turned out to be a study partner, of course I am worried about her."

That put her suspicions to rest and she hugged him.

"She will be found, don't worry too much about it" she rubbed his back and Thero let out a long sigh.

"I can't help it.." he whispered as Lisbeth comforted him with reassuring words.

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## At The House

Amelia looked at the mirror and she hated herself even more. She didn't know where she was but her

form was so stickly. Her hip bone jutted out of the tights she wore. Her clavicle showing out like a aore thumb. She has been locked up in this room and she didn't remember when shs arrived. Phefo drugged her shortly after cutting off her hair and her hair down there with no ounce of regret in regard to what he was doing.

She looked at the mirror and she couldn't recognize the girl in the mirror, the dark circles under her already swollen eyes and how her cheekbones were already sharp as a razor. She didn't know how long she was in this mini prison because it was so dark and there were no windows. She didn't know if it was day or evening. To her it felt like years and she was tired of crying and hoping for some miracle to happen. She always awoke to food but she couldn't stomach any, it only came back and she would vomit it out. She had never been touched ever since she came here because if it had happened, she would have known.

She brought her weak knees to her face and she bit them with frustration. Shd wanted to get out of here, she had school and shd had dreams. Tears filled her used to be pretty owl eyes and in that moment she wished she was dead. She was going crazy with uncertainty and just staring at blank walls made her see things that were not there. She looked up and saw the camera and she shook her head crying. Only a shell remained of the girl that used to live in her body. She walked to the bathroom where there was no camera. There was nothing sharp in there so she picked the toothbrush and tried to hit the bathroom mirror to break it into pieces. It didn't work. She walked to the toilet and with the little strength she had, she picked the top that covered the water tank of the toilet. She slowly started to hit the mirror, saw the mirror crack along with the toilet tank cover and she kept at it till shards of glass dropped on the floor. Carefully she went to put it back and she picked the shards of glass careful not to cut her hands, cutting her hands was going to be useless.



Meanwhile in another section of the house security personnel stood by the door as a meeting went on in the room.

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# DELICATE

#23

## At The House

In the closed meeting room his voice sent chills down their spines. It was the ability of the man to threaten them in their own house and they couldn't do anything to him. He slid his hands into his dress trousers.

"Tell me you're fucking kidding me?" His dark gaze pierced into the older man's stare. The older man held the table with pale knuckles.

"I am not. I don't have enough money to pay you but this is an investment on your part and she will make you a lot of money, more money than I already owe.."

The young man laughed. It was cold and calculating

as him as he raised a thick eyebrow. Eyebrows any woman would kill to have but it made him more handsome. He slowly walked around the room. This man knew his work ethics yet he broke them already just by this preposterous deal.

"If I was one to give in to my immediate thoughts I would've shot you out the bloody damn window."

The older man with white hair in his head just looked at the lad. He was hoping for King to see the brighter side of things. Of course he knew how he ran his business and he made it out to be one run legally and secretly. How? He had no idea but the young man made it happen. King rubbed his unshaved jaw.

"I want the 400k in my bank account before the end of the day.."

The older man nodded. Was King agreeing? He did this just to pay his debt and the girl looked good enough and young enough to make a lot of money for her master.

"Would you like to see her? I know this breaks all

your bu-"

"Be silent!"

He said swiftly and the older man shut up. Kingsley let out a breath he didn't know he was holding. He can take the girl and let her go, then deal with the person who owed him. His sex trade worked in consent and on free will not forced will.

Meanwhile in the bathroom where there weren't cameras Anelia racked her brain trying to remember where the Biology books said the veins were. She wanted the fastest way to die because she was sure no one was going to find her. Even if she was locked in now, obviously someone was going to use her inappropriately.

That on it's own made her open the toilet to puke with tears in her eyes. She used her arm to wipe her mouth, the acrid taste still in her mouth. She closed

her eyes before she held the bathtub to support her as she stood up. She looked at the mirror and was disgusted by the girl she saw in the mirror. She had no choice. Obviously as a human being she had to wait for the time God called her but God wasn't coming to her rescue. Her own time was already short because she didn't know what tomorrow was going to bring her.

She held a very sharp mirror piece and looked at her neck carefully. She memorized where the vein was and she checked her own pulse with her finger, she was going to be brief and fast with this one stab. Her wrists weren't going to bleed fast enough to end her own life. She closed her eyes to pray for the last time while on this earth.

In the office Kingsley looked at the old man. He will deal with him.

"Take me to her, I can take her today?"The man

nodded too enthusiastically for King's liking and he led the way out of his office.

In the bathroom Amelia opened her eyes and closed them again and she cried out loud as she slashed her neck where she was sure her vein was, blood spured into the broken mirror. She was supposed to wait dor the hourglass to run out of sand. Instead she shattered it, bleeding in the process as she forced her time to end. It was her time to leave this cruel earth.

That loud cry was heard along the passage and Kingsley looked at the old man who quickened his pace. What the fuck was going on?

Amelia bleed as her body weakened and blood was all over the mirror and had stained the white t-shirt she had been given to wear. Her body was already malnourished as it was and she smiled. Finally feeling herself gasp for breath. Was this what people

found nice about death? In a span of seconds everything blacked out and like a sack of potatoes her body fell onto broken shards of mirror and blood on the tile.

The bedroom door and the man looked around the room. Where was the girl? He walked to the bathroom and Kingsley was following him closely. He opened the door and the sight that was before them left the two horrendously speechless.

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DELICATE

#24

At The House

Something caught in Kingsley's throat. There was blood everywhere and it reminded him of that time and why he never wanted to pursue a MBBS degree. Thinking on his feet and trying his best to ignore the copper smell of blood and the blood all over the small space, he pushed past the old man who stood still.

The old man cursed under his breath. This little girl wanted to kill herself? If she died that means he was going to die because he was sure that King would come after him just to get the rest of his money back.



Kingsley looked at the pale face and her sharp features, they rang a bell but he didn't have time to think about it as he rolled his white shirt sleeves and quickly removed his tie. He scanned the frail body and saw where the blood was oozing from. It was a lot of blood that's for sure. He carefully pressed his tie there and checked her pulse on her hand. It was still there. He placed another hand on her heart and it was beating. Too slow for his liking. Fuck this. This man was causing him a lot more problems and problems he sure as hell didn't need. He looked at the man who was silently trying to walk away.

"Don't you dare!" He stopped in his tracks and Kingsley growled his orders at the man and he quickly obeyed. King stood up and slid his phone out of his pocket.

"Hello..I need your help and discretion as well.."

Kingsley frustratedly barked out his request before he hung up and looked at old man Sam. First of all

he never asked for a girl, he wanted his damn money back along with interest and now he was going to incur bizzare hospital costs? Just fucking great. Just great.

He pushed the man aside and bent down by the girl who had the weirdest haircut he has ever seen. It was horrible good God. He checked her heartbeat and it was still there. He removed the tie, hoping that the pressure didn't make her bleed to her death. He picked her up, bloody and all before he walked out of the bathroom.

"This isn't over, but my money. Today in my bank account. I'll be back.."

With that he walked out of the room, still applying pressure to the cuts on the neck, she must've cut a vein and the fact that she was alive at this very moment must be a goddamn miracle on her side because he sure as hell almost succeeded doing the same shit a few years ago but they found him and

what was already hell became ten times worse.

He got to his car and placed her in the car seat and he tied the tie around her neck. For the pressure because he was driving. He looked at his bloody shirt and groaned. Samuel must not try anything funny because he was fuming right now. He started his car and hit the hooter then the gate opened. He reversed out of his parking spot and drove off with questionable speed.

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At Phakalane

Ma Amelia answered her sister's phone call. Kaone giggled before she controlled herself and cleared her throat.

"Hey, any leads in regards to Ame? The police found something?"

"Not yet, we are just praying that she is fine wherever she is and the Lord will guide her back to us.."

She said with a low voice and Kaone let out a sad sigh. Maybe she should hold off her news and wait for this sad time in their family to pass.

"What did you want to tell me nnaka?" Ma Amelia tried to make her voice sound as cheerful as possible.

"It's okay. I will tell you once we find Ame. It's no biggie.."

"No tell me, happy news might just make a bad day better. Tell me.."

"Well Uhm the guy I have been seeing for the past three months. Well he proposed."

She finally said and Ma Amelia smiled.

"Congratulations! Bathong I am so happy for you Kaone. Gatwe when is everything going to happen?"

"We haven't talked about the dates but soon a re he will send his uncles, I am so excited. A man who finally accepts my two kids without judgement and he has a child of his own as well.." Ma Amelia smiled. She was happy for her sister.

"You deserve all the happiness in the world nnaka. Congratulations once again."

"Thank you. I have to go okay? And you'll update me akere ka Amelia?"

"Ee..bye."

She hung and placed the phone down. Her heart was so heavy as she looked around the room. She hated not knowing what was going on and if her daughter ate? Was she okay? Was she scared? It was all so frustrating.

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Meanwhile on the road, Kingsley cursed as he slowed down the car and was stopped by a traffic officer. He was sure he was above the limit but he was going to pay for exceeding the limit. He rolled down his window and the officer looked at him and saw the blood on his hands and face.

"Morena, ne ke kopa gore le tswe re bue.."

Kingsley wanted to refuse but he stepped out and closed the door. He was glad his car had tinted windows.

"Can I see your license and why do you have blood all over you?"

Kingsley reached for the wallet in his car and he opened it to show the officer his licence. The officer frowned and looked at Kingsley again.

"I-my girlfriend had a miscarriage and she is in the car, I have to rush her to the hospital hence thw blood. Akere di ambulance tsa lona di a diega when we call.."

The officer nodded.

"My condolences on your loss and you can go.."

He was handed his license back and he nodddd.

"I will pay my charge because I exceeded the limit, I know I broke the law.."

The officer quickly wrote the charge on the receipt and handed it to him. King modded and got inside the car before he rolled up the window and with that same speed sped off.

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At Maru-a-pula

All alone in his room, Thero went through the pictures he had of Amelia. The ones he kept in a secret vault on his phone. He smiled alone as he rubbed the phone screen. Maybe he did make a mistake and the universe as a whole was showing

him something. He scrolled down and came across the video he took of her with her skirt rolled up and she was putting her feet in the water. He laughed as she screamed in the video. Saying something about water spirits and all that nonsense. He watched another one with a smile and one last time he called her number. The number was unavailable.

He went to their chats and he found himself recording a voice note.

"Hey princess, I am so sorry that I behaved like a jerk and wanted to go against our future plans. That was selfish of me my love. I am so sorry and can you forgive me?"

He sent it and breathed in again as he recorded another one.

"I am worried about you and I can't focus on anything. If you are out there please give out a sign



so that we know you are okay. Please? Please come back to us we miss you. I love you okay?"

He sent the voice note and he sighed.

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## DELICATE

#25

At the private practice

King stepped out of his car and he walked to the backseat. He picked her up and he placed his hand on her heart. He frowned thinking there was no heartbeat but it was still there. Thankfully. He picked his jacket as well and covered her face as he walked into the private practice that very few afforded. He was met by him by the door.

"Did you prepare the room?"

The Dr nodded and Kingsley followed him. The door to the room opened and it was filled with equipment King didn't bother asking about. He laid the girl on the bed and he sighed as the jacket was removed. The Dr looked at the girl as he started to connect her to IV drips and Kingsley watched as the doctor did

his thing.

"What happened to her?"

"Suicide.."

Kingsley responded curtly. The Dr noticed the slashes on her neck, there was probably blood in her lungs because the flow of blood was disrupted.

"Can I ask questions?" The Dr enquired and looked at one of his patients.

"Ask no questions and hear no lies.."

"About the discretion so no nurses?"

"No. Just you treating her, akere I'm paying for this.."

Kingsley ran his hands through his soft curly hair and groaned.

"She needs to be cleaned up and."

"Make it happen doctor.."

"That is a nurse's job Mr Carter and you don't want anyone near her.."

Kingsley let out an explicit curse under his breath. He sighed and covered his face with bloody hands. Fuck Samuel.

"I'll do it then. Show me how.."

He finally said as he sat down on the chair in the room. The doctor nodded and he walked out. Kingsley looked at the girl and a line creased his forehead. She looked familiar yet she was a stranger. He just needed to think clearly. He could curse Samuel till kingdom come but fact remained he owed him and he was waiting for his money to report. Once it reports and this girl is okay and back to normal health he can let her go back home.

The doctor came back with a small bowl filled with warm water and antiseptic. He placed the bowl down and opened the drawer by the bed to remove gloves, antiseptic liquid and a wash cloth.

"After she has been cleaned up, there is a hospital gown as well. Shortly after that she will go through a

series of examinations, for now she is okay Mr Carter."

The Dr walked out and King sighed. He rolled his sleeves back again and he looked at his bloody shirt. He removed it all together and was left with his vest. He walked to the bed and he looked at the girl's face. So oddly familiar. He removed her blood stained white t-shirt and indifferently he started with her face, removing any blood stains. He worked his way down to her tummy. Her rib cage sticking out and he shook his head. Malnourishment as well. Her hip bones too looked pointy but he guessed he didn't notice that when he carried her here. He removed the tights as well and her underwear. He made sure she was cleaned up and he walked into the mini bathroom where he poured the water down the sink. He opened it again and filled the basin with clean water. He placed it down and rinsed the wash cloth before he threw it in the basin and walked inside the room. He started to wipe her body again in case he missed a spot. Twenty minutes later he was done

and he looked for the hospital gown. He found it and still in her sleep, he was sure the doctor sedated her with all those drips and all these machines. Her tied it behind her back and he covered her with the blankets. She still looked like someone he knew though.

The doctor walked in minutes later after Kingsley was done and Kingsley nodded.

"And if possible, can you lock the bathroom?"

The dr frowned.

"Why?"

"Keep her away from sharp objects. I'll pass by later. I have a few things I need to do."

King picked his bloody shirt and wore it. He walked out leaving the doctor there to do his job.

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## At Phakalane

Phefo smiled alone in his room. No one suspected him and he was paid handsomely. 20k was a lot and more than enough to solve his immediate problems. He was sure Amelia was fine. The man was loaded and she wouldn't lack. He was been in and out of the place for the past week.

He had forced his guilty conscience down. He saw it through and he got his money. He cleared his gambling debts and he was a free man. No one could breath down his neck for their money. He walked out of the room and he headed to the kitchen where he found their house helper Ma Amelia. She looked as if she hadn't eaten for days and there was just a haubted look on her face as she made food for dinner. Phefo swallowed down hia guilt that was starting to rise, Amelia was okay where she was.

"Dumelang.."

"Hello Phefo. I'm still making dinner. Your lunch is in the microwave.."

He nodded and in seconds he found himself speaking.

"I saw the social media posts and my parents told me.."

"Amelia doesn't deserve this but I believe she will be okay. One has to hope.."

She said as she stirred the pot and Phefo opened the microwave.

"I hope they find her."

"Me too. I wonder what cruel human being would abduct a 17 year old girl.."

Phefo choked on his own saliva and beat his chest as Ma Amelia turned to face him.

"Are you okay?"



"Yeah-uhm she is 17?"

Ma Amelia nodded. Her little girl was gone and she just didn't know how to deal with it. Phefo walked out. He didn't know she was 17 and underage. He thought she was 18 and most girls start university at 18. He sighed. What was done was done.

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At King's house

Kingsley walked out of the hot shower. It felt good to finally wash the blood off and think.

He quickly got dressed in a black turtleneck, a pull over sweater and soft black pants. In black socks, he slid his feet in his slides and grabbed his car keys. He didn't know if the mysterious girl who was suddenly his responsibility was awake. He'll deal with Samuel. Tomorrow being the latest.

His phone vibrated with a message. The money was paid into his account and he just walked out holding the phone and his car keys.

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At the Private practice

Kingsley arrived after three hours and was now in the doctor's office being updated about her health.

"She is out of the woods. For now.."

"What do you mean by that?"

"She needs blood.."

Kingsley frowned. Okay. There are blood donators and he was sure they have a blood reserve or something.

"Okay.."

"Problem is she is a type O plus, she needs that specific kind of group.."

Kingsley slumped in his seat.

"Can't you find it?"

"It's rare to have that match, by tomorrow I will check but I can't promise you that she would have found a match."

"Is she awake?"

"I think the sedatives are wearing off so she might be.."

Kingsley nodded and he walked out with the small doggy bag. He walked down the corridor and opened the room. He placed it by the bedside and sat down watching the girl who stirred and then turned on her side. Her neck had a plaster and he wasn't sure if he should leave or stay here if she was going to wake up.

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## DELICATE

#26

At the private practice

Kingsley stopped pressing his phone as he looked at the girl again. He closed his eyes, his memory never let him down. Never. He opened his eyes as she stirred once again. He has been here for the past hour and she was still asleep. On the bed, Amelia moved her body feeling sudden pain wake her up from the peacefulness of her eternal sleep. She scrunched her eyes close and felt the usual cotton texture of the sheets and she frowned. She wanted to open her eyes as the light in the room shone above her eyes. Was she in heaven? She thought to herself? God finally took her to heaven and she was happy? Then she felt that sting on her neck and then she moved her hands, feeling a light weight over it. She let out a breath and it felt warm. Was this

heaven?

King watched at a distance as she moved like she was floating. Amelia moved her head and she felt a weight over her head. Slowly all her senses came back and she finally took the leap of faith to open her eyes. Was heaven beautiful? She was about to find. She opened her heavy swollen eyes and the light that blinded her had her closing her eyes again. She tried one more time, was that how bright heaven usually is? She asked? Was she going to see angels? She forced her eyes open and tears filled her eyes because of the light but her eyes adjusted and she didn't know how she didn't hear the machines beep or had she subconsciously filtered that sound out?

She held onto the sheets. It wasn't successful? She didn't die? Tears filled her eyes and they rolled down on their own free will. She flinched feeling the pain on her neck and she moved her hand to touch the area. It had a plaster. She forced her frail body to sit

upright and she looked around the room. Once. Twice before she spotted somebody sitting by the chair near the door. Her heart raced. They were here to finish her off. She should have died now she was g-

Kingsley read her body language. He saw fear in those eyes and then it clicked to him. Where he saw her. She was the missing girl trending on social media, the one he gave a ride last Saturday. He did so so impulsively he then chastised himself from ever giving random strangers rides. It was weird. He made no attempt to stand up on her feet. He was probably going to scare her and she was already weak, no need to add to her misery.

Amelia touched her face and touched the oxygen mask over her mouth and nose. How did she not notice? They saved her? She wanted to scream for help. This was a hospital right? Maybe someone will help her or a nurse. She pulled the light blanket over her face and curled herself into a ball. King watched and he sighed. Amelia waited. For the man in black

to maybe come up to the bed and say something.

She slowly uncovered herself and forced herself to sit upright to look at the man. She tearfully rubbed her eyes, if he was going to kill her or do something bad to her he might as well do it now. She looked at him as he stared right back at her with the most piercing gaze she has ever seen. She couldn't tell if he had eyes as dark as his clothes or it was just here. She just woke up from a suicide attempt. One that was supposed to go right in every way and she was here.

"Eat. There is food by the bedside." He commanded. He wasn't even asking her and he just looked at her without even blinking. She looked by her side and there was a doggy bag. She looked back at him and at the food. What if the food was poisoned and they want to kidnap her again. Was he her kidnapper? She had never seen the person who kept her in that locked room she had now escaped. Can she escape

the hospital?

Kingsley watched her closely. She didn't trust and he certainly wouldn't trust himself after what she has been through. Amelia moved her arm and picked the doggy bag. She opened it and took out the water bottle. It sent alert waves through her brain. Water bottle. Phefo gave her water in a water bottle and she had suddenly started to feel dizzy. She placed the bottle down and she took out another bottle. Juice. She wasn't sure if she should trust that as well. She finally got to the wrapped box and she opened it after placing the tissue and spoon down. It was chicken and rice. She took out another one that had potato mash and coleslaw. She looked at the stranger who didn't move an inch. She didn't trust him. She placed all the food down and then looked at the water. Her throat was dry and she knew better than to drink stuff she was given.

King leaned back on the chair, his legs wide as he



looked at her. She needed to eat. Already she was malnourished and she needed blood as well. If she didn't eat the doctor will have to administer food via the drip. The doctor did say that himself.

"At least eat the potato mash and drink the juice." He said and she just looked at him. She has heard that voice somewhere. Her mind was on alert mode, why was he insisting she eat? Kingsley let out the sigh of a man who had a lot on his plate. He had to make sure she was back to normal health before she can go. That was the least he can do. Then she will decide if she wants to report her kidnappers after she is fine. This was going to be tedious as fuck.

"If you don't eat you do know you'll stay in the hospital longer than necessary and not be able to go home right?" He said and her eyes shot up. She looked at the food for the millionth time and then at him. She finally picked the juice and removed the lid before she placed her dry lips on the juice. Slowly she let the cool beverage touch her throat and she could still taste blood in her mouth. She had no idea

how so. She placed the bottle down slowly and looked at him again.

"Good girl. You can try the food as well.." He said and she didn't know why she felt a surge of pride when the stranger said good girl. He was the bad person in this situation and she was supposed to hate him for working with the person who took her away from her normal reality.

She picked the potato mash and she opened it. She picked the spoon as well and she had one spoonful. Then a second spoonful before the food violently came back and she vomited by the side of her bed. She looked at the stranger who wore a frown. She looked down embarrassed.

Kingsley finally stood up and walked closer to the bed.

"Allergic reaction?" Amelia shook her head and he ran his hands through his hair. She looked down again.

"Okay, uhm drink the juice. One sec.."

He walked out heading to the doctor's office. Meanwhile Amelia had another sip of the juice till it was finished and she curled her body into a ball. The door opened and the handsome stranger....She frowned at her train of thoughts. When did she declare him handsome? He walked in with a doctor. The doctor took her temperature before turning to the stranger.

"She is still pale an-" the doctor turned to her.

"When last did you eat?" He asked?

Kingsley slowly removed the oxygen mask so that she can speak.

"Saturday.." came her croaked voice in a tiny whisper. The doctor didn't hear a thing while King had to strain his ear to hear her.

"What did she say?" The doctor asked.

"I think she said Saturday right?" She nodded.

She wasn't sure when. Maybe it had been weeks since she was kidnapped.

"Be specific." The doctor said and she tried to think.

"14th of August.." yet again Kingsley had to tell the doctor what she said because her voice was too low.

The doctor counted the days.

"No wonder you're malnourished and your body has gotten used to not eating that when you eat you throw up. We will have to feed you through tubes for the time being while you get used to eating again.."

The doctor walked out to prepare the next set of treatment and King noticed that the juice bottle was empty.

"At least you drank the juice. That's something. Don't

worry about the mess, it will be cleaned up. Rest and you'll be fine.." he said before he stepped away.

He walked out of the door and Amelia was left to her own haunting thoughts. She badly wanted to escape this life.

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DELICATE

#27

At the private practice

Amelia finally closed her eyes as sleep took over. The exhaustion and her not actually dying. She just wanted to go home. King opened the door minutes after Amelia fell asleep and he stood by the door before he walked to the bed. She was sleeping and had curled herself into a ball. He pulled the blankets over her shoulders and took a step back. He will pass by tomorrow after he was done with his own day. And just like he exited the room.

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The following morning

## At University of Botswana

Kgosi walked to her morning lecture with a heavy heart. There had been no sign of Amelia and it was so worrying. It was a Tuesday and by Saturday is was going ti be exactly two weeks since Amelia disappeared without a single trace. She walked inside the lecture room and placed her bag and phone on the desk as she sat down.

She pressed her phone trying to see if there was something on Facebook but nothing. She let out a heavy sigh and placed the phone down as the lecturer walked in.

An hour later she remained behind. What if she had already crossed the border and was no longer in the country? The thought alone made her heart race and she held back tears. She wished she had stopped

Amelia from going to that date with that boy, a part of her blamed Thero for all of this.

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At the private practice

Amelia woke up to being poked with needles. Another drip was placed and the doctor looked at his patient.

"For now, we'll supply your body with vitamins using this drip. Morning ma'am."

She nodded and looked at her arm that already had needles poked into it. She sighed. She wanted to ask about the stranger but she just kept quiet. Her throat was dry and she noticed that she didn't have the oxygen mask. She breathed in and out. There was a



jug full of water and a glass by her bedside. The doctor noted her vitals and her current blood pressure. Although he said it lightly yesterday, she did need blood. It seemed like she had had low blood from his diagnosis and tests. Such things usually went undetected till the last minute. He had calls to make to see if he can find a match.

When he was done he left his patient to her own devices. Amelia sat upright and poured water into the water glass. She slowly savoured the water as it hit her throat and the dryness was replaced with the sheer wetness of water. She closed her eyes for a few seconds before opening them again. She didn't know what she was going to do the whole day so she turned on her side and closed her eyes going back to sleep.

\*\*\*

## At Airport Junction

At lunchtime Lizzy took Thero out for lunch to cheer him up. He shouldn't beat himself up about his former classmate going missing. These things happen all the time and you didn't know if it was going to be someone you knew or an absolute stranger.

They sat by Roco Mamas and she held his hand.

"T stop worrying okay? Let's order something to eat before we study for our physics test.." She said as she picked up the menu and Thero let out a sigh as he picked his as well. He was too focused on his menu and didn't see his brother pass by.

Kingsley walked inside the mall to pick up lunch. She couldn't eat anything solid so he had to buy soft foods. Yoghurts would do right? He will see. He walked inside Spar and he picked a basket as he

started to buy food. He joined the queue twenty minutes later and he paid.

The second time he passed by Roco Mamas heading to his car Thero spotted him but he didn't even have the energy to chase him. He let out a sigh. Talking to his parents will help so he let it slide and willed his mind to focus on what Lisbeth was saying. He forced out any thoughts about Amelia aside and he also forced a smile as well.

\*\*\*

At the private practice

Once again King sat in the doctor's office.

"She doesn't have a match but she does need the blood. A lot of it."

King sighed. At least he dealt with Samuel in the wee

hours of the morning but now the girl didn't have a match.

"What happens now?"

"We'll continue looking but then she will have to be put on a waiting list with all her details, so that when blood is available she can be given two pints, that would work for now."

With his legs spread apart and firmly on the carpeted office he cursed under his breath.

"I don't know why the hell I'm doing this, test my blood type and get back to me."

The doctor nodded as he took out a needle and a syringe. Kingsley unbuttoned his silk shirt and rolled back the sleeves on his left arm and with his other arm he moved his tie and unbuttoned the first two buttons, his hair was slicked back as he looked at the doctor who wiped his arm before stabbed his arm and drew out the blood. When the doctor was

done he wiped King with a cotton wool. Kingsley left the doctor to it and walked out.

He opened the door and he stepped inside with the plastics. He placed them by the table and Amelia turned. The handsome stranger was here.

"Hey. I brought food." He said in his nicest voice. Amelia nodded and she sat upright. She looked at him. The juice was fine yesterday so maybe she should eat. She opened the plastics and took out the juice. She drank that first before she picked the yoghurt and a spoon from the bag.

"Try that and see if you can stomach that."

He said and she nodded opening it. She had a spoonful and waited for the food to come back but it didn't. She had the second then third spoonful before she closed it and put it down. She felt like she

was full so she was not going to force it.

"Full?"

She nodded and he slipped his hands in his pockets. He didn't know if he should tell her he was not her kidnapper. Obviously she was going to go to the police and she would say he was her kidnapper which he was not. He had a reputation to uphold and he already ran one hell of a risky night club so he couldn't afford the police digging into his affairs.

"What's your name?" He asked even though he knew, social media was filled with her face and he wondered why they cut her hair.

"Amelia.." She whispered as she laid on her back.

He nodded and he sighed.

"I am going to call your guardian by the end of the day and to clear things up, I am not the one who kidnapped you. If I had any intention of harming you I would've locked you up in my house and not let you

go."

Amelia was skeptical of believing that.

"Do you know who kidnapped you?" She nodded. It was Phefo. She was sure about that. She frowned. If this man didn't kidnap her then how did he find her?

"I can see the question in your eyes and I sadly can't reveal what I do to you but I didn't kidnap you. I'll see what to tell your guardian about finding you but I just wanted to clarify that part." He said and she nodded again.

"Glad we understand each other. You are safe and I am sure your guardians will be here by tomorrow."

He said and walked to his chair by the door and sat down. Amelia didn't want her heart to believe that she might see her mother tomorrow. King sat down and pressed his phone while Amelia forced herself up and started eating the yoghurt again. She did that every twenty minutes and Kingsely was just paying

her no mind as he pressed his phone. An hour later the doctor knocked on the door and Kinglsey stepped out.

He followed the doctor to his office.

"And?"

"You're a match.." The doctor said.

"Okay. How soon should I donate the blood?"

"Even right now is okay." The doctor responded and Kingsley sat down.

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That evening Ma Amelia received a call from a private number. She answered it without hesitation.

"Hello, go to this address and you will fins your daughter." The deep voice on the line said.

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DELICATE

#28

At University of Botswana

Amelia settled down in her room as she rubbed her arms. It had been such an emotional moment being reunited with her mother and she blurted it all out about the events that led to her kidnapping once her mother mentioned that she was going to go to where she worked to recuperate. That led to a long series of events but all in all she was glad she was believed and that the relevant authorities were working on the case.

She stayed in the hospital for an extra week and the handsome stranger showed up in the oddest of times when her mother was around. She didn't know his name but she did thank him for her freedom

which he brushed off. She sighed and looked at the room once again. The door opened and Kgosi walked in. Her roommate couldn't stop hugging her and thanking God he was alive.

"You're good? Ame?" Kgosi asked, the concern in her voice touched Amelia's heart and she just nodded. She wasn't ready for any lessons.

"Are you going to go for therapy?"

"I just want to forget everything ever happened." She replied softly. She didn't want to recall anything and she wanted to move on with her life.

"Are you sure?"

She nodded and touched her head. Kgosi looked at her head and she couldn't imagine the cruelty of someone cutting your hair forcefully.

Amelia sighed and pulled the hoodie over her head. She got under covers and set the alarm on her new small torch like phone. Her mother did leave her job in the process and was still looking for a job so she will have to use this phone for now. It was a completely new simcard and she was glad to have a

fresh start. She didn't even want to stress herself more about Thero, she hated him and Phefo so much but she wasn't going to talk shit about them because it was a closed chapter in her life.

\*\*\*

At Maru-a-pula

Lisbeth walked inside Thero's room. Thero closed his books to give her attention. He was glad that Amelia had been found and he had tried to call her but her phone wasn't going through. He planned to see her at school just so they can talk it out.

His heart was a little at ease at the fact that she was okay and he had been worried about her. He watched Lisbeth pace up and down his room. With panic filled eyes and he frowned. Why was she panicking?

"Lisbeth why are you panicking?" He broke the silence and she looked at him as she ran her hands through her hair.

"We have a problem babe.." she said, not taking note he called her by her full name which he never uses. It's always pet names or nicknames but she was too stressed to think about that.

"A problem?" He asked. She nodded and sat on his bed. How could they be so careless?

"I'm pregnant."

Lisbeth said and she covered her face with her hands tears filling her eyes and Thero was just there. Wasn't she on contraception?

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## At Kingsley's Office

He leaned back on his chair and he reminded himself that he made the right decision. Nothing linking him to Amelia and her not knowing who he was or his name was the best decision. He closed his eyes for a few seconds before opening them and looking at the files on his desk. He better go to that auction tonight just to get his mind off things, been a while since he had a temporary girl in his house and the girl he fucked in his club was a one time thing. He ran his hands through his hair and forced himself to focus on his work. He was going to forget it all soon enough and besides, relationships and everything that involved actually investing your feelings towards another human being's wellbeing was off the table for him. He certainly wasn't going to do that. He preferred being the lone wolf everyone was scared of. The bad guy in everyone's narrative, worked better that way and he knew the role very well.

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At Maru-a-pula

After bouts of silence Thero finally spoke.

"Can we get rid of it?" He asked her. They didn't have any choice and they had dreams. He wasn't so sure too if she was the woman he was going to marry maybe Amelia will take him back and he will work towards making her trust him. He lacked better judgement.

"What if it affects me in future?"

She asked and Thero sighed.

"Are you ready to juggle school and a child? Liz we have bright futures. Each one of us. Why should a little mistake ruin it for us?"

He asked and she rubbed her flat stomach. She let out a sigh and rubbed her eyes. He was right. This was for their future.

"Okay. I'll see what to do."

He nodded and he hugged her as she smiled. She had such a supportive partner. She was glad she found someone like him.

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At Amelia and Kgosì's dorm

Ame woke up and she brought her knees to her face. Another bad dream from her afternoon nap. She wasn't sure she was ready to start school yet again but she had to. Her phone rang and she answered it.

"Mama.."

"Hello baby. Are you okay? Are you fine? O safe?"

Her mother asked. She regretted ever bringing

Amelia over to stay with her. She was not going to make that mistake ever with her next boss. She was glad that Phefo was awaiting trial in prison and she detested him more. He looked her right in the face as if he didn't know anything but he was the one who sold her daughter. It made her angry and she would never forgive him for that.

"I am okay mama. I just woke up." Ma Amelia smiled a little. Everyone was relieved that Amelia was fine and she was too. Amelia waited for her mother to say something but her mother said goodbye and she hung up. She sighed and closed her eyes. She owed that handsome stranger her life. She thought to herself before she went to sleep once again.

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DELICATE

#29

At Gaborone International Airport

Thero's phone rang and he sighed pretty annoyed. He breathed in and out before he answered.

"Hello."

"Hey. I hope that now you are in town you will check on OUR child." She emphasised the our so clearly so that he hears it.

"Ba-"

"I have exams and my first year of medical school is hectic le nna jaaka wena akere.." she said in her broken setswana. Lisbeth ran her hands through her hair. At least she made it and she didn't want to fail her parents again, she had to work extra hard for that government sponsorship after she passed her A

levels. Pregnant. But still she did her best.

"We'll talk. Go sharpo."

She hung up and sighed while Thero frustratedly kicked his luggage. What a great welcome back home from his on and off girlfriend and baby mama. He breathed in to keep his composure and pulled his bag. He was glad his parents made the move to Gaborone just to be closer to their grandson and he got a lecture, one he didn't need but they adored their grandson and Lisbeth as well. His mother approved his girlfriend and that was a remarkable first. She hated Amelia so he guessed Lisbeth was okay. His mother loved it even more when she discovered Lisbeth was studying medicine. Well University of Botswana wasn't her first choice but she didn't want to leave her son behind so she chose to study in the country.

He pulled his bags and dialed his father to tell him he arrived back home. He wondered if he was going

to bump into Amelia. Ever since she was found after her missing saga he never saw her again and maybe he should pass by UB to see her. For old time's sake. He missed her. He was being honest to himself that he really missed how she would say the silliest of things and smile. Her encouragements when he was studying and those long video calls just talking about nothing but them being everything. He fucked up a good thing and he was going to apologise. They were older and wiser now weren't they?

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At University of Botswana

Amelia held her books against her chest as she walked back to her room. She had a different roommate and it was okau. She guessed. She had accepted the changes and she was good friends with Kgosi, they usually spent time together every Friday after lessons and when she didn't have

practical demonstrations so that was good. Her phone rang and she picked up the phone call.

"Hello.."

"You didn't forget Ame?"

"Not at all. I'm going to put my stuff in my room and we'll meet ha Exec akere?"

"Ae, we are going out to eat.."

"Uhm. Okay. Ke etla ee."

She hung up and quickened her pace to her block. She greeted the security lady and she climbed the stairs as fast as she could. She found the room door unlocked and she frowned seeing her roommate applying makeup and getting all pretty.

"Hey, you look pretty."

"Thank you..."

Her roommate said and Amelia sat down on the bed as she untied her shoelaces after placing her books

and bag down. She removed her socks and slid her feet inside her pink slides. She tied her afro into two big puffs, the red dyed ends making her look exotic. Her roommate looked at her and she smiled. Amelia was a pretty girl and she liked her. Her roommate for their fifth semester in school.

"What?"

"O montle tlhemma, sure sure you don't have a boyfriend?" Amelia found herself laughing at that thought. She was going to die a nun before she gave a boy her heart to grate so no thank you. Boys weren't her cup of tea.

"Ng ng. Ga ke senke tshimane ha tlase game." Her roommate laughed.

"At least get laid.."

Ame made a gagging sound and shook her head no. No! No! No!

"Me and boys and sex? We're like water and oil. We do not meet. Not at all."

"So you don't have needs?"

"Needs? No Yaya, no I don't have needs."

"You're still a virgin then?"

"I'm proud to be one."

Yaya laughed and Amelia fixed her edges with her styling gel. She applied lip gloss and picked her bag and slipped her wallet, student id and phone in there.

"I'll be back. Will I find you here or you are going out?"

"I might be here, when will you be back?"

"Uhm around 6pm.."

"Oh I'll be here, just getting ready.."

"For a date? O ntse skhwabonyana.."

Yaya laughed.

"Nobody uses that word now Amelia and thank you. It's not a date I'm going uhm clubbing if I should put it that way."

"Alright. See you later sis."

Amelia walked out with her bag. Once she was out of her block she took her out her phone and called Kgosi.

"Where are you?"

"Coming to your block be patient."

"Okay."

Amelia gripped the sleeves of her cashmere sweater and she looked up at the sky. She was off social media and she didn't know who to ask about the stranger who helped years back. The doctor who treated her refused to give a name and she was someone who didn't keep up with the current news since everything was online now but she had made a conscious decision to stay off all social media platforms. Kgosi came behind her and shook her shoulders. Amelia nearly jumped but she turned and glared at her friend.

"So not funny. Where are we going?"

"Uhm chenchi tsa book allowance di teng, we are

going shopping ko Game City plus we need food plus we are going to eat."

"Uh. Okay I'll just agree for the sake of agreeing cause tomorrow is a saturday and we can do all that tomorrow."

"Duh I have a movie date with moguy so.."

Amelia nodded and they started to walk to where the gate was. Everything was okay on her part. Amelia mused. She did well even without therapy and she was proud of herself. So proud.

"Kgosi?"

"Ma?"

Kgosi noticed that shortly after Ame came back, her voice had gotten a bit lower and sometimes when she really wasn't in the mood to talk, you had to strain your ears to hear her, the slash scars on her neck didn't go unnoticed as well so she was surprised that she was wearing something that exposed her neck like that, she usually wore



turtlenecks and bottlenecks.

"Forget it, let's catch a taxi.."

Kgosi sighed. Amelia never revealed the details of what went down and why and who cut her hair, just held back a lot of her and she guessed also because she did actually believe her boyfriend was cheating on her with Lisbeth.

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At Amelia's aunts

Kaone walked inside the house and found the house clean and she smiled. Her kids really did try to clean along with her husband's son. She was glad that she managed to move out of the house, her sister and her had built and now her sister was staying there with Tsona and Lola.

"Babe?"

"In the bedroom.." Kaone walked to the bedroom with a smile plastered on her face. She opened the door and found her husband working. She removed her almost flat heels and placed them where they put their shoes. Her husband looked at her and he smiled. He had a question but he didn't know how his wife was going to take it. Kaone started unzipping her uniform as her husband typed.

"Babe when is your niece going to come here again?"

Kaone frowned.

"O raya Ame?"

He nodded.

"Uhm I think these coming September independence holidays why?" She prayed to God her husband wasn't interested in her niece or helo her God she was going to ban Amelia from coming here. She had just asked her to look after the kids because she had

an emergency at that time and well Amelia was dressed decently. She always dresses decently but you can never know.

"Just."

She nodded her head suspiciously before she wiggled out of her dress and she wore a tshirt and tights. She picked her phone and kissed his cheek.

"What do you want to eat?"

"Anything you make will be fine."

She nodded and then kissed his lips before she walked to the kitchen and she dialed Amelia's number. It rang twice before it was answered.

"Hello.." came Amelia's soft voice.

"Hello. How are you?"

"I'm okay, how is the family.."

"Good. That time you were with the kids did you hit on my husband?"

Amelia paused as she looked at the phone and she placed her phone on her ear.

"M-ma?"

"I asked a clear question.."

"Nnyaa mma..." She said and she hung up before her aunt could accuse her of anything she didn't do.

Kaone looked at the phone. Amelia hung up on her?

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DELICATE

#30

In the taxi

Amelia placed her phone down and breathed in and out while Kgosi watched her.

"Is everything okay?"

"Yes uhm yes." She responded and Kgosi just let the subject be. Amelia leaned on the seat as the taxi drove them to the taxi rank. Like she usually did, she pushed down what just happened to the back of her mind and she smiled.

"We're starting with Game?"

She asked Kgosi who stopped pressing her phone.

"We are going to eat first, then get into Game just go makalela di price.."

Amelia chuckled, this was going to be a fun exercise.  
"And then we buy food in another store, food we can afford as students mam."

She nodded and kept quiet. Five minutes later they were in the taxi rank and they started walking to the bus rank where they were going to find combis to take them to Game City. It only took less than ten minutes and they were seated in the combi and waiting to go to Game City. Amelia took out her phone and just inserted her headsets to not draw attention to herself. She didn't want anyone to look at her or even remember her as the girl who went missing, looking at her with pitiful stares that made it much more harder for her to forget that it happened.

The combi started to move and Amelia looked at Kgosi who was pressing her phone.

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At Amelia's aunts

She placed the spoon down and walked to the bedroom where she found her husband still working. She feigned curiosity as she picked a hair ribbon and tied her braids into place.

"Why were you asking?"

"Hhm?" Her husband stopped working and looked at her.

"My brother, Tlotlo akere wa mo itse?"

"Oh the one yo o reng o tsena ko Canada?"

"Yes that one, he saw her at the wedding and that time she babysat for us. He came back home maloba for a short break and asked about her since he couldn't find her on Facebook."

Kaone choked on her saliva and her husband frowned.

"Is there something wrong?"

She beat her chest and shook her head.

"I'm okay. Ke Tlotlo who was looking for her?"

"Yes,he says she is too pretty ekete ga se Motswana and o phala banyana ba Canada ka bontle." Her husband got back to work and she walked out.

Trying to mask her own embarrassment, her husband didn't want Amelia? He was asking on behalf of his brother? She swallowed and immediately picked her phone to call Amelia. The call was cut before it was answered and she sighed. She will call later and apologise, she didn't know the full story.

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At Game City



The two girls started with eating by the nearby restaurant. Amelia just had a glass of lemon water and some cream samp and stew.

"Wait, after this we are going to Game first or to the shops tsa diaparo?"

"Uhm Game then clothes then food."

"Wonderful." Came Amelia's response and she looked around the place. The two ate over light conversation and once they were full they decided to go enter Game stores.

"At least my kettle and iron are still okay.."

"There is a special going on, should we buy food here?"

"We will see if the prices are what we can afford as students Kgosi..we are starting at which aisle? The fridges le di tv?"

She asked and Kgosi just held her hand and led her to the aisles where there was food.

"We start here hun.."

From there the girls spent an hour in the store and they ended up buying food. Kgosi managed to twist Amelia's arm to buy food there and some study snacks as well. They joined the line with a joint trolley. She looked at the trolley and back at Kgosi.

"Let me add something, I won't be long."

She walked away and she walked to the other side of the shop. She paused in her tracks and walked slowly rubbing her eyes. She was seeing things surely. She walked closer and closer as he turned from the shelves to push his trolley. He finally lifted his eyes and she smiled, revealing pearly whites.

"Hi." Her soft whsiper voice came out to play and he paused. At first confused then followed by realization dawning on him.

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# DELICATE

#31

## At Game Stores

Amelia licked her lips as she looked up at him with her owl big eyes. She saw lines crease his forehead and how he quickly masked the shock in his eyes. He gave her a blank stare and her heart beat in a rhythm she didn't understand. Now standing next to him she could see how he towered over her small 4 foot 11. She lifted her head more waiting for him to recognise her but it didn't seem like he did. He tipped his head back silently. His cologne got to her and she rubbed her nose then looked at him.

"Hello. Can I help you?" The handsome stranger finally said and Amelia heart exploded. Her heart went pitter patter at his voice. His gaze fixed on hers and she licked her lips looking at his empty eyes. He

helped her more than he can know but he didn't know it was the person he helped years back? She stepped back and looked at him and how the hair that had looked curly soft two years ago was now straightened and he had the same haircut as Zayn Malik, his dark browns intently on her. Her throat dried up but she didn't swallow because he will notice. She just wanted to thank him and maybe get the name of the stranger who helped.

"Ke Amelia, the girl you helped years back.." she said and pressed her lips together, her eyes quickly moving to look at her feet. She was embarrassing herself and he probably did this all the time, helps strangers and doesn't expect a thank you then disappears without a trace without revealing his name.

"Amelia?" He said, making sure he injected that tone of question as if he didn't know who Amelia was.

"Ee rra. Uhm it's okay if you don't recognize me. I just wanted to say thank you for helping me two years

ago. I had time to look up the hospital you had me admitted at and it was expensive but thank you so much for saving my life." She looked back up and he was looking at his watch.

"Uhm so sorry I wasted your time by stopping you. I am just really grateful that you helped me when you did. Tanki and I hope God blesses you and your family for the kindness you have shown to me.." She finally said and clasped her hands together waiting for him to say something. Anything. She held her breath but there was nothing seconds later because he turned to face the shelves and pick whatever he was buying. He was still handsome and she took that as her silent leave and she nodded walking away, forgetting what she even went back for. The man she saw was in jeans and she didn't fail to notice his physical masculinity and how it radiated off him just that it wasn't important when she was thanking him. Maybe she mistook that man for the handsome stranger who helped her but they looked the same just different haircuts in between that 2

year period. She walked to the till and Kgosi was already paying.

"Hey Ame, did you find what you wanted?"

"Uhm no.." Amelia opened her bag and she took out a few notes from her wallet to pay for her stuff as well. She must'e mistaken his identity. That must be it. The two walked out of the shop with their plastics and Amelia turned her head to face the entrance. She didn't see him. She sighed.

Meanwhile in the store Kingsley ended up not even shopping after a harsh intake of breath. He ran his hands through his hair. He cannot lose his cool, it has been two fucking years and just because he did something good doesn't mean he should define himself with it. He looked at his trolley and he was certainly not in the mood to continue buying his own groceries. The help will do it this coming week. He needed to go to his club and take his mind off that Rihanna lookalike called Amelia. He abandoned his

trolley and walked out of the store, in such a rush that he bumped into someone and the person nearly fell on her feet but he was quick to hold the wrist and pull the person up, catching a whiff of vanilla from the person he helped up. When he recognised the red hair tints and that sweater as Amelia he let out one long exasperated sigh.

Kgosi frowned as she placed the plastics down and looked at the person who bumped into Amelia. She looked at the person and she made an oh shape with her mouth.

"My apologies, nobody's hurt? Okay.."

With that Kingsely walked away from the two girls and Amelia watched the handsome stranger walk as if he was flying. She sighed and bent down to pick the plastic that was on the ground.

"Was th-wait we met-oh God!"

Amelia ignored Kgosi as she finally held her plastic and ignored the tingling sensation from when he held her arm and then he quickly dropped it as if it was searing heat.

She stood up straight and looked at her friend. "I think we should go."

"Babes do you know who bumped into you?"

"I honestly have no idea Kgosi. I would've apologised for being in his way if I knew K."

She started walking to where the combis were and Kgosi followed her.

"Bathong kana I forget you live in your own world without social media and stuff. Do you even read newspapers?"

Amelia shook her head.

"Kana that was gatweng ke ene mang, Kingsely Carter.."



Amelia paused. Carter?

"Carter?"

Kgosi nodded as she told her about his work as one of Botswana's actuary.

"Actuary ke mo fe?" Amelia asked.

"Uhm something related to Finance as well as mathematics, go thata but yes he does that yes. Surprised you don't know about him."

Amelia shrugged. She had a name though. She said in her brain as they got inside the combi that was going to take them to the rank.

"Anyway he did apologise to you so...le ene ekete le cross breed nyana o bone?"

She asked Amelia who was not listening. She had a name. A name shd was not going to do anything about.

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At University of Botswana

The two girls arrived at campus and Amelia rubbed her head.

"I think I'm going to have an early night."

"Okay love."

They hugged and they both walked to their separate blocks and Amelia let out a low breath as she finally walked inside, greeted the security lady and climbed the stairs.

She got to her room and Yaya was taking photos.

"You're back. I'll be leaving in an hour or so.."

"Okay. Uhm call to tell me you're safe just in case."

"I'm a big girl Ame, I can take care of myself.."

She said as Ame placed the plastics by her study desk and threw herself on the bed. Kingsley?

"You can never know Yaya, what club are you going to?"

"Uhm I don't know if I should tell you but I'm going clubbing.."

Amelia sat upright. Aren't clubs known and common in the city?

"But you didn't give me a name, just in case anything happens.."

Yaya let out a breath and sat down.

"Nnaka you don't know a lot of things and this is something that is not supposed to be common knowledge, besides you would not be interested in going at all so.."

Amelia raised her eyebrows in question. What was

this top secret club that Yaya was going to? The more she withheld information, the more she piqued her curiosity.

"And if I said I was interested?"

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DELICATE

#32

At Amelia's room

Amelia's jaw dropped as Yaya broke the confidentiality rules and told her all about the club. Amelia undid her two big puffs. She wa stil shook. Yaya waa going there?

"So I am going to ask again are you interested?"

Yaya said as she got her bag and put high heels inside. She knew what she was going to do, she did this part time so it was no biggie plus the pay was good.

"Amelia snap out of it honey and give me an answer. Nako ya chaya plus today I think it's the masquerade party. A lot of big people will be there too."

"Uhm-uh"

Her throat dried as she watched Yaya. Yaya gave her a pointed look. She had broken the confidentiality rules because she said she was interested and now she froze? Yaya shook her head. She knew Amelia was soft, who was she kidding? Amelia would never go to a club like that. Amelia leaned back. She closed her eyes and waited for her gut instinct to say something or to feel a sudden apprehension but there was none. She rubbed her hair and she opened her eyes looking at Yaya. She knew obviously Yaya wasn't going to expect her to go and she looked at Yaya again.

"The safety?"

"Totally safe, I don't know the owner personally, he just has his own set of staff that brings him drinks in his office but otherwise it's safe. I explained everything. No crimes happen in that place, just adults who go there for a good time and nothing else

while also making money as well.."

She summed it all again and Amelia rubbed her eyes. Maybe seeing won't be bad.

"I won't be obliged to come everyday?"

"No and if you want to register yourself for you know.."

She raised her eyebrows and looked at Amelia.

"It's safe even if they ask a few questions but you are not that girl Amelia. Don't force yourself to go with me, just keep what I told you secret okay?"

Yaya finally said as she slid the masquerade mask in her overnight bag. She walked to the door and said her goodbye. She held the door handle to close the door but Ame's soft whisper reached her ears.

"I w-want to see..."

Yaya paused. "Are you sure? Amelia you don't have

to do this kana waitse. It's okay. I'll be back in the morning love.."

"I am sure. Just to see hela.."

Yaya looked at her watch and at Amelia.

"Okay. Get ready then nako ya chaya.."

She walked back into the room and closed the door.

"Do you have any dresses? Like nice chic dresses? They don't necessarily have to be short, just nice."

She said and Amelia tried to see if she did have dresses. She had a sparkly black one she bought and never wore because it was too revealing. She walked to her wardrobe and looked for the dress. She picked the dress and she placed it on the bed. She faced the other side as she removed the cashmere sweater and threw it on the bed. She removed her pants as well and Yaya faced the way, Amelia usually loved her privacy when she changed.



She even had her own shower curtain when she went to the shower. She never saw her wear anything revealing and guess how she wore sleeveless dresses? With a long sleeved vest and it totally looked cute on her. Amelia wore the off the shoulder knee length dress and she bent down to pick her black gladiators from under the bed. She wore those shoes and she turned to face Yaya.

"I am almost done, tla ke kame moriri then I take my bag and cardigan."

Yaya looked at Amelia through and through. She didn't miss the few revelations she now had about her roommate. Amelia got an afro comb and combed through her hair as when she was done she looked at Yaya. She got a cardigan and wore it over the dress nervously. She had time to change her mind. She really had time to stop this and just watch movies on her laptop for the night. She breathed in and picked her bag without removing anything.

"We can go."

"Wow!" Yaya said as she looked at Amelia. She hid that wonderful slim body and she had a tattoo? That one was a shocker. Amelia saw Yaya's eyes on her collarbone and she consciously pulled her cardigan.

"I uhm got it last year.."

"It's so pretty and mma o montle. You look exotic, please keep your phone on so I can call you and let me see if I have an extra mask. Anonymity is the key tonight so no one will recognise you and no one is allowed to post on social media. You are safe."

Yaya opened her wardrobe and found another mask. She put it in her bag and the two girls locked the room and put their keys in the bag.

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## At the Club

Kingsely drank his glass of Scotch in his office, after that awkward encounter with Amelia at Game, he passed by his house to change into his usual clothes. He was an all black man and it wasn't going to change anytime soon. He had a mask somewhere he guessed and if he was in a lighter mood he might go downstairs for a drink and come back to his office for one hell of a fucking because he didn't know what was up with his senses. They seemed frizzled and all over the place since he saw her and he definitely didn't do anything associated with intense caring or love. His body chilled at the mere word. He downed his drink and refilled it and put more ice. He got out of his office and he watched from the top as the club filled up. Everyone sure thought they were anonymous with their masquerade masks on. He walked back to his office and he sat down.

Meanwhile Yaya and Amelia passed by security and Yaya went on with her lists of caution. She had to go to the other side of the club because being a part time stripper did help sometime. She had Amelia's cardigan in the bag and Amelia looked around with her black shiny mask on. She didn't know half the people or was it because they were covered up?

"I am going but you have you bag and phone with you. Order anything, it better not be expensive with my name. I have a tab here, toodles darling and enjoy."

She nodded and she sat by the bar stool as some people watched the bartender who was mixing drinks. Another bartender sat by the other side of the bar and smiled.

"What can I get for you miss?"

Amelia paused and she looked at the barman. She was clueless when it came to drinks. She parted her shiny lips and the bartender temporarily zoned out

looking at her lips before he snapped himself out of it.

"What do you have?" Shd said softly. Unaware of the mesmerising effect she had on the bartender.

"We have margaritas, daiquiri, dry martin and more cocktails.."

Amelia placed her chin over her hands.

"I'll have a glass of lemon water while I make up my mind."

"Coming right up."

She turned and took out her phone to google cocktails while she waited for her glass of water. The music wasn't too loud but it was music she would never dance to in public so she kept on with her google research. The bartender came back and placed her glass down and she told him to put the order in Yaya's tab. She put her phone back and she sucked the water through the black straw.

Casually King made his way to the club downstairs and the air around him changed. He kept his straight face as he looked around. He walked to the bar and sat down on the empty stool.

"Whiskey. On the rocks." He commanded and Amelia stopped drinking her water. She knew that voice. She was sure of it. She turned the stool and faced the source of the voice. He didn't notice her, man it was most probably a case of mistaken identity on her side. It was happening a lot today. She called the bartender after he delivered the man's whiskey.

"Uhm I will have a martini please, still on the same tab." Now it was Kingsley's turn to turn and he saw the red hair first, then he moved to her lips and he frowned. He saw the tattoo on her collar bone but he sat put to observe. The martini came and Amelia used the straw to mix it and she took a small sip. It had a bitter after taste but she let it slide as she sipped some more. He cleared his throat and looked at her.

"May I interest you in a dance?" He asked. Amelia turned to look at the man with a voice so familiar. There was music and there is a first time for everything.

"I guess." He took her hand and it fitted his perfectly. A new song started and he took his time to let his eyes devour her body before he led her to the middle of the room. He placed his hand at the small of her back and she didn't know what to do with her other hand so she placed it on his chest shakily.

"So may I know your name?" He asked as he moved and she moved like he did. She looked up at him and bit her lip.

"Lia.."

"Lia..." Her name rolled off his tongue in the most delicious way and she shuddered as he pulled her close and she let out a low yelp.

"I didn't mean to scare you.."

"It's okay. What's your name?"

"Grey.."

She smiled and Kingsley let out one of his wolfish smiles. This was going to be interesting.

"Nice to meet you Grey."

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# DELICATE

#33

## At the Club

Grey kept his hand slightly below her back but not quite moving down and she inhaled sharply keeping her eyes on him. Amelia knew he didn't know her and it was just masks.

"And I am pleased to meet you Lia.." He said, doing that roll with her name again that made it sound somewhat special than it really was. Amelia watched Grey let go of her hand and his fingers tracing the tattoo on her collarbone and her skin flushed. His eyes moved to hers.

"Lia.." he said once again but this time reading the tattoo. It was just Lia in Italics. Amelia not sure with what to do with her dropped hand placed it on his chest. He was a tal human being that's for sure.

"What brings you to a place like this Lia?" He asked. Out of curiosity? Or was it for his own personal gain? He didn't know and he didn't want to think about it.

"A friend thought I should loosen up.."

She said casually and Grey moved his big hands to her waist then he smiled. Amelia wished to remove that mask to see how his whole face looked like and if that smile made a difference.

"And how is it so far?"

"I am yet to explore the aspects of this club but so far so good." She smiled and he smiled as they moved to the music.

"You sound and look beautiful." Amelia flushed once again in this man's arms.

"Thank you. What do you do?"

She asked and he kept moving before answering.

"Isn't that a little too serious Ms Lia?"

"I'm sorry.." He nodded and once the song ended he let her go and she smiled looking at him.

"I'm just going to take my seat there.."

She said as she walked back to the stool she had been occupying and she ordered another alcoholic concoction with a fancy ass name. Grey joined her minutes later as she sipped the drink and he sat on the stool next to her. She smiled and he did too. Was it possible to be so free around a stranger or was it the anonymity that made it all possible for her to do that? He looked at her as he took a swig of his cognac liquid. It was so unexpectedll when he pulled her stool to his and with his legs wide apart and that wolfish grin came to play.

"You're interesting.." He said to her and her eyelashed fluttered as she hid a smile with a curiois gaze, her head moved to one side.

"I didn't know that.." Her soft whisper voice responded and he cocked his head.

"Really?"

"Yes really." She sipped her colourful drink and waited for him to say something. Okay this was not

bad and the place had security so she was safe. Her phone vibrated in her bag and she checked on it. It was a message from Yaya.

Yaya: Safe hun?

Amelia: Yes Yaya. Still safe.

She quickly put her phone and faced the stranger. She placed the alcoholic concoction down and he placed his glass down.

"Are you from here?"

She waved him off. Now she was sure the alcohol was getting to her and wasn't it weird that she wanted to talk to this masked stranger.

"No. I'm from planet Mars."

She said and he laughed. She found herself laughing as well.

"Then if you're from Mars then it means that planet must have a plethora of mesmerising women like you."

Her face flushed ten times more and her brain got alk mushy, her heart was utterly useless at this point because it beat too fast and didn't help in this situation.

"I can assure you, I'm the only person who lives in Mars.."

"Then can I get to know this Mars babe in other ways?"

He asked and she gasped. He was looking into her eyes and he could see how the emotions fought with each other. With a knowing look he just watched her. Waiting for her to say something.

"What other ways?"

"On a more intimate way if I may put it as such."

Amelia looked at the masked stranger. She thought as much but then she had questions as well. She picked her drink and sipped on it. He wasn't forcing her and she could say no but if she wasn't a virgin

then she could've said yes. Was she going to lose her virginity in a club that she didn't know existed till a few hours ago to a man whom she met but felt like she knew him but didn't know him? Was this going to be one of thoss stories she told her children that she did wild crazy things in her youth?

"I see."

Amelia looked at him and what would she say in future? She chose a random stranger to be her first and she didn't regret it? She convinced herself and she smiled.

"Just for the night?" She asked. Now she was sure it was the alcohol talking.

"Yes ma'am". He winked and she laughed covering her mouth.

He took her hand and helped her stand up and he led her away from the bar holding her hand. Maybe he was finally going to get her out of his system and never see her again. He walked the stairs with her and led her to his office. He closed the door and

Amelia looked around the very dark room. Her heart skipped a beat and she breathed in and out.

He wrapped strong arms around her waist from behind before he whispered in her ear.

"Before hand Lia, I would like to say you have a chance to walk away because I am a very unconventional man."

He could hear her harsh intake of breath.

"Why so?"

"I'm built differently and do things differently pretty Lia, you might have to run now rather than later."

She closed her eyes. Yet another choice shot her way.

"I'll stay."

"Okay Lia.."

He said and he found his hand moving from her hip up to her midriff and he moved it away just for his

hand to wrap around her neck.

"My hand looks better on your neck than a necklace would." He said and Lia couldn't see a thing. Her stomach somersaulted and she inclined her head to look up at him. He smiled and eased his grip around her neck but his fingers lightly moved up to her cheekbones, tracing that line and he smiled.

"Ready?"

She nodded. He walked with her to the other door in the room. He pushed it open and they stepped inside.

"Grey, it's still dark. I want to see.." She said and he chuckled.

"Masks on or off?" He asked.

"On."

She replied. She didn't want to put a face to the guy because this was going to be a once off.

"Darkness works best pretty thing.."

He replied and he started to pull down the off the



shoulder sleeves and Amelia shuddered. She closed her eyes as he bent down to her level to kiss her neck.

"You will love this. Trust me."

Next chapter will be posted in the group Because it is too explicit for Facebook. Thank you.

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DELICATE

#34

At Kingsley's Club

Seconds later, she lost Grey's warmth around her as she heard the door knob turn.

"Lia, I'm going to ask for the last time, are you sure about this?" She looked around the room to look at the direction the voice was coming from. Her whole body turned towards that direction. She exhaled sharply and nodded.

"Words Lia."

"I am sure."

"Good. Because I'm locking this door and whatever that happens here, stays here. Understood? Replying with a Yes Sir would be a good start little Lia." His voice crushed down her in a commanding tone. With

the added effect that it was deep enough to make her tingle all over. Which was something weird that has never happened before.

"Yes Sir."

King muttered a "fuck" under his breath. Why was it such a damn turn on that her voice said yes sir and she didn't question it? He moved from the door and closed the space between him and the sweet supple thing that wanted to play today. He turned her and her yelp had him chuckling. Darkness turned out to be his friend even if it was once used as a tool to taunt him. He had a thing for wrapping his hand around necks and hers was soft, fit perfectly in his large hand and his dick jerked in his pants. He crashed his lips into hers, their masks touching and he thrust his tongue into her mouth, tasting the sweetness in her mouth. He tasted her tongue, a bit too inexperienced and that should have sent warning bells to his brain but he ignored that as she did what he did. He devoured her lips, breathed her. Fuck inhaled the damn out of her with his hand tightly

around her neck and she didn't cower to gasp for breath and if that wasn't a turn on he didn't know what was.

His other hand pulled down her black dress down to her feet and he broke the kiss to look into her eyes. They were still closed and she slowly opened them. Amelia felt the surge of thrill and exhilaration rush through her veins, she has never been kissed like that again and the kiss was different. It had her licking her lips that were bruised by that unexpected kiss. She didn't know what was to happen when one has sex and she wasn't about to reveal her inexperience to the stranger. He picked her up in her panties and she stopped her hands from covering her breasts, she wanted to see him and the room was just so dark but he seemed to know it so well. He placed her on the soft bed and she let out a breath she didn't know she was holding. With ease he clapped his hands twice and soft light glowed in the room. She could see him. The light wasn't blindly bright but she could see.

She watched Grey who unbuttoned his black shirt and once it was off, she found herself sitting up right and holding her knees to her body and he didn't even take that into account. She knew he must be fit from the way he picked her up and held her but she has never seen a body like this ever and she saw him unbutton his pants and they dropped revealing powerful legs and her throat dried up and she sure sobered up. This wasn't- she wasn't having sex with him right? She got off the bed and from the corner of his eyes he watched her as she picked up her clothes and he laughed.

"Sweet Lia, you're not leaving this room."

Her eyes widened with fear and shock as she bolted to the door to find it locked. He watched her.

"Sweetheart you knew what you were getting yourself into.." He drawled in her ear and nerves twisted her belly in an unrelenting grip and she banged on the door before he turned her and pinned

her to the door.

"Since we're breaking initial agreements, let me do this.."

With ease he removed her mask and horror was in her gaze. He pressed himself against her and smiled. She watched his eyes flash, as if she had awoken the predator in him and she felt his thing poke her leg.

"Remove yours." She bit back and she forced herself to keep her gaze on him, suddenly feeling that same excitement in her veins. He growled and instead sucked on her neck and her hands went limp as she let out the softest sigh. He pressed himself against her as his tongue deliciously licked behind her ear and he heard a moan. With a sweet voice like that, her moans were bound to be exquisite. Amelia wrapped her hands around him as he whispered in her ear in the most harsh way that had her questioning her own morals.

"Innocent girls don't play grown up games..."

Her breathing came in sharp exhales and her whole body flushed. Grey bit her earlobe and she found herself releasing that sound that was foreign to her own ears and didn't sound an inkling like her. His hands moved down to her panties, she smelled and tasted of innocence and that in a way amused him. She pressed her thighs together and he forcefully opened them.

"Act like a slut Amelia and you get treated like a fucking one.."

She let out a gasp as she opened her legs and it didn't register that he called her using her full name. His lips claimed hers without mercy and he picked her heading to the bed where he threw her on it and crawled between her legs. When she recovered her panties where no where to be seen and her folds glistened when King looked at them. He noticed the butterfly tattoo under her left breast, his gaze lingered on her tits which were a size too small from the ones he was used but she felt good and soft. He thought to himself after squeezing them and she moaned yet again. He was still wearing a mask and

as he brought his head down to kiss her, she placed her hand on his head and she quickly pulled off the mask before his lips could touch hers and she gasped. He didn't move and he let out that predator smile.

"Hello Amelia."

He said and her heart went pitter patter for the second time again. Instead of stopping to talk he went on to suck her neck and she fisted her hands in his soft hair. The energy around them shifted.

"Less talking and more action Lia.." he coerced as he moved down to kiss her breasts and he licked that little butterfly tattoo. His fingers moved to her pussy and he slid it in without warning and her back arched off the bed.

"Warm and tight cunt you have here Lia." He taunted her with the name she gave him and the words died on her lips as moans replaced them and Kingsley groaned feeling his dick strain his boxer briefs. He watched her face and he smiled. He slid a second finger into her pussy and he watched her tightly hold



his head pulling his hair as she gasped in the most pleasurable way.

"Cum for me.."

When she finally let go of the building up storm in her Lia let out a shriek of pleasure and her back fell onto the soft mattress, she kept her eyes closed. Not even thinking of anything.

"Good girl." She heard his voice from a distance and she felt him on top of her, how she lost her inhibitions was a mystery known only by the gods and the universe. She opened her eyes and she saw his face again, directly looking at her without the mask and all. She looked into his dark eyes which were thrilled in a dark way that had her shivering and gulping. She tore her chin to face the other way and he grabbed it to force her to look at him. His cock throbbed looking at those pink lips swollen from his kisses and the sweet smell of her that filled the room. He looked into her dilated pupils and he licked her lips. And Amelia licked her lips after he licked

them.

"You're sweet but sweet girls don't belong here 'Lia' they didn't tell you little one?" He taunted as he drew on her stomach.

"Little girls don't pick up strangers and agree to sex sweet Lia, there are wolves out there. Out for your blood sweet thing. Do you know that? Did they tell you?"

She shook her head as her heart raced and he let out a low laugh that sent shivers all over her body. He clapped his hands and the lights went out.

"Times like this, darkness comes out to play little one. Be afraid sweet Lia. Be very afraid."

Then his weight was off her and she looked around the dark room. She touched the sides of the bed and he wasn't there.

"Uhm Grey?" She clapped her hands and the light didn't come. Why? Her voice shook.

"It's kind of dark in here.." She got off the bed and she stood in her nakedness in the dark room and from a corner in the room, Kingsely could make out the shape of her supple body. Oh sweet Lia. Her voice broke as she called for him again in the dark room.

"W-what did I do wrong?"

Came her voice and she hugged herself. She couldn't see a thing in this dark room and fear crept into her. She blinked back the tears. She got the message now. She felt herself being held and she screamed. He quietened those screams with neck kisses.

"A little bit of darkness shouldn't scare you.."

He rubbed her arms and picked her up to place her on the bed and he spread her legs apart still in the dark.

"I-I can't see you.."

"I know.." He said as he removed his boxer shorts and his cock sprang up. Thick and proud in the sheer

darkness. He pressed the head of his thickness on her thigh and she shuddered.

"Wh-whats that? I can't see.." she said with a cracked voice. She was sure the alcohol was out of her system.

"What you're going to take like the grown up you think you are.." He whispered in her ear and that sent a signal straight to Amelia's already slick pussy. Amelia breathed in and out. She closed her eyes and she felt the foreign entrance. Kingsley cursed under his breath. It was tight. He pushed his hard as granite cock inside that wet pussy and shd screamed.

"Ng.." she placed her hands on his chest and opened her eyes. He removed the bit that was already inside and he looked at her. Realization setting on him. He clapped his hands as the low light enabled Amelia to look at his face.

"Are you a-" She nodded and he cursed himself with every curse under the sun.

He lifted her chin.

"How the fuck do you give your fucking virginity to a fucking stranger Amelia?"

Tears filled her eyes and he looked at her.

"How the fuck does your mind work?" He asked her again and tears rolled down her eyes.

"You are not answering me Amelia.."

She used her fist to wipe her hands to wipe her tears and looked at him.

"Because I want to." She said and he blinked. What? He was defeated but that didn't make his erection go down in any way, instead that twisted idea that he was going to be her first filled his head and he let out a low chuckle.

"Let me make it worth it. Come here.." he pulled her head with her hair to him so he can kiss her and he rubbed the head of his cock on her pussy and she moaned into his mouth. Gently. He was even disgusted thinking of the word, he found her slick entrance again and slowly eased himself into her.

Amelia whimpered as he filled the little space. It felt big and was stretching her in a way nobody has ever done. She flinched and he kissed her neck again. He let her hair go and he picked her leg to place it around his torso and her toes touched his muscular ass. He breathed in and he forced his way inside and she screamed at the invasion that hurt. He kissed her neck and he started to thrust in and out of her. Amelia felt the pain then the pleasure which was yet a foreign feeling and she closed her eyes starting to enjoy the feel of that and those precious moans escaped her lips. Kingsely went in harder and deeper into her and her moans got louder and louder and she found her self placing her head on his shoulder. His hips drove forward and her teeth sank in his bare shoulders as tears filled her eyes and her hands fisted the sheets.

"Ah...ah.."

He grunted as he went in deeper with his inches inside of her. She let go of the sheets as she hit the bed with her hands. She didn't know what it was but

shd wanted to cry out in sheer ecstasy and fly. She found herself lifting her hips to meet his fast and hard thrusts and it took one final thrust for her to become undone.

Kingsley hated how her pussy clamped him in place and it felt so fucking good. He felt her body tremble in absolute pleasure and her eyes opened and dilated in the most weirded way and she didn't know her pussy held him hostage as she screamed and opened her mouth then closed it with tears running down her cheeks. He groaned trying to hold himself as he kept up with the strokes but his body fought against his mind and his seed spilled into her body while she writhed against him in her own orgasm.

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# DELICATE

#35

## At King's Club

He detached from her body and he watched her breath in and out. Exhausted and with her semen plus blood from the broken hymen leaking onto his white bed sheets. Amelia opened her eyes and she saw his size and fear crept into her soul. She let that into her? He got off the bed and he picked his boxer shorts to wear them. He picked his pants as well and she silently watched him get dressed. Half naked he slid his hands in his pockets and found the key to unlock the door. He walked out of the room and she closed her aching legs together. Embarrassment washed over her face and she closed her eyes with the hope that she will feel much better.



In his office, Kingsley opened his drawer and and took out four pills and he walked to the mini bar fridge for a bottle of water. He walked back inside the room and closed the door. She had already covered herself with the sheet and he sighed. He leaned against the door and watched her breath in and out softly, her chest rising and her hair a mess. Her hair grows really fast if it looked like that after two years. He walked to the bed and he sat down next to her.

"Amelia?"

She opened her eyes and looked at him.

"Take these." He placed the water down and removed two pills. He took her hand and placed them in her hand. He put the other two pills down and he opened the water bottle.

"Take those pills.."

She looked at them. She immediately recognized the pills. She threw them in her mouth and swallowed them dry. She looked at the water bottle for a few seconds before she pushed those thoughts aside

and drank the water.

"Say ah.." she opened her mouth and he looked inside.

"Move your tongue.." she did exactly that.

"Good girl." He said after he was satisfied that she swallowed those morning afters and there was no case of an accidental pregnancy.

"You'll take the rest in the morning." That commanding tone was back and she just nodded as she placed the water bottle down.

Silence filled the room and Amelia didn't know what people talk about after sex. She pulled the sheets closer and she looked at him.

"So your name is Grey?" Her soft voice broke the silence. He nodded.

"Aren't you Kingsley Carter?" Came her question.

"Ah so you googled me?"

"No uhm after you bumped into me at the mall my

friend told me your name."

He looked at her. Messy hair, swollen lips and a flushed body, he got hard again and he wanted to go at it again. He knew how she tasted and he wanted to bury himself again inside her but he just gave her morning afters.

"Second name." He supplied and she nodded. Kingsley Grey Carter. She ignored the possibility of his last name bearing relation to a certain someone whom she left in the past. She was about to speak when he pushed her back onto the bed and kissed her again.

"Less talk and more action Lia." He said, getting on top of her.

Meanwhile downstairs in the club Yaya walked around the club looking for Amelia. She just wanted to check if she was safe and okay. She couldn't find her and she sat by the bar. It was well close to midnight.

"Hello uhm have you seen a girl with red afro hair

ends with a black dress?" She asked as she dialed Amelia on her phone.

"The shiny dress?"

She nodded.

"She left with a gentleman a few hours ago."

Yaya ended the call. She found a man? Amelia?  
Innocent Amelia? A man?

"Okay. Thank you."

She walked away heading back to where she was.  
She will talk to Amelia in the morning.

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The following morning

Amelia woke up with her head on top of his chest.

She massaged her stomach and her thighs. She closed her eyes again as she rubbed her waist. She yawned and touched the corner of her mouth embarrassed that she drooled over his chest. She used the sheet to wipe the drool off his chest and she used her arm to wipe her mouth. She got out of bed ignoring the ache in between her legs she was a big girl and she picked her panties to wear them. The semen had dried in between her thighs and she picked up her dress as well. She wore it before walking by the bedside table and she picked the two pills and threw them in her mouth. With yesterday's water she downed the pills once again and she looked at him. She liked his second name better. She was torn between waking him and saying goodbye to hear if he would want to know her or to leave and forget this ever happened. She chose the latter and picked her shoes, pushed open the door and walked out. She picked the handbag she had dropped in his office and she looked around. She stepped out and she looked down as she walked down the stairs in the wee hours of the morning.

She took out her phone calling Yaya.

"Hello, Yaya ke Ame. Where can I find you?"

She asked and checked the time on her phone. 5am was not bad. She got to the bar and sat down, her thighs hurt and she was just forcing it just to leave before he woke up. She massaged them while waiting for Yaya who showrd up five minutes later.

"We have a lot to talk about Ame.."

She nodded as she stood up wincing. She let him put it inside and she will be okay. They walked out of the club and she knew she might not even come back here. Ever. Yaya called a cab as she took out Amelia's long cardigan from her bag.

"Are you okay? You don't look good."

She just nodded. She was okay. She just wanted to sleep back in campus on her own bed and a hot shower if there was any hot water left.

The cab arrived and they got inside it as Yaya paid.

In the club it was only an hour later after Amelia left when Kingsley woke up. He never sleeps like this and he has definitely never slept with a girl immediately after sex with her. He looked by his side and there was nothing but cold empty air occupying the space. His smile faded as he straightened up and looked around the room. She wasn't there. He closed his eyes, the feeling all too familiar to him. He closed his eyes and let out a harsh breath.

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## DELICATE

#36

At Thero's parents

Around 8am, Thero was ready and he borrowed his father's car. He had long accepted that Kingsley was gone and his parents said that King knew where home is, he will bring himself back. He was tempted to go to his office for the first time and ask for the real reason why he cut them out of his life. They did nothing wrong. He didn't know what his problem was or he just saw it fit to cut family off because he is well off. He shrugged as he unlocked the car and got inside. He reversed as the gate opened and he reversed out of the yard. He placed his phone in loudspeaker and called Lizzy.

"Hello. Babe?"



"Good morning, I'm a bit busy at the moment Thero, I have an assignment I need to get through."

He sighed.

"I'm on my way to your parent's house. I wanted to spend the day with you two.."

"Thank God. O ka mo tsaya, I'm still studying. He has been crying non-stop maabane. I'll get him ready. Bye bye..."

She hung up and he sighed. He guessed that it was too much for her to take care of a child yet she had school as well. A demanding course on top of it and a toddler as well, a part of him hoped she went through with the abortion but she didn't and chose to face the consequences. He had to face them too.

He joined the road and drove off.

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At Lisbeth's parents

Thero parked the car outside the yard and he pressed the intercom and the gate slid open. He walked inside and the dogs in the yard jumped on top of him. He laughed and patted the dog on its head walking to the door. He knocked and Lizzy's mother opened the door.

"Dumelang, I came to check on the baby and Liz.."

She smiled. He was a responsible young man and his parents did help out a lot when it came to her grandchild.

"He is in the room with Lisbeth."

"Thank you." He said respectfully as the door opened wider and he stepped inside. He knew where her room was and he walked to the room. The door was slightly ajar and he stood by the doorway watching Lizzy with his son.

She had used a pencil to keep her hair in place as she moved their child from their books.

"Hey baby, I want to read. Your dad is coming okay?"

She said as she placed him down in his butt and the little boy let out a two teethed grin at her and crawled towards her. Lisbeth laughed and picked him up placing the child on her lap.

"Okay. Just for these few minutes then you stay put. You are fed and everything kana.."

He saw that as the opportunity to open the door and she smiled.

"Hey baby daddy. Tshwara motho wa gago.."

She lifted the child towards him and he picked him up. He threw the child in the air and spun him around as the baby giggled and both young parents laughed.

"Hey there boy boy.." His son grinned at him and he

sat on the bed as Lisbeth smiled.

"Thank you. Now I can study. Thank you tlherra..."

"Hey, he's my son too."

"I know..." still holding his son, he bent his head to kiss her.

"Hey.." She smiled and pecked his lips.

"Hi." He removed the pencils holding her hair in place and her waves came tumbling down. Their child clapped his small hands and he extended his small grubby hands to pull at his mother's hair.

"Thero, he is hurting me." She laughed as she held the now strong hands that refused to let go of her hair and he waa thoroughly enjoying this. When she finally removed the hands she used her hands to push her hair backwards and smiled.

"How was the UK? How long are you here for?"

"For a month then I'm going back. It's so busy and I rarely have time for anything.."

"Same here, it's either I'm busy with Keith or school. Med school is no joke weee but I want to do my

master ko UK once I am done with this degree.."

He slipped his hands in her hair and she looked up at him laughing.

"You guys can go. I think I fixed his bag. Daddy son time. Go, I need to get work done.."

"You're kicking us out?"

"Go guys!"

He kissed her cheek and he stood up with his son.

"Guess it's just me and you today. Where are his things?"

"Where are you guys going?"

"Study and don't mind us.."

He said as he touched his son's curly soft hair.

"Say bye to mommy first.." Liz got up and kissed her son's cheek and started telling him a whole bunch of things he doesn't understand.

"Bye guys. Be safe and bye again."

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At University of Botswana

Amelia yawned when she woke up for the second time that day. She took a hot shower the moment they arrived before she threw herself on the bed to sleep. The ache between her legs had subdued and her thighs not so much. She massaged her waist area and turned to face the wall closing her eyes. Her ringing phone just aggregated her more. She answered.

"Hello?"

"Hello Amelia, it's your aunt."

Amelia rubbed her eyes as she forced herself to sit upright.

"Ma?"

"I wanted to apologise for what I said yesterday, I was out of line and I shouldn't have said you were after my husband.."

Amelia frowned and closed her eyes. She was in pain and she tried to remember all of yesterday's events that didn't include Grey utterly destroying her.

"Ee mma. Go siame. Uhm I have to do something."

"Tanki ngwanaka. I am really sorry.."

"Mmmhmm. Bye."

She hung up and placed her phone down. Her phone rang again and she wanted to scream. She answered again..

"Hello?"

"Ame wee, are you coming home for the independence holidays?"

"Ma?"

"Are you coming home? Are you okay? You don't

sound okay at all.."

"J-just a headache mama. Ee mma I'm coming home."

"Okay. Rest and you'll be fine. Bye."

She nodded and placed the phone down. The room door opened and Yaya walked inside.

"You're awake. Finally."

"Mmhm. Do you have painkillers?"

"I don't think so, what's wrong?"

Yaya placed the food down and crouched by Amelia's bed.

"Are you okay?"

"Just need a few painkillers, I'll be fine..."

"Is this because of the guy you disappeared with maabane?"

She closed her eyes.



"Kind of."

Yaya laughed and Amelia ignored her. She will have to sleep it away today.

"I tried ignoring your sudden change of walking style re tla but ah. I'll go buy some for you."

"Thanks."

"I'll buy food as well, rest.."

Amelia nodded and she placed her head back on her pillow. She closed her eyes and she couldn't help but wonder what was going to happen if she didn't leave first. He was most probably going to ask her to leave because he wants her to leave. Better she left now.

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DELICATE

#37

At University of Botswana

Amelia turned on her side with her eyes still closed.

"Ame? Ame wee? I brought the painkillers and food. Nna sentle o je."(sit properly and eat)

Amelia groaned and sat up right as Yaya handed her the food.

"Eat mma a bo o njela dikang."(Eat and then tell me about it.)

Amelia opened the takeaway and it wa rice and chicken. She took the spoon from Yaya and mixed the rice. She looked at the food and sighed.

"Whoever he is, he will kill you. Look at you.."Yaya

laughed and Amelia finally ate the food.

"I'll be fine mme, Monday I have to attend and I have practicals the whole of this week."

"Good luck. Eat and rest today le kamoso mma, motho o tla go bolaya.." Amelia chuckled and she shook her head eating.

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At King's house

Kingsley sat on his kitchen stool as he downed the glass of water. What if Amelia was pregnant? He shook his head, he gave her morning afters. Four if them to be exact, there was no way in hell she is going to be pregnant but what if? He should probably check or find her, it won't be hard to find her though given that he knew her full name and where she schools.

He ran his hand through his frizzled hair and he found himself smiling. He was glad that in his lifetime he has never had a bad haircut like the one she once had. He laughed and then paused. He was probably being an ass laughing over her weird hair cut from two years ago or was it his mind trying to find reasons not to find her? He shrugged it out and looked around the house. Those words paled to nothing when he saw his achievements and all he managed to do on his own in his own life. Her leaving first was a touch of deja vu on his part. He closed his eyes, it was better that he wasn't forming any emotional attachments. Emotional attachments meant misery and pain. Pain meant losing yourself and not doing your absolute best. That meant his efforts into establishing himself will go to waste. Then there was that part in his brain that didn't stop thinking of Lia, how she looked under him with those eyes of hers that revealed every emotion she was feeling, he could tell if she was enjoying it or was surprised or even curious about it. He consoled himself that he made her first time memorable and he managed to get her dainty self out of his system.

Or was he lying to himself? He thought again.

He needed to go to the club later, forget he ever had sex with her. The sex was supposed to be an antidote to his low lying thoughts about her. He let out a sigh.

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At Lisbeth's parents

Thero came back hours later with Keith. He just placed the sleeping babe in his cot and went to check on Lisbeth who was still busy with her books.

"I am back."

"Hey, how was the outing?"

She asked as she paged through her textbook. The pencil still keeping her long hair in place.

"It was great and little man cooperated as well.."

"As he should."

He took her hand and helped her stand.

"Walk me to the car?" She looked at her books and sighed letting him wrap his hands around her waist.

"Babe my parents are here.."

"And we made a child.."

Her face went pink and he laughed kissing her cheek.

"I also want to talk to you about something as well."

"Okay." He said goodbye to her parents and they walked till they got to the gate. They both stepped out and he kept his hands firmly on her waist.

"My parents and I are going to Bobonong to visit my grandmother for the Independence holidays and they suggested you and Keith tag along. Akere o mmaagwe nnana.."

"I will ask my parents and see what they will say, Keith saw your granny when he was little akere?"

She asked. School has just been a pain in the ass and her mind was not here at all.

"Thank you. Around bo next week Friday we want to go, plus it won't be good for Keith to be separated from his mother as well. Plus we get to spend time together." She smiled and held his cheek. He was being sweet and she was glad both of them didn't give up on their dreams regardless of the fact that they were young parents.

"Okay. Thank you for running it past me and not demanding. I love you and thank you."

She stood on her toes and kissed him as he smiled.

"I love you too." Thero let go of her and she hugged him.

"Bye and you'll call akere?"

"Yes ma'am."

She broke the hug and kissed his cheek again before walking into the yard and pushing the gate closed. Thero walked to the car and he got inside. Life with Liz was simple, so easy and it flowed in the right direction. A part of him though couldn't help but think about Amelia. What she was doing and if she had a boyfriend. They never really broke up because everything happened in the heat of the moment but maybe fate will bring them together and once it does, he will have another chance to pursue her again. With the purest of intentions. He started the car before he drove of minutes later.

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At University of Botswana

Feeling much better, Amelia visited her ghost Facebook account and searched Kingsley. Yep that was the guy alright. Hours later, she could still feel his impact. But then she had questions. Why was he playing hide and seek with her in the dark to the point that she was so scared and cried? She went through his pictures and that was him. The man who helped her at her worst and still managed to sleep with her. And he didn't demand any payment for what he did. Hell he even pretended not to know her yesterday at Game. She had to admit that it hurt. Your somewhat hero pretending as if he didn't know her then to him scolding her an-and having raw-

She paused. Raw sex. Flip! The school clinic was closed. An HIV test would do first thing in the morning. Did he pick random women in the club to have raw sex with them? Oh God! She forced herself not to panic. She was going to be okay.

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A WEEK LATER

DELICATE

#38

At Bobonong

At Ma Amelia's house

Amelia stepped out of the taxi with her bag on her arm. She walked to the boot and took out her small suitcase then the taxi drove off. The sun blinded her as she carried her back to the gate. She opened the gate and started walking towards the door. She knocked a couple of times and one of her sisters opened the door.

"Hey Ame.."

Tsona hugged her older sister and Amelia hugged her back with one arm with a smile on her face.

"Hey there sis, mama o kae?"

"She said she had to go see a friend, I think she has a boyfriend.."

Amelia lightly slapped her sister's arm as she walked inside the house.

"Bathong, mama is your mother. You can't say she has a boyfriend. If she says she has a friend then it's a friend Tsona."

Her little sister shrugged.

"B-bu..."

"No buts. Did you guys cook? Lola o kae?"

"She is playing le the neighbour's kid."

Amelia nodded and headed to her room. Ever since her aunt moved out to live with her husband, she wasn't sharing the room with any of her siblings. She yawned and sat on the bed. She laid down as her braid contrasted with the white sheets.

Tsona walked inside Amelia's room and sat by the

corner of the bed.

"What did you come with from Gaborone? I can't wait to finish school and go there as well.."

"Uhm I bought wena le Lola di top tse di smart gore. It's not much but I hope you guys like them."

"It still means a lot. Mama said you are here for the weekend."

"Kind of leaving ka Tuesday. I have school and it's so hectic gore. Study hard so you can do a course you love."

"I want to do engineering. I like physics and chemistry. Also there is this teacher that knows you. He says he taught you. It alwas slips my mind, Mr Amos."

Amelia's heart skipped as she sat upright.

"Mr Amos teaches you?"

Tsona nodded

"He says we look alike, he once asked me where

were you and I said you were in University. He also offered to explain everything I don't understand ka study time. Isn't that nice, I won't have to get a tutor and he seems like a nice teacher. Ke itlhela ke pasa maths gore so I doubt I will take the offer.."

"Don't take the offer Tsona."

"B-but it means I can pass more and even get A\*s for maths Ame.."

"It's not even okay for a male teacher to offer to teach you alone. If you want extra lessons, go with three more friends to his office Tsona."

Tsona looked at her sister who didn't look like she wanted to consider the possibility.

"Tsona listen to me. I am older than you and understand a lot of things. Don't take his offer, I'll try to teach you maths if you don't understand just do not find yourself with your male teachers alone."

Tsona shrugged. She just nodded to appease Amelia

who breathed out in relief. For a second there, she thought that if something was going to happen to Tsona because of that joke of a teacher she wasn't going to forgive herself for it. Who knows, there might be nobody to save Tsona if that man makes his move.

"Anyway let me leave you to rest. I'll be in the sitting room."

Her sister walked out and Amelia pushed her braids back. She was here earlier than usual, might as well take a walk and breath in the fresh air. She bent down to open her suitcase and took out her sun hat. She undid her shoelaces and took out her slides. She slid her sock protected feet into the black slides and took her phone from the bag.

She walked out of the room. "Tsona I'm taking a walk, will be back in an hour or less."

"Sure sis." She walked out.

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At Thero's parents

Thero and Lizzy made sure Keith was settled before they said goodbye to the elders. Thero wanted to show Lizzy the spots they used to visit around the village and it was easier without Keith around.

The two walked and Thero's grandmother looked at Ma Thero and Ra Thero as soon as the kids had left.

"La re Kingsley o kae?"

Ma Thero shrugged.

"He stopped taking our calls and visiting. Re mo reng ka ke rre yo motona wa ditedu?" She said and looked at the old woman.



"Nyaya, ngwana ngwanake won't just stop doing that out of his own free will. Thuto o dirile eng ngwana wa monnawo?"(what did you do to your brother's child?)

The old woman asked her son.

"Ae, Kingsley should be here. He is family and shouldn't feel excluded. No child can just detach from family. Ngwaba ga a kake a le phuagana yaana." Ma Thero looked at her husband who kept a blank space and she folded her arms.

"I treat Kingsley like my son and o dira dilo tse? Tota bomma ntse ke itshokile. Kingsely o ungrateful hela thata." Ma Thero blurted out and the old woman looked at her daughter-in-law.

She has never liked the woman ever since Thuto introduced her but she forced herself to accept her because she can't be the evil mother in law that chased away her son's wives.

"Ae. What did you do to my grandchild?" She asked again and there was silence before Thuto spoke.

"Bomma Kingsley left at his own free will. We didn't do anything."

The old woman looked at them.

"When was the last time Kingsely set foot here?"

She asked.

"Four years ago."

"Exactly. Call him, so at least we find the source of the problem. I'm getting old and it doesn't sit well with me that my other grand child is feeling neglected and excluded."

"He blocked us."

Thuto blurted out and the old woman clapped her hands.

"Give me his number.."

She said and Ra Thero took out his phone as the old woman pressed her phone. She pressed the digits as they were being called out. She then read out the number and Ra Thero nodded as the old woman called.

The number rang for a good minute before it was answered by a deep voice that scared her.

"Hello."

The old woman pressed the speaker button before she talked.

"Kingsiliii wee?"

There was a pause at the other end of the line.

"Hello, who am I speaking to?" He asked.

"Kingsiliiii, I can still whip you at your big age. Is that the way your supposed to talk to me?"

There was a sigh followed by his deep voice.

"Mmaiye. Dumelang."

"Ee. Re mo gae, we are waiting for you. By tomorrow you should be here."

"I am busy and I will have to skip the family festivities and happy reunion." He replied and his coldness shocked his grandmother.

"I wasn't asking you. I was telling you. This has been going on for way too long. By tomorrow you should be here ke ise ke go latele ke go goge ka ditsebe tse."

Before Kingsley could even say his part the call was dropped.

"Now we are all going to speak and tell me what you did to him once he arrives. Ga ke sematla."

The old woman said and Thero's parents looked at each other.

## DELICATE

#39

At Bobonong

Amelia smiled as she went down memory lane walking down the road she used to take with Thero. As much as he was part of her past, they made memories and she showed him some of the secret spots she used to go to. She walked through the secret path as she listened to music on her headsets. She couldn't remember the last time she was walking down this road. She paused hearing voices. It was always an empty spot because people rarely used the secret path. She walked closer as the voice got closer and the male voice was all too familiar. She thought about turning back but she just chuckled. Wow! That was the place she found first and she rolled her eyes. She walked closer till she out of the trees and they both could see her.

Thero turned at the intrusion to the secret place. It was empty and he turned to see a girl in a sunhat that covered her face and long braids. He frowned. Who wore sweaters in Summer?

Lisbeth turned her head and frowned. Thero said this place rarely got people hanging around. It was their secret place and it was always fun. They both turned as they ignored the sudden company. Thero turned his head again. Only one person showed him this place and he forced himself to face Lisbeth who was talking but his mind wasn't there.

"Huh?"

"I said..."

She went on and he turned his head and the girl was gone. He sighed and listened to Lisbeth. Amelia made her way out as fast as she could. Her past was her past and she had pushed this at the back of her mind like she did other issues but wow! Her secret place? She must think it's hella special but it's all re-

used. She shook her head. That was their place she found it first and he had the guts to show the place to another? Just unbelievable. The first feeling that hit her was betrayal, she accepted that the fool cheated on her but then he showed her their secret places in Bobonong? He was using the things she showed him to impress another? She now knew first hand that men were descendants of Satan himself.

She quickened her pace as she walked home. Her mood all ruined as she stopped playing music to focus on her steps.

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It was a while later when Thero and Lisbeth walked back home. His heart was still racing. Amelia was here? He hasn't seen her in two whole years and he saw her or what he thought was her at their secret spot? If that wasn't fate working for them he didn't know what was. As soon as they reached the gate

he kissed Lisbeth's cheek.

"Let me go check on some friend around. I'll be back before sunset."

"Okay. Keith must be awake anyway."

She said as she walked inside the yard and he literally ran as soon as she closed the gate. He was sure he might find her where she lived. The universe worked in mysterious ways.

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At Ma Amelia's house

Amelia threw her hat on the couch as she threw herself on the couch as well. She closed her eyes and she laughed at herself. She was such a naive 17 year old bathong. Lesson learnt.



Her mom was still not back and she started to wonder about her mom's so called 'friend'. The woman never mentioned anything. She walked to the kitchen for a glass of water and she downed it at once. Once she placed the glass down, she had a flashback of Grey doing the exact same thing with his glass of whiskey. He couldn't tell she was tipsy and it was the first time she drank alcohol? She shook her head. She was okay now that she had tested for all sort of things and she was clean. She thought she would hear from him this past but she guessed she was just not interesting as the girls he had met before.

The door knock brought her back to reality and she walked to the door.

"Coming."

She opened the door and she just gave him a 'what are you doing here look.'

"Hey Princess.." He started out. She just looked at him pointedly.

"Hello Thero. How may I be of assistance?"

"Glad that you are good and you were found after that time you went missing. Why did you stop talking to me?"

She squinted her eyes.

"Uhm it was over because you cheated unless I had temporary amnesia somehow but my memory works pretty well.."

"You said it was over and I never said I agreed to such. You made up your own mind and conclusions that were somehow not adding up."

"I see. Well it's over then. See you around buddy.."

She attempted to close the door but he kept it open.

"Can we talk like adults Amelia?"

Amelia sighed and stepped outside of the house and closed the door. She folded her arms and Thero could see how beautiful she became and she was lighter. She looked like someone who was from abroad. He rubbed his eyes.

"You look beautiful by the way. Always have been and still are."

"Ee. Bua jaanong."(Yes. Talk now.)

"Amelia I didn't do anything wrong, you just dumped me based on your own assumptions and you never contacted me again. How does that work?"

Amelia was bewildered by his line of thought. What the hell was this guy smoking? Crack? She looked at him and okay he was good looking but she was sexed by a literal god who was a one night stand but that's not the issue.

"Okay. So weren't you the one at our secret place?" She asked with a saccharine smile and he looked down.

"Thero don't make me feel dumb. I'm not that naive 17 year old anymore but I do hope you told her that we did that too. That that was our place and I found it first. When she's with you do you get deja vu?"

She asked raising an eyebrow. She got her answer.

"Stay away from me Thero. We broke up two years ago and I am not the puppet you manipulated into believing your study buddy was not your girlfriend, the girlfriend you cheated on me with. I had kept quiet to keep you and now you were just with her and you have the fucking nerve to come see me on some we never broke up."

She breathed in and out.

"We broke up Thero. I hate you now and you are so fucking lucky that I don't talk shit on the internet

about you because you are part of the reason I hate that city. Stay the fuck away from me and no, I don't love you now. You acted like a jerk and I was too stupid to see that."

"I am sorry Amelia. So sorry I hurt you, we can work through this. I realised my mistakes and we can work on this. Us. I was stupid and blinded by lust."

She chuckled.

"Okay. Work on yourself for your next girlfriend. Not me."

"But I love you.."

"And I used to. Not anymore."

"Do you have a boyfriend?"

She looked at him. She was appalled. What the hell?

"Yes and ga se monkane waago." (He is not your agemate.)

Thero could feel his heart own heart go into cardiac arrest. A boyfriend?

"A-a boyfriend?"

"Ee. Bathong tsamaya rra nna o ntiela nako."(Yes. Please leave you are wasting my time.)

"Amelia why?" She could hear the hurt in his voice and she was about to feel sorry for him but she remembered what he did to her.

"One is allowed to move on and explore.."

"Wow! So..'

He shook his head and looked at her. She was lying. Her eyes were always so expressive and she was lying. There was no boyfriend. She said that to deter him from pursuing her.

"Amelia I am really sorry and I hope you can find it in your heart to forgive me. I still believe in us and all the dreams we had. I made a mistake and what you saw at our secret place was nothing. I never cheated

on you with her, I just did it a few times with a classmate."

Amelia's jaw dropped. He admitted to cheating like that? He used her as a scape goat? She probably helped him to cover his tracks. But why?

"Either way, you cheated on me and it's over. Even if it's not with your friend. You treated me like a second option either way but I never told anyone anything bad so be good for your next girlfriend. Don't waste the time I don't have Thero, I won't feel bad for breaking up with you. Go sharpo and never come here again."

"Amelia please hear me out, we can start off as friends again to rediscover our love and build it up with honesty and truth again."

She shook her head.

"The funny thing is my mom and aunt were right but I

made you my everything but I was just a kid so I never paid them any mind and shut them all out for you. No wonder you did what you wanted.."

She blinked back her tears.

"Just fucking leave me alone. You did enough damage, ska batla go tla go mpheleletsa."(don't come to ruin me again)

She said and she opened the door to step in. He held her hand.

"Please."

"Just stay away from me. Please and thanks."

She pulled her hand away and she got inside the house. She closed the door. That chapter was closed. She pushed it to the back of her mind where she slowly buried it all so she shouldn't dwell much on it.



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Kingsley drove along the empty road. He wasn't even going to sleep in that house. He was okay finding the nearest guest house and staying there to hear what his grandmother had to say. He hated it there. Too many triggers and memories he had tried so hard to bury. He had a long way to go.

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DELICATE

#40

The following morning

At the small guest house

Kingsley was woken up by his phone ringing and the unknown number he didn't save rang numerous bells in his head. He sighed and answered the phone.

"Hello.."

"We are waiting for you here, you should be here before 12 noon so that we can start talking."

"Ee mma."

"Good. No later than twelve Kingsiiiiii.."

"Ee mma."

He hung up and ran his hands in his hair. He sighed. He hated it here and after this brief talk that he was veru sure wasn't going to go anywhere, he was going to go back to Gaborone.

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At Ma Amelia's house

Amelia used the kitchen cloth to wioe her hands as she finished cooking. It was twelve o'clock in the D.O.T.

Through the open kitchen window, she told her siblings to come eat and then she walked out of the kitchen. She headed to her mother's room and knocked on the door.

"Come in."

She opened the door.

"Hey mom, I am done with lunch le ka tla go ja."

"Okay, I'm coming."

She walked out leaving her mother in the bedroom and headed to her bedroom where she picked her phone. She logged onto Facebook with her ghost account and like she has been doing this week, she stalked Kingsley's account hoping to see a new update or maybe a new photo but same old same old. She placed her phone down. That's why she didn't want to know who broke her virginity now look at her checking his Facebook account every now and then hoping he says hi. How? She didn't even know. She closed her eyes and placed her phone down.

Her sisters came rushing into her room and she opened her eyes.

"What?"

"Our cousins are here and someone is looking for

you."

Her heart skipped a beat. Someone was looking for her? She hoped it wasn't Thero. God knew she didn't want to see him or just anything associated with him. She got off the bed and walked out.

She frowned as she laid her eyes on the guy who was sitting on the sofa. He looked familiar but she wasn't sure where she saw him from or where she saw him. He turned and once again he was blow away by her beauty. He swallowed and rubbed his hands.

"Hello, I'm Tlotlo. Do you remember me?"

He said. She closed her eyes and rubbed her head as she tried to remember.

"Uhm you're the brother akere?"

She said as she sat down next to him on the couch and he nodded.

"I just needed an excuse and used the kids to come say hi."

Amelia smiled. She pushed her braids back and Tlotlo looked at her. If this wasn't beauty at its purest then he didn't know.

"Kana mme the kids could've come here on their own.."

"I know, I just needed an excuse to come see you here.."

She nodded as he talked and she answered. Her mother walked in and smiled.

"Hello Tlotlo.."

"Dumelang, they wanted to check up on their cousins.."

She just nodded not quite believing that excuse and

she was waiting for Amelia to tell her why Tlotlo was here.

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At Thero's parents

Kingsley sat down and he was late. He had been contemplating not even coming back here and he was in his car for a whole hour fighting his asthma that was triggered by the memories in this house. He touched his pocket and the asthma pump that was rarely used was in there. He kept turning his phone over and over as they all looked at him. Including Thero who could say he was surprised that his big brother was here.

Lisbeth had served tea and scones as she looked at Thero's brother up close. She didn't know what was happening in this family but she didn't know his

social media pictures failed to show how good looking he was. He was the type you can salivate over and then go back home to your family after a quick eye cleanse with some good eye candy.

She excused herself to go check on Keith. Besides this was a family meeting and she was nothing but a baby mama. The meeting didn't concern her.

"Kingsley you are late."

"There was an emergency I had to deal with.." He said and he looked at the people in this room.

Thero looked at Kingsley and his parents. The old woman thought of chasing Thero away but the boy was 21 so he can stay.

"Kingsley as your parents we are worried. We don't know why you all of a sudden decided to pretend as if we don't exist." Ma Thero started off and Kingsley chuckled in disbelief.



He looked at everyone in the room and he felt every piece of his fighting spirit leave his body. He looked at his grandmother.

"Mmaiye I'll visit you one day. Coming here was a huge mistake."

He stood up and walked out as the old woman shouted at him to come back while Thero clapped his hands like a woman. What was wrong with Kingsely? He just decided to cut them off and now he is acting as if he didn't do any wrong.

Kingsley walked out of the yard and searched for his car keys and unlocked the car door. He got inside and gasped for breath as his hands shook to pull the asthma pump spray out of his pocket and he brought it to his mouth.

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# DELICATE

#41

## Inside Kingsley's car

He continuously pressed the asthma pump till he was breathing fine and he leaned back on his seat and he raked his fingers through his hair, releasing yet another exasperated sigh. He placed his head on the steering wheel with closed eyes. He grew out of this and the issues. Their perfect son didn't get it and he didn't know if he will get it or did his brain decide to bury the trauma deep down to the point of everything being blank to him and the childhood being normal. He blew out a breath to push his hair back.

He wasn't going to come here again. It wasn't happening. Not while he was still alive. He decided

to just chill in his car for a few minutes before he drove off from this place.

Meanwhile in the house the old woman wondered how she was blind all these years. Was it Kingsely who used to refuse to visit on his own will because he was a teenager or was it because of something else?

"What did you do to your brother's son Thuto? You promised to raise him as your own so he won't even feel the void of his father who died while he was still in his mother's womb and wena Victoria you promised to give him a mother's love even though his mother died when he was a week old. What happened?"

Victoria shrugged.

"Kingsley was here and didn't say anything, instead he stormed out like a teenager yo belwang ke di hormone. If we did something to him he could have said something because he is a grown man."

Thero frowned as the new revelation made sense. Kingsley wasn't his biological brother? H-he was his cousin?

"He is not my brother?"

Victoria rolled her eyes.

"Do you guys look the same? He is your cousin and just that."

She finally said. He looked at his parents and then grandmother. Was that why they brushed him off everytime he asked about Kingsely? A lot of things didn't make sense to him and he rubbed the back of his head. But they grew up as brothers, what changed along the way?

Victoria looked at the old woman whom never conversed with her freely like she used to do with her other dead daughter in law. She masked the pain in her eyes, this woman welcomed that Spanish

orphan Thuto's brother picked up when he was on holiday abroad and decided to make his wife. She locked eyes with the old woman and Thuto looked at the two women.

"Bomma if Kingsley wants to talk, he will talk and come back. Don't force him. That's why we let him do what he did and we didn't even bother him." Thuto replied and Thero excused himself.

He walked to his room where he found Lisbeth playing with Keith.

"Hey, the meeting is over already?" She asked as she blew air into Keith's stomach and the child giggled. Thero held the child's hand and he smiled at his baby.

"That was fast but did you guys resolve your issues?"

"He walked out."

"Serious?"

Thero nodded. Even before anything could start, Kingsley was gone and nobody bothered to follow

him if that was what he wanted.

"Eleore what happened?"

"Grandma asked a question and he walked out. A minute later while he was gone I find out that he isn't my brother."

Lisbeth focused her attention to Thero. No wonder he looked other wordly. They were not brothers. So he was adopted?

"He is adopted?"

"He is my cousin. My late uncle's son and I didn't know that all along."

"But you guys still grew up as brothers and he is still your brother and if your dads are brothers that makes you guys brothers as well. It doesn't change lot though."

"But it makes a difference to me though. Maybe that's the reason he cut us off. I can't think of anything better to be honest other than that. He might be angry that they didn't tell him about his

birth parents. Tota Kingsley is overreacting.."

"Do you think so?" Lisbeth asked. No one can be mad over the fact that you were raised by your uncle. That is too minuscule to suffice as a valid reason for one to distance themselves from family.

"I do. He will get over it."

Thero finally said and he sat on the carpet and picked his child up who started touching his face. He will break up with Lisbeth once he was in Gaborone. Now was definitely not the right time to drop such a bombshell on her.

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At Ma Amelia's house

Amelia picked her sunhat and checked the time. She just wanted Tlotlo to go. She could tell he was

interested in her but she wasn't and she was not going to lead the poor guy on. That would be cruel of her and very evil.

"Let me walk you home."

"The kids are still..."

Amelia breathed in and placed her hands on her thighs.

"I know. Uhm Tlotlo will I be the bad guy if I say we can only be friends and nothing more?"

Tlotlo's smile dropped. When he came here he didn't want to think about her rejecting him and he didn't even shoot shot.

"It's okay. I'll accept that."

She breathed out kind of relieved. He respected that and wasn't forcing her into anything. She smiled.



"Can I walk you home? Let me go tell mama first and then I can walk you home."

Tlotlo nodded. Amelia left him sitting in the sitting room. Tlotlo brought his hands together. Maybe a friendship wasn't that bad. It sucked to get friendzoned but many of the long lasting relationships stemmed from friendships. He will be patient and accept what he got. Amelia came back with a sun hat and she smiled.

"I'll walk you home. A reye."

She said and he stood up.

"I'll tell them to go home or call my aunt to ask if they can stay the night. It's nothing big. Let's go."

Tlotlo and Amelia walked out of the house and he

had to look at her again. She was so beautiful. And she didn't flaunt it, she was really humble about in regards to the praise he kept showering her with.

She left the gate open as she held her phone in her other hand.

"So where are you doing nursing?"

"Yep. It is a nice course, maybe my aunt inspired me to some extent that is why I chose it."

"I see many patients overstaying their visit in the hospital."

Amelia laughed.

"Then we would simply have to chase them away. Yes?"

He nodded as they walked further and further away from where she stayed. A car drove by slowly past them as they walked and Tlotlo ignored it.

"I am afraid this is as far as I can go."

"Thank you and I got your number."

"Alright. Bye."

She waved as she started walking back home and the car that passed them stopped by her side. She frowned.

The door opened and she just kept walking. This was creepy.

"Amelia.."

Came voice from inside the car and she stopped in her tracks. She knew that voice. It haunted her thoughts day in and day out. She turned.

"I know you recognise my voice. Get in the car."

She was about to walk to the car but she stopped herself and folded her arms.

"Ke bua le mang?"(who am I talking to?)

"Bathong Amelia get in the fucking car.."

"Bathong talk to me like a normal human being would. Bo fuck fuck ke ba eng?"

She said and she heard him chuckle and she hid her smile still folding her arms. She waited for a minute but he didn't step out. She started walking home and Kingsley frowned. She was walking away?

He got out of his side and he ran to catch up with her.

"Why are you being difficult?"

"Hello to you Grey. I am good and school is great. How are you?"

She supplied and he ran his hands in his hair. Why did he stop his car when he saw her or was it

because she was with another male?

"Hello Amelia. Get in the car."

"Ask nicely.."

She squared her shoulders to look at him. His hair was all over the place and she tightened her grip on her phone just so that she couldn't push his hair back into place. He forced a smile and looked at her.

"Can you please get inside the car?"

"Why?"

She asked and for the first time she saw him frustrated. Well the only times she has interacted him like a normal being would was at the hospital when he helping her recover but even then she didn't know what he was feeling.

"Are you okay?" She asked and moved closer to him. They met again. A week later. In the same village. Wasn't that just luck?

"Yeah. Know what? Forget I asked."

He walked away inhaling a sharp breath and Amelia couldn't help but sense that on a good day he wouldn't ask her of anything. Hell she was probably the last girl on earth he would ask anything from. She moved her legs and found herself following him.

"Okay. I'll get in the car..." she relented. He looked at her and Amelia was expecting him to smile but he gave her a blank look.

"It's okay. Sorry I bothered you. You can walk back home."

He said and he closed the passenger door before walking to the driver's seat and he got inside the car. Amelia opened the passenger door and got inside and looked at him.

"Are you okay?" She asked again.

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## DELICATE

#42

Inside Kingsley's car

Amelia looked around the car as he sat down and leaned back in his seat.

"Are you okay?" He closed his eyes. Nobody has ever asked him if he was okay or doing fine.

"You don't look fine." He chuckled. He could hear the concern in her voice and he opened his eyes to find her looking at him. She wore her emotions on her sleeve and he wasn't sure if it was a good thing or a bad thing that everyone can easily read her.

"Uhm okay. I'm Amelia and you are?"

He laughed and she smiled. She really wanted to touch his hair again. It was soft.

"Kingsley.."

"I prefer your second name. I'm 19 and how old are you?"

"Way older than you.."

"Way older than me is still not a number Grey.."

"28."

She knew it from stalking his account and brushed it aside and he said it himself. She frowned. He was 9 years her senior. That was not a bad thing right?

"You're thinking. About my age and you're trying to convince yourself it's okay I'm not that old."

She gave a loop sided smile.

"You-you're not that old old.."

He tilted his head to the side as part of his hair covered his other side and she stopped breathing. Literally. How could he effortlessly look that hot.



"Wait. Are you blushing Lia?"

He asked and she squinted her eyes. "What? Uhm what?"

"You're still blushing Lia.."

"I'm not." She laughed and he placed his hands on the steering wheel.

"I'm driving autwe? I'm by the road and as much as there are no cars in sight, ke eme mo tseleng."

"Where are you driving off to? How long are you going to be here?"

"I was planning on leaving today why?" She appreciated his honesty. So she wasn't going to see him again if he didn't see her today?

"Okay drive." She buckled up and he stared at her. Wasn't she the one who didn't want to get in the car?

"I'm driving back to the guest house Lia. Sure?"

"Will I be back home before 6pm?"

He chuckled. And started the car, buckling up as well.

"I don't know. Why did you leave that morning?"

"You were going to leave me first.."

He reversed his car and he swerved it as he joined the road

"Sure?"

"I know so akere you denied knowing me when I said thank you at the store."

"I was ambushed." He countered and she humphed. She wasn't going to take that.

"Grey why did you pretend not to know me?"

"Why were you at the club?"

"Don't answer a question with a question. Nkarabe."

"I'm not obliged to."

"Are you usually this rude?"

He shrugged.

"It's not even funny Grey. Talk to other people sentle le bone ba tla go buisa sentle."(talk to other people nicely and they will also talk nicely to you.)

He kept on driving as she looked at his hands on the steering wheel and she smiled.

Kingsley drove to where he was staying and he had even forgot he was stressed and relieving his broken childhood. He looked at her and she smiled at him. He found himself smiling as he drove. Amelia looked around the car and placed her hands on her lap.

"Do you have Vaseline?"

"In the compartment.."

She opened it and she saw the blue asthma pump. She picked the vaseline as she looked at him, their eyes looked and she silently closed it. She applied it and opened the compartment to place it back. Her

eyes lingered on the asthma pump and she kept it to herself. She was a nursing student of course she knew what that was. Kingsley parked his car by the gate and he got out of the car. He had totally forgot that he threw it in there when he saw her. She didn't say anything but his mind was looking for excuses or something to say that he might not be the owner of that when he knew that he was.

*h*

*h*

His thoughts countered. The same voice that has been ringing in his head for years, it wasn't on purpose. He didn't even have any control over that. He closed his eyes as his chest closed in on him and he wheezed. Amelia frowned as she got out of the car and walked to his side.

"Grey are you fine?" He nodded as he wheezed some more and she got inside the car from his side and

took out the asthma pump she saw. He was forcing himself to breathe as he placed both hands on the car. Amelia rubbed his back as she held the spray and placed it on his mouth. She pressed it a couple of times.

"Breathe. It's okay. It's okay. You're okay." She soothed in her soft voice. She kept her eyes on him as she pressed it for him to breathe well. Minutes passed and when he was about to say something as she pulled it away she just hugged him.

It caught him by surprise and he lifted his hands hoping that she would let go. He didn't want her pity or her sympathy. She didn't and he relented as he slowly placed his hands on her small back, hugging her back. Amelia breathed in his masculinity and she just didn't let go till she was sure he was calm. She took a step back.

"You're okay?" Kingsley just nodded. Words currently failing him.

"Should I hug you again?" She asked as she looked

up at him and he looked at those kissable lips. Remembering how sweet her lips tasted. How sweet Lia was. He rubbed her chin and held it as he brought his head down for a kiss.

Amelia blinked. This was a sudden turn of events. From an asthma attack and now he was kissing her. Their lips crashed and he wound an arm around her waist pulling her close to the heat of his body. He slowly broke the kiss and murmured on her lips.

"I want you. I don't know why but I want you under me so bad." He admitted. That was the honest truth from his side.

She opened her eyes and looked into his. Those eyes that almost looked pitiless had a bit of emotion in them. A certain vulnerability she couldn't put her finger on but was willing to accept as emotion.

"Tell me that I'm not supposed to want you for my own sanity. Say it Lia. Please!" He suddenly pleaded as he let go of her and took a step back. Amelia

touched her lips and looked at him.

"Say it!" He demanded and ran his hands through his hair and she shook her head. He wasn't going to force her to say what he wanted for him to go back to denying ever meeting her.

"No." He gave her an astonished look.

"Amelia you should be running for the fucking hills. What happened cannot happen again."

"No."

She still said.

"I'm going to taint you dammit!" He raised his voice and she flinched. He groaned.

"Fuck I'm so sorry..fuuck!" He said and she looked at him. They were still by the gate and he was now panicking.

"Lia you should be afraid of me, I'm bad for you."

"Really?"

He nodded.

DELICATE

#43

At the small guesthouse

"Okay."

Kingsley gawked at her. Just okay?

"Just okay?"

"Ee. Akere you are the big bad wolf and it seems like I'm little red riding hood who will be scared of the big bad wolf. I get it Grey." She released a deep breath.

"Did you eat? Does the guesthouse provide food?"

"I'm fine Amelia."

"You said that and you had an attack." He raised an eyebrow and she just looked at him.

"Are you using it against me?"



She breathed and rubbed her hands together.

"No, you should eat something Grey. Did you eat breakfast?"

She wasn't letting this go. He didn't want to be fed.

"No."

"Uhm I left my card at home. You should eat something.."

He chuckled. The way she talked to him the way she liked kind of irked him. In a good way but he wasn't going to tell her that.

"And you little one, are overstepping the line."

"What line?"

She asked. He held her waist and harshly held her chin.

"A lot of lines Lia. A lot of lines."

"I see." She shrugged and kept eye contact with him.

"But weren't lines crossed at the club?"

She asked and she saw the confusion in his eyes before he masked it with indifference.

"Lines that weren't supposed to be crossed." She smiled.

"But here we are Grey. Here we are.."

He rolled his eyes and she burst out laughing.

"Can you find a place so you can buy food tla ga o re swela kana." (You mighty die on us.)

"O tla swaba Amelia."

"Ee rra." She laughed and he let go of her chin smiling.

"We can walk around re batle semausu o reke magwinya kana ga o je magwinya?"(we can find a tuckshop so you buy magwinya or you don't eat magwinya?)

"Bathong kana o tla swaba hela thata Amelia wa itse

tota?"

She shook her head and she looked at him.

"Grey are you going to eat or not?"

"Get in the car."

She walked to the passenger side and got inside. Placing his asthma pump back in the compartment and picking up her phone. Kingsley joined her in the car and he started the car. In a minute he was driving off.

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At Thero's parents

Lisbeth watched Thero interact with Keith and her heart soared. Just everything she wished for. A perfect little family. It didn't matter how young they were but they had a perfect family and Keith was

going to grow up to see how love felt like between two people who love each other.

She chuckled. It was going to be those 'I met your dad at school' kind of stories and how they went from friends to lovers who wish each other nothing but the best.

"Babe you didn't show me around the whole village.."

"I'll do that around 5 or 4 when the sun is not too strong."

She nodded and walked out. There played with his son as he smiled with the little boy.

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At the mall

Amelia joined the ATM line as Kingsley stood behind her. He folded his arms. It was pretty useless for her to cash out her money when he had cash in his wallet.

"Amelia this is futile." She looked up at him before she moved forward and he did too. He was always in black and she was sure she has never seen him in anything other than black. Weird and creepy too.

She moved forward and checked her phone and he just followed silently. When it was her turn, she checked the ewallet pin on her phone. Kingsley watched her cash out P100 and she then turned and smiled at him.

"What do you want to eat?" She asked and he found himself laughing.

"Wa re wa becha naare Amelia?"

"Ee. Waitse ke eng, get anything you want in the shop." He shook his head as they walked to the shop. She took the basket and handed it to him. She looked around. He didn't even eat breakfast. Men.

"Do you normally eat in the morning?"

"No."

"It's not healthy for you. Trust me.."

He just nodded as they headed to the section where there was food.

"Uhm samp kana phaleche?" She looked up at him.

"Anything is fine.." Amelia wasn't even paying attention to how awkward Kingsely looked in the stoor while holding the basket. She bought two takeaways, choosing the meat that seemed more appetizing. He followed her as she bought drinks as well as chips. They joined the short queue and she looked at him.

"You should aslo buy food later for the night." He

didn't answer and once their turn arrived she paid and got her change. It was just coins.

She handed him the plastic and he reluctantly took it as they walked out of the shop. They silently walked to the car and once they got inside, she placed the plastic on her lap and he started the car. Kingsley took a single glance at her and reversed out of their parking spot.

\*\*\*

At Ma Amelia's house

Ma Amelia asked the girls about Amelia's whereabouts and they said she has long left with Tlotlo. She stopped worrying and accepted that reply as she watched tv. As long as Amelia was fine and was going to be home before 7pm it was fine.

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In the car

Kingsley kept on driving and she frowned as she opened her bag of chips.

"Where are we going?"

"You'll see.."

She ate her chips and offered him some which he politely refused. She shrugged as she ate before picking up her phone and putting it on silent before she placed it down. Kingsley parked his car by the river and she looked at him. It was empty and she guessed that people were busy preparing for Independence day and here she was with Grey.

She took out his food and handed it to him. He looked at her. He was too silent for her peace of



mind. She knew he didn't talk too much but he was still too silent for her.

"Grey you should eat. It's almost three o'clock and ga o ise o je."

"I'm fine Amelia."

"No, you're not. I know what I'm doing."

He raised an eyebrow and she sighed.

"I don't want to feed you like a baby Grey, a ko je."

"I'm fine. You don't have to do anything."

"Fine. I'll do it myself."

Carefully she placed the food by the dashboard and she used a single braid to tie her braids together and he looked at her with curiosity. What was going on in her head? In seconds, her leg extended to his side and then another till she was on top of him and she looked at him.

"I shouldn't even be debating with a grown man

about eating." She said and she moved her hips closer to his. His dick jerked in his pants and Amelia ignored that as she got the food and opened it. She mixed the food and she looked at him.

"O re ah o je."

"Lia!"

"O re ah.." he opened his mouth and she fed him.

"See? Simple. Atlhama gape.."(open your mouth again?

He held back a smile and she took that opportunity to touch his hair.

"Now eat."

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Don't kill me guys. Fatigue got the better of me.  
Thank you.

DELICATE

#44

At the river bank

Amelia wiped her lips after eating and wiped his too.

"Eat, you'll get sick if you don't eat regularly and consistently."

"Okay."

"Are you upset that I forced you to eat? Hmm?"

She asked and he laughed. Why wasn't she scared of him? She should be scared of him. Really scared. Kingsley placed his hands on her waist and she opened her mouth to talk but shut up instead. His strong hands massaged her waist area and that took her back to last week Saturday when she was nursing herself with painkillers.

"Whatever you're thinking of, don't go ahead with it."

"Why?" He asked and her heart raced. Why? He was asking her why?

"Wa go mpolaya."(you're going to hurt me.)

Her answer floored him and he laughed. He wanted to do exactly what she was thinking but the mere fact that she was thinking the same made him laugh so bad. Amelia looked at him carefully. Did he know that smile made him light up like the 4th of July? Kingsley moved his hands lower and pulled her much closer.

"I'm going to do exactly what you told me not to do." Her eyes widened in fear. She tried to detach herself from his but he was quick to move his hands to her waist and tightened his grip there.

"Now you're going to listen to me.." he said and she swallowed.

"Are we clear?" She nodded then shook her head.

"Ma? Ra utwana?"

"Ee rra."

His hand slipped underneath her sweater. Why was she wearing a sweater in this hot weather? With the ease of a man used to removing bras, he effortlessly unclipped her bra, releasing her small tits from the tight cups. He slid his hands down and held the hem of her sweater before he pulled it over her head. He threw it in the backseat and the pink bra followed too. He wondered if her panties matched the bra or she just wore what was the closest. He used both hands to touch her tits that filled his large hand. Amelia swallowed as she looked down at him, he was so focused on the task at hand and he looked back up and smiled. It should be illegal for a smile to be able to do that.

Kingsley looked behind her and there was still no one by the river bank. His hands found her jean button and he started there. Amelia watched him as he stripped her naked. She finished the process of

by pushing the jeans down her feet. She was on top of him, naked while he was fully clothed. He picked her up and placed her on the passenger seat. He pulled the seat down down and before she could even breath, he was on top of her, his hand on her neck.

"Fuck! I hope nobody has touched you since me.." He growled in her ear and she swore she wet her panties. She quickly shook her head.

"Good. I would hate to have to find them.." Her eyes widened. Why would he have to find them?

"Remove my clothes." He breathed and her eyes widened further.

"Lia if you can talk back as if I'm your agemate then you surely can do that." He blew his hair away from his eyes and maintained eye contact with her and she froze, she didn't even feel his body weight on her. How? She didn't know.

"Amelia?" She blinked.

"Rra?"

"Are you going to do what I asked or should I give you something to choke on?"

Kingsley didn't know her eyes could be any wider. Poor child was shooketh. Wait what?

Kingsley held her chin. She had a lot to learn. A whole lot.

"Remember what I said?"

She shook her head.

"Call me Sir in this instance Lia and I won't stop till you swallow your words."

"Rr-I mean Sir?" He kissed her lips gently as he removed his own clothes since she failed to do that. He moved his head to removed his tee and he went back to kissing her, moving his lips to her collarbone tattoo. His other hand squeezed her boob and the other worked on his pants zipper. He slid the pants down along with his boxer and his d\*ck sprung up and Amelia felt it.

Kingsley used that hand to touch her while she was in her panties. He stopped kissing her and smiled before he pulled them down. Making her totally naked.

He picked her legs and placed them on his shoulders before he #EXPLICIT

DELICATE

#44

#EXPLICIT

Kingsley used that hand to touch her while she was



in her panties. He stopped kissing her and smiled before he pulled them down. Making her totally naked.

He picked her legs and placed them on his shoulders before he positioned himself at her slick heat.

Amelia breathed in gasps as Grey circled his dick at her entrance. She maintained eye contact with him with her legs spread for his viewing. Kingsley kissed her neck softly going to her collarbone, licking her tattoo there as a shudder ran through her body. Her heart raced as she looked down, still baffled by his size and asking herself how she let him inside of her the last time they were intimate which was the time she was breaking her virginity.

Amelia closed her eyes and he spoke against her lips.

"Lia look at me." She opened her eyes.

"Look at me fuck the attitude out of you." Her heart went ecstatic as he slowly plunged into her

sweetness and she screamed.

"Gr-aah. Ng...."

"Let's take this dick okay? You're good girl Lia." He coerced her and that made her twitch as he continued to ease himself into her. He stilled inside of her abd grabbed her braids to forced her to look at him. He smiled kissing her lips and she clung to his lips with everything in her. She placed her idle hands on his rock solid chest and grazed her short nails on his chest. Kingsley slowly started to move his hips and Amelia moaned into his ear. He didn't know he can get harder than that but he did and he continued his slow strokes as her moans got louder and louder. She closed her eyes, enjoying the feeling and how he was doing her.

"Aah...babe...oh..." He heard that babe reference and ignored it as he picked momentum and he hit it much more deeper. He was just on the surface.

Amelia screamed as her soles rubbed his back, now she knew why she didn't like his size though he was her first.

"Gr-ah I lost the attitude...." She screamed into his ear as her breasts grazed his chest and sweat beads formed on her forehead.

Their slick bodies meeting at a pinnacle. She just screamed his name as he went hard and the pleasure was bordering pain. His hands moved to her waist as he tightly held her waist and she screamed as he hit a spot that brought pleasure to her as well. He was in too deep and she wanted to cry but her eyes were so dry and her throat hurt from screaming. Her toes curled and he groaned into her ear and that turned her on as she felt her nerve endings sizzle and she screamed his name releasing liquid. It felt like she was a bottle bursting. Grey fucked her through the orgasm before he put his mouth on her breast, sucking it as he spilled his swimmers inside her.

He stilled inside her, his dick twitching from that release. Fuck she was so sweet, he should eat her

out one day and make her fucking cum in his mouth, release all that in his mouth.

Amelia caught her breath as her knees weakly dropped from his shoulders. He smiled and he pushed his hair back.

"We have some time." He said and Amelia's poor swollen pussy clasped him. He groaned and kissed her lips before he made her wrap those beautiful legs around his waist so that she can keep him locked in. In one thrust she screamed. Was it possible for one to touch the opening of the cervix? Her thoughts scrambled as he thrust inside her again.

"Oh God! Aaaaah!" She screamed as he delivered quick thrust that had her screaming and moaning his name in the car. She gave up trying to tell him that this was going to be the last round because after tjis one, another followed and she was just a mess.

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It was an hour later when he finally slid out of her warmth and she was clinging onto him for dear life. Well that was one hell of a way to take away his stress. He kissed her sweaty cheek and he was sure his semen and her cum were leaking onto his car seat but at this exact moment did he care? No he didn't give a flying fuck about that.

"Lia?"

Exhausted she opened her eyes and a weak "rra?" escaped her lips. He kissed her lips again and he made her knees wrap around his waist and she held back tears.

"Grey?"

"Hhm?"

She placed her hands weakly on his chest.

"Ke utlule, ekete ka tuka." He searched her eyes and kissed her lips.

"Just a little bit."

"Ng ng, last time I had to take painkillers and stay in bed." She blurted out and he frowned.

"Where did it hurt?"

"Everywhere.." He rubbed her chin. "I'm sorry okay?"

She just nodded and he kissed her lips. "I'm sorry okay? I get carried away sometimes." He looked at her again. It was her second time ever since breakibg her virginity having sex again.

"Lia?"

"Rra?"

"Sorry.."

She nodded. Her phone flashed and she saw her mother's name flash on the screen. Her heart started racing and he got off her. He handed her his tee and she wore it before she answered.

"Hello?"

"Hello Amelia. Where are you?"

She looked at Grey and she cleared her throat.

"I met up with a friend and we lost track of time."

"Okay. It's still bo five but okay. I was getting worried and your aunt said you weren't at her place."

"I understand. I'll be home."

"Okay nana. Bye."

"Bye."

She hung up as he wore his jeans and looked at her. He readjusted the seat and he rubbed her hand. He got out of the car and walked to her side to open the car door.

"At least let's see you walk before you go home.."

He took her hand and they got out of the car. They walked on the sand walking towards the river.

"What if there are crocodiles in there?" She asked.

The fresh air that hit her swollen p\*ssy was so refreshing. He picked her up and half ran to the water as she laughed. He placed her in the water and held her waist.

"If something bites m-"

"Nothing will bite you."

"If bo mami water take me?"

He burst out laughing and she held his hand.

"Imagine hela! Bo mami water ba ile ka nna.."

"You're annoying."

"I'm naked and swollen."

"Ah, imagine me sliding in and out of that swollen little c\*nt of yours. Your attitude today made me want to fuck you like a little bitch."

She shudderrd and wasn't sure why her body reacted like that and she crossed her legs.



"You can't apologise and want to do it again."

"But I want to."

She sighed. Her feet wet and his jeans were wet.

Why didn't he roll them up? Men!

"How often do you have asthma attacks?" She asked and she watched how his face switched and that smile disappeared in an instant.

"I don't want to talk about that."

"Why?"

"Because I don't Amelia. Simple as that."

She faced him and wrapped her hands around his waist.

"That's not a reason and it's a simple question. All you have to say is I get the attacks when so and so happens or when there is so and so.."

His body was rigid and she just looked at him.

"Amelia don't go there.."

"But it was a simple question. I am not going to judge you or anything."

"But you are asking way too much."

"I just want to know. Shoot me if I want to know."

He sighed as the wind blew his hair back and she ran one hand over her braids before she placed them on his torso again.

"Wait before we get to that. What are we?"

He went still.

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DELICATE

#45

At the river bank

Amelia swore she has never heard silence quite that loud. She swallowed and slowly let go of him. She forced a smile.

"Okay." She answered though he didn't say a thing.

"Can you take me home?"

She said as she hugged herself and looked at him. Kingsley watched her as she kept up her fake smile.

"My mother is already worried about me." She added as she started walking, ignoring how her body ached and the way those small sand stones poked the sole of her feet. It annoyed her and it was no longer cute. She got inside the car and quickly removed his t-shirt.

She picked her clothes and she started with the bra as he got in the driver's seat. She fumbled with the clips and closed her eyes. She breathed in and out and did it slowly before she put her legs in her panties and pulled them up. She let out a soft sigh, her legs hurt.

"Are you okay?" He asked.

"I'm fine Kingsley." She replied as she put her jeans on as well. She found her sweater and wore it as well before she picked her phone up and buckled up.

She put her headsets in her ear and played a random song on her phone waiting for him to start the car. Kingsley wore his t-shirt, the one she carelessly threw at the backseat and looked at her. What was she expecting him to say? In all honesty? He told her he was bad for her and this was just one of those things he shouldn't even do.

Amelia closed her eyes. "Amelia?" Came his voice and she turned to face him.

"We're f-friends?" She chuckled and nodded to play her music.

Kingsley jusy started the car with a huge sigh.

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In the village

Thero walked around with Lisbeth as he showed her around. He was walking down Amelia's street with Lisbeth as she went on and on about a topic he didn't even understand.

A car passed them and he frowned when it stopped by Amelia's house.

In the car Amelia unbuckled the seat belt.

"You've been silent the whole ride." She shrugged.

"Amelia what's bothering you?"

He looked into her eyes as he placed his hand on top of hers. She removed her hand.

"Friends don't look at friends that way." She said and broke the eye contact.

She held the door lock and breathed in.

"Can i have your number?" He asked. She shook her head and opened the car. She closed it and walked to the gate without even looking back. Thero walked past the car with Lisbeth and he saw the driver before the window rolled up. Anger bubbled in him and he wanted to ask Amelia about it but he forced himself to smile.

"I should walk you home. I have to see a friend I haven't seen in a while."

Lisbeth frowned as the car finally drove off and she looked at Thero. She will just give him the benefit of the doubt.

"Okay. Let's go."

They walked back and Thero kept on glancing backwards.

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At Ma Amelia's house

Amelia was glad that her mother was in her room. She just headed to her own bedroom and got her towel as well toiletry before she walked to the bathroom. Forcing herself to ignore the pain. She locked the door and sat on thw toilet seat. She closed her eyes. She did good. He wasn't going to

use her body for his own pleasure. She surprised herself with tears that rolled down her eyes and she covered her face.

It was minutes later when she filled the bathtub with hot water and she threw in her loofah inside. She got inside the bathtub and yelped with more tears in her eyes, it stung. She will have to act okay because she was home and her mother was going to suspect something. She poured her body wash on the sponge and scrubbed her body till it was painful. Wanting to wash away every trace of him. She scrubbed so hard with tears in her eyes and her swallowing every now and then.

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At the small guesthouse

Kingsley sat on his bed and he closed his eyes. Did



he say something wrong? They were kind of friends right? The girls he used to buy didn't talk back to him and they did everything he asked. Friends was a good term in his opinion. He didn't know why it felt like he did something wrong. She even refused with her number.

He didn't know if he should be surprised or feel otherwise about it.

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At Ma Amelia's house

Thero knockef on the door twenty minutes later and Tsona opened.

"Hello, uhm how can I help you?"

"I'm looking for Amelia.."

Tsona left Thero at the door and she found her sister in her pyjamas and gown.

"There is someone at the door."

"Mang?"

"Thero.."

Amelia rolled her eyes. She sighed and forced herself to ignore the pain in each step as she walked to the door.

Thero looked at her, with her braids in a messy bun and her looking all cute.

"Hey."

"Hi. How can I help?"

"Uhm we can still be friends."

"Friends! Nyriends! Nyriends!Tswang mo nna marn!  
Tswang mo nna!"

She closed the door in his face and her siblings looked at her shocked while Amelia just walked back to her room.

Thero stood there surprised. He sighed and walked away.

## DELICATE

#46

At Amelia's mother

Amelia sighed as she sat on the bed and she closed her eyes. She didn't understand this. She didn't, not at all. She wasn't stupid, they had sex and they are friends? It was better when it was a one night stand thing because she walked away first and took pills-

Her eyes widened. Pills. Pills! She didn't even have any and she wasn't sure if there was a chemist. If she headed to the clinic, her aunt might see her and tell her mother. She sighed. She should probably do it first thing in the morning if she can walk. She picked her phone and called Kgosì.

"Hello?"

"Hey you. How is home?"

"Home is fine. Mma what is it with guys that want to be friends with me?"

Kgosi shrugged at the other end of the line.

"They like you and just want to get close to you."

"Yoh ha.a no. No! No! Gape mma wena after 2 years Thero just came here and was claiming we didn't break up."

"He is delusional yoo. A nale ngwana a bo a bua dilo tseo?"(he has a child and says such things?)

Amelia's eyes widened. He had a child?

"Ntheye o re wayaka Kgosi. O nale ngwana? As in a whole human being who breathes on its own?"(tell me you're lying Kgosi)

"I am not, Lisbeth has a child and the child looks like Thero plus Lisbeth once posted a picture of the child wena. Lisbeth schools at UB. You have never seen

her there?"

"Not at all. Kante why Thero a ntshetse morago? A nale ngwana mme o mpatla marato?"(why is he pestering me? When he has a child and he wants love back)

"Ignore him, exes usually do that. When they see you glow and prospering without them ba tla ka bo 'I miss you.' Bo 'I miss us' Just ignore him. He played you and he just wants sex. Most probably so ignore him mma. He is a whole father and he should focus on that."

Amelia clapped her hands and chuckled. And he lied with a straight face. Men were the devil yoh. Including that one that came inside of her, left her sore and says they are just friends. Gosh. She hated men.

"I don't like men wena yoh."

"Just because of one cheater called Thero? But it's okay Amelia. Amelia is there something you want to tell me?"

Amelia's heart skipped. Tell her what? What did she hear?

"Uhm uhm tell you what?"

"We'll talk when you arrive here..c

"Okay kgosi. I have to go. Bye."

Amelia hung up and she massaged her thighs. She will have to force herself to go to the hospital tomorrow. She can't afford a pregnancy at the moment.

Her phone beeped with a message and she picked it up. It was Tlotlo.

Tlotlo:Hey. Hope you got home safe, I saw a car pick

you up

Amelia: I did. Thank you. The car? That was a friend.

Tlotlo: Oh! And here I thought I had competition.

Amelia: Competition? What competition friend?

Tlotlo: and you are emphasising the friend part. Why Ame?

Amelia: Sorry ee. Wa lela?

Tlotlo: Ee ka lela

She laughed and shook her head.

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At Thero's parents

Thero sat down on the chair. Okay he understood



that Amelia didn't want him because he cheated on her. But why would she go for his brother? Brother or cousin or whatever Kingsley was to him. Did she stalk Kingsley on Facebook and go for him to hurt him?

His mother found him deep in his thoughts.

"What's wrong?"

"Is it okay for a woman to date brothers?"

Ma Thero frowned.

"Ke boata. She should be ashamed for tearing brothers apart ebile. Sies!"

Thero sighed and shook her head.

"Kana mama exes do get together sometimes akere?"

"It does happen yes. Wait who are you talking about?"

Thero sighed. Honestly what Amelia was doing is wrong and what Kingsley was doing was wrong too. Amelia was an ex. One he loved and was planning to court once again, he was a few years older and maybe it took having a child to go for who his heart beats for.

She didn't see it now but he loved her and he knew she felt the same. She just didn't want to take an ex back, he assumed.

"I saw Kingsley with Amelia.."

Ma Thero frowned.

"I was walking and he dropped her off her house." Thero didn't want to think about Kingsley sleeping with Amelia. He was way older than her and shouldn't be with a teenager.

"The Mogosi girl?" His mother sneered and he ignored that as he nodded.

"Well her mother e ne e le letekatse, she is one. Why date brothers? Boata."(her mother was a wh\*re)

"It's not right at all but thank you."

The two weren't aware of Lisbeth who was listening and tears filled her eyes. He was still asking about his ex? Why worry about what his ex did when they were together. When they were a family? She understood who he was talking about, she saw the girl who stepped out of the car and she was so beautiful. Maybe that's why he was hung up on her.

\*\*\*

At the small guesthouse

Kingsley for the first time in a while, found himself filling up the bathtub with water and getting inside. He breathed in and out as he finally relaxed. A bit proud that the flashbacks were at bay and he was

finally overcoming his past trauma. His mind wondered to what happened with Lia. He could tell that he did something wrong and she didn't like it but she didn't voice it out. They were friends, good friends if he may call it that. Maybe he should talk to her since he knew where she lived and she won't chase him away right?

He nodded as he closed his eyes, the warm water relieving his tension. In seconds, his mind wandered back to his childhood.

How six year old him followed her to the bathroom for a simple bath that turned out to be traumatic and repetitive till he was nine and they found other ways.

There he was, six year old Kingsley really happy that his mommy had stopped being angry at him, did not beat him that week and was now bathing him. His memory never failed it. His heart started racing at that memory. Naive six year old Kingsley laughing in

the bathtub full of water and he turned his head to show her the wall with the curiosity of a child when his small neck was grabbed and his head was fully submerged in the water. He screamed for help, water filling his nose and mouth and failing to breathe as he kicked. He gave up breathing.

He didn't realise that in the present right now, his head was submerged under water and he was failing to breathe as water filled his nostrils and lungs and he was fighting his childhood demons right now and they were winning.

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## DELICATE

#47

At the small guesthouse

Kingsley's head shot out of the water as he coughed out and beat his chest with tears in his eyes. He coughed as he spit the water into the water tub. His red eyes kept on leaking tears that mixed with the water that glistened on his face. He held onto the bath tub coughing some more. He almost drowned himself and that on it's own was a form of self harm. He needed to leave this village. Fast. ASAP! The longer he stayed here, the more the memories come back to haunt him. He should have never set foot here and the only good that came out of this visit was Amelia who was angry at him for some reason. He removed the stopper and the water started draining. He sat in the bathtub for the next few seconds as the water drained and he waited to feel

fine. He should probably leave tonight.

He got out once the water was drained and he pulled the towel off the rail and covered his lower body with it. He coughed some more and rubbed his eyes. He walked to the bedroom where he got ready.

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At Ma Amelia's house

Amelia forced herself to withstand the pain as she watched the half seven movie on E.tv with her family. Ma Amelia noticed Amelia's discomfort but she wanted Amelia to say something. She wasn't going to pester her, Amelia was old enough to talk to her about anything. Amelia placed her hands on her thighs as she sat by the sofa corner with one side of her butt. Friends he said but look at her. She drank painkillers and she thanked her ancestors that she

just packed them just. Lola and Tsona chatted as the movie went on an ad break and she started pressing her phone. She wanted to sleep because she swore that this time Kingsley wanted her to still feel him even if he wasn't around.

A car flashed it's lights in front of their house and they all frowned. The car honked and they were still confused. Amelia saw that as an opportunity to escape.

"Let me check gore who is it."

"Let the person come knock, maybe this is the wrong address."

Amelia nodded and the car still flashed. She watched the movie after the ad break was finished.

Meanwhile in the car, Kingsley sighed. This was a bad idea. What if he knocks and her mother chases him away with a shoe or a leheltho? He knew his



uncle's wife was cruel enough to even burn someone with boiling oil. His heart ached at the memories that came and he closed his eyes. He had to be done with this village. He opened his eyes and he gained enough courage to step out of the car. He locked his car and he walked to the gate. He opened it before he could change his mind. He walked to the door and he knocked before he ran his hands through his hair.

This was out of character. He never did this and this wasn't him. He should turn away and walk away. Go and never return to this village. He turned but the door opened.

Amelia's eyebrows rose in surprise and she folded her arms as she looked at him. What the hell? Was he trying to get her in trouble?

"Ame ke mang?"(Ame who is it?)

Came her mother's voice from the lounge and she turned while Kingsley paused.

"A friend mom."

"Let us see the friend who comes at night."

She looked at Kingsley then turned her head.

"Ee mma."

Her head shot back to look at him.

"What are you doing here?" She whispered harshly and he looked at her.

"I wanted to know why you were upset and I'm about to go." He replied in a calm tone. Not shying away from her harsh glare. She frowned, her features softening. He actually sounded honest.

"Amelia let us see your friend."

"Ee mma."

She looked at him.

"Mom wants to see you. Don't do anything stupid or get me in trouble."

He nodded. She moved from the door and opened it

wider.

"Tsona."(enter)

He walked inside and Ma Amelia looked at him and then at Amelia who closed the door. A friend? Thag was a whole grown man. A friend?

"Dumelang." He greeted and Tsona was astonished. He was the type of man whose description you read from books and try to fit it with a male model from a magazine and Amelia said he was a friend?

She sat upright and fixed her hair by brushing it back with her hand and she looked at her exposed thighs in her shorts. Not bothering to use the fleece on the sofa to cover up. Her cousins left while Amelia was away so it was just the three of them and Amelia's friend.

"Hello, what's your name?"

"Kingsley ma'am" Kingsley said and Ma Amelia could

tell he was years older than her daughter but not that younger than her. She was only 35 years old.

"Hello, you can take a seat. We are watching a movie, I hope you are not in any rush."

He nodded and he sat next to Amelia. He didn't know how to refuse the polite offer. Amelia has never seen him so humble but she hasn't known him for a long time so...

"Amelia tell us about your friend."

"Ma?" She answered her mother.

"Your friend. How did you two become friends?"

Tsona listened carefully waiting for her sister to divulge the information.

"We met at the mall right Kingsley?"

"Uhm right." His sonorous deep voice filled the house and Tsona placed her hands on her chin.

"That's nice. You must be good friends."

Amelia nodded and focused on the movie. Kingsley stole a glance at her and he looked at the tv. This was awkward.

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## DELICATE

#48

At Ma Amelia's house

Ma Amelia looked at Kingsley again. He looked familiar. Too familiar to her eye. Amelia tried not to massage her thighs because he was around but she couldn't help it. She started to rub her eyes watching tv and Kingsley's eye caught the motion. He remembered what she said earlier on about her having to take painkillers and it hurting everywhere. He moved his hand over her thigh and massaged it. Amelia's eyes widened in surprise, her family was here. She looked at him and his eyes were on the tv, she looked around hoping no one was focusing on her or him.

"Kingsley we've met before right?"

Kingsley's head whipped towards Ma Amelia's direction and his hand fell from Amelia's thigh just as quick.

Everyone looked at Ma Amelia.

"At the hospital? J-just that your hair looked different and you never told us your name."

She looked at Amelia who said they met at the mall.

"Uhm yeah. That."

Amelia kept her eyes on the screen and Ma Amelia looked at Amelia then Kingsley.

"How old are you Kingsley?" Amelia coughed as her saliva went down the wrong pipe. She looked at Kingsley whose face was blank.

"28."

Tsona's eyes widened and Amelia wanted to face palm. Literally.

"You guys are just friends?" She asked again.

"Yes mom. He is just a friend mom. Don't you have to go somewhere Kingsley?"

She turned to look at him and he rubbed his head.

"Yes. I was about to go. Thank you for the warm welcome."

He said as he stood up and Amelia sighed.

"I'll walk him out."

She stood up slowly and awkwardly walked behind him to the door. He opened the door and stepped out as she did the same and stepped out. She closed the door and folded her arms.

"What do you want here sentle sentle Kingsley?"



"Just wanted to know why you were upset earlier."

Out of words she looked at him. Was he being serious right now?

"Let's walk to your car." She said just so she can think. He paused and watched her walk.

"Is it sore?"

"Of course it is, I took painkillers and I took a hot bath and it stung and my thighs are aching. Anything else Kingsley?"

She said with pure acidity that left a bad taste in her mouth as she watched him. He nodded and she noted the look in his eyes.

"I am sorry about that. Uhm should I ask my doctor to write you a prescription?" The tenderness in his voice shocked her. She wanted to voice out her anger but she failed as she just nodded. He opened the gate and she walked out. He closed it once they

were both outside. He unlocked the car door and he opened the compartment. He took out his business card and a pen. He scribbled his personal number on the card.

"Here. You are still upset and I have no idea why. I am honestly confused by it. I don't know how my doctor is supposed to send your prescription but there is my number. I have to go back to Gaborone. It's up to you to call."

He said and and he opened the car door. Amelia stood there as he got inside and he started the car. She opened the gate and she threw the business card in the trash can. Kingsley saw that and he drove off. Once the car was out of sight, she looked inside the bin. Luckily it was on top so she took it and walked to the house.

Inside the house everyone looked at Amelia as she walked inside the house.

"So you guys are just friends?"

"Yes Tsona."

"Isn't he older than you Amelia?"

"Mama we are jusy friends. Friends mama."

She picked her phone from the sofa and walked to the bedroom where she sat down and saved his number. Not sure about what she ia going to do with it one day.

She closed her eyes and rubbed her thighs. Not sure if she was too harsh or if she was confused by his personality.

She got under covers and placed the card and her phone on the stand next to her bed. She got out of the covers to go switch off the lights and she got undercover once again.

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At Thero's parents

Lisbeth put Keith to sleep. She should probably choose herself, maybe she wasn't over reacting and Thero has been acting strange ever since they came here. She walked out of the room she slept in with Keith. She knocked on Thero's door.

"Come in."

She opened the door and got inside.

"I think we should break up."

She said and Thero looked up from his phone.

"Okay."

Lisbeth held her hips.

"Okay? Just okay?"

"Yes. Saves me the trouble of having to lie and find a reason to break up with you."

She blinked several times as she placed a hand on her heart. What?

"You wanted to break up with me?"

"Yes. Been thinking about it the whole week and was planning to do so after this trip."

He shrugged. She didn't know how he can be so nonchalant about it this way.

"So it's over?"

"Liz you wanted us to break up and we are breaking up."

"Is it because of that girl you and your mom were talking about? Amelia?"

"No. But we are not compatible Lisbeth. We are better off as friends, the spark died two years ago."

"No, it's because of Amelia.."

Thero faced her and he sighed.

"No. Our relationship ran its course and we tried hard to make it work. We are still going to co-parent Lizzy. We don't have to break up and be on bad terms."

"Okay. At least you were honest."

"We have to be. I am still going to be a great father to Keith but I am not the right partner for you."

"Okay. Goodnight."

She walked out and she maintained her strong front all the way to the room. She closed the door and with her back against the door, she slid down the door as the tears rolled down her eyes. She was so so stupid. Too dumb. She covered her mouth with her hands as more tears rolled down. She was too stupid. So dumb and in love. He wasn't even scared of losing her, he wanted to break up first and if she

hadn't overheard the conversation she would be a fool in love and seeing happily ever afters. Wow! She let out a sob as she placed her head on her thighs, the tears not stopping.

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The following morning

Amelia by eight she was done bathing. Time to go get those morning afters and prevent a pregnancy thT isn't supposed to happen. When she was done she walked out of her room with her phone and bag. The business card still on top of the stand by her bed.

She knocked on her mother's room. She slightly opened the door.

"Mom, I'm going to the shops I'll be back."

"So early in the morning?"

"Uhm yes. I'll be back really fast."

"Please be fast, we need to talk."

"Ee mma."

She closed the door and walked to the sitting room where her siblings were watching tv.

"Guys I'll be back."

"Ame can I borrow your black cardigan? For tomorrow?"

"Sure, you can check if it fits you. I have to go."

Amelia walked out, closing the door on her way out and Tsona looked at Lola.

"But you saw how Amelia's friend looked like."

"Mhmm.." Lola said as she switched the tv station to another.

"He looks like a model and he saved Amelia. I would



never agree to be friends with such a hot guy."

Lola released a sigh.

"Lola are you listening?"

"He is older than you Tsona and don't talk like that about adults. Nna wa mbora mma."(you're boring me)

She said. Tsona shook her head. Lola didn't understand. Tsona stood up and walked to Amelia's bedroom to look for the black cardigan.

She opened the door and she opened the wardrobe. She didn't know where to start so she closed the wardrobe and sat on the bed. The business cards caught her eye and she read off the names out loud.

"Kingsley Grey Carter." She looked at the business lines and she flipped the card. She saw a number scribbled there.

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## DELICATE

#49

At the hospital

Amelia was nervous as she kept looking around hoping she didn't see her aunt. That would mean her mother would know and she wouldn't want that. She pressed her phone and she paused on his name. She didn't understand him at all, one moment he was overpowering her with his dominance and the next he was so humble that her anger burnt out. She was confused in all honesty. She sighed as she was told to walk inside the nurse's office. She stood up and walked to the office. She opened the door and her skin flushed with embarrassment as her aunt looked up.

"Amelia? What are you doing here?"

Amelia tucked the braids behind her ear as she sat down. Trying to see what lie she could come up with but there was none. She needed morning afters and probably birth control. She knew the side effects and everything but her aunt was going to tell her mom and her mom would ask questions. This was embarrassment at it's level best.

She linked her fingers together as she looked down and Kaone waited to hear what her niece was here for. If she was sick, her sister never mentioned it before.

"Uhm dumelang."

"Hello Ame. How can I help you?"

Amelia breathed in and out then looked up at her aunt. It was either she gets the pills or falls pregnant. Getting the pills and the lecture that was to follow was better than falling pregnant.

"I-I kind of need, like di morning after?" She phrased

it as more like a question as she lowered her head.

"Amelia?"

"Ma?"

"Wa reng?"

She closed her eyes and counted up to five before her wide eyes looked at her aunt who was looking sternly at her.

"I need morning afters." She repeated slowly and fearfully.

"Amelia wa robalana?"(Amelia you are having sex?)

"Nyaa mma"

"Then why do you need morning afters?"

She released a sigh. She had to come clean now or else she wasn't going to get those morning afters.

"Please."

"Amelia a wa robalana?"(Amelia are you having sex?)

"Ee mma."

The silence that passed was so audible that she could hear her own heartbeat. Kaone looked at her niece. She was shocked. Morning afters? That means she slept with someone without protection and she was just 19. A teenager for crying out loud.

"Wow! Uhm so ga le tshabe malwetsi Amelia?"(So you are not afraid of disease?)

Amelia kept quiet. Was she going to get the pills or not?

Kaone opened her drawer and took out the pills.

"Take one now and take the other one after twelve hours. Get tested for diseases le lese go robalana le tla lwala."

"Ee mma."

She looked up and took the pills.

"Thank you."

She stood up and quickly scurried away like a mouse. Take one now and the other one later. She will be fine.

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At Thero's parents

Lisbeth finished packing for her clothes and Keith's clothes. She walked to the lounge where Thero and his parents were laughing. Mr Carter saw her first and she smiled.

"Hello Lisbeth. Come join us. We thought you were asleep."

She flashed a smile and sat down. Hoping her eyes didn't give her away but Ma Thero noticed.

"Are you okay? Your eyes are puffy.."

"Uhm an allergic reaction from yesterday maybe when Thero and I were taking a walk."

She nodded, not exactly believing such because it was clear that she had been crying.

"Uhm I wanted to thank you guys for welcoming me and that something came up at home. I have to leave and I will be leaving with Keith."

The parents exchanged glances and then looked at Lisbeth.

"I already packed. I just wanted you guys to know. I'll be taking the 10am bus. I will call once I arrive."

"Let me take you to the bus rank since you made up your mind." Thero said as he straightened up and stood up.

Lisbeth just nodded.



Minutes later he was helping her carry her bags and the baby's bags to the car. Lisbeth walked back to the house to get Keith who said bye to his grandparents and they walked to the car.

The moment the door closed and Thero and Lisbeth were out of sight Ma Thero looked at her husband.

"Wa bona mme? Kingsley is so ungrateful, we raised him like our son and he wants to be a saint."

Thuto looked at his wife.

"Kana ga ngwana a sa utlwe o tsenngwa mo tseleng mme kana bommaago tla ga ba re kaore Kingsley ga se ngwanake ne ke mo tshwenya."(If a child is disrespectful, we discipline the child. Your mother might say just because Kingsley is not my child I was abusing him)

Her husband nodded. "Kingsley was problematic and wasn't serious with school gape."

He added and she nodded.

"Honestly. Tota o dira matepe ebile nna wa ntena."  
(He is being ungrateful and he is annoying me)

She stood up on her feet and walked to the kitchen.  
Her mind taking her back to when she first met  
Kingsley's mother. Years ago.

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Victoria shook her head. She held the kitchen counter and closed her eyes.

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At the bus rank

Thero looked at Lisbeth who was staring out the window.

"You don't have to go Liz."

"I have to." The car stopped and she got out of the car and opened the back door to get Keith out.

"Just because we broke up, you don't have to run away. We arw adults."

"I know Thero. Let me be. Keith let's go my baby.."

Thero sighed and he got out of the car to take out their luggage. He locked the car and walked them to

the bus that was heading to Gaborone.

He said bye to them ten minutes later and walked back to his car.

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At Ma Amelia's house

Tsona had scribbled the number on her old notebook. She took out her small torch phone and entered the number and saved it. She might need it one day. She closed the notebook and held the phone in her hand. She walked to the wardrobe and took out her mayonnaise jar which had coins she had saved up. She counted coins equaling to P10 and she returned the jar.

Lola was the one making lunch and she told her she

was going to the tuckshops. Lola just nodded. Amelia was not yet back and her mother was in the room. The house was spotless and there was nothing to do.

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In town, Amelia sat down and took out her phone. She clicked on the number and decided to call. The phone rang for a while. It was not answered. She tried to call again but it was still not answered. She stopped calling and placed her phone on her lap.

A message from Tlotlo reported.

Tlotlo:Wanna hang out today?

Amelia:I can't today, sorry.

Tlotlo:It's okay. No need to apologise.

Amelia:Alright.



She placed her phone down and she tried his number again. It went through and there was silence at the other end of the line.

"Hello?" His sleepy deep voice sounded and she closed her eyes to control herself.

"Hi. Ke Amelia."

At the other side, Kingsley yawned and rubbed his eyes. He stretched his body and yawned again.

"Hello."

"You said I-I should call, or I caught you at a bad time?" He yawned again and she wondered how he looked when he just opened his eyes. Guess she'll never know.

"Your call woke me up Lia."

"I'm sorry. You can go back to sleep, I'll call later."

"Okay.." he suppressed a yawn and she hung up.

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On her way home Tsona thought about dialling the number but she decided against it. She sighed. Maybe she should wait for her sister's friend to make a move.

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Two hours later Amelia was home and she was in her mother's room.

"Amelia are you guys just friends?"

"Ee mma. Is it wrong to have friends?"

"Yes. Especially when those men are older than you. His age is of the men I usually date. Someone who can potentially be your step father."

Amelia blinked. Kingsley? Her step father? A man who in daylight shifted her womb? Her step father?

"Mama don't tell me you like him."

She said in absolute horror. She couldn't imagine it and would never allow it. Over her dead body would it ever happen. Her mother shrugged.

"That is not the point. He is older than you and just because he once helped you, you are not obliged to be his friend. Did he threaten you?"

"No mama. Do you like him?"

"Are you just friends?" She asked again.

"Yes." Kingsley said they were friends. Just friends.

"He is hot though and looks other wordly."

Her mother sat down as she tucked her long relaxed hair behind her ear.

"That would be awkward and weird." Her mother nodded and Amelia looked at her. She would have to ask Kingsley not to show his face here if her mother thought of him as hot. She looked like her mother and her mother looked like her sister than a mother. No. Nope. No. A big no from her.

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TWO WEEKS LATER

DELICATE

#51

At Campus

Kingsley let her go and moved a step back to breathe and she just stared at him with tears in her eyes.

"What's it going to be? You keep me guessing, asking myself if this is life or hell."

He moved closer to touch her.

"Amelia I don't know how. Sweet Lia I don't know how this is supposed to fucking work!"

"I can teach you Grey, I can teach you."

She said as she used her already wet sweater to wipe her tears. She was getting cold from the rain, it

was 2 in the am and studying moved to this. Her teeth started clattering and he held her into him. Her face on his wet t-shirt.

"Fuck! Now you're cold. And you're going to catch a cold. I am sorry."

"Y-you di-didn't answer meee." She cried out as his arms enclosed her small frame against him.

"Let's get you warm okay?"

He walked with her to the car and he unlocked it. He opened the door for her and she got inside. He walked to his side and got inside. Amella looked around the car, the memories crashing on top of another. She closed her eyes and touched her neck, how he had her in this car. He started the car just so he can turn on the air conditioning to warm up the car.

"Lia?" She snapped out of it and looked at him with slightly parted lips.

"Get rid of the sweater and jeans."

Her eyes widened and he looked at her.

"I am not a brute Lia."

"Yet you claim to be a monster."

She removed the sweater and she placed it on the dashboard. She shimmied out of the wet jeans she had on and the warmth hit her skin, her erect nipples catching Kingsley's attention. She wasn't wearing a bra at all. Amelia felt his gaze on her and she covered her breasts with her hand. He had already seen her fully naked before but still. She brought her knees to her face and she turned to look at him. Her body warming up.

"Get rid of the wet t-shirt, you are going to catch a cold too." She smiled and he smiled taking it off. He looked at her and she let him hold her hand. He couldn't see how free he was with her and yet he said he couldn't. That he didn't know how. His wet hair covered the top of his eyes and she smiled. Why did he have such nice hair? It was soft and nice.

"But what were you thinking coming to stand in the rain for me?"

"I was thinking of you."

"Do you do this often?"

He shook his head, his hair moving with the motion as well.

"That was cute and also insane of you. What do you say?"

He looked into her soft brown eyes, didn't see any agendas there just pure innocence.

"I don't want to ruin you."

She chuckled and faced the other way before she faced him.

"I am already ruined. You ruined me for other men Grey." He let out a small smile. His feelings conflicting each other. He didn't know how to do this. If he was being completely honest.

"I still don't know how to do this Lia. You'll either



want to find my weak spot and manipulate me or use everything in your arsenal against me."

Amelia lifted her head and frowned.

"Who said that's what happens?" She asked and Kingsley sighed. He should bury that memory. Shove it down the dark rabbit hole because it was where it belonged. She moved closer and held his hands.

"Grey, who said that? Who said it works like that? Rra?"

"Forget it."

She wanted to say no, she won't let it slide but she just let it slide because he didn't want to talk about it. There was a lot to Kingsley Grey Carter than what meets the eye. She was sure his still waters ran really deep.

"Okay. I'm dropping it. Make a decision ke tsamaye ee."(make a decision so that I should go)

"Is it too much to ask that you don't go?"

She shook her head.

"It's not too much if you know whether you want me or not so I can heal in peace if you don't."

He leaned back on the car seat. Should he?

"I don't want you to go."

"Why?"

"Why?"

"Yes why? Grey I want you to be clear."

"Because I don't understand the feelings I have for you Amelia. I don't know shit Lia."

"Feelings. You acknowledged that. Okay. That's a good start."

She said softly. He looked at her. She was getting way too close for comfort but she was about to leave. He didn't want that. He admitted to himself.

"Grey you have feelings for me?" She asked softly still not taking her eyes away from him. He nodded and looked down.

"Okay. Can we work on those feelings?"

She asked as she let go of his hands and touched his face for him to look at her. She said we?

"You said we?"

"Yes we. We can work on those feelings and I'll show you how to label those feelings. How long have these feelings been haunting you?" She asked with curiosity. He thought about lying to her but she wasn't going. They were finding common ground.

"I-you will probably think I'm a sexual predator so let's drop that."

"I won't be able to help you if I don't know Grey. Please."

"Since the hospital thing." He said through gritted teeth and she didn't want to show him she was surprised. In a good way though.

"Okay. Is that why you pretended you didn't know me at the store?" He tore his gaze away and she pulled his head back so he can look at her.

"Rra?"

"Yes."

"Okay we are making progress on your feelings. Okay I'm not leaving, we are going to explore this okay?"

He nodded.

"Good boy." He couldn't stop the laughter that escaped his lips and she smiled.

"I'm older than you Amelia."

"I know." He took her hand from his face and held it.

"Are you warm enough?"

She nodded. She was naked in his car and it didn't feel weird. He picked her up and placed her on his lap.

"Your jeans are wet Grey."

"I know." He kissed her and she moaned into the kiss, wrapping her hands around his neck. His hands moved to her small shapely butt and he massaged it.

He broke the kiss and she blushed.

"What were you doing before I came?"

"Studying but nothing made sense anymore so.."

"Which course?"

"Nursing."

"No wonder you smart mouth me because you are a smarty ass."

"No I'm not and I do not smart mouth you, it will just be facts."

"Okay. Your CGPA?"

Amelia shook her head.

"Ng ng, this is heading towards being a lecture and I don't want that."

"I'm waiting Lia.."

"4.2."

"Smart ass.." he nodded and she placed her hands on his chest.

"Okay. So we are boyfriend and girlfriend?" He nodded before saying something.

"I've never done this before Amelia. I don't know what boyfriends and girlfriends do."

She opened her mouth and closed it. He was 28 and he didn't know?

"How? You're 28?"

"Amelia I told you I don't know anything or how any of this stuff work."

"Ok. Okay. I'm your first girlfriend?"

He nodded and looked down. She held his cheeks.

"First friend and girlfriend? I'm honoured."

He smiled. There was a lot to uncover about him and she was determined to find out more about her new boyfriend.

"You won't be embarrassed to be seen in public with me?" She frowned. What the hell? Why the hell would she be embarrassed to be seen with him? He was

freakin gorgeous. A walking sex god. Not to make it weird she shook her head.

"Never."

His fingers lightly brushed her back and she looked at him. He wasn't looking at her as he did that. His fingers changed direction and they were on her tummy and lingering on the waistband of her full Jockey panties. He tugged at the panties and she held his hand.

"We have to test together."

"Okay. Should I talk to my doctor tomorrow?"

"And I want to start birth control, you never use a condom with me and I don't know who you always sleep with."

"Okay. Doctor's appointment for HIV testing, birth control and I should use condoms. Noted Lia."

"Just like that?"

"Just like that."

"I don't want to be cheated on. If you cheat on me I walk away."

"Ee mma."

She frowned. "Why are you so humble?"

He chuckled and looked directly into her eyes.

"Sweet Lia, you must know that I can treat you like the sweet little girl you are but I can also make you my slut." Her eyes showed evident shock and her body betrayed her as her clit twitched. He kissed her cheek.

"I'm sorry about the wet clothes but you have school later and I have work. What time should I pass by?"

She blinked. He must be kidding her.

"Uhm uhm 12 noon is fine."

"Okay. Get dressed."

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At Thero's parents

Lucky for him, he knew Amelia was a level 300 nursing student and he planned on checking her. Coming clean to her about everything and see if she will give them a chance. One last chance. He closed his eyes with a small smile and slept. Today was going to be a good day.

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At Campus

Once she was done, she looked at him. It had stopped raining and she was going to wear her pyjamas immediately once she arrived in her room.

"I liked this talk." She kissed his cheek and he slanted his mouth to french kiss her. She placed her hands on his chest to slow him down and he squeezed her waist. Which reminded her....

"Uhm Grey?"

"Hmm?"

"Uh- when we like you know, do the stuff, don't put it all in."

He frowned while she avoided his eyes.

"Nna tota a bo go le botlhoko, ke tsaya di painkillera and ga bo go le botlhoko tota motho wa Modimo ga re hetsa. Ke sala ke le mo maibing and kana I have to go do rounds at the hospital, imagine ke le mo maibing ke sa tsamaye sentle. Kopa gore o nkakanyetse at least ee.." (it would be painful, I take painkillers and it would be really painful after we are done. I am always in pain and I have rounds to do at the hospital. Imagine being in pain and not walking properly. At least think of me.)

He nodded. He had a lot of kinks or was his trauma manifesting in the form of his kinks? Either way he had a lot of them and he was sure she was going to leave after a week or two because she won't be able to deal with such. The subs were bought so they had

no means to escape but Amelia might walk away but he will see after a few weeks.

"Thank you. I have to go. Byee."

She pecked his cheeks and opened the car door.

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Tomorrow I might post a bit late. Around 2000hrs. I have to wrap up a few things. Don't forget to place your pre-orders for PROMISES.

DELICATE

#52

At Campus

Amelia's phone vibrated while she was still in the lab listening. She ignored the phone in her lab coat as the Dr went ahead to explain stuff to them. She checked her watch and it was 12pm on the dot. The Dr checked his watch before looking at the nursing students.

"Our lesson is over but don't forget to submit that assignment before the end of this week. Late submissions will result in a 15% mark deduction." He nodded and walked out. Amelia put her notepad in her bag and she took out her phone out of her lab coat. Grey sent a message.

Grey:I'm in school..

She smiled as she texted him back.

Amelia:I'm by SOM. Can you park there? Thank you.

She sent the message and she removed her coat as she walked out of the room. She should take the elevator down to arrive faster. She held her coat in her hand and her bag in another. She walked to the elevator and waited as some other students got in. She turned and she frowned. Lisbeth. She could still recognize her. She breathed in as the elevator went down. A few seconds later, it stopped and the doors opened. They headed to the door and she checked her message. He didn't respond.

Outside the building, Lisbeth frowned as Thero walked to her.

"Hey. Are you okay?"

"Keith is fine. What are you doing here?"

"Liz, we can still be friends. We share a child and

kids sense hostility."

"And who said I was hostile? Can't I heal in peace and then we will be friends?"

She asked. She stopped talking when she noticed that Thero's focus had shifted away from her. She looked at the direction he was looking it. She noticed that girl, she looked like the missing girl who was found years ago. Thero licked his lips as he watched Amelia talk to the phone. He will talk to Lisbeth. Luck was on his side today.

"We'll talk. I have to do something." And like that he ditched Lisbeth and ran to where Amelia was standing.

Amelia looked around. She didn't know his car plate number. She dialed him again.

"Grey? Plate number? I don't know it tlherra wena."

He spelt it out for her and she nodded.

"Lia it won't be hard to spot the car."

"Okay. I'm on my way, my lesson just ended."

"Alright." He hung up and she felt someone brush her shoulder. She smiled.

"You're here already?" She turned and that smile dissolved into nothingness.

"Oh. You. What are you doing here?"

"Hello Amelia, I was around and I saw you. Mind if we go out for lunch. To talk? Just to talk. I'm not here to propose love back or anything. You really told me off the last time. Well the last two times." He chuckled and looked at her. She was so beautiful. Her braid secured into a tight bun and those glossy pink lips. Her skin has always been this flawless and he was looking at her lips as she spoke. Not even hearing a word she said.

Lisbeth watched from a close distance. She could see the way Thero was looking at her. She had forgotten her name. She turned to face someone

next to her and asked.

"What's her name?"

"The cute girl with braids? Amelia. She's my classmate. Bathong monyana yoo o montle gore."(that girl is so beautiful)

Lisbeth just nodded and she looked at them. Amelia. Amelia. She paused. That name was the exact name Thero mentioned when he was speaking to his mother. She was the ex? Wow! She pushed he long hair back. Was it because she wasn't beautiful like her that he wanted his ex back even though he was with her? That girl looked perfect. Too perfect and Thero left that and now he wants her back? Men will destroy you shem.

In the car, Kingsley checked his watch. He sighed. He got out of the car and wore his shades just so no one talks about him or anything. He locked his car and walked towards the SOM building.



"Are you listening to me? Wa ntiya kante o mpatlang?"(you are delaying me, what do you want from me?)

Thero snapped out of it.

"Just to talk. To clear the air Amelia. I promise I will stay away besides I'm going back to the UK soon."

"I don't think that will be possible. Dude stay away from me. What we had is over. You have a whole child kana."

Thero paused. She knew?

"With 'study buddy'. We are cool ee, just stay in th-"

Amelia's eyes widened. She saw him walking towards her with his shades. Why was he wearing shades? He was perfect. She cleared her throat as Kingsley stood next to her, ignoring the person who

was with her. Amelia sighed and Kingsley finally looked at the guy and it was none other than Thero. Great!

He pinched his nose bridge as Amelia turned to look at him. She placed her stuff down and stood on her tip toes to remove his shades. She liked how he did his hair today, slicked back and it looked so nice.

"Hi." She pecked his lips softly. He looked at her and smiled.

Thero's throat constricted. Seeing his cousin who had been more like a brother with the girl he loved. He knew Amelia before him and he had no right to do that. Amelia turned and faced Thero.

"Babe this is my ex Thero, Thero this is my boyfriend." She said bored as she picked her stuff.

Tears filled Thero's eyes as Kingsley's hand settled on the small of her back.

"Why are you crying?" Amelia asked.

Kingsley shook his head bored.

"You'll find the car on your own akere?" He said and she looked at him.

"I'm going with you. A few minutes please." She said before she turned to Thero.

"Wow! Is it because I made a few mistakes, you decided to hurt me with my brother?"

"Your br- what?"

She was honestly confused.

"Kingsley is my brother Amelia. The one I always talked about. Wow! What a fine way to hurt me." His voice shook with every word and he rubbed his eyes so that the tears don't roll down his cheeks.

Amelia looked at Kingsley then Thero.

"I don't know anything. Who is hurting ga se kgang yame tota borra. Nna ka jola ke movile on."(who is

hurting who is not my issue guys. I am in a relationship, I moved on.)

She said as she stood on her tip toea again to kiss Kingsley's cheek.

"Are you going with me or sorting things with your brother?"

He slipped one hand in his pocket and took out his car keys.

"I'll be there in a few. Tshwara." He handed her the keys and she walked away leaving the two guys there.

"Do you know what your mother once said to me? Crying makes you weak, so so weak."

"That girl was my girl first. You have no right to take her away from me."

Kingsley moved closer, he kept his eyes on Thero.

"Fun fact? She's mine now."

"So o bona go siame go robala le ngwanyana yo ke robetseng le ene?"(you see it fit to sleep with a girl I slept with?)

Kingsley chuckled.

"Don't be ridiculous."

"O ja maselala ame?"(you are enjoying my leftovers?)

Kingsley reigned in his temper and stepped closer.

"Say one more word about her and I will kill you. Try me." His ice cold voice sent a chill down Thero's spine as he looked at his bleak eyes. He wasn't even blinking. He swallowed as he touched his neck.

Kingsley stepped back.

"Now don't be bitter cousin."

He walked away and Thero licked his dry lips.

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DELICATE

#53

At Campus

Amelia sat in the car. Kingsley was the brother? She didn't see the resemblance and she had honestly brushed it off when he mentioned his full names. The car door opened and Kingsley got inside.

"I'm so sorry. Did I cause problems for you and your brother? I didn't know in all honesty an-"

"Shut up!"

She kept quiet as his hand wrapped around her neck and he brought her in for a kiss. She moved closer and placed her hands on his strong thighs as he kissed her. She thought he was going to be angry and talk about using him. He broke the kiss and

looked at her.

"Stay away from the kid okay? I would hate to have to break his neck." She nodded too quickly. Shd wasn't even going after Thero. He followed her around.

"Good. Buckle up."

He moved back and she pulled the seat belt still looking at him. She handed him the car keys and she kept her owl eyes on him. He wasn't going to add anything extra? Say anything more or? He rolled back his shirt sleeves before he started the car. She kept her eyes on his veined arms and swallowed. With a free hand, he undid her tight bun letting her braids tumble down and he massaged her scalp. She closed her eyes enjoying the feelinga of his large hand in her hair.

Meanwhile by the SOM building Lisbeth's eyes filled with tears. Was he fighting for Amelia? Was it because she was more pretty and didn't have baby

fat and stretchmarks? Was that it? She fisted her hands to rub her tears. Was it the baby fat that made her thighs a bit thick and the stretch marks on her waist? She walked away. Asking herself if something was wrong with her? She wasn't attractive enough? She could see that Amelia looked like a size 28 and she was a size 32, she was no longer that size.

Everything blurred as tears filled her eyes once more. He honestly didn't care did he? Fighting with his cousin for a girl. She coughed and stopped by a nearby tree as she burst into tears.

Thero unfisted his hand. He rubbed his eyes with his other hand. He left Lisbeth to try to work it out with Amelia. She just went ahead to date Kingsley? Was it because Kingsley had money and she needed money? Maybe his mother had been right. She was just a whore and not the girl to marry. How could she be okay with dating his brother? Exes usually go back to each other and he wasn't moved by the little lie he



told about sleeping with her? Wow! With his bruised ego, he walked away, head down and hands in his jean pockets. He had even forgotten that he left Lisbeth waiting, not that in his current state of mind he was going to notice her absence.

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On the road. Kingsley moved his hand from her thigh, moving his hand up before sliding it in her cotton pants. Amelia glanced at him but his eyes were on the road, with one hand on the steering wheel. She closed her eyes as his hand slipped inside her panties. She mouthed an oh as he started to rub her p\*ssy. She released a moan and he looked at her.

"Other people in their cars can hear, shut up Lia!" She closed her mouth as her back arched, he flicked her bean before he slid a finger inside and her body instinctively moved closer. Kingsely switched lanes as he continued driving, enjoying her warmth while she struggled with holding in her moans. She

moaned with that sweet voice of her and he closed his eyes for a second before he looked at the road, his erection very much visible.

"Ah! Oh my God! Ah!" He removed his hand and she placed her head on the seat. She was so close. She closed her eyes as she breathed in and out. Kingsley smiled to himself as he got closer to the private hospital he liked. He didn't want her to come. Not yet. When she opened her eyes to look at him, she saw him licking his fingers. She sat upright and placed her hands on her thighs, breathing in to try and act like nothing ever happened.

Kingsley slowed down as he arrived at where the building was. He drove inside and tried to find a parking spot. He found it a minute later and he parked his car. The engine stopped and he used his other hand to open his compartment. He used the handkerchief to wipe his hand and he took out a hand sanitizer as well. After that short process he held her cheek.

"You are far from looking like a woman who has been thoroughly fucked. I'll correct that." Her eyes widened and he kissed her jaw before his lips moved closer to her ear.

"I like how you taste Lia." And that dissolved all of her resolve.

"I like your moans, I want to take you to a nail technician so I can see your nail scratches on my back after a proper fuck." She breathed softly looking at him.

"The doctor is waiting for us."

He said and he unbuckled her seatbelt. His hands touching her bra'd boobs. He smiled and let go of her. He removed the car keys and got out of the car. Amelia opened her side of the door and inhaled deeply before she stepped outside. She found him waiting for her by her side and instead of her hand, his arm found her waist. He closed the car door and locked the car.

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## Inside the private practice

Kingsley walked inside with Amelia and the doctor was waiting for them. They both sat down and the doctor looked at his patient and then Amelia. The girl he had to treat two years ago.

"I assume we can get right to it doctor." He said. His other hand was on her knee and she smiled.

"Well this is going to be a little prick and after that I want us to discuss the possibilities of your results." Amelia nodded as Grey just looked at the doctor.

The doctor collected their blood samples and he carried out the HIV testing. While waiting for their results he looked at them. Were they a couple?

"Okay. If the results don't come out the same for both of you, it's not the end of the world. With treatment and safe sex, the viral load is reduced

significantly and you have a longer lasting life."

"Uhm doctor?"

Amelia asked and both men looked at her.

"I was thinking of getting on birth control an-"

"Amelia right?"

She nodded. He brought his hands together.

"Birth control has side effects, one of them is heavy period flow. You already have low blood."

"I do?" She asked frowning.

"You do, hence the blood transfusion we had to do and your blood type is hard to find."

"I get you doctor, I-I know the risks with birth control but I will try it for the first month, to see how it goes."

"Are you sure?"

"Yes. The pill will do. If it goes well for the first month I will take it from there."

"Well if you say so. I will write a prescription for it. There are more side effects you have to be aware of in regards to using contraceptives."

Amelia nodded. She knew that but she let the doctor explain without interrupting him. When he was done he looked at both of them.

"Let's check the results now."

Amelia placed her hand on Grey's hand and exhaled waiting for the doctor.

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## DELICATE

#54

At the private practice

The doctor breathed in as he turned their results at the same time. They looked and then at each other then finally the doctor.

"You are both negative." Kingsley pretended he was unfazed as he nodded. The only person he slept raw with was Amelia and she already told him in the early mornings that she thought he slept around. Which was technically true to a certain extent.

"When was the last time you guys had unprotected sex?"

"Two weeks ago." Both of them said at the same time and Amelia tucked a few braids behind her ear.

"Well, these results might change if you do decide to

add another partner to your sexual chain.

Faithfulness is key and using protection will help you guys, especially when it comes to STIs as well."

Amelia nodded and Kingsley continued rubbing her knee.

"I'm writing the prescription for your contraceptives and you will get them by the counter."

"Thank you."

He scribbled on the paper and handed it to Amelia who read it. She thanked the doctor as Grey stood up first and held her hand. He looked at her, hoping she was going to take it. She took it standing up and he released the breath he didn't know he was holding. Kingsley just nodded at his doctor then they both walked out of the office.

"Where should I get the pills? Was that blood transfusion because I had low blood not because I lost a lot of blood?"

"You ended up needing three blood transfusions Lia."



She shrugged. "But I think I'm fine now. But my blood type gatwe it's rare to find."

"You are asking too much Lia." He walked with her to collect her prescription.

"I just want to know koore akere. No need to cut me off." She turned and greeted the pharmacist with a smile. The lady greeted her back as she took the paper from Amelia. Kingsley waited with Amelia as he moved his hands up and down her waist. Amelia looked around. He looked at her behind just moving his hands up and down her waist. She wasn't embarrassed to be seen with him, that was a good start and he smiled looking down. She didn't say she was uncomfortable with him touching her so it was also good. He breathed out, not even listening to the conversation she was having with the pharmacist. Amelia turned.

"I left my bag in the car, can I go get my card?"

"It's okay, I'll pay under my name."

He took out his wallet and handed her the credit card and medical aid card.

"You don't have to." He ignored that as he was given the machine to punch his PIN. They waited and a minute later it was all processed. He took his cards back and put them in his wallet. Amelia thanked the pharmacist and took her pills. She looked at the pills as they walked out of the hospital.

"So now that we know each other's statuses, should we try condoms?"

She asked.

"Are you okay with it?" He asked as they headed to where they parked the car.

"It will be a new experience for me so we can use it."

He paused and looked at her. He forgot that he never used protection with her and she was a virgin when he first slept with her.

"Okay Lia." He unlocked the car and opened the door

for her. She got inside and he closed it before walking to his side.

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At Campus

Thirty minutes later, Kingsley parked his car by Vegas.

"Thia one is an online lesson. Two till four. Thank you." She hugged him and he hugged back.

"And about Thero, sure I didn't ruin a brotherhood?"

He looked at her.

"No you didn't. Stop asking about it."

"Okay. Thank you for the lunch as well."

"You don't have to thank me. Eat up.."

Amelia flashed a smile and took out the burger. She bit into it and Kingsley silently watched. She was innocent. A part of him wanted him to stop this because it was foreign territory, something out of the odd for him. He picked the milkshake she insisted he get and he took a sip. It was okay, he didn't like sweet things but she was sweet.

Amelia smiled as her eyes fell on him. They were really dating? It was surreal.

Meanwhile around campus, Lisbeth got up from one of the benches. She had cried but everytimeshe thought about it she cried some more. There was a piece of shit. One she still loved with passion. She sighed and rubbed her eyes. She should stop crying now, it wasn't cute in any way. She stood up. Her bag in her hand. She didn't have any lessons so she might as well go home.

Inside the car Amelia licked the sauce off her fingers

and she caught him looking at her.

"I'm embarrassing myself right?" Her smile lit her whole face and he smiled shaking his head.

"Okay. I should get going." She wiped her hands and kissed his cheek. He held her neck and went in for a much more deeper kiss.

"Call around midnight, I'll be busy at work."

"If I'm still awake I'll call."

She opened the car door and got her stuff. She waved as she closed the car door walking away. Grey kept his eyes on her till she disappeared into the building. He started the car.

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At the bus rank

Lisbeth got inside the combi that was heading to Block 8. She just walked to the far back just by the window and she closed her swollen eyes. She opened them when someone sat next to her. She didn't face the person, instead she took out her phone and stared at the blank screen. The two weeks they have been apart, it had been hell to delete their pictures together. Now that she saw him beg another girl in front of her eyes, it hurt more.

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At Campus

Amelia sat cross legged on the bed as she noted down what the Professor was saying on MS teams. The door opened and Yaya walked inside. She mouthed a hi and Amelia smiled at her roommate as she continued to take down notes. Everything moved along well and as she noted down, Amelia thought that it was too early to tell people shd was in a

relationship. Grey was too good looking and people knew him, so she will tell people when she is ready even if they see her with him. She removed the pen from her mouth as she unmuted her microphone and answered the question.

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A MONTH LATER

## DELICATE

#55

### At Campus

Amelia turned on her bed with the really bad cramps being the ones to wake her up. Day 14 of her period which usually lasted 3 days. She was going to stop these contraceptives. She didn't know how much blood she lost but 14 days of a none stop period? That was a lot and it was heavy. She slowly got out of bed and realised she stained her sheets. Again. Tears filled her eyes as she rubbed her lower abdomen. Her phone rang and she extended her hand to the study table to pick up the call.

"Hello."

"Are you okay? The past two weeks you have been avoiding me, are you embarrassed of me?" He asked. She was still on her period and she didn't find it



necessary for him to know because he will want to sleep with her and she can't sleep with him while menstruating.

"No. I'm not. I'm sorry if you feel that way. I'm on my periods."

"Okay. Is that a reason to avoid me and be distant?" He asked. She closed her eyes, a sharp pain cutting across her abdomen. She sat down, ignoring the light head feeling she had.

"N-No I'm so sorry kana you might want sex and you might get angry if I don't give you sex."

"What? Know what, I'm on my way."

"Okay. Can you bring painkillers? Mine are finished."

"Okay."

He hung up and she squeezed her abdomen. The doctor told her and she just wanted to see, contraceptives had different side effects on everyone. Some people gained excessive weight and the pills just had to change her menstrual cycle,

make it longer and more painful. She needed to take a shower, wash her sheets and wait for Grey.

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At Lisbeth's parents

Lisbeth couldn't believe that she had went on to social media to search Amelia. She wasn't on any social media platform and she guessed it was a good thing. She walked to her baby's room and he was peacefully sleeping. His little belly showing and his hands on the side. He was the best thing that happened to her even if she was too young for a child.

She walked back to her room to continue studying. They had finals in a week and she needed to be at her best. Thero was halfway across the world living his best life with no care about the damage he left

behind. Life was funny in a way.

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## At Campus

Amelia got dressed in sweats and she made her bed shortly after. Yaya walked inside.

"We need to rest once exams are over, still on your periods?"

"Yeah. I am never taking contraceptives again."

"Yoh. I'm okay, I just gained weight the first two months but then I started to eat healthy and stuff. The pills literally reduced my heavy flow and I have five day long periods that aren't that painful."

"Lucky you. Now on my side, it's been two weeks of none stop periods."

"Tota maybe yo-" Amelia's phone rang and she picked it up as she held the stained sheet in her

hands.

"Hey. Can I wash this sheet first? I won't be long I promise and I can see you after?"

Kingsley ran his hands through his hair. He hoped he wasn't going to regret his decision.

"Can you spend the night?"

Amelia frowned. "I'll get back to you okay? In a few minutes." There was silence and she decided to hang up. She called Kgosi.

"Hello K? Uhm what do you do if your boyfriend asks you sleep over?"

"Ah ha. You have a boyfriend and didn't tell me?"

"It's still new tlhemma. The last time I had a boyfriend he cheated on me."

"Boo hoo. Thero was an idiot. Who is this one?"

"I will tell you. Not over the phone though."

"Okay. A sleep over is okay, as long as we know where you are and if you are safe. Don't forget that exams are starting after a week and you still have to study."

"I know. I'm scared gore what if I stain his sheets and it becomes disgusting or he is disgusted with me.."

"I'm sure he won't if he loves you. Well it's up to you to go."

"Alright. I have to go. Bye."

"Bye and don't forget to tell me."

She nodded and hung up. She slid her phone inside her pocket and opened the wardrobe for the washing powder and bucket.

"Well Yaya let me go wash this. I'll be back. I won't be long."

She walked out of the room and Yaya sat by her desk to study. After these exams are over, the club

would be a great start and she wondered if Amelia would tag along too.

In the parking lot, Kingsley looked at his phone. She wasn't sure. He didn't know if he should be happy that she declined the offer or be devastated. He watched a few YouTube videos on what to do on a date, just anything that doesn't include sex. He was really trying his best, maybe she ignored him because of the sex. She did say he hurts her. Maybe that was it. He looked at the painkiller in the small plastic. He passed by the chemist to get her those.

Twenty minutes later, Amelia zipped her bag. She was glad she bought this bag though she had no idea what she was going to do with it the time she bought it. She had packed her notebook that had notes on one of her hardest modules and everything she might need.

"Yaya I will be back tomorrow, I think. I'm not getting kidnapped or anything."

"I hear you sis. Byee."

"Bye."

She walked out of the room with her bag and she took out her phone. She called him.

"Hey. I'm on my way. Bye."

She hung up as she walked down the stairs. Once she was out in a few minutes she walked by the parking lot to look for his car. She saw it then quickly walked to the car. He saw her approaching and unlocked the car door then opened the door from the inside.

She got inside and placed her bag on her lap.

"Hey. Before you say I was ignoring you, I am so sorry. School has been busy and I have exams in a week. My periods have been ongoing for two weeks and when you just asked me to sleep over, I wasn't sure because we-well.."

He listened and kept his eyes on her. Amelia waited

for him to say something but he didn't. He just looekd at her.

"Uhm w-well I-I this is embarrassing."

"I'm listening."

"I-I don't want to stain your sheets or your couch or anything." She said in a single breath and waited for him to say it's fine she doesn't have to sleep over because he won't be getting sex or anything.

"Okay. Hi.." as usual his hand wrapped around her neck as he pulled her in for a slow deep kiss. He broke it and she looked at him.

"Were you listening?"

"Yes. I assume the bag means you're spending the night with me?"

She nodded.

"Good." He kissed her again and she giggled.

"I got your painkillers."

"Thank you." She pecked his lips and leaned back on



her seat.

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Last night's insert.

DELICATE

#56

Inside the car

Amelia rubbed her stomach as her face scrunched in pain. Grey caught her look as he drove.

"Are you okay?"

"Mhmm. The cramps." She closed her eyes.

"Should I take you to the hospital?"

"I'll be fine. I stopped taking the contraceptives."

"Is that why you're still on your uh- yeah that."

She laughed in pain. Did he just avoid saying periods?

"There is nothing the dr will do. I stopped the pills and I'm sure with the heavy bleeding, my blood levels are low. Babe I'm a nurse in training." He frowned

and smiled. She called him babe. That was the second time. The first time she did was when he was inside her by the river.

"So I'll just pop painkillers, a hot water bottle and relaxing will help. Hopefully by next week I won't be on my periods again. Thank you for offering though."

"You are in pain."

"I know but I'll try to be a good sport."

"You don't have to."

"What are we doing today? You're cooking for me?"

He rubbed the back of his head as he stopped the car by the red lights.

"I don't know ho-how to cook."

She turned her head to look at him. The traffic lights turned green and he sped forward.

"You don't know how? Your mom didn't teach you how or you knew you would have a girl to teach you

how to cook?"

Kingsley focused on the road and didn't answer her. She just kept her eyes on him waiting for an answer.

"My mom taught me how to cook at the age ten and I haven't looked back ever since. Why didn't your mother teach you how to cook?"

She asked. He was 28 for crying out loud. Kingsley removed his hand from her thigh and tightened his hands on the steering wheel. Amelia saw how he removed his hand and he was focusing on the road. She bit her lip and looked down.

"Did I say something wrong?"

Kingsley just drove and seconds later, stopped by the red traffic lights.

"Grey?" She consciously touched his knee and

looked at him even though he wasn't looking at her. She squeezed his knee even though he was wearing jeans.

"Grey talk to me. I said something wrong and I am sorry. Rra?"

He sighed as he leaned back with one hand on the steering wheel, the traffic lights went green and he drove off.

Amelia looked at him ignoring her period pains.

"Rra?" He was still quiet. She removed her hand and sighed as well. She took out her phone and connected her headsets. She played music on her phone, stealing glances at him. She didn't know what she said to upset him. She honestly didn't know. She played music and she looked at him.

"Babe? Rra? Grey?" He was quiet and she took out the longer headset and put it in his ear as Julia Michael's Issues played.

"I like that song, listen to it." She said with a small

smile and he had to stop himself from smiling. She saw the way his lips curved and she smiled.

"You smiled. Now what did I do?"

He sighed as he continued driving. Wasn't it too early to talk about his life?

"Can we not talk about family becau-just because."  
He took her hand and kissed it.

"I- I want to know what I did wrong, what's wrong with talking about family?"

He sighed. He drove slow as he indicated and turned. He held her hand as he drove. She leaned back. He was hard as stone and didn't want to crack. She didn't know why. There was a lot she wanted to know. Why he thought she would be embarrassed by him, why now he has never been in a relationship. She had a lot of questions and she didn't know if he was going to answer them.

She saw the house along the dusty G-North roads

and she smiled. Those houses looked nice. Once she finishes school she is going to build her own nice house. It was a dream, she just had to study hard. Kingsley's car parked by the gate and she took in the house. It was big and she liked the exterior colours. It was so nice though.

"Your house looks nice."

"Thank you."

"If you don't cook, who does?"

"I have a house helper who cooks every two days, she doesn't leave here."

She nodded her head. That's why he was buying groceries that time at Game. He pressed a button that was part of his car keys set and the gate slid open. He drove inside the yard and his garage door opened as the gate closed. He parked his car inside as the garage door closed. It went dark real fast. He stopped the car engine before he stepped out.

Amelia opened the car door leaving her phone inside the car. It was too dark.

"It's dark. I can't see." She said.

"Your eyes will adjust to the darkness." She closed the door and touched the car. Grey walked to her side and held her waist.

"I forgot my uhm bag in the car." He opened the car door to take her bag.

"I got it. Let's go." He guided her into the house that had a very beautiful interior as well. At least it was bright inside because of the windows.

"Let me show you the room." He let her along the passage and she frowned seeing a set of stairs.

"You have a basement?"

"Basement and a set of rooma downstairs as well."

"It's a double storey?"

"Ee mma."

"Wow."

He led her to his bedroom. The one that was off limits for subs. Amelia walked inside and she was



relieved when she noticed that he had dark bed sheets.

"The sheets look expensive, I don't want to stain your bedsheets."

"You worry too much." He placed her bag by the chair that was close to the door.

"Can I see? If that's okay with you?" He nodded and she moved away from him as she walked around the room. She opened the door and looked at the black tiles on the bathroom floor. The floor was carpeted and she didn't know what level of fancy that was but wow. She saw the shower and the deep bath tub. She closed the door and looked at him.

"This looks so nice."

"It is, we can also order something to eat." He ran his hands through his hair as she agreed. She walked to where he was standing by the door and took his hand. She never got to see the kitchen fully or even his lounge or dining room.

"Uhm we can watch movies or anything that you like."

He said. A bit unsure.

"Which movie do you like?" She asked.

"I never watch tv."

She brushed it off.

"Understandable, you must be really so busy that you rarely watch. Even on weekends?"

"Even on weekends." He said. That ti- he shook his head. He shouldn't think about any of that.

"Uhm well we can watch a series. It's still bo 11 and we will watch it till it ends. How about that?"

He nodded. She smiled and wrapped her hands around his torso. She extended her hand to touch his hair.

"Your hair is always so soft. I love it. You are handsome too." He looked the other way and she

smiled.

"Wa blusher?"(are you blushing?)

She asked with a giggle. He shook his head.

"Ee ntebe."(look at me then)

She stood on her tip toes to touch his cheek. She kissed his cheek and looked at him.

"Show me the lounge so we can binge watch a series."

She saw the smile that slanted on his lips. She smiled back. They walked to the lounge and he showed her how the smart tv works. Instead of sitting on the couch she sat on the rug. He looked at her. The YouTube videos said they should sit next to each other with a fleece blanket and popcorn.

Amelia watched him think. He was a work of art. His

hair was all over the place now and she smiled.

"Do you want popcorn? And juice?"

"I would love that."

He turned on his heel and walked to the kitchen. She went through the list of series. Meanwhile in the kitchen Kingsley took out the chips in the pantry. He opened the cupboards looking for a container. He didn't know where the helper put them. When he finally found them he was relieved and he opened the packet of chips, spilling them inside the container. Would she like sweets as well? Did he have sweets? Or ice cream will do? Or just juice or chips? Or what if it wasn't the chips she wanted? Or she actually wanted him to make real popcorn? He didn't know how to make popcorn. He was useless in the kitchen. He breathed in short quick gasps as he held onto the kitchen counter.

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## DELICATE

#57

At Kingsley's house

Amelia frowned. Why wasn't he back yet? He has been gone for a while. She put the remote down and stood on her feet. She walked out of the lounge and walked till she found the kitchen. She saw him with his head low holding tightly onto the counter. She walked closer and heard his exhales. She looked at his face, his muscles were tense. She touched his hand. She carefully looked at him and she touched his chest, his heart was racing and the way he exhaled was of someone hyperventilating. He had asthma and hyperventilating led to an asthma attack. She left him there without saying a word as she headed to his car. She doesn't remember him locking it.

Kingsley felt a tingling sensation on his feet as his chest tightened. He tried to draw more air into his lungs but it was closing in on him. His eyes were closed as he tried to push his memories down, to breath but he could only see himself crying and screaming with a burnt foot. With no one to help him as he cried his lung out, struggling to breath and his asthma pumps no where near. Amelia rubbed his back as she tried to move his head. With calm nurse expertise, she brought the pump to his mouth. She found another unopened box and she took it as well. She pressed it as he inhaled the air from the pump. She rubbed his back gently and she pressed the pump. She looked at him, he will tell her right? This wasn't the first time he had an asthma attack while she was with him. There must be a trigger and he wasn't esting anything, the air in the house was clean so no tobacco smoke or irritants. A few minutes passed and she removed the pump from his mouth, her own cramps forgotten.

"Are you okay?" She asked softly. Such a big and



strong man and yet he had weaknesses. It broke her heart because he didn't even tell her what was wrong. Just brush it off and pretend he was fine when he wasn't.

"Okay what happened? You said you were making snacks and..."

"I-I-" he closed his eyes and she rubbed his back.

"I'm listening."

"I can't. I-I'm useless."

She shook her head.

"You are not useless. Can we sit down? You shouldn't be standing."

He looked at her as she took his hand and they walked to the lounge. She sat on the couch with him. She hugged him and he was stiff for a few seconds before he relaxed his body and rubbed her arm.

"Should I make the snacks then? Hmm?"

He inhaled deeply.

"I won't be able to help if I don't know what's wrong but whatever it is, I hope it gets better okay?" She lifted her head to peck his lips. She rubbed his chest to check his heartbeat.

"Your heart beat is slowly getting there." She snuggled into him and took his other hand. She looked at his fingers, pretending she didn't want to know what was bothering him. She wanted to know but he didn't want to talk and she can't force him at all.

"So we're still going to watch a series?"

"Do you want to?" He asked and she smiled. He was considerate sometimes.

"Only if you want."

"I don't know what to watch, I didn't google any series or movies." She turned her head to look at him.

"Okay, uhm let's start watching a series ka bo 2pm akere? Binge watching it but before that uhm, we can just relax. Doing nothing I guess. How is that?"

"Good."

"Just good?" He shrugged and she forced a smile.

"Okay. Mme you are okay? Are you fine? I'm really worried tota."

He sighed and she sat upright, conscious that her pad is not leaking and it won't leak onto his mice couches.

"I'm listening."

The silence that passed was deafening. She just looked at him, not sure if he was going to brush her off or tell her. Which she was sure he wasn't.

"I-I'm okay." Her heart broke but she took that answer. In his own time.

"Do you want to help me in the kitchen?" Kingsley wasn't sure if he was going to be okay in the kitchen all alone.

"Okay. What are we making?"

"Uhm you said you wanted popcorn and juice. I don't know how to make popcorn. You like popcorn?"

She nodded.

"You can show me how and I'll make popcorn for you." She smiled. He was too sweet but won't tell her what was wrong with him.

"Okay. Let's make popcorn." She stood up first and he followed. He walked to the kitchen with her.

"Can I open the pantry?" He nodded and she opened. She looked for the corn used for popcorn. There was none.

"The corn kernels used for popcorn aren't there. Next time. Chips are okay." He nodded yet again as she looked at the chips in the container.

"We have chips already. We can have the drink. My favourite drink is uhm ya apple. Do you have it?"

"I think so. I'm not sure." He opened the fridge and took out the two litre fruit juice. "I'll go with the chips, come with drink and glasses."

He did as she said and walked out shortly after her. Amelia sat on the rug. It felt weird. He thought to

himself as he sat on the rug too.

"So I'm going to go with The Good Doctor." She said

"What do you want to eat?"

"We just came with snacks. I'm okay." she put the series and she sat between his legs as she held the bowl of chips.

"Are you comfortable?" He asked her. Did she feel cold? The fleece was on the YouTube videos.

"Yes. Very. Now let's watch. I'm sure you will love this series." She said and turned her head to feed him a chip and she stopped midway.

"Grey did you eat breakfast?"

"Did you eat breakfast?"

"We are talking about you not me."

"We'll eat lunch. I'll order something."

She let it go and fed him the chip. "Okay. Lunch then." She placed her head on his chest to watch the tv and her just held her other hand. His asthma didn't

make her question his masculinity. He smiled.

Amelia looked at his feet.

"I don't think we should be wearing shoes." She observed. She took off her black pumps and she looked at him, waiting for him to take off his sneakers. He sighed and he moved his legs back as he untied his shoelaces. Amelia looked at his legs, she never looked at his feet with careful observation to be honest. The time at the river, he never rolled up his jeans and who looks at a man's feet anyways? She just looked at him. His jeans were long that they reached his ankles. Kingsley removed his shoes and she smiled. He wasn't taking off the socks.

"Okay now we can continue watching."

Meanwhile in the car, Amelia's phone rang with no one to answer it.

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DELICATE

#58

At Campus

Kgosi hid her frustration as Amelia's phone rang unanswered.

"I wanted to check if she is okay."

Ma Amelia said.

"She left with an uhm friend but she will be back soon."

Ma Amelia nodded. Taking that as answer. Her daughter could go out with friends right?

"Kgosi?"

"Ma?"

"Which friend?" Ma Amelia asked.

"Her friend from nursing." She lied smoothly. With a fixed smile in place Kgosi said bye to her friend's mom and kept on trying to call Amelia. Why the hell wasn't she answering? It wasn't as if she was getting d\*ck because she was on her periods.

"What the hell Ame?" Frustrated she kept on walking.

Meanwhile Ma Amelia found a bench and sat down. She tried to call Amelia but she wasn't answering as well. She placed her hands on her lap and sighed. It wasn't wrong to come check on your daughter randomly without even telling her right?

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At Kingsley's house

Amelia switched positions as she snuggled up to him while chewing. She placed the bowl down and poured juice in a glass while watching.



"I like Shaun. I think they misunderstand him that's all."

"Really?"

"Mmhmm. Do you want juice?" She poured it in another glass and handed it to him. He took it and took a sip of it. He looked at her and how she was relaxed with him, she was free. His thoughts took him back to his childhood. He didn't want to taint her, she was so lively.

"Lia what would you do if you find out I'm not what you think I am?"

She paused the series and turned to look at him.

"And why would I think that?" She asked. He let out a sigh.

"Just."

"Really? No person would randomly think like that about the person they love Grey." She turned her head and continued watching, not realizing that she just told him she loved him. Not just that directly.

Kingsley blinked. The person they love? He wasn't stupid. She loved him? Him? He was lovable? What was love? How did one come to the realisation that they loved someone? He opened his mouth to try to speak but instead he closed it. Still having questions in regards to Amelia's confession.

Amelia paused the series again and checked her pockets. Where was her phone? She looked at him.

"I can't find my phone."

"Did you look for it in the bedroom?"

She thought about it.

"I don't remember taking it there. Let me check for it in the car."

She stood up and she turned her head to look behind her. Checking to see if she stained her pants. There

was nothing. Maybe her period was finally over. She left him in the lounge and Kingsley looked around. He slid out his phone from his back pocket and went on to Google.

'How to know you love someone.' He clicked the search button. The results loaded and he clicked on the first result. Your thoughts return to them. He thought about Amelia a lot more often than he would have preferred. You feel safe with them. He shrugged. In a way. You always want to spend time with them. He liked being around her, a lot and it was a nice feeling. You feel jealous about the people around them, he sighed. He didn't like the fact that he saw Thero around her and that at Bobonong before he stopped his car for her, she was walking with a boy. Was that how love felt like? Then why didn't his family feel the same way about him? Was it because he was different? Everyone growing up never gave a fuck about him.

Meanwhile Amelia was inside the car as she pressed her phone in the dark car. Missed calls from Kgosi and her mother.

She started by calling Kgosi.

"Hello, what's wrong?"

"Your mom is looking for you at school..bye."

Kgosi hung up and Amelia's heart pounded. A day she decided to go sleep out her mother looks for her? Why didn't she tell her beforehand? She dialed her mother's number.

"Hello mama."

"Hey Ame. I was looking for you at your school and apparently you were out with a nursing friend."

"Yes mom. That's right."

"Are you okay? And safe?"

"Ee mma."

"Okay do you have your friend's number?"

"Which friend mama? I have a lot of friends."

"The one at Bobonong. Kingsley. I wanted to thank him for saving you, now you are healthy and safe and Phefo is in prison."

Amelia frowned.

"You thanked him that time akere mama."

"I know. You can never thank a good Samaritan enough Amelia."

"Mama do you like Kingsley?"

"Don't be silly Amelia.."

"It looks like you like him mama." She said uneasily. She didn't like this. She didn't like this one bit.

"Okay. He is handsome and yes.."

"So you like him, mama isn't he younger than you?"

"Well women marry younger men all the time."  
Amrlia choked on her own saliva. Hell no.

"Ha.a mama. Ng ng. He is almost my age."

"Amelia you are in your teena and he is almost in his

thirties, there is a huge age gap between you too."

"He has a girlfriend.."

She blurted out. Her mother paused at the other end of the line.

"Okay. I just wanted to thank him though, I never asked about his girlfriend my girl."

"Go sharpo mama. We will talk." She hung up and sighed. Her mother wanted her boyfriend? Was she going to be fine when she told her that King was her boyfriend? No offence to her but a man in his prime like Grey wouldn't want to step father teenagers. No! No!

She got out of the car with her phone in hand and sighed. Not her mother after Kingsley. He found Kingsley on his phone and he quickly placed it down. She raised an eyebrow. Was he hiding something? Thero used to refuse with his phone or use it then put it down when she was back from the reat room.

"Don't stop on my account."

"It's nothing." She just nodded her head.

"Don't forget, if you cheat I am leaving with no hesitation."

"You made that clear Amelia."

"I know. Just keep that in mind." Kingsley picked his phone and with the app, he ordered food. He placed his phone down. Was he in love with her or he loved her?

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## DELICATE

#59

At Kingsley's house

Kingsley noticed the change in her mood ever since she came back with her phone. Right now they were eating in silence. The food did arrive an hour later after he placed an order and he put some of the food in the fridge.

"Are you okay? Did I do something wrong?" She looked up and she placed her fork down.

"I am sorry. It's not you. Something my mother said just bothered me."

"What did she say?"

She sighed and smiled. He was dominant and soft too. She wasn't sure she knew how that happened.

"She wants you and likes you." He calmly placed his



fork down.

"She likes me?"

"Yes. According to her you are just a few years younger than her."

He shook his head. This sounded too familiar. Maybe this relationship thing was a bad idea. There was a reason he went for younger women. This was just not it. Amelia gauged his reaction. She saw the way he stilled and how his face went white with an emotion she couldn't pinpoint.

"Babe?"

"No. No. This was a bad idea."

"Hmm?"

"This relationship thing was a bad idea."

Amelia's face dropped. What? "Grey what are you saying? What's going on? Of course I won't let her date you and let her when you shouldn't accept her advances. Akere you are mine." He paused and he laughed.

She was confused. Why was he laughing?

"Why are you laughing?"

"You sound possessive right now." She shrugged.

"What do you mean? This relationship thing was a bad idea? Grey I promised that I will show you how and I am going to keep my promise. Listen to me.."

She breathed in and kept her eyes on him.

"You show me different sides to you everyday and it's hard to keep up when I don't know anything about you. You don't want to talk about family or anything. Kingsley you know what there is to know about me because the most tragic thing that has ever happened to me was that kidnapping and you saved me. Thank you once again for that. I would have been dead by now and you never judged me for that, for wanting to take the easy way out. Kingsley I love you but you are going to have to learn not to shut me out."

"Y-you love me?"

She nodded and moved closer. "I do. I-at first I fell in love with the idea of you, you being at the hospital and helping me, gaining my trust. I still hate drinking bottled water even now though but I fell in love with that idea of you and you know what happened when you pretended you didn't know me? I thought I was a fool because I mistook your identity. Then I went to the club and your voice was familiar but I ignored it. Maybe a part of me knew it was you when you suggested we get intimate. When we got rid of the masks and I realised it was you, I was happy because maybe just maybe the universe was speaking."

She breathed in and touched his jaw, feeling the hair there and he touched her hand.

"Kingsley that's the only reason I didn't want us to be just friends. You can't shift my womb like that and expect me to say yes we will be friends. You had no

right to do that Kingsley."

He rubbed her cheek. She loved him? She loved him?

"Grey I love you okay? You don't have to say it back, it's okay we are still learning how to process feelings but I do. Okay?"

"Okay."

His hand wrapped around her neck and she smiled as he brought her in for a kiss. But instead of kissing her, he whispered on her lips.

"I feel different when I'm around you." She smiled and pecked his lips.

"I'll take that. I really went off on you didn't I?" He smiled and she smiled rubbing his chin.

"I love you okay? Good. Where were with the series?"

She picked the remote and pressed resume.

"I like your tv too. Wait, I have to go to the bathroom."

She stood up and walked barefoot on the tile as she headed to his bathroom. She stopped on the way. She walked back to the lounge to find him removing his socks. Well he removed one.

"Uhm do you have like a sanitary bin?"

"No."

She nodded and walked away. She didn't know how she was going to do this.

Meanwhile Kingsley removed the second sock from his burnt leg. He looked at the scars left from that second degree burn. With the fact that they didn't take him to the hospital. Just applied ointment hours later and wrapped it up at home. His foot and part of his leg was scarred.

Amelia looked at the bathroom as she held a pad in

her hand. She touched the taps. Yoh.

She did her business in a few minutes and when she was done she wrapped the used oad in toilet paper. He didn't have a sanitary bin. Understandable because he was a man. She held it in her hand and walked to the bedroom. She opened her bag and found a plastic. She put it inside and she walked to the bathroom with the plastic. She will have to warn him.

Kingsley waited for her to come back. He was learning, he assure himself. She cane back minutes later with a smile. Amelia sat in between his legs with a smile. This was comfortable. She picked the remote and resumed with the series. Kingsley breathed out, she didn't say anything about his bare feet. Amelia picked the bowl of chips by his feet and she saw his other leg. She wanted to ask but in his own time but she was curious yet again. She should drop it. She picked the bowl and turned to feed him

chips.

"We should clear the plates and wash the dishes."

"Okay. We are going to watch again?"

"Most definitely but is it okay if ka bo seven I can study?"

"It's fine with me."

He stood up and she picked up the bowl along with the juice carton. He picked up the rest and they both walked barefoot to the kitchen.

"I got burned by boiling water when I was a kid."

Amelia nodded.

"How did it happen love?" She asked sweetly as she placed everything on the counter.

"Boiling water was poured on my foot."

Amelia paused and faced him. Why would someone be as cruel as to pour boiling water on a child?

"Kante how do people think? How old were you?"

"Nine..." Her owl eyes widened. She was grateful that he said something though even though she never asked him.

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DELICATE

#60

At Kingsley's house

She moved from the counter to where he was standing and she hugged him.

"Did you get medical treatment?"

He shook his head and her heart bled for nine year old him. "I'm sorry that happened to you. Okay?" He let out a sigh and rubbed her back. She breathed in his cologne and smiled. This was a step in the right direction, she wasn't pushing him or anything.

"I'm glad you told me okay?"

"That's why I-I don't cook."

"I understand."

He placed his chin on her hair. She has had those braids for some time, they were really getting old and it showed. He brushed that thought off and rubbed her back.

"I was nine, I was rarely allowed to watch tv but when I did, I would watch cooking shows. They were interesting." His heart started racing and Amelia whose head was on his chest, listened to his heart beat.

"Breathe in and out again so you don't hyperventilate again, please." She watched him draw in a deep breath and exhale.

"Good. I'm listening."

"You won't tell anyone?"

"I swear on my life." He exhaled deeply.

"Well I decided to go to the kitchen one day and I climbed a high stool to try. I even dreamed of being a chef at one point." She smiled as she looked up at him. He would've made a handsome chef, she was

sure all the waitresses wouldn't focus if he was a chef. He was breathtaking.

"Okay Chef Grey." She teased and he turned his head but she saw the smile on his face.

"Where was I?"

"The kitchen stool."

"Okay. So yeah uhm I boiled water in a pot like they did. Took me a few minutes to learn how the stove works. I paced up and down the kitchen waiting for the water to boil. I climbed the stool as the water came to the boil, she found me and started with her usual taunts. I fell off the stool."

She tightened her hold around his torso as pain choked him. Pain he buried and pain that came once in a while to trigger his asthma attack. Asthma he was born with, it hadn't been his fault that sometimes he needed something to assist him in regards to breathing. Amelia waited.

Kingsley cleared his throat.

"So she picked the pot up and poured boiling water o  
-on my leg." He closed his eyes, his own screams  
from that time bringing tears to his eyes. Tears he  
wasn't going to allow to drop. Amelia's eyes welled  
up with tears. He was only learning, there was no  
need to burn him. Or taunt him. She let go of him and  
she wiped her own tears as she leaned by the  
counter. She couldn't imagine a whole grown woman  
intentionally burning an innocent kid. People were  
sick. She pulled at her sweater sleeves to wipe her  
tears.

"After that she left me there. I never got medical help  
for the burns." He said. She looked at him.

"I-I've been useless in the kitchen ever since. Uh-"

She could see how this made him uncomfortable.  
She sniffed and smiled.

"You don't have to explain more, have you seen a  
therapist about it?"

"I dealt with it on my own."

She just nodded. She hugged him again and stood on her toes to kiss him.

"Do you want to learn how to cook?" She asked. She noticed that he didn't mention who burnt him with hot water but he will when he is ready.

"I know it's a lot an-"

"It's not a lot. I'll show you how to make eggs for breakfast tomorrow. You don't have to apologise."

With that she held his hand as she led him to the sink.

"Do you normally wash dishes?"

"I once tried." She chuckled.

"Let's wash them together. Bring the plates."

He brought the plates.

"And the glasses as well." He brought that and she

smiled as he stood next to her.

"Roll your sleeves." He did and she rolled her sweater sleeves as well.

"Baby I swear, once I teach you how to cook tla bo o le a professional." He smiled.

"Really?" Amelia humphed as moved her head sideways.

"O bua le master chef."(you're talking to a master chef) he nodded with a small smile as she opened the tap.

Kingsley was relieved that he didn't sense any judgement from her and she just accepted his past. She didn't ask questions he might not be comfortable answering.

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# DELICATE

#61

At Lisbeth's parents

Lisbeth's phone rang and she looked at the unknown number for a while before she answered her phone.

"Lisbeth hello?"

"Hello Lisbeth." The voice said her name with a lisp and she waited.

"It's your classmate, Tumo. I got your number from the group."

Lisbeth sighed.

"Tumo?"

"Yes." He said in a low tone. A bit embarrassed to describe himself to the pretty girl in the class. Their

med class had a lot of pretty girls and none of them paid any attention to him.

"I was wondering if you're not busy."

"What do you want?"

"Can you help me with a module, there is one I don't understand."

Lisbeth sighed. She wanted to say no but then no one has ever asked for her help.

"Tomorrow then. School library at 12 mid day till 4pm."

"Thank you so much. I'll be there. I will send the name of the module if that is okay with you."

"It is. Bye."

She quickly hung up and she leaned back. Fatigue quickly caught up to her as she yawned. She covered her mouth and closed her books to climb onto the bed. She closed her eyes with the aim to take a quick nap then study once again.



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At Kingsley's house

Amelia sat on the kitchen counter as he looked at her. He just finished wiping the plates and putting them in their rightful place in the cupboards. Her phone started ringing in the lounge and she sighed. She got off the counter and walked to the lounge. She picked her mother's call.

"Hello mama."

"I have been waiting, should I come back tomorrow?"

Amelia sighed.

"Mama, I cannot give you Gr-uhm Kingsley's number."

She finally said.

"Before you ask why, he is my boyfriend and it doesn't feel right that you want my boyfriend mama. Nna ga go ntseye sentle gotlhelele."(it doesn't sit well with me.)

There was silence at the other end of the line.

"He is way older than you Amelia. Ke monna yoo motona hela thata mo go wena."(he is an older man.)

"He is not that old, don't just say that because you want him."

"Amelia, he is older than you. Men like that don't marry little girls. They use them."

"Boys my age hurt and cheat on us mama. He is not that old and if a nthoba pelo it's still fine."(even if he breaks my heart, it's still fine.)

Her shook her head at the other end of the line.

"Amelia you are not listening."

"I am and you are only talking about his age. He is

okay but I don't appreciate you liking him. And also on top of that."

"Amelia dating men who are old enough to be your aunt-"

"Ae. Aunty ene once accused me of wanting her husband. Bathong koore ke eng le nkakanyetsa bosula jaana. Ga ke batle monna wa aunty that's why I will never visit gape Kingsley makes me happy. I won't fall pregnant, ke itse di contraceptives."(Why do you assume the worst of me. I don't want aunty's man that's why I'll never visit plus Kingsley makes me happy. I won't fall pregnant, I know contraceptives.)

"Wow! So you are not going to take heed to my advice because you are dating an older man?"

"It's not like that, you don't want to understand me mama. He is okay. If what we have lasts then good, if it doesn't we both tried. Mama kana point ke gore you want Kingsley and it doesn't feel right at all mama."

"Okay. Bye Amelia."

Her mother hung up and Amelia lifted her eyes to find Kingsley looking at her with his hands deep in his pocket.

"I hope I didn't cause a fight between you and your mother."

"No you didn't. I just want her to stop liking you, it's weird."

"I get your point."

"Thank you. So baby what do you do?"

"I'm an actuary."

He replied still on his feet and he tilted his head to look at her, she blushed. Why was he looking at her like that. He smiled and she internally screamed. He didn't have to look at her like that.

She picked a cushion and threw it at him.

"What was that for Lia?"

"Don't look at me like that?"

"Are you usually that aggressive when you are in your days?"

She furrowed her eyebrows before she picked another one to throw his way and he ducked it walking towards her. She moved back and he kept moving towards her. She giggled and he picked her up.

"Put me down."

"You didn't answer my question Lia."

"No."

"Well you are kind of brass." He said as he made her wrap her legs around his torso. He held her steady and she smiled.

"Where do you usually work out?"

"Inside the house."

"Gym room?"

"No. Home workouts Lia. Why are you so pretty?"

She blushed again and he kissed her lips.

"You're beautiful Lia. So so beautiful." He whispered on her lips before he licked her lips and with a single hand she pushed his head away.

"Bathong wena."

He laughed and licked her cheek as well, his tongue moved to her jaw before moving to her neck and she pushed him back again. He moved his mouth to hers and licked her lips before he probed her mouth open with his tongue to kiss her.

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At Oxford University

Thero sat in front of the counsellor with a straight face.

"So if I am following, you hate your cousin slash

brother?"

"Yes."

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[DELICATE

#62

At Oxford University

"When did your hate for him start?"

The counsellor asked Thero who sat on tge chair stone hard.

"He suddenly cut the family off and he stole the woman I love." The lady pushed back her round glasses as she noted down what Thero said, her blonde ponytail swishing to the side.

"Why did he cut off the family?"

"I don't know. Maybe he thought we were beneath him when he started making money." He shrugged with indifference.

"I see. How did he steal the woman you love?"



Thero boiled with anger thinking about Amelia with Kingsley. Amelia didn't belong with him. Amelia was his and he was planning on getting her back.

"She was my ex girlfriend but we were planning on working on our relationship. She must've been tempted by his money because Amelia would never go for older men. She is naive and humble."

The counsellor noted that as well. There was a lot of work to be done here.

"If she was an ex, didn't she have the right to move on?"

"We planned our life together. Of course a few mishaps were encountered on the way but isn't that what happens in relationships? She got kidnapped and when she was found she never talked to me again."

"You guys never broke up? And what if the kidnapping messed up with her psychologically?"

"We got into an argument and she threatened to

leave. That was when she was kidnapped. We met at home a month ago and she told me that we broke up."

"How long has it been? I mean before you met her again a month ago?"

"It had been two years."

"Two years. Wow. So back to your brother, do you think he cut the family off?"

Thero shrugged.

"We are tired of begging him to spend time with family."

"What is the age difference between you two?"

"Seven years.."

"Brother slash cousin?"

"I recently found out he was my cousin a month ago. Apparently my uncle and his wife died leaving him to be cared for by my parents as an infant."

"I see. Growing up, how was the family dynamic?"

Thero frowned. How was the family dynamic?

"I can't exactly remember my childhood clearly but it was okay." The counsellor paused. Who doesn't remember their childhood?

"What do you mean?"

"Sometimes I feel as if there is a large portion of memories that I keep forgetting but I don't know what. We did have pictures together but he was always in his room, from when I was around ten. Mother said he had to study for exams and he was always studying."

"You are not making a lot of sense. How can you hate someone you never spent time with?"

Thero paused. Now he was confused.

"He took away the woman I love." The counsellor let go of her pen and looked at Thero.

"The woman you love, did she know he was your brother?"

Thero slowly shook his head.

"If she didn't know and your 'brother' didn't know, how is that stealing? Especially when she said you broke up and didn't talk for two years. Let's talk about you, did you move on?"

Thero rubbed the back of his neck.

"I did. She fell pregnant a month into our relationship and we have a child."

"I see now. Because you moved on, why shouldn't the love of your life move on?"

Thero kept quiet.

"We'll come back to that one. Let's go years back. To your childhood. You don't remember?"

"I just remember my life from ten years old. I have no recollection of my earlier years. I just brushed it off."

"Thero, everyone is supposed to remember their

childhood. Do you know that?"

Thero looked at the counsellor.

"Well that is enough for today's session. Tomorrow we will talk more about your childhood before we delve into your present situation. Thank you."

"Okay. Thank you."

Thero stood up. He left the office with more questions than answers.

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At Kingsley's house

He watched her as she slid down his body. Amelia felt his hard on against her stomach. She thanked God for her periods. His arms wrapped around her

waist and he picked her up again.

"Grey."

"You're a lightweight."

She giggled as he walked to the couch with her in his arms.

"So being an actuary what do you do?"

"I work with numbers and finances. It's a lot of mathematics."

"And you manage to go to clubs?"

He just looked at her. Well that took an unexpected turn.

"If I was you, I would sleep my days away. Maths gives me a headache. I hate numbers."

He rubbed her chin.

"I hate sciences. Especially biology."

"I see."

"But I do like exploring your body." He added and she

hid the blush with a giggle.

"And I can't do that right now."

She shrugged. Deep down she thanked God yet again for her periods. This man had dubious intentions in regards to her body. Kingsley caught that smile when he said he couldn't do anything about it. He could put that pretty mouth to use though. Or maybe not now.

He pulled her close and she placed her hands on his chest.

"I love you." She said softly.

"I'm hungry Grey."

"W-we just ate a while ago."

"You see? A while ago. Let me go warm the takeaways.."

She got off him and walked to the kitchen. Kingsley's

phone rang and he saw the private number. He glanced at the direction Amelia walked to before he picked up.

"Carter speaking."

"Ah Mr Carter. I have a deal that might interest you. On Friday, we are having one of our monthly auctions and you are part of the exclusives that have been invited to the show."

He closed his eyes.

"I'll have to decline this event and the next coming events."

"Why? You are one of our loyal customers and we make good money. You can choose from the very newbies who have joined though you must prefer the ones who know how you operate. Okay just this one event then, a formal invitation will be sent."

"I won't be attending this event be-"



Amelia walked in with box of fries.

"You can just show up. You don't have to buy any of the girls."

Kingsley rubbed his temples.

"I'm not showing up and you know better than to try and force my hand." He finally said before he hung up. She didn't miss the underlying threat in his tone.

"You can go to the event." She said meekly.

"Come sit here." He commanded. She immediately sat on his lap and he placed his hands on her lap as she ate.

"Amelia?"

"Rra?"

"You don't give your input on conversations that have nothing to do with you. Are we clear?" She nodded.

"Words Lia."

"Crystal."

"Good. That conversation was in no way related to

you and you have no input on the matter."

"Ee rra. I-I thought you declined because of me."

He didn't affirm or thwart her suspicions. Just kept quiet before he spoke again.

"Are we going to continue watching the series?"

"Yes. Of course. Where were we?"

She got off his lap to pick the remote and sat on it again.

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DELICATE

#63

The Following morning

At Kingsley's house

Kingsley woke up from a peaceful sleep to find her still sleeping. In her pink onesie as she called it. He looked at her breathing softly against his chest with her hands using his chest as a pillow as well. The nightmares didn't plague him, he was scared of them waking him up in the middle of the night. Breathing and sweaty from the same nightmares that came in different forms just to torment him and make his life a living hell.

He rubbed her back and she turned her head, still

fast asleep on his chest. He breathed in and smiled. She turned again and finally opened her eyes, Amelia yawned. He held his breath as she lifted her head, her hands still on his bare chest. Amelia looked at Grey. He was awake. She rubbed her eyes and removed that bunny hoodie that was attached to her onesie. She smiled and looked into his eyes.

"Good morning. It is a good one isn't it?"

"You're so cheery in the morning."

She grinned as she moved her hands to her butt to check if she leaked or stained on herself. She didn't want that embarrassment. She felt nothing so she turned her head and sighed in relief. All clear. She smiled looking at him.

"I promised breakfast in the morning akere?" She said and he nodded his hand wrapping around her neck. Amelia now knew what that meant. She moved her head.

"I haven't brushed my teeth yet." He ignored that and kissed her, morning breath and all. She giggled and

he held her waist as he kissed her more deeply. Amelia responded. His hand moved to her butt and he squeezed gently probing her to open her mouth more.

When he finally broke the kiss she smiled.

"A shower first and you'll show me how to cook."

"Okay." She nodded.

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## At Campus

Kgosi checked her phone. There was no missed call from Amelia or anything. She assumed she talked to her mother but she was still worried. Or was Amelia having period sex with her boyfriend? That was disgusting, she would never try that. Wait Amelia broke her virginity? She had a lot of questions

plaguing her mind. She lifted her eyes from her phone and she saw Lisbeth. They were really nice Facebook friends who met recently. Lisbeth was really nice.

"Kgosi, hi."

"Hey. Uhm so.."

Lisbeth walked closer with her bag and phone in hand. Lisbeth was a really pretty girl.

"Your friend.."

"Friend?"

Lisbeth tucked her hair behind her ear. She didn't want to sound too interested in Amelia's life but she just wanted to know.

"Amelia.."

"What about her?"

"She is Thero's ex right?"

Kgosi didn't like where this conversation was heading. She nodded.

"Okay. Uhm so theu dated back in high school right? When they were still kids?"

"Lisbeth I don't think I am the person to answer your questions. It wouldn't be right for me to tell you if Amelia didn't ask me to. I have to be somewhere. Have a good day Liz."

Kgosi walked away and Lisbeth sighed. The library was still closed so she walked to the chairs near the library and sat there. She used WhatsApp to call Thero. The phone rang for a minute. She hung up and called again.

Thero answered the phone and she closed her eyes.

"Hello Liz. Is there something wrong with Keith?" He asked in a sleepy voice.

"When did you start dating Amelia?"

Thero paused.

"Thero answer me. You broke up with me because of her right? The least you can do is to be honest and give me closure."

"Lisbeth don't do that to yourself."

"Like how you left ne standing and went after your ex in front of my eyes and wanted to fight for her with your brother. Right. Just tell me." She didn't realise she was crying. She wiped her tears and bit her lower lip.

"Lisbeth you might hate me and you already hate me already. Don't do that to yourself, we broke up and it's okay. You can move on."

"I just want to know. Whag does she have that I don't have. Why do you want to go back to her when you already have a family, a beautiful family at it?"

Thero sighed.

"Liabeth look, we were a mistake. It wasn't supposed to happen. Us. We were a mistake, a mistake Ame



found out about and left me. She dumped me on the day she got kidnapped. It was our five month anniversary." Thero chuckled. Ame made that word up.

Lisbeth stopped breathing for a second. They were a mistake? She was a side chick? Amelia was his girlfriend before her and she dumped him because of her?

"Is that why you wanted me to have an abortion."

"We were teenagers Lisbeth but you kept Keith and he is the best thing that has ever happened to me. I don't regret your decision of wanting to keep him but Amelia is the love of my life and I wanted to set you free, to find someone who can love you the way you're supposed to be loved. What we had was a mistake. I got tempted then addicted."

Lisbeth's heart was breaking word by word.

Everything he said was just arrows piercing her heart.

He never loved her? She was a side chick? How

when she was posted on Facebook? And WhatsApp?

"H-I hate you Thero Carter!" She screamed into the phone.

"You'll be okay. Goodbye." He hung up and she wanted to bawl her eyes out. Well she was already halfway through that process.

She used her hands to wipe her tears but the tears didn't stop rolling down her cheeks. She sobbed and pulled her sleeves to wipe the tears. She was a second option? He stringed her along all these years as a backup plan and now that he saw the love of his life he didn't need her?

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At Kingsley's house

Amelia wore her padded panties. Just in case. The

pad she had on before sleeping had just drops of blood. Her period was finally over. 14 days of pain and blood. She shook her head as Grey gave her his grey t-shirt. He kept his eyes on her, he wouldn't blame her if she didn't wear it. From those couple YouTube videos they shared clothes and it seemed fine. Amelia smiled and wore the t-shirt.

"It's too big, look at me." She turned around giggling, her smooth thighs showing.

"It's okay?"

"Sure?"

He nodded as he slid his hands in his grey sweatpants pockets.

"Alright. Now breakfast. We are going to make eggs, russians le pan cakes. Do you have loaf? Do you know how to make instant noodles?"

She asked.

"Ebile speaking of noodles, I have to buy some. To

the kitchen."

She slid her feet in his big slides and walked out while he followed her barefoot.

He moved closer till he wrapped his hands around her waist and she smiled.

"Don't wear those pants when you go outside."

"Why?"

"Women stare. O montle thata le wena rra kana gape I was talking about the pants."(You're too handsome)

"Why Lia?"

She ignored that question as they entered the kitchen and she looked around.

"Uhm take out six eggs, two russians, a cup of flour and milk."

"I don't know where the flour is."

"Find it love, we have a lot of work to do."

She said as she walked to the sink to wash her hands, she wiped her hands and faced him.

"Baby o hoo, batla di ingredients."(baby you're still there? Find the ingredients.)

Kingsley opened the fridge and placed the milk carton on the counter.

"Where should I put the eggs after I take them out?"

She opened his cupboards and found a plate.

"In here. Let me look for the pans and o nkentshetse le mahura."(and please take out cooking oil as well)

She bent down looking for the pans. She needed two pans. Did he like coffee in the morning?

She found the pans and took them out. Non-stick pans. Nice.

"Do you drink coffee?"

"Black, no sugar."

She gagged and he raised an eyebrow. He had beautiful eyebrows and eyelashes. She was curious about his hair as well. How it can grow that long and soft.

"Amelia if you want to gag on something you can just say it and I will make it happen."

She was lost as she gave him a questioning look.

He placed the pack of russians on the counter and moved closer to where she was standing. He kissed her and she let him do that.

"Still an innocent. Don't worry about it."

She blinked as he looled for the ingredients she said he must find.

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DELICATE

#64

At Kingsley's house

Kingsley stood next to Amelia as she switched on the stove.

"You don't even know how your own stove works, bona King."

She said as shi hit his chest with the back of her hand. He looked at her as she adjusted the temperature.

"We are making scrambled eggs autwe? This is a spatula, a silicone one. Look."

She broke two eggs in a cup and mixed with the fork.

"I add seasoning but it is solely up to you, you can



even add vegetables as well but that is an advanced stage of egg cooking." Amelia drizzled oil in the pan and she looked at him.

"You are next. This is my egg we are making. You are making your own. After the eggs are fine, in the same pan we will add the russians okay?" He nodded.

Amelia poured the eggs into the pan and he took a step back. She placed the cup down and took his hand.

"It's okay. Just watch." With her right hand she started to mix the egg in the pan to scramble it and he watched silently. She let go of his hand to move the pan. She removed it from the heat.

"I am done. Did you see everything?"

"I did."

"Good. I'll just plate these eggs of mine and watch you."

She plated her eggs and placed the pan back on the

heat.

"Blow me away King." It felt weird for him to move around in the kitchen, he used the same cup she used to break the eggs but he got eggshells inside the cup. Amelia leaned against the counter. Kingsley tried to use the fork to take out the eggshells.

"It's okay, they don't kill." He let out a sigh. He looked at the spices she used and he poured them inside the cup. Maybe a little too much. Amelia placed her hand over her heart as she watched, she couldn't help but feel sorry for nine year old him who was burnt with water because he wanted to learn how to cook. She saw the two lines on his forehead as he concentrated on the task at hand. Tears filled her eyes and she faced the other way to blink them away. She watched him as she forced her breathing to be okay. She just wanted to cry and hug and tell him he was doing great. He was.

Kingsley turned to face her.

"I think I added too much."

"It's great. You're doing great love."

He just nodded and turned. He poured the eggs in the pan and he picked the spatula. He waited for a few seconds before he started to mix the way Amelia mixed. He smiled and turned to face her.

"I did it." The pure joy on his face moved her and she nodded tearfully. At 28, it was a big accomplishment on his part. He did something he hasn't done at all.

He mixed again and removed the eggs from the pan. He plated the eggs and he smiled as Amelia fought her own tears. She just hugged him.

"I'm proud of you okay?" She let the tears roll down her eyes. Kingsley rubbed her back.

"You did great." Shd broke the hug and wiped her tears.

"Period hormones." She fanned her face and sniffed. He just agreed to whatever she said.

"Uhm we are making russians and the pancakes. So for the russians we are just going to slice them in a slanting motion, like a few cuts and theb we throw

them in the pan to fry them."

She picked one and she opened the drawers to take out a knife. She showed him. He watched carefully.

"Your turn baby."

She stood next to him as he got the sharp knife and he did what she did. He placed the knife down and she grinned.

"We are frying these in the pan and then I'm going to make pancakes."

She put the russians in the pan as they started frying. He finally did something in the kitchen, he wasn't useless after all. Minutes later Amelia plated the russians and removed the pan from the heat, switching off the stove.

"Now for pancakes. You don't have to make them love. Just watch."

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## At Campus

Lisbeth drank water as she calmed herself down. The fact that Thero had made her a popae was what hurt her the most. She gave him her best just to find out he never loved her like that. They had a child together. A whole human being who was their blood. Shd released a sigh as she took another gulp. She patted her eyes, hoping they weren't red and swollen.

"Time to pick yourself up Lisbeth." She smiled tearfully and she ended up blinking back eyes. She was far from being okay. She checked her watch. She told Tumo to come around 12 and it was just a few minutes after ten. She released a sigh and looked up.

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At Kingsley's house

Amelia placed the pancakes on a single plate and she poured honey over the layered pancakes as she made his coffee and she made her own tea.

"Babe you can take your plate. Re jela kae?"(where are we going to eat?)

"The lounge?"

"Alright." Kingsley took his plate and he walked to the lounge. He came back a minute later and he picked the plate that had pancakes. Amelia took her food and walked to the lounge. She sat next to him on the rug. Kingsley tasted his eggs and he drank his coffee to dilute the taste. Too much spice. Amelia chuckled and with the fork, she brought the food to his lips.

"I know you put a lot of seasoning inside, eat this."

He opened his mouth and ate off her fork.

"We can share mine. Besides I really want the pan cakes. The salty food is just for formalities." He chuckled as he used his fork to eat the eggs off her plate. Amelia's heart busted. Did he know this made her happy? She touched his hand and he looked at her. She kissed his lips then she continued eating.

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## DELICATE

#65

At Kingsley's house

Kingsley kept his dark gaze on her as she devoured the pancakes. She had one hell of a sweet tooth. He only had half of the pancake and it was enough.

"Sure you don't want?" He shook his head as she cut into the pancake and she moved the piece on the plate to get more honey on it. She brought the fork to her lips and smiled. Amelia placed the fork down and had a sip of her tea which was tasteless now that she ate a lot of sugar from the honey.

"So, I was planning on going to school around bo 1. Will it be possible?" He nodded.

"Thank you. Besides I have to talk to my mother and I have to study. I enjoyed our time together." She



was genuine as she took his large hand in hers.

"I did too." She moved closer to him and he made it easier by pulling her to him. She giggled.

"Thank you." He didn't have to thank her at all. She really wanted to teach him how to cook and she was glad to see him happy to learn all that.

"We can do the dishes now and relax till I have to go."

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At Campus

In the library

Lisbeth patted her eyes. She really hoped it didn't show she was crying but deep down she knew it showed. She will cry and get over it. Eventually.

She checked her watch and it was almost twelve. Tumo better show up or else she is going back home. He was the one who asked for help.

She leaned back on the chair as she opened her laptop and looked around. Wait did she know who and what Tumo looked like?

Meanwhile Tumo looked down as he walked inside the library. He felt like everyone was gawking at him and it just intensified his social anxiety. It had taken him a lot of guts to ask the prettiest girl in class to help him. He could tell she didn't even know who he was. He was sure she was going to be disgusted to know who he was. He let out a shaky breath as he walked up the stairs. He walked inside then looked around. She said she was around here. He rubbed his sweaty palms against each other. He spotted her with the long hair and he had that sunken feeling in his stomach again. He sat by the desk next to hers

and Lisbeth's head moved.

"Hello, I'm Tumo."

He extended his hand and Lisbeth just nodded. So he was Tumo. He wasn't what she expected. She squinted her eyes and he awkwardly looked at his hand mid-air. Oh she didn't want to shake it. He pulled it back and rubbed it on his jean pants.

Lisbeth pushed her hair back.

"Okay, let's get started ee Tumo."

He nodded and he shifted his heavy body so he can take the books from his backpack. Lisbeth looked at him. Who still cut chiskop in this era? And those old man glasses. He needs to get in shape as well. She shook her head, she felt pity for his girlfriend. If he had one, which she doubted.

She closed her eyes for a few seconds, she needed to get this over and done with. She shifted her chair to move back a bit.

"Thank you once again for offering to help me."

"Mmhm.."

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At Kingsley's house

Amelia switched on her phone as he led her to the car. He opened the door for her before he walked to his side. She got inside and closed the door. She buckled up and placed her overnight bag by her feet. She entered her PIN and waited for her phone to restart. She lazily looked at him as he started the car.

Amelia turned to her phone. Calls from her mother. She hoped they were not going to fight over Kingsley.

She really hoped they were not going to fight over Kingsley. She still went through her call logs. A missed call from Tlotlo? What did he want?

The car reversed out of the garage and Kingsley placed his hand on her thigh, she was wearing a skirt too. He started massaging her thigh while his other hand was on the steering wheel. He had a lot of things he wanted to do to her, a lot. Some of them being weird. Not to him anyway. A part of him was glad she didn't ask about downstairs. He shut his eyes for a few seconds. His mind going to how he would have her. Maybe he should relax and wait for her to finish her exams and they will talk.

"Amelia?"

"Rra?" She stopped texting Tlotlo and looked up at him.

"When are you finishing your exams?"

"In three weeks."

"Then you'll be done?"

She nodded.

"School will be over and done with till next semester."

"Is it possible for you to spend a week here after you're done with your exams?"

Shd blinked. He was asking her to sleep over. Again. He was also being considerate. Asking about her exams and all.

"Okay."

"Okay?"

"Yes. Just a week akere? I have to go home."

"Just a week."

She nodded. He kissed her lips softly as the gate closed.

"Thank you."

She went back to her phone. Tlotlo had texted back.

Tlotlo:I was checking on you.

Amelia:I'm good. Okay I guess.

Tlotlo:That's good to hear. I'll call later.

She placed her phone down.

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At Campus

Kingsley parked his car in the parking lot and she hugged him.

"Thank you and I will call later okay?"

"Okay Lia." They kissed for a few seconds before she broke it and got her bag. She opened the car door but she turned her head to kiss him again.

"I'm about to leave." She placed her bag down and

held his head. Kingsley welcomed the affection as his tongue slipped inside her mouth. His hands slid under her t-shirt and he held her bare waist. He pulled her closer. She moaned in his mouth, her hands messing up his hair. She broke the kiss breathlessly and blushed. He smiled and kneaded her waist.

"You should probably go before I-"

She moved away from him fast and he laughed, his eyes wrinkling at the sides and the deep hearty laughter warmed her heart. Okay she loved him. She loved him so he should stop being so damn attractive and sexy.

"Bye." She got out of the car and smiled before she closed the door.

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# DELICATE

#66

## At Campus

Amelia walked into her room, not bothering to close the already open door. Yaya looked up from her phone and she smiled.

"I expected you to be here later on."

"There is a few things I have to do."

"Did you enjoy your weekend?"

"Enjoy is an understatement Yaya. I-is it normal to feel like you're on top of the world?"

"New love does that almost all the time. You are always floating then as the months go by, you guys are too familiar with each other then you start to get bored with one another then the relationship ends and you find a new relationship."

"That's too blunt. Some relationships are forever."

"Don't be delusional Ame. Nothing lasts forever."

Amelia ignored that as she checked her phone. Her mother's call came through and she excused herself after placing the bag down.

"Hello mama."

"Why haven't you been answering your phone."

"I was busy."

"So you are just going to disobey me Amelia and date an old man?"

Amelia walked down the stairs with the phone to her ear.

"Mama didn't we move past this conversation?"

"Amelia if you fall pregnant by a man who is older than you and will leave you to eventually marry his type, wa re ngwana wa go tlhokomelwa ke mang?"(who is going to take care of your child?)

"Mama I won't fall pregnant..." The 'I'm not you.' Died on Amelia's lips. She was not going to repeat her mother's mistakes. She didn't even know who her father was or who her sisters' dads were. She was not going to fall pregnant. Never! Her mother sighed.

"Amelia you don't want to listen."

"Mama your advice is great. I am taking note and I understand but I feel like this is fuelled also by the fact that you want my BOYFRIEND mama. MY BOYFRIEND." She emphasised that with a sigh. She didn't want to fight.

"Mama how is he supposed to feel comfortable knowing that his girlfriend's mother wants him too?"

She asked. There was silence.

"I don't want that at all. Kingsley is my boyfriend mama and I will be careful. I have access to contraceptives, I might get an implant, I won't fall pregnant."

"Okay."

"So mama we are not going to fight over Kingsley akere?"

"Okay Amelia."

"Thank you. So you're still in Gaborone?"

"No, I left early in the morning."

"Oh. Guess I'll see you guys after the exams when I go back home."

"I guess so. Bye Amelia."

Her mother hung up and Amelia stepped outside. A walk might do.

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At Ma Amelia's house

Ma Amelia sat down with her sister.

"That was Amelia?" Kaone asked as she poured Oros

from the jug.

"Ee. She thinks she is grown now that she is dating an older man."

Kaone finished pouring Oros and scrunched her face.

"Kana did I tell you?"

"What?"

"The last time Ame was here, ke ha a le ko spateleng a batla di morning after."(she was at the hospital, asking for morning afters.)

Ma Amelia remembered that time and Amelia said she was with a friend. She did notice that she was acting strange and she walked weirdly as well.

"You're serious?"

"On God! I was shocked. Amelia? The one we talked to about boys is already sleeping around?"

"She said she knows what she is doing. Ga re ga ngwana a lelela legodu o mo neele."(if a child wants something, let them have it.)

Kaone sipped her drink. It would be a pity for Amelia to fall pregnant. They have high hopes for her and she can even talk back to her mother because of boys? Ma Amelia chuckled.

"And you know what's funny?"

Kaone listened to her sister.

"She is dating a man two years younger than you."

Kaone placed her drink down.

"Monna hela? Motho o re ka reng o nale lelwapa?"(a man? Someone who can be said to have a family?)

"Yes. A man."

Kaone clapped her hands. So even though Amelia was never approached by her husband, she can steal her man if she wants because what 19 year old dates a whole 28 year old? That is not it.

"Ah. Amelia o dira thata."(she is doing too much)

"I'll just watch from the sidelines tota. We'll just be

there when things go south. Men like that want stability and women who are already working or independent."

"Exactly. Amelia o tla re golega waitse."(Amelia will be the death of us)

Ma Amelia poured her drink in the glass and she silently sipped it. Amelia talking to her like that? Over a man? A man that will break her heart and she talked to her own mother like that? Wow!

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At Campus

In the library

Lisbeth checked the time. It was around two and she already wanted to go home.

"Tumo, I have to rush somewhere."

Tumo just nodded. She was uncomfortable throughout the whole study session.

"It's okay. I'll continue here. Thank you for your help."

He said and he lowered his head to look at his books. Lisbeth just packed her stuff.

"You are going to be fine akere?"

"You explained. Thank you. I'll show you my results once I pass this exam." He said and Lisbeth started to feel bad. She was just turned off by his looks. He wasn't a particularly aesthetically pleasing fellow.

"I am sure you will do well. And uhm Tumo?"

He looked up.

"Please jog a little, we can't be working towards being doctors and telling people how to take care of their bodies when we as doctors neglect our own bodies." Tumo nodded with a heavy heart. His



weight was a problem?

"Have a good day." Lisbeth walked away and Tumo rubbed his eyes. He kept his eyes glued on the pages of his short notes but tears blurred his vision. He didn't dare look up.

Lisbeth hurried down the stairs. She just needed to get away, the study session was uncomfortable too. She hurried to the entrance where she signed out with her student ID. She stepped out of the library, the fresh air that hit her was very much welcome. The wind blew her hair away and she chuckled. She sat by the benches to get her wits together before she can go home. She applied her lipgloss and stood up. She forced a smile. She was going to move on from Thero's hurtful words. She will be fine and be a successful doctor killing it. She shouldn't even stress about Thero.

As she walked she saw Amelia who had her headsets in her ear. Seemed like she was taking a

walk. She breathed in and walked towards her.  
Amelia listened on the other end of the line.

"Your voice is soothing." He chuckled and her heart fluttered.

"What are you eating for dinner?"

"Some of yesterday's takeaway."

She grinned.

"Okay. I wanted you try something out but you obviously won't be able to find half of the ingredients. When is your house helper coming in?"

"Tomorrow morning before I leave for work."

"Alright. I think I need another shower, I was taking a walk."

"Amelia in this scorching heat?"

She shrugged.

"I'm okay. I-" She turned and scowled seeing Lisbeth. What was she doing behind her?

"Baby I'll call you back."

"Okay."

She hung up and removed her headsets.

"Uhm hi. Amelia right?"

"Hello. Yes." Lisbeth looked at Amelia closely. She had a soft sweet voice and she was beautiful. Too beautiful even with her old braids, her beauty couldn't be diminished.

"I am Lisbeth." Amelia nodded. She didn't know where this conversation was supposed to head or how it was supposed to go.

"I-I just recently found out Thero two timed us."

"I know. That's why we broke up."

"I feel like such a f-"

"It will be fine. Excuse me, I have to go."

Amelia walked away. That was weird. She didn't

want to liaise with Thero's baby mama let alone the girl he cheated her with. She wasn't that stupid.

Lisbeth watched Amelia walk away. Maybe she was re-opening old wounds or came on too strong about the Thero issue hence she cut her short. She sighed and started to walk.

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THREE WEEKS LATER

DELICATE

#67

30 years ago

Victoria served her husband food and she sat on the opposite chair as he started eating.

"So, when can we start trying for a child? Your family has been on my case about it."

"Are you married to them or to me? Just do your wifely duties and we will have children in due course."

She just nodded and faced the other way. Her phone rang and she looked at her husband before she answered.

"Hello?"

"Tori, Rosà here. So Senorita Carter invited me for tea at her house and I assumed she invited you as well?"

Victoria's heart broke. Her mother-in-law never liked her that much. It's only been a month since Rosa has been introduced and already she was visiting. She once tried and she waa told she is being unnecessary and should take care of her husband. That is the only real reason she was married.

"Oh. Okay. I'll come."

"Awesome! Uhm tea around 3pm at her house."

"Okay."

"Ciao Tori."

Rosa hung up and Victoria looked at her husband.

"Uhm your mother and Rosa invited me over for tea."

Thuto looked at his wife and chuckled.

"Please don't embarass yourself."

Tears stung in Victoria's eyes and she forced a smile.

"I was planning on re-writing again."

Thuto burst into laughter.

"You are beautiful but there are no brains in that pretty head of yours honey. I don't want to waste my money on you writing again. You are good at being a house wife. Focus on that." Her husband said and Victoria faced the other way round. She just nodded silently. She excused herself and walked to the bathroom where she splashed water on her plain face. Tears stung her eyes and she splashed more water on her face. She walked out of the bathroom and headed to the bedroom. She looked at what she was wearing and she assumed it was fine. It was a ten minute walk to her in-laws house. She would wait for her husband to finish eating and she will wash the plates before she left.

Thirty minutes later, Victoria wore a hat and started walking to her in-laws' house. Rosa was being kind

and inviting her even though she was not invited at all. She was taking a leap of faith even going there when her mother-in-law clearly didn't invite her.

She finally arrived and opened the gate. She walked inside the yard and she could hear the booming laughter coming from the house. She closed her eyes before she could knock on the door.

"Are we expecting someone?" She heard her mother in law ask.

"I asked Tori to join us for tea, she never goes anywhere and is usually in the house with no company."

Rosa replied as she placed her tea cup.

"Okay. Tsena Victoria."(enter Victoria)

Victoria forced a smile and walked inside the house.



She greeted her mother-in-law who gave her a distasteful look and answer. She said hi to Rosa as she sat down.

"So Tori we were just talking about children."

"Oh."

"Yes. I am a social worker by profession and I wanted to raise enough money to start an orphanage."

"That's good."

She said. In an effort not to say anything stupid.

"Yes. Really good. I was an orphan myself and the system doesn't favour orphans. Most of the times they end up in bad foster homes."

Victoria had no idea what were foster homes but she just nodded.

"Plus not all of them end up being adopted. Some even live the life of criminals."

"You are so smart Rosa. That is a brilliant idea, as a teacher myself I can attest that children need stability and we somehow don't know how to help

kids from such backgrounds."

"Graçie. Tori it's such a good idea and you can also help as well."

"Are you sure you want Victoria to help?"

Victoria poured tea in the tea cup.

"Victoria is always busy with house chores, right Victoria?"

"Ee mma."

"See..but I love that idea and I would like to help Rosa."

Rosa nodded and Victoria shrank back as the two ladies talking. Feeling more alienated from the conversation. Keeping to herself was better than being reminded about how she had an empty brain but a pretty face.

\*Present moment\*

Victoria looked at her sister as she told her about the family reunion they were planning.

"Is Thero and Kingsley going to be there?" Victoria rolled her eyes.

"Thero is at school studying to be a doctor and Kingsley ga se ngwanake. Ska bua ka motho yoo."(Kingsley is not my child. Don't talk about that person.)

"But you raised him."

"Wasted my time actually. He can die like his parents for all I care. His stupid grandmother is on my case. Nywere nywere what did you do to my grandson. Mxm."

The sister sighed. Kingsley must be so grown right now and from how Victoria talked about him, she probably didn't know. So he did keep that secret and he never told anyone?

"He must be grown waitse. I last saw him in passing

years ago."

"Ee. Gone moo."(yes. That.)

Victoria brushed it all off and faced her sister.

"I should find a catering company right? Uhm an events planning company as well. What else do we need? I don't want last minute things."

"I have the cake covered."

"Okay. Cake. Food. Uhm decorations. At your house akere?"

"We can use you-"

"No. No. Not my house. Your house is okay and there is space. A pool even. I'll send you messages about what else might pop up."

"Alright. I have to go."

Victoria nodded as her sister stood up and picked up her handbag. She walked out after they shared a brief hug. Victoria looked at the empty house. Her husband was at work and she had the rest of the day

to herself.

The sister walked to her car and she thoughtfully paused. She took out her phone from her bag and she went to Facebook. She searched Kingsley and she sent a message. She put the phone back in her bag and unlocked the car.

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Let's keeo pre-ordering PROMISES. Thank you!

# DELICATE

#68

## At Campus

Amelia threw herself on the bed and smiled. Finally done with exams and she was glad that her mother never mentioned her wanting Grey ever again. She wasn't supposed to want him in the first place. Yaya walked in and smiled.

"It's a Friday. Want to go to the club?"

Amelia scratched her edges. Today was a Friday and what a way to unwind.

"Okay. You're going to strip?"

"Yes. My muscles need to relax and extra cash for Christmas. Then six pack ya savivi.."

"Savivi?"

"Savannah Amelia."

"Oh. I think this time I'll stick to juices, I ended up in someone's bed the last time."

Yaya laughed as she removed her shoes.

"We should probably take baths and get ready. It's disco Friday today."

"Hee banna! Kante who owns the club?"

"I don't know. Most of the workers haven't seen him. Only the security detail and the waitresses who wear skimpy dresses and serve him know him."

Amelia frowned. She walked into an office the last time she was there, he probably borrowed the office.

"I'm sure whoever the owner is, he might have slept with them though. Those waitresses who serve him in his office are steaming hot."

"Really?"

"Mmhmm..mma let's go take showers and get ready. Get a dress ready and tell your boyfriend you're

going out. Disco Friday is always nice. That grinding on strangers and kile wa bona stranger ko monateng se 'kopa go heta' a go tshwere noka monate."

Yaya giggled and walked to her side of the room to open her wardrobe and take out her toiletry bag. She started getting undressed and Amelia took her phone.

She started texting her boyfriend.

Amelia:Hey baby I am going out with a friend for the weekend.

She sent the message and she saw the grey ticks first before it showed he was online. He started typing.

Sir Grey :Okay. It's okay. I'll be busy today too. I'll pick you up on Sunday?

Amelia:Good with me wa re why a week?

Sir Grey :You'll have to find out.



Amelia:Why do you never use emojis?

She waited for him to reply.

Sir Grey :Maybe I might use them wrongly.

She laughed and slapped her head. He was a millennial and she was part of Gen Z.

Amelia:Okay baby. I love you and see you Sunday.

She said and went off online. She got up from the bed and walked to the wardrobe. Did she have clothes for the club?

"Do we need masks?"

"No. Disco Ame. Every now and then the club has fun themes."

"Kante what is this club?"

Yaya sighed.

"Amelia I explained that time. It's a whole sex club. Everything is consensual and some people never go

upstairs for the other stuff, they come here to party. Just that. And le wena you are partying or you are going to have another one night stand? Your boyfriend doesn't have to know you know."

"Hee? Ng ng I am not a cheater."

"You should live a little roomie. But it's up to you. You never post your boyfriend on WhatsApp?"

Amelia laughed and clapped her hands.

"I once posted someone and guess what? He was posting his actual girlfriend on the Facebook he told me was toxic and I shouldn't be on. Akere I was a village girl and that was my first smartphone mma wena."

Yaya wrapped herself with a towel.

"Never ever believe an indoda."

"Learnt that the hard way." Amelia faced the other way as she removed her sweater. She touched the tattoo along her collarbone and got flashbacks of Grey kissing that exact spot and his fingers touching

the tattoo and reading it. Her hands moved to underneath her left boob. His hands running over that butterfly tattoo too. He really took heed of her please when she said he hurts her. He has never had sex with her ever since that time at the river which was two months ago.

She pulled down her pants and picked her towel from the bed. She wrapped it around her body and slipped her feet into plastic sandals.

Yaya walked out of the room and Amelia was left all alone. She walked to the mirror and stared at her reflection. Now at least the contraceptives didn't mess up with her clear skin, she would literally die if that happens. Not on her clear skin.

She got her keys from the table and walked out with her toiletry bag in hand.

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## At Kingsley's office

King placed his phone down. He thoughtfully went through the contracts of the new workers, well the waiters and waitresses. He had to check on the club so he will be working there the whole night. His marketing team came up with this Disco night thing. They always come up with nice ideas and most of the people downstairs never usually know that they are in a sex club. He was smart. A part of him wanted to take Amelia to those rooms upstairs where he can go wild on her. He personally has never used the section where people fulfil their deepest darkest fantasies. And the things that went on there were wild, in a sexually pleasing way.

Pity he wanted the week with her. Locked in his house with no where to run to. Just the two of them. And two months without any body to offload on, this

week was going to be fun. On his part. He wasn't sure about her though. She might hate him after this week ends.

He placed the documents down and picked his phone up. He went to Facebook and as always he had messages. Lots of them. Messages he avoided on a daily. He clicked open messages and his eyebrows furrowed. His heart slowed down as he saw the familiar name, memories fighting to resurface and he placed the phone down.

He closed his eyes, fighting his mind to push back those horrible memories. Those nights he cried himself to sleep and thoroughly scrubbed himself. Days he begged God to take him in his sleep because he didn't know whom he offended. Tears filled his closed eyes and he breathed harshly. He opened his desk drawer to take out his pump. He didn't want to revisit those days he would have nowhere to run because he was alone with her and

he was weak to fight her off. He brought the pump to his mouth. Forcing himself to think happy thoughts. Like Lia's smile and how she called him baby in that sweet baby voice of her. His heartbeat slowly went back to normal as he thought of only that. He placed the pump down and ran his hand through his hair, ruining his hairstyle as he released a battered breath.

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My apologies. Just arrived home two hours ago. I was out on a date      **FRIENDSHIP DATE!**

DELICATE

#69

At Campus

Amelia got dressed in her tight fitting jeans that clung to every curve and was like her second skin. She left the jean unbuttoned as she wore her string top and tucked it in her jeans. She finally buttoned it all up, making sure to wear a belt and her white cardigan. Perfect. She sat on the bed and wore her sneakers.

"You are so pretty ma."

"Thank you."

She spritzed some Oh So Heavenly vanilla flavoured body mist. She breathed in the mist and smiled. No

drinking on her part. Just listening to good music and watching people dance on the dance floor. She wondered if it was going to be like in the movies where it's wild and fun. Good music type of stuff. She took out her phone and went to WhatsApp. She sent Kgosi a message that she was going out, she will see her tomorrow afternoon for their regular friendship date.

"So we'll leave around bo six. The club won't be full."

"Okay. Let me catch up on some sleep then."

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At Oxford university

Thero sat with the therapist who had another person joining her.

"Well Thero, you now see how everything happened?"



Thero sighed. He still loved Amelia and the therapist making him admit that he was at fault was a painful pill to swallow. Heck, that pill was bitter.

"I understand."

"You don't hurt innocent people and they are allowed to move on from you if you are toxic, they are not obliged to wait for you to see your mistakes and get better. Do you perhaps understand that in a way, she might blame you for her kidnapping?"

The therapist asked and Thero swallowed dry air. Hot dry air.

"If not for those actions maybe her kidnapping might have not come to pass. She just chose to distance herself and you also have to do that distancing. Work on yourself and stay away. Do not hurt yourself with someone who moved on. You have a child to think of as well."

Thero rubbed his throat and nodded.

"Now, today I called in a good friend of mine. Her specialty is hypnotherapy."

Thero nodded.

"The way you described your childhood is alarming. As old as I am I can remember my life from as early as 3 years old to present, it's abnormal to have memories from ten years of age till now. And how you describe your cousin's detachment from the family is need for alarm as well."

"I understand."

"So we will hypnotize you. Not for long, let's say five minutes for this session and from your memories, I will ask questions."

Thero nodded.

"Are you comfortable with the process or you need time to think about it?"

Thero breathed out.

"I'll do it tomorrow."

"Okay. Good. Tomorrow morning it is." The therapist moved on to ask about Thero's day to day life here at Oxford and how he has been coping. Thero answered as honestly as he could and the therapist noted everything down. It had taken a lot for her to make Thero see how he was being entitled to other people which she had suspected stemmed from his childhood. He had relayed his life from ten years till present and he was the favourite child. His parents never saying no to his whims. There was a lot to deal with here and she wasn't sure if this future doctor knew it.

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At Campus

Amelia was woken up by Yaya.

"Hey, it's almost seven. I'm not late but le wena you weren't waking up."

Amelia yawned as she looked at Yaya. Her eyelids droopy and the saliva dripping from the corner of her mouth. That's how you knew you had the best sleep. She yawned again and lifted her head, lines marring her cheek and she used her hands to wipe her cheek and around her mouth. Everything was blurred for the first twenty seconds before she placed her head back on the pillow.

"Amelia tlhemma!"

"Mmhmm."

"The cab is on it's way tlhemma you need to do the final touchups so we can leave."

She nodded and closed her eyes again.

"Ame!!" She opened her eyes again and forced herself to sit upright. She yawned and closed her eyea before she abruptly opened them again. Yaya looked at her and clapped her hands. Once. Twice. She was really really asleep and it wasn't a quick nap. Amelia looked around the room and covered her mouth.

"I'm awake now Yaya. Don't scream at me."

Amelia forced herself to stand on her feet and rubbed her eyes. She yawned again and stretched her body. It took a few minutes to be fully awake and she undid the belt buckle and unbuttoned those jeans again before she fixed herself. She opened her wardrobe to take out her body mist and perfume. She sprayed those two and she took out the hair gel and toothbrush. She opened it and started to lay down the edges of her new hairstyle.

"Make it fast, we are running out of time."

"Ee mma."

Amelia placed back the items and she took out her bag. She put her keys, purse, a few essentials and her student ID.

"Done." She picked her phone up and remembered that she didn't send him photos of the new hairstyle she had. Yaya walked out and Amelia followed as she sent him pictures in his dm.

Amelia:I got this hairstyle maabane. See you Sunday.

She walked out and closed the door.

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At Kingsley's club

In an all black outfit, something that was normal for him, he parked his car where he usually parked it. He used the back door to enter the club and took the stairs.

In minutes he was in his office, door guarded and his usual whiskey on ice on the table. He placed his phone down. He didn't need any disturbance today. Just work and getting the club's affairs in order. His phone rang in the eerily silent and dark office. He sighed annoyed.

"Carter speaking."

"There is a secret party in a week and would you grace us with your presence?"

"Is this another ploy to buy a girl?"

"Well you are our biggest client and you are quite generous too."

"I see. I don't think I'll need a girl. Let the others have them."

There was silence.

"You can just show your face to the party. Nothing major."

He hated being cornered. But then these kind of connections and girls like these usually came to work here. Either as strippers or girls at the receiving end of some of his client's fantasies.

"Is it possible to bring a plus one?"

"For you we'll make an exception."

"Okay. Send an email with the date and venue and I'll get back to you. The theme as well."

"Thank you."

Kingsley cut the call and he placed the telephone down. He picked his phone and saw the notifications. What was it now? He opened the phone and he went to WhatsApp. Amelia was the only person he spoke to on the annoying app. He clicked her messages with a scowl and found himself smiling as he looked at her cute pictures. Forehead all shiny and that pretty smile of hers. Would he be asking for too much if she sent more pictures? Well pictures other than these? He typed a message. She kept him on his phone and he wanted to work.

Grey: You're beautiful Lia. I have to get back to work. I'll call later. You will be in bed right?

He sent the message. She replied a minute later.

Lia: thank you. Later is what time?

He raised an eyebrow? What time?

Grey: The usual.



He placed his phone down.

Meanwhile the cab parked outside the club. Amelia put her phone on silent. She should leave by ten before Grey calls around 11. She had a solid plan. Yaya paid and they got out of the car.

"You are paying for your drinks love."

"It's okay."

The two ladies walked into the club as the disco lights flashed. Yaya said bye to Amelia and Amelia sat by the bar. The bartender smiled as he fixed his bow tie and approached the pretty customer.

"Good evening. How may I help you?"

Amelia turned, her smile lighting up her whole face and the bartender placed the tray down as he adjusted his pants.

"Can I have a glass of lemon water?"

"Is that all?" She nodded and turned her head to look around. Adjusting to the atmosphere and to all the slow songs that were being played. She took out her phone and she chided herself. She was here to relax and unwind. No alcohol, just a clear mind so she can talk to her man later on.

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[DELICATE

#70

At Kingsley's club

More people started pouring in as Amelia moved her head to the good music here. Other than the club being a sex club it was pretty chill and with the adddd fact that there was security made it even more better. She looked at her empty glass. She turned to face the bartender.

"Can I have another glass of water?" The guy chuckled as he took the glass. She moved her feet up and down the stool. Her water came and she smiled.

"Thank you."

"Are you sure you don't want anything alcoholic? We also have wine and champagne. A pretty lady like

you deserves bubbles."

She shook her head with a smile.

"Planning on staying sober for the night." She took a sip from her lemon water and opened her bag to take out her lipgloss. She applied it to her lips. The bartender licked his lips and looked down. Was she doing that on purpose? Amelia put the lipgloss in her bag and she sipped on her water.

"Are you single?"

"Nope."

He licked his lips.

"You're too pretty to only have one man."

She cracked up. What was he implying?

"That's flattering but I am okay. You will find the one for you." She finally said and turned to look at the people dancing. She would never. As she once said, still waters run deep and her Grey had a lot of deep waters in there. She wasn't about to destroy the trust that they built. He opened up to her and imagine

cheating. On him? A gorgeous gifted man? Never. She was loyal to the T. She moved her head enjoying the music while she sipped on water. She was going to need the toilet pretty soon. She pressed her phone and went to his Facebook profile. Does he ever change his profile picture? It has been the same one for over a year. She did check when he last updated the picture the time she found out his name. She used a fake account but that wasn't the issue.

Amelia left her glass of water and stood up to go the bathroom. She looked around as she walked, for minutes and she still didn't find the toilets. the noise slowly faded away as she walked to the other part of the club she didn't know. She ignored the moans she heard and walked to one of the big guys in black.

"Hello. Where can I find the bathroom?" The man looked at the small person who dared enter this side of the club.

"You are not authorised to be here. Go back."

She moved back. His voice was scary. He looked

scary too the more she looked at him. The moans got louder and the more she listened, the more she realised that they were different moans. Oh flip! She was on the wrong side of the club.

"Uhm sorry but I really need to know where are the toilets?"

The man looked at her over. He surely didn't need other security personnel to carry her out of this club.

"You should go." The man faced forward and his eyes were no longer on her.

She sighed. The big man wasn't going to tell her where the toilets were was he? She started walking away from the man. She remembered the path she used right? But why wasn't there any noise? She couldn't even hear the music from the club. She clutched her bag. How did she get lost? She didn't even drink or wasn't she focusing? She sighed and kept walking as different coloured lights flashed. She saw a flight of stairs and remembered that time Grey took stairs. Maybe she will see the club from the top. She took out her phone and sat on the stairs

for a bit. His phone rang and he answered.

"Beautiful you're disturbing me, I'm working."

She blushed.

"Sorry. I am about to sleep." She faked a yawn.

"Amelia?"

"Rra?"

"Do I look like a fool?"

"Nyaa rra."

"The time is a little after 8 and you are about to sleep?"

"I've been tired and the exams were hectic."

He kept quiet.

"Okay. Goodnight. I guess."

"Goodnight. I love you. Bye." She hung up. Now to find her way back. She put the phone in her bag and she stood up. She slowly walked up the stairs and she heard music and saw an open door. She walked

to the door and she quickly turned. Covering her eyes. Nope. That was not meant for her eyes. She sighed and kept walking. She saw another open door and this time there were shouts coming from the room, she curiously peaked and she saw Yaya on the pole. The strip part of the club. The girls were beautiful and had nice bodies too. She lingered by the entrance as she took note of how Yaya stretched her body on the pole. Damn! Some men threw money her way while some put money in her bra. This looked like stuff that happened in American movies. This was interesting. Was she allowed to enter? She didn't know so she watched and was glad that there was no security here.

Inside King's office, he looked at the paperwork he already worked on. He stood up on his feet to stretch his body. He yawned and chuckled. He almost bit Amelia's head off for sleeping early but here he was. Yawning. He paused. Wait a damn minute. She said she had a girl's weekend. He relaxed. Maybe that meant them watching a movie



on the laptop with food and talking about other people's lives. He picked his phone and went on to WhatsApp. She was asleep. Most probably. He sent a heart emoji and smiled. He stood up with his phone in his hand and walked to the door. He opened it and his security detail nodded their heads as they followed him. He was just checking if everything was fine and besides, it's the security detail that will enter inside not him. His anonymity was key.

Amelia on the other hand, watched. Fascinated. How did they become so flexible? She folded her arms and leaned by the door frame as she watched. She let out a sigh. She should probably find her way back downstairs and her bladder was now starting to complain. She needed a toilet and fast before she messes on herself. She straightened up and she told herself one more minute. She leaned by the doorframe to watch once again.

Kingsley walked along the corridor. His security making sure everything was good. They paused by the strip area of the building. He squinted his eyes as the figure leaned by the door frame. Watching from the outside. He walked ahead of his security detail to the figure that looked familiar. He could even make out the outline of her shape because it was feminine. He stood behind her and he damn well recognized that scent and the height. And hair. His first instinct was to ask her what the hell she was doing here and why she's fucking lied to him but instead he moved closer and before she even turned he wrapped his hands around that waist.

"And you lied to me." He whispered harshly in her ear. Amelia swallowed. She knew that voice all too well. Her throat dried and she breathed heavily. What? What was going on? Her bladder nearly gave out as well.

"Uh-"

She swallowed yet again as he kept his hands around her waist. He looked past the door, she was watching the strippers. Interesting but he will see

that later.

"Amelia wee?"

"Rra?"

"Amelia?" His deep voice reverberated close to her ear.

"R-rra?"

"Are we liars now?"

She quickly shook her head.

"Is this sleeping?"

She shook her head again.

"Okay." He let go of her waist and she turned her whole body to face him. He just raised an eyebrow before he called one of the men behind him. He said something to the man before he walked past her with only one man behind him and the other guy he just whispered to remained behind.

"Follow me." She looked at the direction Grey headed towards and she looked at the scary man. His voice

though didn't scare her like how Grey's voice did just a minute ago.

"And if I refuse?"

"Ma'am, I am under strict instructions to have you go with me. Willingly or unwillingly."

She swallowed. She moved steps back.

"Uhm I need the loo."

"Ma'am follow me."

She walked the other way and the man caught her in seconds and picked her up.

"You don't want to make him more angrier than he his ma'am. I was given instructions, so it's either you are screaming or compliant."

He placed her down and Amelia sighed.

"Okay." He pushed her forward and she started walking as he walked behind her.

## DELICATE

#71

At Kingsley's club

Amelia was led to the office. The security man opened the door and she stepped in while he closed it. She looked around the dark office that was only illuminated by the moonlight. Cautiously, she walked to the desk where there was a pile of papers, an empty glass and an open laptop. She placed her bag on the chair and rubbed her stomach, her bladder was already complaining. She drank too much water and she still didn't know where the toilets were. The door opened and her boyfriend walked in all alone.

His eyes ran over her and without saying a word, he sat on the other side of the desk. He removed his black denim jacket and placed it on the table,

removed the gold cufflinks on his dress shirt before he rolled up the sleeves silently. Amelia's heart thudded in her chest as she touched her collarbone, expecting him to say something but he was silent. Kingsley unbuttoned the first two buttons of his shirt to breathe before he went off on her. He looked at her and saw the nerves working on her. She was an open book so he could see it through her eyes, she should stop wearing her heart on her sleeves it's not good at all.

"Come here."

"Wa go ntira eng?"(what are you going to do to me?)

"Amelia?" His tone got more dominant and she quickly walked to the other side of the desk as he moved back with his chair. Once she was facing him, he moved closer again and placed his hands on her waist. His eyes not moving from hers.

"Amelia now, why do you lie?" Straight to the point.

"I-" she didn't have any reason to lie. She did not and he was here and he caught her in on her lie.

"Amelia?"

"Rra?" Her heart went crazy.

" ke boditse potso and ga wa nkaraba waitsd?"(I asked a question and you didn't answer me.)

She licked her suddenky dry lips as his grip on her waist tightened and she looked at his strong hands on her waist. Anything to not face him and the consequences of her own actions.

"Do I need to remind you that your safety is very important? You were kidnapped years ago and now you're lying to me about your whereabouts? If something happened to you ne o batla re dira eng?"(what did you want us to do?) His voice rose a pitch and shs swallowed looking down with tears burning her eyes.

"O ska ba wa lela wa lapisa Amelia."(don't even cry, you're annoying Amelia.)

The tears fell down and he continued.

"On my side, when you said you were out with friends I was thinking bo Nandos and then you called

hours later o re wa robala. Nna jaanong ke makala ke go bona ka gore ke itse gore nna mosadi wame o robetse."(Then you called hours later saying you are sleeping. I got surprised seeing you because I know that my woman is asleep.) The tears continued to fall and he stood up on his feet not even removing his hands from her waist.

"Was the lie necessary? Tlhaloganyo ya gago e bereka sentle Amelia?"(does your mind function properly?)

She shook her head.

"Sutlha matlakala ao wa ntsholeka Amelia!(wipe away that nonsense, you are annoying me)

She quickly wiped away her tears but more teara rolled down her eyes and she sniffed. Her lips quivered and he just looked at her.

"Amelia ga ke sematla autwe?"(Amelia I am not a fool okay?)



She nodded fighting back tears. She opened her mouth to say something but a sob escaped her lips and she pulled on the cardigan sleeves to wipe her tears away. She expected him to be angry at her but not this angry.

"K-babe I'm sorry. I-I shouldn't have lied and n-now wa nkomanya."

"Your safety Amelia. This club might be safe but we can never be sure, don't act carelessly."

She nodded again. He was not moved by her tears. Not at all.

"And I told you that sweet girls like you shouldn't be in places like this. Ga ka go bolella?"(didn't I tell you?)

"Yo-you did."

"O batlang kwano?"(what do you want here?)

She rubbed her eyes as she looked into his eyes. Dark and steely. She kept quiet and he stood up on his feet. He forced her to look at him.

"Ke eng o batla go ntena?"(why do you want to make

me angry?)

"I'm so sorry."

He pressed himself on her and she felt his erection.

More tears filled her eyes as she looked at him.

"O ska itira setete Amelia wa tena."(don't make yourself a cry baby.)

She just looked at him with those teary eyes.

"Please think before doing things, e nna ekeke ga o bothale."(it looks like you are not smart)

She quickly nodded and he moved his hands up and down her waist, his body still pressed on hers. He let go of her waist and used his hands to wipe her tears.

"But we'll fix that okay? I know you're a really good girl. We'll fix that." He kissed her forehead and she released an exhausted sigh. She closed her eyes for a few seconds before she opened them.

"Kopa go ya toileteng."(can I please go to the toilet?)

He let go of her and moved away to switch on the lights and showed her where the toilets were. She nodded and walked to the door. She opened it and got inside. She closed her eyes for a few seconds before she undid her belt buckle, unbuttoned her jeans and pulled them down along with her panties. She wiped the toilet seat before sitting down to relieve herself. Once she was done, she washed her hands and flushed the toilet. She fixed herself and walked out.

Grey was focused on what he was doing, his eyes glued to the papers. He was really working. Did that mean he was the owner or he was the manager of this club? She sat down and opened her bag to take out her phone. She found a message from Yaya.

Yaya:Where are you? I can't find you anywhere.

Amelia are you okay? Safe?

Amelia:I am okay. Safe.

She saw Yaya online and she started typing.

Yaya:You should talk. We came together and I don't

want to risk your safety Ame. Sure sure?

Amelia looked at Kingsley and typed.

Amelia:Really sure. Thank you and next time I'll talk.

She placed the phone in her bag and watched Kingsley work. His hair falling forward and him blowing it away. He picked a pen and jotted something in his notepad. There was a door knock and without even looking at her, he started speaking.

"Go get the door and get the tray from her."

She stood up and walked to the door. She opened it and was met by a pretty waitress holding the tray that had the bottle of whiskey, a glass and ice cubes along with the tongs.

"Hi, gatwe I should get that." The waitress looked at the soft spoken girl, she looked like Rihanna and was shorter than her. She looked like she was just crying. She handed the girl the tray, the boss never lets anyone inside his office so guess it was on the

boss's order.

Amelia took the tray and the waitress stepped away from the door. The security guy closed the door and Amelia walked to the table with the tray. She placed it down.

"Have a sip, you are going to need it." He started to organise his papers.

Amelia poured the whiskey in the glass and she brought the glass to her lips. She had a mouthful and the bitter liquid burned her. She forced herself to swallow and looked up to Kingsley looking at her. His lips tugged and she wasn't sure if he was forcing himself not to smile.

"O tla nkgolega wena, tsenya di ice mo teng."(you'll get me in trouble, put ice cubes inside.) She could hear the mirth in his voice and she smiled. She used the tongs put ice cubes inside and she forced herself to take another sip of the cognac liquid. Kingsley took the glass from her hands and he gulped the bitter substance in one go. He placed the

glass down and refilled it.

"Come sit here."

She obediently walked to where he was and sat on his lap like he asked. He undid her belt buckle and removed the belt completely. He unbuttoned those jeans, she looked so fine in them but he would have preferred she wore a dress. He pulled them down enough to exposed her thighs and her butt. He ripped her panties and she shrieked.

"I would rather have you scream while on my dick." His hand covered her p\*ssy and she sucked in a deep breath.

"Did you like seeing the strippers?" He asked. She looked down, to embarassed that he noticed that and was even asking.

"We are heading there." His fingers found her entrance and he started rubbing and Amelia gasped as he suddenly slipped his finger inside.

He opened his drawer and took out a box. Fact thay

he has never used this on anyone but the opportunity just presented itself. With his other hand, he opened the box. He slid his fingers out and licked them.

"It tastes exactly how it looks." Amelia's breath caught in her throat as she tried to read what was written on the box.

"Vibrator?" Kingsley took it out along with it's remote control. This was perfect.

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**NEXT INSERT WILL BE POSTED IN THE GROUP!!**





DELICATE

#73

At Kingsley's club

Kingsley pulled up his pants and walked to the door. He fixed himself as Amelia got up from the table. She picked her cardigan and wore it to cover her nakedness. Well she was a bit sore but not too sore. Very bearable.

Kingsley took a deep breath and opened the door. It was one of his security detail. He listened and nodded. He closed the door and looked at Amelia.

"Baby girl get dressed." He smiled and moved his head back to look at her.

"Don't look at me like that." He just smiled and she blushed. She wore her jeans and she picked up her

vest. She removed the cardigan and wore the vest, not bothering to tuck it in and she wore her cardigan. The whole office smelt of sex and Grey just looked at her barefeet. It was almost midnight now. She had pretty toes. She looked at her feet, she wore her socks and sat down on the chair to wear her shoes. She finally walked to him and he held her waist. He kissed her lips gently as she kissed him back. He broke it.

"Follow me."

He opened the office door and walked out with her. Amelia held tightly to his hand as she looked down. She let her boyfriend lead the way. It seemed like minutes later when he actually opened the door and she looked around. The lights were pretty low and there was a huge round bed in the middle of the room.

"Is this a mirror room?"

"Yep. The whole room is literally a mirror." She looked at him as he started peeling off her cardigan.

He removed her string top before his hands were on her jean button. She touched his hands.

"Let me get rid of my shoes." She bent down to remove her sneakers and the socks as well before she looked up at him. He kissed her as he unbuttoned his shirt. He walked with her to the bed, without breaking the kiss and he #EXPLICIT

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The following morning

Amelia woke up in his arms, body sore and she was sure her neck had his fingerprints there. She didn't even want to move her body from it's current position. What happened was wow! She scooted closer though in her nakedness. And his too.

Kingsley woke up to the soft body on top of him and he had to hide that smile. The nightmares didn't plague him while he was with her. Safe.

He ran his fingers along her spine and Amelia turned her head to look at him.

"Good morning."

"Morning Lia." She smiled.

"Morning and my body hurts."

"And that's what I'd love to hear" he chuckled and his chest vibrated.

"I hope I won't have to tell you twice about-"

"I am reformed. I heard you loud and clear."

"Good girl."

She grinned as she listened to his heartbeat. She closed her eyes and she opened them again. She came with Yaya and she was sure Yaya was worried about her.

"What's the time?"

"I don't know."

Her body ached and she didn't know how to go

about it.

"I am still tired and my body really hurts." He sat upright and she moved her head. She looked at him and he just rubbed her arm. She slowly closed her eyes again.

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## At Campus

Yaya clapped her hands in disbelief, Amelia was with a guy? At the club? And she said she had a boyfriend. Well one does have to live a little though so she didn't blame her. She tried Amelia's phone and it rang unanswered. She had to leave and she left Amelia there. Was she going to find a cab? Problem was that Amelia's phone just rang and rang with no one to answer it.

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At Kingsley's club

Amelia yawned as she woke up the second time that day. She felt the warm body next to hers.

"You fell asleep again." He said softly and she smiled.

"I am so tired."

He kissed her neck and she closed her eyes. She yawned once again and moved closer to his body. She didn't even notice that they were no longer in the mirror room but in the bedroom that was adjoined to his office.

He pulled the blankets to cover her.

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At Oxford university

Thero sat in the therapist's office. His mind made up about what he wanted to do.

"I'll do the hypnotherapy sessions."

"Wonderful. She will be here in half an hour."

He nodded and brought his hands together.

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DELICATE

#74

At Oxford University

"There I need you to lie down on that chair and relax." He laid down on the comfortable sofa.

"I'll need you to close your eyes as well. Hypnosis won't make you forget what you just remembered, it's a way to make your brain dig up what you buried up okay? Good."

Her voice was very soothing as he followed the instructions. Laying his head down on the pillow on the couch, he closed his eyes.

"Imagine yourself in a place full of relaxation and peacefulness."



Thero did that. "Drain yourself of any negative energy, just peace and a blank mind. Just peace. Peace."

Her voice chanted peace and peace over and over again as he breathed softly with his eyes closed.

"What's your name?"

"Thero Carter."

"How old are you?"

"21."

"What course are you studying?"

"Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery."

Thero's therapist handed the hypnotherapist a list of questions.

"Thero?"

"Yes?"

"Let's go to when you were six years old."

There was silence.

"I assume first day of school?" Thero kept quiet as he maintained that calm state, he was at peace.

"Yes. My brother w-walked me to school that day." The therapist noted that down. They are going to do this in sessions.

"What happened at school?" Silence again before he answered.

"He brought me to my class that morning and walked to his school. He was in form 2." Thero kept quiet.

"I-waited for him after school. His school ended at half three so I waited. We walked home together and he bought chips for me."

A frown covered Thero's features.

"H-he said he didn't want to go home." The therapist wrote that down.

"Why is that so?"

"I-I don't know."

"You don't know or you don't remember?" Silence.

"H-he had been beaten by my mother for not polishing his school shoes on time and ironing my new uniform for school."

"What happened when you got home?"

"Aunt Gomolemo was there. My mother's younger sister."

"Aunt Gomolemo?"

"She was a university student at the time."

The therapist noted that down. His memories were emerging and a lot of them. She wasn't sure if they should end the session or continue. Tomorrow was another day and this was draining him. As calm as he seemed, there was a reason for the memories burying themselves.

"How old was Aunt Gomolemo?"

"24." The therapist noted that.

"The session is over now, you can open your eyes."

Thero opened his eyes. He blinked. He felt like he had been induced into a trance like state but he remembered what he just said. Aunt Gomolemo. She was his favourite aunt of them all. His heart started beating. She was his favourite? He shook his head.

"You remember what you said?"

"I did. Uhm wow!"

Thero sat upright and looked at the therapist.

"Your brain buried such for a reason and I just want to know why, we will get to the root of it all. Do you know why your brain decides to make you forget that events ever happened?" Thero nodded. He didn't like the reason at all.

"Something traumatic happened and as a way to cope, that part of your life no longer exists. Today marks the end of our session. Tomorrow we will make it much longer as we take it step by step, also with us having started this process, triggers may

cause the memories to come back and as they come back or surface we won't have to use hypnotherapy on you." He just nodded.

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At Kingsley's club

Kingsley carried her to the shower and he turned on the water as it wet her skin and she opened her eyes screaming.

"Wake up, it's almost noon."

He placed her down as she rubbed her eyes. Her body hurt and she looked at him through slit eyes and he kissed her salty forehead. They were naked in the shower and she yawned. He just turned her around, he looked at his hard d\*ck and at her butt, his fingerprints faint on her butt cheeks. He ran his hands through his hair.

"Let's take a shower."

"This is weird King." She said in a sleepy voice as the water ran down her back.

"I've seen you naked more than once."

Amelia turned to face him.

"Nna how do I scrub myself o ntibile?(while watching me?) He chuckled.

"Scrub yourself where?"

"My whole body." He chuckled as he picked his body wash and a loofah. He started with her back and she gave up and let him do as he pleases. Her whole body was covered in foam and he moved her closer to the water as his hands helped in pushing the foam down. Once her whole body was glistening with water, he moved his hands down till he reached her intimate area. Amelia looked at him. What was he trying to happen? He rubbed her as the water flowed. A moan involuntarily escaped and he chuckled. He let her go and he picked the loofah to scrub himself.

Minutes later, they were out and she was covered in a large fluffy towel. She sat on top of the bed and asked for the time.

"It's probably noon."

"I need to go out with Kgosi."

He raised an eyebrow. Who the fuck was Kgosi?

"I promised her lunch."

"Her?"

"It's a pretty odd name for a girl but her name is Kgosi and she is my only friend."

"You came with her yesterday?"

"No. Kgosi would never approve of me going to clubs, I came with my roommate. She probably left me because-oh God! She probably left messages and I didn't tell her to leave without me."

"I'll drop you off after you get dressed."

"Thank you. But I don't have panties to wear and that jean was so uncomfortable without panties."

"I'll see if I have sweatpants lying around."

"Mme ha gona panty Kingsley."(but there are no panties Kingsley.)

"Attitude Lia."

"Sorry mme ha gona di panty. Ke feeler ekete ga ka aparara."(sorry but there are no panties. I feel like I'm naked.)

"You'll be in the car and you aren't wearing a dress Lia. I'll buy your panties motho wa Modimo."

She sighed as he looked for a pair of sweatpants.

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At Mma Amelia's house

She continuously tried Amelia's phone which rang unanswered. She wanted to know when Amelia will be home for the holidays.

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## DELICATE

#75

At Kingsley's club

Amelia tucked in the string top inside the black sweatpants. She rubbed her arms as he left a button in his dress shirt. She wore her shoes and looked at him. His hair was dry and all over the place.

"You should get a haircut. And why is your hair that long?"

"I'm biracial."

Amelia paused. She looked at him.

"Like mixed?" She wanted to understand him and what he just said.

"Yes."

"Is your brother mixed as well?" Kingsley sighed.

"He is not my brother and no." Amelia looked at him all confused and he wanted to kiss those pouted lips of her, she asked a lot of questions.

"I am lost."

"There is my cousin and my mother is Spanish." Amelia's eyes widened. Now she didn't know that. There was a lot she was yet to find out about her boyfriend.

"Let's go Lia."

"He is not your brother and you have different parents."

"Lia that's why we are cousins."

"Can you speak Spanish?"

"I am half Latina but I can't speak the language Lia."

"No wonder o le montle jaana. Bonang."(no wonder you're so handsome. Look at you.)

She moved closer and touched his hair as he laughed moving his hair back. She just stood on her toes and touched his hair again.

"You should let me do your hair, do you want me to curl it? Should we let it grow out and you have like hair up to your ears?"

"Wa peka waitse Amelia."(you're crazy Amelia)

She laughed and she still kept her hand in his hair. He looked into her eyes and she blushed as Grey lowered his head to kiss her lips. His hand snaked around her waist and he pulled her closer.

"Don't treat me any different."

"I w-won't. Your hair makes me jealous." He threw his head back and laughed. Amelia's eyes twinkled with nothing but love for this man. He pecked her lips as he led her out of the room. In his office he picked his jacket, his phone, wallet and her ripped panties. He put the ripped panties in his trouser pockets and he placed his jean jacket on her shoulders after she picked her bag. They both walked to the door and Amelia smelt his cologne on his jacket.

"So babe, about that vibrator. Can I have it?"

He laughed before he gave her a serious look.

"Fuck no. I want you to cum in my presence princess." Amelia blinked. He called her princess? Her? Princess?

"You called me princess?"

He rubbed his neck as he ignored that question and opened the door. She stepped out first. Amelia looked around. It was silent, too silent as he closed the door.

"Let's go." He led her out using the door he only uses when entering or leaving the club. He removed the car keys from his pants as they walked down the stairs. He held her hand as they descended down to the garage. He unlocked his car and opened the door for her.

She got inside and he walked to his side as he opened the door. She buckled up and took out her phone. Missed calls from her mother, Yaya and Kgosi. Yikes.

She sent a text to each and every one of them. She placed her phone down as Kingsley started the car. She leaned back and closed her eyes.

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Amelia turned her head to look at him when he parked his car in the mall.

"What's going on?"

"Ne o re o batla di panty tsaago kgantele akere?"(you said you wanted your panties earlier on.) He took that literally? Like okay she felt uncomfortable not wearing panties but he legit brought her to buy panties?

He got out of the car and she had to get out too. He locked it and waited for her to walk to his side before he held her waist and looked around the shops.

"Where do you buy your panties?"

"CB."

He walked with her close and she gave him a perplexed look. He was actually serious about this? They got inside the store as he looked around before

he walked around with her. He saw the women's panties and led her there.

"Pick a box or two." She looked at him. The shop assistant looked at them and passed. Men who buy their women panties? In Botswana? They existed? She shook her head. No. She probably dragged him here.

"Grey you didn't have to be so open about it."

"Amelia?"

"Rra?"

"O batla di panty kana jang?"(do you want the panties or not?)

"Fine."

She looked at the sizes and picked two boxes of size small Jockey french cut panties and the full panties. She looked at him as he kept his eyes on her.

"Done?" She nodded and he walked to the till with her. Amelia placed the boxes on the counter as Kingsley took out his card and the cashier took it.

The shop assistant who had seen them clapped her hands. That man was the definition of someone who has been fed a love portion because the men she knew would never. Grey entered his card PIN and slid his card out minutes later. He placed it back in his wallet as the panties were put in the plastic.

"Thank you." Amelia said and they both walked out of the store.

"Happy?"

"Kind of."

"Good because I'll rip more of your panties and replace them." Why did he have to be so blunt?

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At Campus

Kingsley parked his car and looked at Amelia.

"Lia?"

"Rra?"

"I want you to be really sure you want to spend the week with me." Her forehead creased and she took his hand.

"I promised and we agreed on that right?"

"We did but Lia I'm a monster sweetheart and you are going to hate me."

She shook her head. She would never hate him. He might not be the type to talk much about himself but she could never hate someone she loved.

"Amelia you are delicate. A little flower that's still blooming and I am about to fuck you up in the most psychopathic way."

"Why are you telling me this? You want me to hate you? Grey I told you I love you and I meant it."

"Amelia you don't know what you're saying."

"Are you having second thoughts about us again? Because I am not going to let you leave me."



He chuckled and kissed her hand.

"I have never been concerned about another human's life for the past years and sweetheart I want you to think about it. I am not forcing you because the minute you step inside my yard on Sunday, we'll consider your rights null and void." He rubbed her lips. He cared about her and he knew sooner or later, this fake layer will peel off and she will hate him. She wasn't built for such sh\*t.

"And you're scaring me into leaving you. It's not going to work."

She kissed his cheek and opened the car door.

"Pick me up around noon. I love you and bye." She stepped out with her plastic and bag. She closed the door and waved as she walked to her residence.

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DELICATE

#76

At Campus

Amelia walked inside the room and smiled seeing Yaya there.

"Hey, I got your messages and I am really sorry I didn't reply."

"You weren't wearing that jacket and those sweatpants and it's hot why did you button up the jacket?"

"Huh?"

"You spent the night with a stranger Amelia? Wow! I didn't know you can be that naughty."

Amelia sat on the bed as she placed the plastic and

her bag down.

"He was not a stranger. And so sorry if I made you worried."

"You should always tell me if you are spending the night with a one night stand or not. Your safety plus I can cover up for you."

"Thank you and I don't do one night stands."

"That jacket looks expensive and the cologne coming from it as well."

Amelia shrugged. It was hot and she had a lot of pink reddish circular marks all over her body. Wasn't there a spot he missed. She rubbed her neck and was hopeful it wasn't too visible or maybe at the shop they saw that and were too kind to point it out to her.

"And that guy you were with last night was handsome as hell, I think I have seen him on social media before."

"He is not active on social media."

Yaya frowned.

"Isn't he a one night stand?"

"Nope. That was my boyfriend."

Her phone rang in her bag and she picked the call.

"Ame, I am done. We can go. Where are you?"

"I'll be down in ten."

She hung up and Yaya looked at her.

"That man is your boyfriend? As in boyfriend boyfriend?"

"Yes. That's why I said I was safe and okay. Nice coincidence I met him there if you ask me."

"Clearly. Well you two look good together."

"Thank you."

She looked at Yaya, hoping she was going to go out so that she can wear panties and change into a long sleeved top but Yaya just pressed her phone and

Amelia took the plastic and walked out.

"I'll be back."

She said and made her way to the bathrooms where she locked herself in the toilet and took out a new panty to wear. His fingerprints on her body and the hickeys in her inner thighs. She shook her head. She stepped out minutes later and headed to her room. She placed the plastic down and walked to her wardrobe. She brushed her hair back, no swirly baby hairs since she didn't have time. She picked her bag and walked out. 'We live with the pain' she said referring to her painful thighs. Surely their lunch date won't take that long.

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At Lisbeth's parents

Lisbeth smiled as Keith clapped his hands.

"Good boy." Her phone rang and she picked it up. She saw the caller ID and almost rolled her eyes.

"Hello, want to speak to Keith?"

"Actually, I wanted to talk to you."

"Why? We have nothing to talk about Thero."

There was silence.

"I am just calling to apologise. I was rude during our break up and it was very unnecessary."

"You left me for another girl. A girl you discussed with your mother, a girl you wanted to fight your cousin for and your words hurt. You cannot take them back."

"I know Lisbeth. I am an idiot and I hope one day you forgive me for all I said to you. You are now free to find a person who will love you wholeheartedly and not make you a second choice. We have a beautiful son together so let's just put aside our differences for him. We may not be together anymore but we can raise our son together."

She looked at Keith. He was right. Keith deserved two parents who weren't at each other's throats. Look at how happy he was, she smiled and pinched his cheeks while he attempted to push her hand away.

"We can make peace because of Keith."

"Thank you. I will talk to him later. I have to go."

He hung up and Lisbeth thoughtfully looked at her phone screen. He sounded so humble and not like the condescending Thero from weeks back.

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At Kingsley's house

Kingsely slipped his hands in his sweat pants as he walked downstairs. He walked through the dark

passage and into the room. One room in the house he specifically didn't bother having a light bulb in. He rubbed his head and sighed. If she left who was going to blame here? Who would endure hours of being left in the dark because hearing fear in ones voice and them begging to be saved got him off? If people thought BDSM was dark then they had to think again because he took dark to a whole other level. He leaned by the door as he remembered a time, he had a snake in there. Of course it wasn't poisonous because that would be a problem and he had locked in the sub who literally begged for her life in there, not seeing a thing and the snake wrapping itself around her naked body. He got hard as he pictured Amelia in there, screaming and him enjoying her screams as if it was music. There was a lot one could do with a dark room and a very fearful woman that allowed him to play hero just for something that was as minor as being locked in the dark. He closed the door and went down the other rooms, checking if everything was okay since they haven't been used in the last six months. He was sure he didn't need a plumber or anything but he had



to check just to be sure of everything.

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Amelia laughed with Kgosi who narrated how her yesterday went.

"In the end, it was all a joke Kgosi."

"I know but yoh. Why are you wearing a jacket when it's literally 40°c outside?"

"Just."

Kgosi shrugged. This was the girl who wore sweaters, cardigans and long sleeved stuff all year round.

"Uhm before you hear it from anyone, you kind of know my boyfriend."

"Really? I don't think I do."

"Kingsley Carter."

Kgosi stopped drinking her milkshake and looked at Amelia.

"And why don't I believe you?"

"Is it because he seems way out of my league?"

"I'll be honest with you, yes. And older. Much older than you my friend."

"I don't have proof but yeah!"

"If you don't have proof then I'll just say maybe you're living in your head and you need therapy for the trauma you endured during your kidnapping."

Amelia laughed in disbelief as she drank her milkshake.

"I am fine. I moved past the kidnapping saga. My kidnapper is in jail and he has more years to spend in there. I am just kind of disappointed that you don't believe me."

"Amelia, I love you friend but a man like that, as

stunning as you are, wouldn't look twice your way. Powerful and kinda of rich men want stable women and women who bring something to the table other than their vaginas and just words of 'I love you' being thrown around."

"So I am a just a vagina? Wa reng kante?"(what are you saying?)

"To a man like that you would be. Babes we are broke ass varsitu student winging each day. We survive on a measly P1300 and always busy with school. What would you bring to the table? When a man is well established and lacks nothing? A vagina and ke gone hela. Love is not everything. Stop living in your head my love, you didn't even know the man when he bumped into you months ago and now he is your boyfriend? A little too far fetched to me."

Amelia was floored. So she was a nut case now? Because she doesn't qualify to date a man like Kingsley? She silently cut into her waffles and looked at Kgosi as she chuckled in disbelief yet

again. A vagina? Morena!! Basically her mother's words in a different form.

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DELICATE

#77

At Kingsley's house

Luckiky he did that on one or two subs. The snake thing and it got boring having to scare them with a snake. He shrugged walking up the stairs. He had other forms of torture and maybe it must be that savior complex that wants them to fear for their lives and then he saves them. Sick! But then again there was no one to save him from anything done to him. Not even the grandmother who was suddenly concerned with him not going home when she had believed everything Victoria said and because his life was threatened daily he couldn't even say anything. He walked down the passage to the kitchen and he thoughtfully looked at the stove. He should try making those pancakes Amelia made that time she was here.

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## At the mall

Amelia looked at her watch. Her mood was spoiled and she just wanted to go to her room and pack her bags. Sign out tomorrow as well.

"Amelia we can go window shopping."

"I have to go back to my room and start packing."

"You never mentioned leaving for home so early."

"Been too busy but you can go without me." She stood up and slung her bag over her shoulder. They had paid before eating so she just had to catch a taxi or walk back to campus. She preferred the first option.

"We'll talk friend. I'm in a rush."

"Was it because of what I said?"

"No. Bye."

She walked away and Kgosi sighed as she picked up her phone. Amelia walked to the stop and hailed a taxi. She got inside.

"UB please." The taxi man nodded and Amelia sighed. She picked up her phone and checked Grey's last seen. Yesterday. He really wasn't a person who spent time on his phone was he? She smiled. She loved him, of course she was going to learn more about him as time went on but what she already knew about him was okay to keep loving him. She picked her phone to call her mother.

"Hello mama, I'll be home on Friday."

"Okay ngwanaka."

"Bye mama and I love you." She said and hung up. The taxi stopped by the small gate and Amelia opened her bag to take out the coins to pay.

"Tanki malome."

She stepped out of the taxi and her phone rang. She

grinned. This man never viddo called her and now he was calling?

She looked for her headsets and inserted them as she entered the school premises. She answered.

"Hey baby."

"Hey.."

She saw the flour on his face and on his t-shirt as he held the phone at the most horrible angle.

"I was trying to make the pancakes and I think I added a little too much of everything. Frying it in the pan didn't go as planned."

She laughed as he picked a cloth to wipe his hands and she walked. He looked so frustrated and she laughed some more. Mere pancakes can frustrate him like this?

"Lia you're laughing at me?"



"No I'm not babe. You get an A for effort."

He laughed as he switched cameras and showed her the mess in the kitchen along with the not-so-good-looking pancakes. Amelia couldn't hold back her laughter.

"I personally wouldn't eat that."

"I recommend you do not. It tastes horrible."

"But the fact that you tried counts for something."

She moved her eyes away from the phone as she approached her residence.

"I think I'm going to try again."

"I'd like to see the final result. Please don't burn down the kitchen."

He switched cameras as he positioned his phone awkwardly. Looks like someone who has never done this before.

"I will try not to. I can't promise that the pancakes

will look good though."

"Even if they don't, you're trying and I am proud of you baby."

He gave a boyish grin that made him look years younger and she smiled.

"I'll call again after I am done."

"Okay and don't forget to clean the kitchen."

He looked around and he was not looking forward to that.

"Make sure that kitchen ia clean when you're done."

"Ee mma."

"Good."

"Are you good? Sore?"

"I will live so about the vib-"

"No Amelia! No!"

"Okay fine. Where did you buy it ee?"

He rolled his eyes and she laughed climbing the stairs.

"I was just asking."

"I'll call. I-I uhm bye." He said and quickly hung up. She looked at her phone and shrugged.

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At Kingsley's house

His tongue felt heavy. He even couldn't bring himself to say it. He placed the phone down and looked around the kitchen. Was she going to leave him? He was sure she was and that somehow caused an ache in his chest that his psychopathic behaviour was going to break her delicate soul. Maybe she might tolerate being in a dark room with a giant grandfather clock and cold aircon settings with her maybe close to freezing to death but his water kink?

That one was one of his favourites. He is a fucked up individual and he knew he was. Reason why he has never dated and only bought subs who were paid for their services, thinking about it, it was less about sex and only about how he can take advantage of one's vulnerability.

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At Thero's parents

Victoria rolled her eyes. Not this Kingsley issue again.

"And now you are pretending to care why?" She asked the old woman who had made her life as a daughter in law a living hell.

"I am not pretending. I talked to Kingsley a week back and he said he wasn't coming here."

"Let him."

"He is your son too."

"Excuse you? No he is not. You forced him on me because you seemingly called me 'barren' in not so many words and said that was the only chance I had to take care of a child. If you cared for him why didn't you take him when his mother died? Hmm?"

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DELICATE

#78

At Thero's parents

The old woman who had come to visit her son in Gaborone and also get a chance to visit Kingsley just looked at Victoria

"It doesn't matter."

"It does matter. If I am the villain why didn't you take your grandson and take care of him instead of trying to blame me right now."

Victoria just stood up.

"I honestly do not have time for this, I have somewhere to be. Food is in the microwave."

She stood up as she took out her phone to dial Lisbeth.

"Hello baby, can I see Keith for half an hour? I missed my grandson." Lisbeth laughed. Thero's mother loved Keith so much that she was scared he would grow up to be a bit too spoiled.

"Ee mma. I'm at home."

"I'm on my way ngwanaka." She hung up as she headed to the bedroom to get her bag. Meanwhile her husband walked in the living room and the old woman looked at him.

"Do you know where Kingsley lives in this big city?" She asked. He had said he is not coming to Bobonong for the holidays.

Thuto shook his head. He had no idea where Kingsley lived. The old woman thoughtfully looked at her son and she pressed her new smartphone to dial her youngest grandson. Thero answered immediately.

"Hello mmaiye."

"Hello ngwana ngwanake, do you know where your brother lives?"

Thero sighed. He didn't even want to think about Kingsley. He had let go of the fact that he was dating a girl he was certain he loved.

"I don't know mmaiye. Maybe Amelia knows." He said. Kingsley was seeing her so she probably knew his place and she slept with him. A lump stuck in his throat. The mere image of Kingsley making Amelia scream while he never even slept with her. Why wasn't he patient enough to wait for her 18th birthday? The old woman frowned. Who was Amelia?

"Who is Amelia?"

"The girl he is seeing. Amelia Mogosi." The granny frowned in disgust. The offspring of that girl who slept with every Dick, Tom and Harry in the village and didn't know the father to her child.

"Where does she stay?" The disgust wasn't hard to



decipher.

"At UB. She is studying nursing."

"Okay. I'll ask around."

The old woman hung up. What was Kingsley doing dating a whore's daughter? She was most probably like her mother and sleeping with other guys.

"Thuto ngwanaka do you know UB?"

"Ee mma."

The old woman more than determined to talk to her grandson and convince him to sit down with them and talk walked to the guest room and passed Victoria who was smiling. Victoria smiled at her husband.

"I'm going to check on Keith. I'll be back. Bye."

She walked out with a spring in her step. She was not going to allow her monster-in-law and husband

derail her mood. Her phone rang as she walked to the car.

"Gomolemo?"

"Hey sis. I managed to talk with the decor people."

"And?"

"We need to find other people."

"Then do it sis."

"Do you perhaps have Kingsley's number?"

Victoria frowned. What the hell was wrong with these people and asking about Kingsley?

"I think I do but he blocked me. Why do you want his number?"

"I-I can see from the news that he is an actuary. I wanted some advice in relation to my investments."

"You can go to the bank for that. You don't need Kingsley but I'll forward it via WhatsApp."

"Thank you."

She hung up and Victoria forwarded the number and opened her car door. She threw her phone and bag in the passenger seat as she got inside the car.

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At Campus

Amelia laughed when she was done packing her two suitcases. She didn't have a lot of clothes, now she had to pack the minor stuff like kettles and buckets in the morning. Her phone rang and she grinned picking it up.

"Baby?" It wasn't a video call so she stretched her body and slipped her feet in her slides as she walked out of the room.

"Hey Lia. Okay I made the second batch."

She smiled as she walked down the stairs to go take a walk outside. A short walk to clear her mind.

"And how did it go?"

"Terrible but it was better than the first batch, it was kind of tasteless and gooey inside." Kingsley heard her laugh out loud and he shook his head smiling.

"It wasn't even ready and you tasted it?"

"I was trying to follow what you did, it's much easier to follow what I saw than a YouTube video on cooking because their food is always perfect."

She shrugged. That was true.

"I get your point, keep practising and when I come over I'll show you how to cook other things. Did you master making scrambled eggs?"

"I think I did and I cleaned the kitchen. I'll have takeaways for dinner."

"Takeaways are not good for you."

"Says someone who eats them everyday."

"You're not a student who lives in campus with no means to cook. Grey?"

"Ma?"

"Am I just a vagina to you?"

He frowned as he walked over to his couch to sit down. Wide legged.

"Why do you say that?"

"You didn't answer my question."

"Amelia?"

"Rra?"

"If you were just a vagina would I be listening to you? It's easy to buy women's bodies and if you were one I wouldn't care about you would I?"

"You care about me?"

"Yeah." He said slowly. He genuinely cared about her. He smiled softly as he leaned back. He squinted his eyes as he started asking himself questions.

"Okay. I love you."

He nodddd as he said bye and hung up.

Amelia slipped her phone in the sweatpants and she walked to the refractory.

Meanwhile, Ma Carter and Thuto stepped out of the car. Thuto thought that they were on a wild goose chase. How were they supposed to find one student? Of course he knew how she looked. He was seeing his son and he had disapproved of it, then her face was all over social media after she was declared missing.

"I still can't believe Kingsley would settle for a girl like her. Disappointed." The old woman said. She looked around and Thuto did. He frowned as he saw someone who looked like the Amelia they were looking for.

"I think that's her."

The old woman couldn't see afar and she waited for the girl to walk closer before she slowly walked to her.

Amelia frowned but plastered a smile as an old woman walked towards her. She probably needed directions.

"Dumelang." Her sweet voice reaching the old woman's ear.

"You're Amelia?" Her eyes widened as Thero's father walked closer. What was going on?

"Y-yes."

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## DELICATE

#79

### At Campus

Amelia frowned. What was going on? Why were they looking for her? The old woman sneered. She looked just like her mother and the fact that her mother was still beautiful till this day even though she was a village bicycle. Amelia moved step back, she didn't like how that old woman was looking at her and why were they looking for her?

"Do you know where Kingsley lives?"

"Ma?"

"Did I stutter little girl?"

She shook her head.



"You'll take us to Kingsley's house. Right now."

She opened her mouth and closed it. Thuto sighed.

"Amelia we don't want to fight. Just show us where he lives. It's as simple as that."

She frowned. How can people who were family not know where a member of the family lived? That was a huge red flag an-

Her thoughts were interrupted by the old woman pulling her hand.

"Little girl we are not here to play games. It's not as if you own the house we want to see."

"La mpolaya."(you're hurting me.)

"Tla re ye. It won't be long." The grip on her wrist was still tight as they pulled her to the car. There wasn't many people by FD park and she sighed as the car door was opened for her. She gog inside at the back and slid out her phone. She started typing a text message for Kingsley.

Amelia: Your family rra. They are forcing  
me to take them to you k-

Before she sent the text, her phone was grabbed from her hands. This felt like a kidnapping of some sort.

"You'll get it once you take us there." The old woman said with an attitude that shocked Lia. Vile old women existed? Wow! She folded her arms and buckled up, what if they get her killed? Anger boiled inside of her as she rolled her eyes. No wonder Thero was such a mental case and thought he wasn't wrong after what he did to her.

"Amelia can you direct us?" Amelia looked at the locked doors and a part of her was interested as to why they wanted to see Kingsley so bad.

"G-North."

Thuto frowned. They lived in Phakalane and it wasn't that far from G-North. If they had known.

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At Kingsley's house

Kingsley's phone rang and his lips curved as he looked at the unknown number flashing on his screen. He answered the phone.

"Carter hello."

There was some soft breathing at the other end of the line before the woman spoke.

"Kingsley hi." His heart stopped. Temporarily. The hell was going on?

"Hang up and never call me again."

"Kingsley I-I."

"Now listen to me..." His voice thundered and

Gomolemo's heart beat erratically.

"Never call me again and if I do find you, I will kill you and it's a promise."

That threat sent a goosebumps all over Gomolemo's body. She quickly hung up and placed her hand on her racing heart. Kingsley looked at the hung up call for a while. He closed his eyes.

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In the car Amelia gave them directions. She had a lot of questions but maybe she was going to get answers today. He never talked about family and here was the 'family' looking for him. The car parked in front of Kingsley's house and her phone was thrown in the back seat. She rolled her eyes as she undid the seatbelt and got out of the car. She walked to the intercom and pressed it as the old woman and Thero's father stepped out of the car.

"Who is it?"

"Grey? I think you should step outside. It's not my fault and they forced me and were being rude about it."

Kingsely in the house frowned as he pressed the remote to slide open the gate. He walked to the door, not even bothering wearing socks on his feet nor slides on his feet. Who forced Amelia?

He opened the door and saw the car by the gate. Oh. He walked to the gate as they stood there and the old woman waited to see Kingsley.

He stepped out of the gate and first thing he did was hold Amelia's waist. Not even bothering to look at the people who came with her.

"What's wrong?" He asked her and she got butterflies in her stomach. He touched her face and moved it sideways. Okay she was not physically

injured.

"I'm fine."

"Koore Kingsley you're going to ignore us ne ngwana ngwanake?" He dragged his eyes away from Amelia's face and looked above her head at his grandmother and uncle.

"I never invited you over did I?" He said pointedly and the old woman's mouth fell open.

"And you absolutely had no right forcing her to come show you my house, there is a reason why I didn't tell you guys."

The old woman looked at Kingsley. This girl was making him that disrespectful? She looked up and down and frowned as she looked at his feet. She had never seen that burnt foot before. Thuto followed the old woman's eyes and sighed. Kingsley looked at his feet. He forgot to wear his socks and slides. He sighed and looked at the old lady and her son.

"What happened to your foot?"

Amelia stilled. What kind of family was this? She

didn't know he was burnt as a child?

"You guys should leave. I want nothing to do with you and stay away from Amelia as well."

"She is not the type to get married to. Probably inherited her moth-"

"That's enough! Please leave!"

The old lady stepped back slowly.

"Thuto convince him that we need to talk."

"Kingsley kan-"

"And o bona wena don't fucking say a word! Don't test my patience and resolve like that! Don't you fucking dare!"

The old woman couldn't be more shocked and Thuto shut up. Kingsley moved his hands up and down Amelia's waist.

"Now respectfully leave my house."

"Kingsley that is no way to talk to elders." He chuckled in disbelief as he let go of Amelia's waist and stepped in front of her.

"First of all you force my girlfriend to show you my house. For what reason I don't know. Second of all you talk ill of her as if you ever added positivity to my life and the sudden concern about me reconciling with a bunch of vile snakes is actually annoying. Never ever talk to Amelia like that and I will talk to you guys and invite you guys if and when I want to because it's my damn life. Now leave. Respectfully."

He said before he finally caught his breath and turned to face Amelia with a smile. She smiled back as he picked her up and she squealed. He walked inside the yard and headed to the house carrying her.

"Now put me down."

"No." He closed the door with his foot and laid her on the carpet while on top of her. He picked the remote to close the gate and he heard it slide close. He looked at her and slipped his hands underneath her top. He squeezed both breasts and she moaned.

"Wh-ah." He attacked her lips and she wrapped her arms around his neck before her hand moved to



touch his hair and she ran her fingers through the tresses. She felt his hard on against her thigh. She wasn't even here for sex and she wasn't done packing and she was hungry.

"Babe? Babe?"

"Ma?"

"Stop." He stopped and held her gaze. Amelia heaved a sigh, her breasts rising as she did that and his gaze slid to her chest. Her gaze moved down to his waist and she saw his erection. She didn't know how people managed to-

He moved her chin so she can face him.

"I'm listening."

"You're not angry that I brought them here? There must be a reason that you didn't tell them an-"

"One, you are too sweet and they probably cornered you. They are conniving. Two, I'm not angry at you princess and three can I fuck you now?"

She blinked and he laughed.

"It's not as if I haven't fucked you before Lia."

"But still-wow! To put it out like that?"

"Ma?"

She placed her hands on his chest and her eyes moved down. Should she? She did read up on it and that comment he once made when he said he will give her something to choke on then had made sense. She shook her head.

"I'm still packing and I'm hungry as well."

"A quickie? I won't be long." She laughed. What the hell? Last night till morning he had in different positions that tested her flexibility and he was asking such? Did he ever get enough?

"But early in the morning we did."

"But it's more than twelve hours later Amelia." He wished she wore skirts or dresses more so he could shift those panties aside and slide right in.

"Okay." He got off her and took her hand to help her on her feet.

"Let me take you back to school, I'll buy you food on the way."

"Really?"

"You're starving and I haven't eaten myself."

"I didn't put mt hunger in that sense but if it means you get to buy food for me then sure."

"Let me change my t-shirt and wear shoes."

He walked away and she looked around before she followed him to his bedroom. She sat on the bed as he opened the wardrobe to look for another t-shirt.

"Why don't you talk to your family?"

"They are a bunch of evil human beings Amelia."

"Who burnt your foot?" He released a breath he didn't know he was holding as he held the clean tee in his hands.

"Victoria."

"Who is Victoria?" He sighed.

"Thero's mom."

Amelia gasped and stood on her feet.

"Moloi! Waitse mosadi yole ke moloi bathong." (That woman is a witch) She wrapped her hands around his naked torso and kissed his back.

"I understand I now." He rubbed her hands. That was only a quarter of the story. He could write a whole book about his childhood trauma.

"It's in the past, I guess."

"Still, you didn't deserve that and that is child abuse. I know you don't want my sympathy and it's okay okay?"

"Ee mma."

She let go of him so he can wear his t-shirt and Amelia wondered why Thero was acting brand new as if his mother didn't burn Kingsley. Was that family full of lunatics? King wore his socks and slides before he picked his car keys and wallet by his bedside.

"What do you want to eat?"

"Anything is fine."

"Be specific."

He asked as they walked out of his bedroom.

"I don't know tota."

"I can't work with that Amelia." He said as he removed the house keys from the door. He locked the door before they headed to the door that led to the garage.

"We'll see then."

"Wa ntena waitse."(you're annoying me.)

"I love you too."

"And ka ha wa gana."(and on the other hand you're refusing)

"With what?"

He raised an eyebrow and she laughed as he unlocked the car and she opened the door. He got inside the car and he looked at the back. The vibrator box. It would be really fun to have her shut up and keep the moans to herself while he was

driving. He extended his hand to the back and she shook her head.

"And besides you've been asking about it."

"I know b-" He pulled down her sweat pants along with the panties and he got hard. Why didn't she let him fuck? He sighed and took out the small vibrator. Amelia was excited and scared at the same time as she watched him slide it inside her and pull up her pants. He squeezed her thighs and he started the car. She pulled her seatbelt and buckled up. This man was just another story.

He reversed and pressed to open the gate as the garage door opened.

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At Nando's

Amelia's heart raced as he stood behind her while they ordered food. Well she was doing most of the talking while he agreed on her choices and paid. She got the receipt and they went to sit by the chairs by the far corner waiting for their meal to be prepared . He slid his hands in the pocket and he decided to press the remote. Amelia gasped and held onto the table looking down as she swallowed.

"Princess we don't make noise, we're in public." She nodded as she closed her eyes, what was wrong with this man? She gasped yet again trying to swallow down her moans as the tempo increased and he rubbed her thigh.

She faced him and she placed her head on his shoulder.

"Ah...I....aah o tlaaa fuuuck o tlaaa njaaa ee.."

He kissed her forehead and she thought the delicious torture was going to stop? He didn't even put a stop to it and she felt tremors. She was about to come and she was breaching against his neck. He

switched it off and Amelia's head rested on his shoulder.

"I don't like you."

"I like you too." She laughed weakly as she tried to regain her composure. Hoping no one saw that.



## DELICATE

#80

At Nando's

Kingsely got up to go get the order and Amelia looked around. If she had her phone to-

Her phone. Oh flip! She looked at Kingsley who was collecting their order. The last time she held it was in the car when they handed it to her. She searched her pockets. It wasn't there. Oh double flip!! Kingsley walked to their table with their food.

"Let's go so I can drop you off."

"I think we have a problem."

He looked at her.

"I kind of forgot my phone in their car." He sighed.

He didn't want to talk to those people and she forgot her phone?

"Are you sure?"

"Hundred percent sure."

"Okay. Get up so we can go."

"We're getting my phone?" She stood up and walked over to hold his arm as they walked out of the eatery.

"Yes. Unfortunately."

"I'm sorry." He gave her a bored look and she grinned nervously. She really wanted the reason why he didn't speak to his family but she was sure he was going to tell her one day. They walked to the car and he placed the food in the back and took out his phone.

"Get in the car."

"You're not mad?"

"No."

She got inside while he slipped one hand in his

pocket to take out his phone. He unblocked his uncle and dialled his number. It rang for the first two seconds before it was answered.

"Kingsley. Hi."

"My girlfriend forgot her phone in your car, she needs it. Can you bring it?"

Thuto sighed at the other end of the line. He really thought his nephew wanted to make amends with the family.

"Since you already know where I live..."

"Can we talk? I'll come over to bring it but can we talk? Your grandmother is also shocked by your behaviour and we can maybe come to a resolution of some sort." Kingsley looked at Amelia who had turned her whole body to get the food bag from the back.

"Okay."

"I'll come over in an hour. Thank you so much."  
Kingsley hung up and got inside the car.

Amelia was opening her fiesta fries and she looked at him.

"I'm sorry. It was s-"

"Don't apologise. Your phone will be back in an hour. And before that hour ends we can squeeze in that quickie we discussed." He rubbed her neck and slightly choked her before bring her in for a kiss.

"Right princess?" His voice was seductive now and she just nodded. He bit her chin and she smiled.

"Thank you." He smiled and started the car. She leaned back and started eating.

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At Oxford University

Thero sat in the silence. He remembered staying with aunt Gomolemo that time. He closed his eyes, he wasn't a professional hypnotherapist but he can

try to calm himself and try to remember. He placed his hands behind his head as he closed his eyes.

\*years back\*

Aunt Gomolemo put him to sleep and walked out of his room. He wasn't asleep, she refused to give him ice cream. He laid in his bed and tried to close his eyes but he wanted ice cream. Maybe Kingsley will sneak out ice cream for him and they will eat it together. He thought. Carefully like a sixe a year old who was in a mission to get what he wanted. He slightly opened his bedroom door and tiptoed to his brother's room. The door was slightly ajar and he stood by the corner as he frowned. Why was Aunt Gomolemo on her knees.

"You're a good boy. Don't cry, I'm teaching you how to be a man." Gomolemo's voice came out raspy as Thero got closer and looked inside the room. His big brother was wiping his eyes and his pants down. His little face scrunched as he saw the full picture. Was

aunt Gomolemo putting his brother's wee wee in her mouth? He quickly walked away.

\*present moment\*

Thero's eyes widened. What the fuck?

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DELICATE

#81

At Oxford University

Thero blinked. What the fuck? He tried to fathom what his brain just dug out of his distant memory. Part of the memories he was sure never existed. Aunt Gomolemo? His mother's sister molested Kingsley and he saw that? He closed his eyes. It has got to be more than once. His intuition kept telling him that there was more and his brain thought that too traumatic. He just stood there and never made a sound to save his brother? He would hate him too. Were there any accounts where he tried to help? He had more questions than answers but the fact that his aunt molested his brother just floored him. He didn't know what to do with thw sudden information. Did his parents know? A part of him didn't get it but he understood Kingsley better now.

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At Kingsley's house

Kingsely smiled as she feed him the drumstick.

"A bite Grey. Just a bite."

"Okay princess." He took a bite and she looked at the piece of meat.

"Ng ng, that was too much."

"You said a bite."

She bit into the meat as he held the chips in his hands and she looked at her empty chips packet. So she kind if finished her chips. She placed the piece of meat down and she took the chips from his hands.

"Bathong Lia." She smirked as she ate his chips.



"You took a bite from my meat and I am just replacing that babe."

He shook his head laughing as he had the potato wedges and Amelia devoured his chips. She finished the chips before she ate her meat and he smiled. She made him happy as he watched her acting all goofy. His delicate flower was just that. Delicate and his heart skipped a couple of beats. Did he really want to hurt her with his kinks? Amelia saw the frown on his features and she stopped eating.

"Is there something wrong?"

"No, eat. You're beautiful." She smiled. He was too sweet.

The intercom rang and he stood up.

"I'll be back. Give me a few minutes okay?" She nodded.

He pressed the remote and he opened the door. He

slid his feet in his slides and walked over to the gate where his uncle was. Kingsley looked at the man who was barely there when he was living in torture. The man who would spend months overseas wrapping up business and would always believe his wife. He shook his head. He was a very shitty person as well, always shouting at him for his grades when there was a slight drop and the occasional whipping for a mere B in his report. He chuckled.

"Do you have the phone?"

Thuto looked at the device in his hands and at Kingsley.

"Kingsley can we talk? I don't know what we did wrong but you had everything and look at you. Now successful even if it's not the career I envisioned you to venture in."

"Ah! So I was supposed to be stuck in a job that I do not like?"

"Doctors make a lot of money."

"Make your son one. Can I have the phone."

"Kingsley you are going to need us when you want to get married or when you die."

"I'd rather be buried by stranger. Don't force me to go where I am happy. I might end up killing each and everyone of you guys and no one would know."

Thuto handed Kingsley the phone and he nodded as he walked inside the yard. He hated having to interact with those people. He hated it so damn much and he squeezed the phone in his hand. He released a heavy sigh and walked to the house. He forced a smile and headed to the lounge.

"Lia?"

"Rra?"

"Here ia your phone."

He handed it to her and she saw missed calls from Kgosi. What did she want? Her phone rang and it was Kgosi.

"Can I answer this?"

"Sure."

He looked at his plate, thinking much more deeply about everything.

"Hello?"

Amelia answered. She didn't want to speak to Kgosi right now but hey, here she was.

"Hi, I am sorry about what I said earlier."

"Ee mma."

"Amelia are you angry at me?"

"No-know what? Yes. Yes. Very angry and I do not want to speak to you, what gave you the right to say that to me? A friend? You chose to think I am some mental case who plays out scenarios in her head instead of believing what I said. What kind of friend does that?"

"I am so sorry. Kana I said that as a concerned friend."

"Then there you are yet again justifying what you

said while still apologising for it. Ga o sa batle tlogela mma."(if you don't want to, forget it.)

She sighed.

"I'm hanging up Kgosi." Amelia hung up and placed her phone down. She rubbed her temples.

"A friendship gone wrong?"

"Did you ever have friends growing up?"

"No."

"Same but she was my roommate ka first year and she has been a good friend these past years until recently."

Kingsley opened his drink.

"What happened? "

"Just girl squabbles, don't stress about it."

"Okay. Relax then and eat." She scooted closer to him and placed her head on his shoulder.

"Amelia?"

"Rra?"

"When I said I wasn't good for you I meant it."

"Not this again..."

"Just listen to me please." She sighed and looked at him.

"I'm listening.." he took her soft hand and rubbed it.

"It sort of like goes like this...."

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Danko for reaching the target le di star.

## DELICATE

#82

At Kingsley's house

Amelia moved her head from his shoulder to his chest and she could feel his heart thud in his chest. That alone made her anxious and the way he held on tightly to her hand.

"Uhm let's say a boy is born." She nodded as she listened. His voice was steady but his heart wasn't. She wasn't going to point it out to him.

"His mother died a week after his birth while his father died while he was still in his mother's womb. He found out years later by the way. He grows up calling his guardians mother and father because that's what he thought but still in his toddler years, around five his mother starts doing weird things after he was properly diagnosed with asthma."

Amelia held her breath as she listened intently.

"Are you listening to the story princess?" She just nodded.

"I'll never tell the story again after this." She nodded again. His heartbeat beating really fast.

"The boy started getting slapped because he did things wrong. It was 'discipline' as his 'mother' called it." Kingsley paused. His mind taking him to that time.

"He got timeouts in a closed dark wardrobe where he couldn't breathe and was always near death when the wardrobe door opened. He would crawl with tears in his eyes looking for the pump the doctor showed him to use but couldn't find it anymore till he collapsed." Amelia didn't realise she had tears in her eyes and her lips were wobbly. She sniffed as she lifted her eyes to look at him and for the first time ever she saw emotion in his normally bleak and dark eyes. She saw a sadness she was far from relating to and regrets and maybe anger?

"It was like that and the mother said he was a weak



kid and would always be weak. It went on like that till she was expecting another child and the father? He was barely present and he just sent money. Money was how he cemented his role in their lives. Of course the mother was always home with the poor weak asthmatic child who couldn't breath on his own."

Kingsely tried his best to keep his voice even. He wasn't going to break down, he was way past that.

"The woman tried to drown the boy in water when he was six years. He nearly died in that large bathtub after she coerced him and said she was sorry, she was just punishing him like a child would be punished. Of course a child desperate for love would believe that. She nearly drowned him in water. He thought he was dying."

Amelia patted her eyes. Kingsley knew he had daddy and mommy issues. His life was a whole traumatic book. His so called father stuck around but was never present. He hated his childhood.

"Do you know what the mother did? She told the father that she left the boy in water to bath himself, she was pregnant so she got away with everything. The boy nearly died in water. It happened more than once. A couple of times and the boy developed a fear of bathing in bathtubs, using showers instead. Ironic right?"

Amelia blinked away tears. That was horrible.

"That went on for years and do you know how the boy turned out? He grew up to be meek and was constantly threatened not to tell because he didn't have parents. Now that came as a shock to the little boy. How did he not have parents? He asked himself at eight? He literally had to beg for food at least to settle his rumbling stomach because now she had a child and she never fed her 'older son' enough. The little boy cried at her feet begging for food and do you know what she said? 'Go to your stupid mother and father's grave and wake them up so they can give you food.' "

Kingsely closed his eyes and a one tear rolled down his cheek. Of all the abuse he endured, that hurt. Having to find out like that and being told to go the graves just for a basic need. Life was fucked up. He exhaled weakly as more tears rolled down his cheek. He didn't want to cry but his chest tightened. He never met his parents. Being called a curse and a mistake and her almost stabbing him with a knife, when he did fucking nothing to her. He never wronged a damn soul in this earth and it hurt. His heart rate picked up as he forced air into his mouth by opening it but only a croak came out as he let go of her hand before she noticed his hand was shaky. Amelia faced him and her heart might as well been ripped out of her chest. She went on her knees as she faced him. She held his cheeks and wiped his tears with her thumbs. He licked his lips as he opened his eyes. Amelia opened her lips to speak but he placed his finger on her lips.

"L-let m-me speak. Listen." His voice cracked and so did her heart as she faced him to listen.

"Of course-ah fuck!" He brought his head to his knees and Amelia didn't know what to say to him.

He tried to compose himself, get his marbles together for so he can talk.

"So the neighbours gave him a small kitten because he looked like a lonely kid. He loved the kitten because it was more like a companion and it played with him, even when he was hungry or he had a beating about something ridiculous he did. He was glad that they approved of the kitten but boy he was wrong. Two weeks later, he found the kitten dead. It had been okay the day before. He cried for that kitten because it was a kind present from kind people and it was gone." He kept quiet.

"And turns out the mother had killed the kitten. What a wonderful surprise. He got burned by water and was never taken to the hospital to get treated by a doctor. He was apparently undeserving of that and the baby was too young to understand why his brother couldn't walk properly for weeks and the

granny too ignorant when she was told that he didn't want to come. The father? Believed his wife had taken the boy to the hospital. And he grew up in fear and knew nothing but torture and being told he was better off being dead like his parents. The baby grew and he was doted on by all the adults. No one could see the boy's sad eyes or how he didn't relate to anyone because they were so happy and he wasn't ."

Amelia was speechless and her heart broke for him. It broke and she wasn't sure if it was going to be okay.

"What made it worse, the mother's sister started to sexually molest him at 12 till he was 15." Amelia felt her inside twist at that and she quickly got up and she rushed to the bathroom and he placed his head on his knees.

'I'm making you a man Kingsley, that's not how you put it in, girls won't like you and stop crying. Aunty loves you and this is how she shows love.' She said as she held his developing penis in her hands and he

couldn't stop crying. She even threw in threats if he dared try to tell. No one would believe him and he would be labelled a liar. He laughed in disbelief till that laughter turned into the most heart wrenching sob that made his chest hurt and had his whole body shaking like crazy.

Amelia threw up some more in the toilet. He was a child and he had to go through that. By the time she was done heaving her insides, the hurt and the mere image of everything happening didn't sit well with her. She rinsed her mouth and she headed to the lounge. Along the passage she heard his cries and her knees got weak. They really messed him up.

She kept on walking and she could see on his face that it was rough. Left scars and she didn't know how to comfort him. His sobs literally killed her own heart and she placed her hands on her mouth as she walked closer and sat down next to him. She wrapped her arms around him. No words of comfort

coming to heart nor mind.

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## DELICATE

#83

At Kingsley's house

Amelia couldn't hold back her tears as she looked at the man next to her who was broken. So broken that she didn't know how he became the man he was right now.

Kingsley moved away from Amelia as he brought his hands to his face. He hasn't cried in a while and he hated showing the vulnerable side of himself. He looked at Amelia who was sniffing and using her arm to wipe her tears. He was going to hurt her and he didn't want to break his delicate flower. He looked down. She wasn't even his to keep, one doesn't pick beautiful flowers when you don't know how to take care of them. Delicate flowers need a careful person,



someone who is going to help it bloom and grow.

"I'm so sorry you had to go through that."

He looked up biting his lip trying not to cry again. He was going to let her go, he can't treat her how she deserves to be treated.

"Amelia I am not the kind of man you want. My childhood ruined me and there is nothing that can change that."

"Y-your a good person."

She tried to move closer but he forced himself to stand up and backed away.

"Don't move closer, Amelia I live to torture innocent girls and delight in their fear and pain."

Amelia paused as she looked at him.

"Amelia I live to lock them in dark rooms, to freeze them to death and drown them. Almost anyway, I find pleasure in that and I am a sick human being."

"You never did that to me, you can change and seek therapy. Don't let the bad people win."

Kingsely chuckled tearfully.

"Princess I can't drown the demons so they swim with me and make a part of me. I am that sick, I wanted to do that to you this week but you don't deserve that."

"Kingsley please."

She stood up and walked to him.

"Try therapy.."

"Tried that and it never worked out. Everything got worse and I failed to function. Amelia you deserve love, happiness, a man who isn't scarred physically and emotionally to give you his best. Someone who actually has a heart, you deserve the world and more. You're still young and you are going to fall in love with someone who isn't fucked up and that person will give you kids and you will be happy."

Amelia wiped her tears. Her heart breaking with each word he said. He surely can't be serious about leaving her.

"Grey stay. We can work past everything. I love you and not willing to let you go."

"Please don't fall apart princess, I can't face your breaking heart. Stop asking me to stay. Please! I can't!"

He held her cheek and wiped her tears.

"You're too precious to waste your youth trying to fix me. I enjoyed the few months we spent together little sunshine okay? But now I have to let you go. Distance will show you that maybe you do not actually love men I don't even know how to apply the word nor have I been shown love and your love would be wasted on me."

Amelia's lips wobbled as tears rolled down her eyes

as they locked eyes. He was making a mistake, he was a good man and he didn't see that. He saw a monster in himself while she saw a man fully capable of love and would give it if only he changed his perception of himself.

"Amelia I want you to be happy. If you're happy then I will be happy."

"You make me happy."

"I'll make your life miserable eventually Amelia, your sweetness is something I don't deserve princess. Be happy without me. Tha-that's all I ask. For you to be happy."

He held her cheek and wiped her eyes.

"Don't waste your tears on me. I don't deserve them, you'll be happier without me."

She shook her head and he brought his forehead on hers. He looked into her eyes and kissed her lips softly. Enjoying the silken feel of her lips against his

for the very last time. It was already eating him inside that she will move on with someone new but she deserved better and to not deal with his demons. Demons that have tormented him his whole life and were co-existing with him.

Amelia kissed him back, putting in a lot of emotion in the kiss as she closed her wet eyes.

"I love you Grey."

"Be happy princess. Always."

He stepped away from her.

"I'll take you to school." He said before he excused himself and Amelia fell to her knees as she screamed into her hands. He was breaking up with her because he thought he didn't deserve her? Because he thinks he is too broken for love and will never deserve it? She didn't know how to fathom that.

Kingsely stood at a distance as he watched her break down. She will be alright. She will be happy. He said to himself before he approached her and bent down.

"It's okay Lia."

"It's nooooooot." She sobbed. It wasn't okay.

He held her in his arms. Knowing this was the very last time he was ever going to do that. She cried in his arms, beating his chest to take out her frustrations on him.

"You can't do this to me. You can't!"

"It's for the best." He said softly against her ear as she sobbed.

When she stopped crying, he finally let her go and she felt empty. Like there was a permanent hole in her chest. She forced herself to stand up on her feet and he waited for her to go first. He rubbed his eyes and the corners of his mouth. He made the right decision.

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I just touched my phone an hour ago. My apologies.  
Next insert coming up!

## DELICATE

#84

### At Campus

Amelia was quiet the whole drive and he knew why. He turned to face her as she gave him that broken look. One that had his heart clenching because he made her upset.

"I guess this is goodbye."

She picked her phone and she didn't trust herself to speak so she just nodded. He breathed out and Amelia looked at him. Tears burned her eyes and she let out a broken cry and he looked down. Tears burning his own eyes. She touched his face and looked at him. She told herself that maybe one day he'd find her, tucked away with the rest of his lost



things and remember how much she meant to him. Because to her he meant so much, much more than he could ever know and it was the inner child in him that felt so unworthy of any form of love and affection shown to him. They really ruined him for her just like he ruined her for any other man. She closed her eyes and the tears escaped her eyes.

"I love you okay? I'll never stop loving you. Goodbye for now." She said and she dropped her hand, Kingsley missing that heat but he nodded as she opened the door and walked out with her phone in hand.

Amelia pulled his jacket closer to her chest, the whiff of his cologne wafting to her nose and she smiled tearfully. Fuck it hurt!

Kingsley closed his eyes as he laid his head on the steering wheel. Tears blinding his eyes and he croaked. He wasn't capable of anything good and did he deserve any good himself? His parents died and

nothing good came out except this sweet flower that wanted to love him but he was going to taint her eventually and he didn't want to admit it to himself that a part of him was thawing and loved her. Even if he can't define the word itself but just enough to put her happiness first and relegate himself back. To be a part of her past and her, a beautiful sweet memory he would cherish forevermore. He leaned back and he breathed in and out, his soul feeling more emptier than a whiskey bottle.

He started his car and he reversed out of the parking spot.

Amelia didn't know where she got the strength to walk up the stairs to her room and knock on the door for Yaya to open. She tried to keep it together but the minute the door opened, tears blinded her and she sniffed as she walked to the bed. She got undercovers and pulled her pillow to her chest.

"Ame, what's wrong? Are you okay?" Tears choked

her and she put her face on the pillow as she cried.

"Hey sis.." Yaya walked to her bed and pulled Ame into her arms.

"You were happy before you went out for your walk and you aren't done packing."

Amelia's cried got louder and Yaya just shushed. There was a door knock and Yaya sighed.

"Who is it?"

"Kgosi, I want to talk to Amelia."

"Ame should I let her in? She is your best friend."

Yaya whispered so that Kgosi shouldn't hear her.

Ame shook her head. Not her. She was only going to say she hurt herself with imaginary things and her mother was going to be ecstatic thinking she was proved right. But they didn't matter right now.

"I know she is in there, I just want to talk."

"She doesn't. Can you mind coming backtomorrow or later? "

"Sure."

Kgosi walked away from the door. One misunderstanding and Amelia was already replacing her. Wow!

"Ame o sharpo? You're scaring me. What's wrong?"  
The words died on her lips as she just cried. Yaya rubbed her back, in an attempt to comfort her.

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At Kingsley's house

Kingsely filled another glass with whiskey and he downed the bitter beverage in a matter of seconds. He didn't know how to push down everything to the compartments he had placed. He didn't want to recall any of those awful memories that still haunted him to this day, he didn't want to remember how he felt disgusted with himself when she forced him to

put his developing penis inside of her, telling him that all boys are introduced that way to sex and no one can rape a man.

How he felt violated when he would beg for food. Something that was always there but he had no right to. How those whips on his back took days to heal and how he would sometimes find out his asthma pumps were thrown away to spite him. For him to stop being weak and breath on his own and how their perfect golden boy watched sometimes or would then go play with a toy. Tears burned his eyes. Now there was the feather light Amelia. He didn't want to break her, he should have never listened to his heart or was it his head when he went to her in the rain. Breaking her was never his intentions and he didn't want to bleed his past hurts on her. She deserved someone with no baggage and who would give her all that she deserved. That little 19 year old deserved the whole for her kind heart and spirit. Her cute laugh and those jokes she cracks and laughs at them first before he does. His lips tugged upward.

She deserved someone who can cook for her when she is sick and someone who actually knew how to do anything for themselves instead of being taught tasks like a little kid.

He closed his eyes, a wave of sadness dropping that smile. He was alone on this earth and he was a lost boy. Wandering around because he never grew up and it was starting to show. Those tears rolled down his eyes and he found himself crying again in that same day. In his dark office, that weak, vulnerable cry threatening to break every bone in his body with it's calamity.

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The following morning

At Oxford University

Thero was bedazzled and still couldn't believe his memories. How was he going to go about it? Telling the family what his mind had hidden the past few years? Would they believe him? Would Kingsley come back to the family?

And speaking of Kingsley, he thought about Amelia. How was she? Would she take him back if he is reformed and shows remorse? He realised he hurt her and he has never confronted her about him being partly to blame for her kidnapping. He closed his eyes, was she happy with his cousin and he would have to let that love go? But he realised too late that he lost a gem and that gem was Kingsley's. It still didn't sit well with him that she was with Kingsley. Did she know Kingsley was molested? People with childhood traumas tend to hurt others so did she know? Maybe he rapes her and she thinks it's normal. Would she leave him if she found out? That he is not that polished like he looks?

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SIX MONTHS LATER



DELICATE

#85

At Kingsley's house

forever a lost boy at last

And for always I will say

I am a lost boy from Neverland

Usually hanging out with Peter Pan

And when we're bored, we play in the woods

Always on the run from Captain Hook

"Run, run loat boy" they say to me

Away from all of reality

Neverland is home to lost boys like me

And lost boys like me are free

The song that he recently discovered on YouTube really had a deeper meaning than he thought. Lost Boy by Ruth B. He sighed as the song ended. He walked to his kitchen and leaned by the counter, counting up to three to try and not pick up the phone to call her. He had been fighting that for the past six months. She was happy where she was and she didn't need him disrupting her life and peace again. He closed his eyes, now apart he realised he should have never said goodbye and that's what stupid people do. He didn't want to hurt her and taint her. He still couldn't cook and he had nightmares every single night that he would rather wish to work through the night. And he really tried therapy again and it failed dismally. He didn't want it anymore and would rather swim along side his demons and force a peaceful with sleeping pills which now rarely worked on him. He swallowed as he opened the fridge for some juice. The past six months have been filled with work and nothing but work, he couldn't bring himself to spend a mere hour at his club office let alone buy a sub. It didn't feel right and he knew exactly why but he was doing this for her,

he shouldn't even be that selfish to expect her to deal with his demons.

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At Thero's parents

Thero had been home for the past week and he was looking at everyone in a different light. Everything had started to make sense the more his memories were dug up and he shook his head. At first he didn't believe those were his memories but then he worked out how King behaved shortly after and he sighed.

Both his parents were in the sitting room and Keith was over. Right now the little boy was asleep and he was glad he could use the chance to talk to them. Other than that, he hasn't seen her in a months and he was sure she was still with Kingsley. Regardless of how traumatic Kingsley's past looked, he didn't

deserve Amelia at all.

He walked to the lounge and sat down.

"Uhm hi, I have something I want to discuss with you guys."

Victoria placed her hands on lap and looked intently at her son.

"Okay. We are listening."

Thero took a deep breath and his eyes moved to his mother's then to his father's.

"These past few months I decided to see a therapist."

"Okay. Was something wrong?"

"Yeah and through the therapy sessions we managed to help me remember my childhood."

Thuto frowned. Remember his childhood? Didn't he know his childhood?

"I remembered events that started when I was ten years old and didn't remember most of the events prior to that, I remembered all of them."

The parents both listened as Victoria's heart started beating in her chest.

"The therapist said most of them were suppressed because they were traumatic to my young mind."

Thuto has never been confused. Who was traumatised? No one has been abused as far as he knew and he was anxious to hear what Thero had to say.

"And.." Thero inhaled deeply and his parents looked at him.

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At Campus

Amelia closed her eyes, these past few months have been hell and she had to stop herself from calling Kingsley. She didn't want to burden him and she would rather be told 'I told you so.' by her mother and aunt. Everyday it was 'what were you thinking? He does not want a child for a wife and he never did love you.' They didn't know that he actually did and just that his fear got in the way.

Her vision on top of that hasn't been the best, it was getting really blurry and she usually saw grey and black spots. She was already a tired nursing student who was always in oversized scrubs and the fact that she didn't want to burden him.

Her phone rang and she blinked a couple of times trying to clear her vision but it was of no use. She didn't want to buy spectacles because she had to save. Her mother said she wasn't going to be inconvenienced by her. She had been hard headed and didn't listen so Amelia had no right to

inconvenience her.

She moved her hands on her bed and she touched the phone. She squinted to be able to see the caller ID. How she managed her rounds at the hospital was all on God.

She clicked the green button and answered.

"Hello."

"Amelia how are you?"

She blinked. Why wasn't her mother lecturing her like always.

"I'm surviving. Just that my eyesight is getting poorer each day and I'm always tired."

Her mother sighed.

"Should I send you money for eye glasses? And from the change you can buy food to feed your cravings?"

"Ee mma. Tanki."

There was silence and her mother said goodbye. Amelia went through her contacts and clicked on his name. She closed her eyes hoping she wasn't making a big mistake. She called him and she waited with bated breath. He answered and she could hear his breathing.

"Hi Princess." His deep voice sounded and tears filled her eyes. She sniffed before she broke down into tears again.

Pain choked Kingsley as he listened to her crying.

"I-can I see you? Can you come over?"

He closed his eyes. She was making things more complicated. They agreed that he was leaving her just so she can be happy.

"Please!" She wiped her tears.

"It's important."



"Okay. Don't cry, I'll be there okay princess?"

"Okay." She hung up and closed her eyes.

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Last night's insert

DELICATE

#86

At Thero's parents

"Uhm Kingsley was molested right under our nose." Thuto scrunched his nose. Boy children are sexually active as early as 16 and how can Kingsley be molested.

"Thero are you being serious?" Thero looked at his mother.

"Mama you were always beating him unnecessarily."

Thuto looked at his wife.

"I wasn't. Kingsley was misbehaving and is it wrong to reprimand a child?" She defended herself. Thero shook his head. He was too young to see that maybe what his mother did was abuse and he ignored it. He had never even been slapped by any of his parents

till date.

"Molested by who?"

"Aunt Gomolemo."

There was silence and Victoria furrowed her eyebrows while Thuto frowned. Gomolemo was a literal sweetheart in the sense and she was always good with the kids whenever she baby sitted.

"Thero I don't know honestly. If Kingsley was abused why didn't he talk?" Thuto asked and Thero shrugged.

"Maybe because no one was going to believe him?"

"I'll try to get in contact with him and ask him but thank you for telling us anyway." He nodded and he stood up. He walked to his room and sighed. He tried searching for Kingsley on Facebook and his account was no longer there. He must've deleted it.

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## At Campus

Yaya looked at her roommate who was rubbing her eyes. She has been quite down the last few months and she had to find out about it then go through it alone. Already as students they were struggling.

"Ame have you seen a doctor in regards to your eyes?"

"I don't have any money for an optometrist Yaya. I have to save plus you saw the student accommodation list. Eketé next semester I'll have to rent and with everything on top then try to see who will stay with her when I go to school and ga kena madi. Mama says I have to adult."

Yaya sighed.

"Have you told him yet?"

"Not yet."

"You look so tired."

"I am. I am so so tired and I have to be strong and I am praying that I give birth ka July even if it's a

month early so I can go to school sentle ka August."

Amelia rubbed her eyes as tears blurred her already blurry vision more.

"Why don't you tell him mme? He can be able to help you with the load, Amelia you are close to being depressed."

Amelia's lips quivered as her phone beeped. She didn't have the energy to make it down the stairs and she just looked at Yaya. She would have to remove her towel and she was burning even if it was winter time.

"Can I tell him to come here?"

"Sure. I think I should make myself scarce."

"And don't stress, we are almost done with the exams."

"Thank you." Yaya hugged her and Amelia sniffed.

She nodded and Yaya stood up and walked out.

Amelia picked the phone and squinted her eyes as she started typing a message, directing him to her room. She placed the phone down and it beeped seconds later. He was on his way. She placed her head on the pillow and closed her eyes. When last did she do her hair? A really nice hairstyle without having to leave her hair in twists because hair was expensive and she didn't need more expenses.

She looked kinda of crusty. Would he notice? There was a door knock and she got up. She fixed her towel and walked to the door. She opened the door and her breath hitched. Longer hair suited this half Spanish man. She smiled and Kingsley moved his hand to her jaw. Her jaw was much sharper and she had eyebags. Did he stress her that much?

"Hey princess. You called..." She closed her eyes and tears rolled down her cheeks. Kingsley was so focused on her face and he didn't even take a good look at her, so he didn't see the bump visible on the towel.

"I am so sorry okay? I am so sorry Lia." He used his thumb to wipe her tears and she cried some more, not letting a sound escape her lips. Kingsley swallowed as he pulled her to him then frowned as his body came into contact with hers. Was that a bump?

Amelia opened her eyes and she rubbed her tears.

"I-I wanted to tell you, I really did and didn't know how. I-I found out when I was two months pregnant. I-I"

He sighed and still pulled her close. He rubbed her back.

"You'll explain later not that I doubt you or anything."

He let her go and Amelia missed his embrace. The first one in months. He stepped inside and closed the door. He looked around at the girly room and the pink and white bedding.

Amelia walked to her side of the room and sat on the bed. Kingsley followed suit and sat next to her. She sighed.

"Let me finish..."

He wanted to debate that but he nodded for her to continue.

"Uhm I got a long lecture and mama suggested I buy those pills usually sold by other UB students to induce a miscarriage. I didn't want to do that and I also didn't want to burden you at all." She breathed in and out. She wasn't coping and it showed.

"The baby is a she and she is underweight. That's what the doctor said and I am so sorry. I don't want it to look like I'm trapping you or anything. From the little allowance I get I managed to save close to two thousand. Next semester ke dira year four so I will buy more stuff with the book allowance as well. You don't have to worry. I just wanted you to know that I am pregnant. Six months pregnant, the baby is due by August and I am hoping that by some miracle I'll



give birth ka July and be able to go to school. I'll find a cheap maid to stay with her during the day and when I'm on shifts."

Kingsley breathed in and he rubbed her cheek. She was willing to sacrifice herself for his child. He paused. He had a child on the way. A whole baby and he had no idea and she had a chance to abort the baby so she could live her best life but she didn't.

"Grey, I honestly understand if you're overwhelmed by all of this. I won't blame you, it was unexpected and we were both careless about it all. I should've remembered to take morning afters and we wouldn't be here. I am sorry."

Amelia closed her eyes and opened them again. Everything was blurry and she didn't even have money for spectacles. She wasn't going to hold her breath on her mother sending that money and even if she was going to send the money, she was obviously going to save the money for her baby. She will see if with the change will have enough for

glasses. She had to learn to listen to her mother. Her mother and aunt had been on her case while Tsona shook her head disappointed. She sighed. Lola was very interested in knowing how the baby was growing and she was sure that when she goes home after the exams she was going to be touching her tummy. She was a disappointment alright and they had to remind her every single day that all she had to do was listen to them and stay away from older men now he abandoned her all pregnant and he was living his best life with his type. Kgosi was a none factor in her life at this point. She had pretended to be supportive but eventually told her she brought this on herself which she did in a way. She was waiting fo him t say something.

"I sw-"

"Amelia shut up." She closed her mouth. He called her Amelia when he was serious.

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## DELICATE

#87

At Campus

"Amelia wa ntena waitse."(You annoy me.)

She looked down. He was angry that she was pregnant? It's not as if she is forcing him to take responsibility or be in her baby's life. She just wanted him to know. She was sure that she will manage. One way or another.

"I'm so-"

"When were you planning to tell me?"

"When I was ready. You are already dealing with your demons and you broke up with me because you didn't want to hurt me and I am still hurt but that's not the point. We are here cause surprise I'm pregnant." She covered her mouth. The tears filling

her eyes a little too quickly and she looked down. Kingsley sighed. He didn't have a clue on how he was supposed to father nor nurture a child. He never got that growing up but he didn't want the baby to have a childhood like his. His was fucked up and haunted him till this day. From what she said, if her mother suggested an abortion then it means she wasn't really happy but her family had seemed nice.

"Are you in trouble because of me?" She shook her head.

"You're lying."

She rubbed her eyes and sighed. Kingsley couldn't help but pull her body next to his and lay her head on his shoulder. Amelia burst into tears. She was struggling and she was so so tired, she wanted to rest. She wanted a day to pass her by when she didn't have stress. Her eyes, about money, about the future and having to be lectured everyday. She admits that she did something wrong but they should at least cut her some slack. She was so so tired.

"I-I'm soo soooo tired." She said with a shaky voice as he rubbed her back.

"I can see that." Yaya stood by the door as she heard Amelia's cries. She closed her eyes, having to wake up in the middle of the night and hearing Amelia cry was what broke her heart the most and still seeing her humble and accepting her situation. Having to at times hearing her mother give her a lecture through the phone and Amelia just nodding and replying respectfully. This girl was strong and weak at the same time. It was an awful combination on it's own.

Meanwhile Kingsley rubbed her back as she tried to calm down.

"Amelia you are stupid for not telling me about this as soon as you found out. I know we weren't together but you could have told me."

She kept quiet as she listened to his beating heart. He said it himself that he was broken and she didn't want to further complicate his life. He was going to know. Eventually. Her phone rang and she moved

her head away from his chest. She fixed her towel and picked it up.

"Hello?"

"Hello Amelia, uhm I am afraid I won't be able to send you that money for the spectacles. Tsona's things for varsity used up the money I thought would be the change. You know your sister is just about to start University."

"Ee mma. It's okay."

"Were you crying?"

"Nnyaa mma."

"Maybe month end okay Ame?"

"Ee mma. Go siame."(it's okay)

"Bye and take care."

"Ee mma." She put her phone down and Kingsley could tell that the conversation was cold. She sighed and tried to force a smile but she was tired. She didn't have any smiles left in her.

"Did you eat?"

"I had weet bix for breakfast. They are healthy."

"But you aren't. Can you manage to get dressed right now?"

"I'm tired and you didn't tell me what's the way forward..."

He sighed and rubbed her jaw. She just looked at him. She wanted to sleep and rest proper before she forced herself awake to try and study or at least listen to those recordings to understand.

"Amelia please get dressed, I can see that you're tired."

She closed her eyes and nodded. She held onto the mattress and forced herself up on her feet. She didn't even like how her feet were swollen and her tense muscles. She removed her towel and Kingsley looked at her. He has never seen a pregnant lady nude or anything. It was the way her bump stuck out and it wasn't that big but very much visible. She had a slender frame on top of that. He could see a difference in her breasts. They looked bigger as well.

Amelia felt his eyes on her and she might not be the most attractive pregnant lady out there and he must've noticed. She didn't want to wear a bra so she picked one of her long dresses. She bought them at a Chinese shop and she must say they really helped.

"It's winter time, aren't you going to be cold?"

"I was having hot flushes, that's why I was in a towel even if it's cold."

"Does it happen often?"

"Once in a while." He nodded and he looked at his hands. He didn't know how he was to navigate his way through this father thing but he had to try right?

"You said we're uh having a girl right?" She closed the wardrobe door and looked at him. He said 'we're' instead of 'you're'. That made all the difference.

"Yes. A little girl." She wore the dress and looked around the room.

"Can you uhm pick my keys from the tabke and my phone?"



"Amelia wear a jacket at least."

She sighed and opened the wardrobe. She picked his jacket from months ago and she wore it. She still had his jacket? Wow! He stood on his feet and picked up the items she said he must take. She rubbed her eyes and he noticed her squinting her eyes as she walked to the door. The last time he saw her, she never did that. He followed her as she opened the door and stepped out. She closed the door and she looked around.

"I can't see Yaya."

"Who is Yaya?"

"My roommate."

At that moment Yaya walked up the stairs and she saw Amelia. She probably had to focus really hard to see her.

"Amelia hey."

Amelia moved her head to her direction.

"I'll be back in a short while."

Yaya nodded and she greeted Kingsley who nodded. She smiled as she unlocked their room. Amelia was going to be alright. She had to be. Kingsley walked behind her as she walked and held onto the rail along the stairs.

"Lia are you fine?" She nodded. He held her waist as they slowly made their way down the stairs. He was using her pace anyway. They made it down and they walked out.

Amelia still wasn't sure where she stood with him or what he was intending to do.

He led her to his car in the parking lot and Amelia could hear her name being called in the distance. She paused and looked around. She squinted her eyes.

Kgosi half ran to where Amelia was. She was here to

apologise, in fact she was heading to Amelia's room to apologise for the stupid things she said the other day. She frowned as she got closer and she could see Amelia was with Kingsley Carter. She was actually serious?

"Amelia hi, hello sir." Kingsley nodded and looked at Amelia.

"You'll find me in the car princess."

He let go of her waist and he unlocked his car as he got inside.

"Hello Kgosi."

"I came to apologise about what I said the other day, it was just exam stress getting to me and I took it out on you."

Amelia nodded.

"Okay. I forgive you." Amelia said as she turned her back and Kgosi stopped her.

"Just like that?"

"Kgosi you apologised and even though your words hurt, I should move hey. It would've been nice if you

had stopped judging me and then trying to think you are replaced just because Yaya treats me better and doesn't crucify me for my sins at every chance she gets. It's okay, I have to go."

"I am really sorry and I will do better. I promise."

Amelia nodded and turned yet again.

"Is he the father of your child?"

"You mean my imaginary boyfriend? Yes." She didn't say anything more just walked to the car and opened the door. She got inside and fumbled with the seatbelt while tears built up in her eyes. She was trying not to cry at every given chance but it was so overwhelming. Kingsley did her seatbelt and he wiped her tears.

"I'm so sorry okay? I am so sorry Lia."

"I-I'm so tired, did I tell you that? I know I fell pregnant and I am so tired of people judging me and defining me by just that one thing."

He wiped her tears.

"I know being a mom at 20 was never part of my plans b-but people are making it out to look like I killed someone and it hurts."

"Ssh..I am so sorry okay? It's all my fault okay princess? I'll take the blame, I'm the adult and should've known better. I'm so sorry." He kissed her forehead and continued to wipe her tears.

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DELICATE

#88

Inside Kingsley's car

Amelia sniffed and closed her eyes. She looked so tired and he was tempted to change that last minute plan he thought up while he was in her room. He reversed the car out of the parking spot and he rubbed her cheek.

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At Ma Amelia's house

Tsona took her bags to the bedroom. She couldn't wait to go to varsity, there was more freedom there and she won't have to be monitored. Hopefully her older sister won't monitor her as well besides she is

going to school at BAC while she schools in UB. Two different institutions.

She sat on the bed and looked at the number she still had. Well it was no secret that Kingsley broke up with her sister. Even though it seemed like he left her pregnant, she wasn't going to repeat her sister's mistakes. Never.

Meanwhile in the sitting room, Ma Amelia sat down and leaned on the sofa. She was tired and she wondered about her first born daughter. She was disappointed that she fell pregnant especially given that her future was bright and she threw it away. She even had a chance to get rid of the child before it fully developed and she was going to have another one in future with a man who loves her. She didn't want her to make the same mistakes she made by having children too early.

Maybe she was being too hard on her. She picked

her phone and dialled her number. Amelia's phone rang but the call was cut. She frowned and called again, she will send money for glasses by the end of the week and even offer to help take care of her baby so that she can go to school. The call was cut yet again and she placed her phone down. She will try later.

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At the private practice

Kingsely parked his car and he didn't even set an appointment. He took out his phone to dial his doctor.

"Hello?"

"Hello doctor, are you busy?"

"Not at the moment."

"Good. I'll be coming in, in a few minutes."

"Okay."



He opened the car door to get out then closed it. That startled her awake and she looked around with frantic eyes. He opened her side of the door.

"Hey, it's me. We came to see a doctor okay?"

She nodded as she yawned and rubbed her eyes. He took her hand as he helped her out of the car. Holding her hand, he locked the car and they walked inside the building. He knocked on the office door and entered a second later. He closed the door and sat down by the chairs opposite the doctor.

"Thank you for seeing me."

The doctor nodded and he sighed looking at Amelia.

"Is it possible to have a series of tests performed at this exact moment? Uhm my girlfriend is pregnant."

Amelia had to hide her surprise. She was his girlfriend again? Wasn't she just a baby mama since they were not together anymore?

"Okay, I'll have to take her to another room. Is that

okay with you miss?"

She just nodded and rubbed her eyes. She was already going to a public hospital for these, she can show him her hospital cards and the supplements she had to take.

He helped her stand up on her feet and they followed the doctor.

An hour later the doctor was done and she was sitting down. She had seen Grey's reaction when he heard the baby's heartbeat, he was surprised and asked if it's really the baby's heartbeat even though the doctor said so. She saw the awe in his face, he was like a little kid sometimes and maybe it was because he never got a sweet childhood. She closed her eyes, just thinking about his childhood and all he had to go through was something that hurt her as well.

"Ms Mogosi, you are underweight. That means the baby is underweight. At this stage of the pregnancy you're not supposed to be weighing that small." Amelia nodded.

"On top of that, your blood pressure. Your blood pressure is high and that on its own can lead to complications, you're not supposed to be stressed like this."

Kingsely took note of what the doctor said. When he arrived he could see that she was exhausted and at this exact moment he didn't want his doctor to ask him why he is just bring her when he could've brought her months ago. He just found out two and a half hours ago himself and all this while he had no idea he fathered a child with her.

He whispered in her ear.

"Are your eyes alright? You've been squinting a lot and it's worrisome." She looked at him. He noticed and if he was asking her now, it means he wanted her to ask the doctor. She still didn't have money for glasses.

"Uhm doctor, ever since the development of this pregnancy, my eyesight has gone from good to worse."

The doctor noted that down.

"You'll have to see an optometrist for that to determine if you need glasses. After the pregnancy ends, we will see if it was just caused by the pregnancy or your eyesight is really deteriorating."

She nodded.

"Can you recommend any?" King asked and she looked at him. The doctor pulled out a business card from his drawer.

"You can call him." Kingsley nodded and feedback on Amelia's current state continued.

Minutes later, they were out of the hospital with Kingsley holding pills and him repeating to Amelia what the doctor just said.

"We are heading to an optometrist then." He opened

the car door for her and she got in. He walked to his side and got inside the car, placing the pills in his compartment. He looked at the address on the business card and started the car.

"I don't have money for an optometrist Grey."

"I didn't ask. Did I?"

She shook her head.

"And after this, you're eating and relaxing."

"Ee rra."

He reversed out of his parking spot and he drove off.

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At Campus

Kgosi knocked on the door and Yaya got up from the bed to go open the door. Her smile disappeared. Oh it was one of the people who judged Amelia.

"Hello, is Amelia here?"

"She went out?"

Kgosi nodded and she looked at Yaya.

"Uhm I am sorry for coming at you the other time and saying you replaced me in her life."

"You shouldn't be apologising to me. Your words hurt Amelia and she is pregnant but you still find time to say hurtful things to her. Why? She is the one who needs an apology even though you can't take back what you said. Is that all?"

She nodded and Yaya closed the door on her face.

In the room, Yaya looked at the water bottle she had filled with water, the food she bought her for lunch and the pills next to it. Even though Amelia barely eats because she has no appetite, she had to eat something. For the baby if not for her. She hoped that handsome ex boyfriend of hers who broke her heart takes really good care of Amelia and the little baby girl. Amelia deserved a break.

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## At the Eye Centre

Amelia walked around after her eye test. She couldn't see anything far and even up close, it was still blurry so she had to squint her eyes.

"Pick a frame you like."

"These are all expensive and I-

"Amelia tlhemma pick one."

She sighed and picked the frame she liked. It looked nice and it was a clear pink frame. She saw the peice tag on it and the brand, she was about to return it and he held her hand.

"It's fine. We'll take these ones but try it on first." The assistant unlocked the stand and held out the glasses for Amelia. She tried on the frame and she squinted to see her reflection on the mirror. They

looked good on her. She took them off and handed the glasses to the shop assistant. Kingsley walked to the desk to pay for everything and Amelia placed her hands on her tummy. She will be alright right?

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## DELICATE

#89

Inside Kingsley's car

Amelia finally picked up her phone and she put it down again. It rendered itself useless if it was all people used to judge her with.

"I'll collect your glasses once they are ready and bring them to you. Is that okay?"

"Thank you. I'm sorry for not telling you earlier, I really didn't want to burden you with anything. I didn't even ask you how are you? How is everything?"

"You should've called me Amelia. That was really really stupid of you."

"I'm sorry."

He sighed as she buckled up.

"So how have you been?"

"Still the same I guess." She looked at him. Well the blurry version of him anyways.

"Did you try therapy?"

He nodded.

"How did that work out?"

"Not so good but I've been learning Spanish." She smiled as she looked at his hair. Was her baby going to have hair like his?

"How is that coming along?"

"Fine. I'm getting better at the language."

"Connecting with your Latin roots." He nodded with a small smile. He couldn't even remember the last time he smiled.

"Lia, I don't know how to navigate this father thing but I'll learn. I never had a father growing up so I'll learn." She never had one too and it would be really nice for her baby to have a present father as well. They could give their baby something they both never had growing up.

"I don't know how to be a mother too." He rubbed her cheek.

"And you haven't been eating well, you heard the doctor and you're a nurse in training as well, what's wrong?"

She sighed and faced the other way.

"Amelia the doctor says you're underweight. For a six month pregnancy you are too underweight and your blood pressure as well. Amelia talk to me."

He forced her to look at him and if she was being honest he was not even the cause.

"The pregnancy is stressful, I-I barely have a stable support system King. My mother literally told me I have to adult since I decided to date older men and disobey her. She didn't directly say she washes her hands off me but her actions prove that and my aunt doesn't want to even hear a thing. Akere gatwe ke rata banna."(apparently I love men)

Kingsely held her hand and kissed it.

"I'm sorry okay. All of the blame is on me and you're innocent okay princess?"

She smiled. He was trying to make her better.

"I am a student and 1.3k is not enough to take care of a baby plus my eyes started acting up. Gape next semester I have to rent and take care of the baby as well. It was too stressful and I barely had an appetite for anything. I was saving up and everything."

"Don't worry about the costs of anything and try to relax and eat. Gain weight so you can deliver our healthy girl okay?"

She nodded. Did that mean he was staying?

"And I still say you could've told me earlier Amelia and you wouldn't be this stressed. I don't know about your family but you wouldn't have to worry about costs of anything and focus on school and a healthy pregnancy. How are your grades looking?"

She breathed out, her chest rising and he looked at it

before he moved his eyes to her face.

"My CA is not looking that great and I'm in the middle of exams right now. I don't know if I will have to retake a module or supplement one because it's not looking so good."

"When is your next paper?"

"Wednesday."

It was a Monday and she had to write on Wednesday. He was clueless in regards to health sciences.

"What time?"

"Morning ka 8.."

"How many papers will you have left?"

"Another paper will be on Friday and my last paper next week monday."

"You need to relax, don't think too much about it. Do you normally read in the school library?"

"Too many judgemental eyes, I read in my room."

"Can you manage to pack a small bag and stay the rest of the week?"

She leaned back and he was really serious about that.

"Okay."

"Good. Let's get you something to eat then you go pack your bags okay? We'll take everything step by step from there princess okay?"

"Okay."

He kissed her forehead and started the car.

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At Ma Amelia's house

She tried calling Amelia and this time she answered.

"Hello."

"Amelia hello ngwanaka, how are you?"

"I'm fine mama." She could hear the tiredness in her voice and she closed her eyes. She was supposed to be the supportive mother and not push her daughter away.

"You don't sound fine." Amelia sighed. She just wanted to sleep.

"I just want to rest today without being reminded of my mistakes over and over again." Amelia bit her lower lip as she tried not to cry. Kingsley held the steering wheel with one hand as he removed his hand from her thigh to take her phone. He hung up the call and looked at Amelia.

"Don't stress. Breath in and breath out Lia, we're going to get food and then your clothes. Stay off your phone."

He switched off her phone and threw it at the backseat.

"Amelia?"

"Rra?"

"Breath in and breath out. You're too young to have high blood pressure Amelia."

Amelia closed her eyes and placed her hands on her bump. She swallowed. She wouldn't want birth complications due to pre-eclampsia. She closed her eyes as the car moved smoothly.

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At Ma Amelia's house

She looked at the phone. Did Amelia just hang up on her? She wanted to make amends and talk to her, she had been too hard on her and she wanted to show her that. Amelia was going to be a mother too and she would understand how it feels if your daughter got pregnant at a young age. She will call again.



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## At Campus

Two hours later, Kingsley parked his car and he watched her eat the rest of her food.

"Make sure that you finish that."

"I'm full."

She looked at the plate. She was almost finished and she was too full to take another bite now. She looked at him and smiled.

"Go get your bag, I'll be in the car."

"It's going to be like two bags. My school bag and the bag for clothes. You can come carry my school bag since it's heavier."

He opened the car door and she removed the seatbelt and she picked her room keys. In case Yaya was not there. He opened the door for her and she stepped out of his car. He held her waist as they

made their way to where she stays.

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Target reached. Your bonus will be coming right up

DELICATE

#90

At Campus

Amelia knocked on the door. "Hello? Yaya I'm back but uhm I came with a guest." She added. Just in case Yaya was half naked which she doubted because it was winter time but you can never be too sure.

"I'm coming."

The lock turned and she opened the door.

"Hey, come in." The door opened wider and Amelia walked inside followed by Kingsley who walked to Amelia's side and sat there awkwardly as Amelia opened her wardrobe.

"Ame, Kgosi was here."

"I saw her when I was about to leave."

"She said she wanted to apologise."

Amelia sighed as she removed some of her less revealing clothes. She placed them on the bed as she bent down to pick some of her shoes, sandals in particular.

"Kgosi is always apologising and does the same thing. I'm tired of her apologies."

"She is not good for you."

"She switched up pretty fast hey, Yaya I'll be gone for a week. Gatwe I have to relax."

Yaya laughed. It was the fact that Amelia said that with her baby daddy in the room.

"You have to, you need to rest. Body, mind and soul. Baby gir should be healthy. Did you eat?"

"Ee mma." Amelia smiled at Kingsley who sat there awkwardly. She took out her overnight bag and her toiletries and panties as well. She placed everything on the bed before she sat down to start packing up.

When she was done with packing her essentials, she walked over to the study table and she closed her laptop before shoving it into her school bag along with the books she is going to need. She zipped it up and had Kingsley carry the bag for her.

"I'll call and what did I forget?"

"Your pills on the table."

She walked to the table and got her pills and she looked at the takeaway. Yaya took really good care of her throughout this pregnancy and she has been such a great friend.

"Don't feel too lonely."

"I won't. You need to rest and that's exactly what you'll be getting my baby. Bye."

They hugged and King walked out with both bags as they hugged. Amelia broke the hug and looked at Yaya.

"Thank you so much for everything you have done for me."

"Don't thank me, make sure baby girl is healthy nurse Ame."

She smiled tearfully and hugged Yaya again.

"Thank youu."

"Okay love. You can go."

Amelia broke the hug and smiled.

"I'll call and come rest here after exams."

"Okay."

Amelia walked out of the room and Kingsley was by the door waiting for her. He walked down the stairs with the bags as she slowly followed behind. She will be back.

Kingsely wondered what he was going to do. He still couldn't cook, he did try but he flopped big time, will

she be okay eating food that his helper usually makes when she comes to clean his house? He had a lot of food in Tupperware lunchboxes in the fridge and all he had to do was warm up the food.

When they got to the car, he placed her bags in the backseat before opening the door for her. He walked to his side as she settled in the car.

"Lia?" He said as he got inside.

"I still can't cook, will it be okay if you eat food made by my house helper?"

"It's still fine and I don't expect you to cook for me, you have done enough for me already."

"Cooking would really come in handy sometimes."

"Don't rush it and you'll learn in due course okay?"

He nodded before he started the car.

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At Amelia's aunts'

Kaone tried calling Amelia since her sister said her phone wasn't going through. But then they had warned Amelia. They really did and now she was pregnant. She sighed as she finally settled on her husband's chest.

"Hey love, Tlotlo said he can't reach Amelia and she is not there on WhatsApp?"

Kaone looked at her husband. Tlotlo dodged a bullet in a way. Amelia was pregnant and was disappointing them all after she was thoroughly warned. She just saw it from that time she came to ask for morninh after that she will fall pregnant. She was too young to be having raw sex and other than pregnancy she might get sick, there were diseases out there and yet she was studying nursing and not putting to practice what she tells patients. Stupid girl.

"I never told you love?"



"What?"

"Amelia is pregnant. I thought I told you."

"Uhu! Pregnant?"

Kaone nodded

"We were just as shocked about that too."

"Ke mathata."(it's a problem)

"Maybe she blocked Tlotlo and Tlotlo should let go and cut his losses."

Her husband chuckled.

"He says he had been in the friendzone ever since he got her number."

"A tlogele. He should marry from Canada. He is about to complete school this fall right?"

"Yes. About to be a whole Engineer. He is so excited."

"It's always nice when people take their future seriously as well as their education."

"How is your niece holding up though? The pregnancy and all, it isn't so nice to fall pregnant while young."

"She is okay. I guess. Ke gore o nna dira matepe when we talk to her."(she is always crying when we talk to her)

She shrugged and switched on the tv as her husband pulled her close.

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At Ma Amelia's house

Ma Amelia walked inside Tsona and Lola's room as Tsona pressed her phone.

"Tsona can you try calling your sister for me? She isn't answering her phone."

Tsona dialed Amelia's number but it wasn't going through.

"She isn't answering. Maybe it's off or charging."

Ma Amelia nodded. She checked her bank balance, she can sacrifice to send her money for the glasses right? Her job as a cleaner at the hospital was paying really well and she was okay with the pay.

She looked at Tsona.

"Tsona?"

"Ma?"

"Please don't repeat your sister's mistakes. Stay away from boys. As you can see, I'm working as a mere cleaner and I don't have a degree to my name, do better."

Tsona nodded.

"Men won't end and you will still find them once you finish school and you will be free to date and won't worry about falling pregnant because you have the financial means to take care of your baby. You won't have to ask me, a mere cleaner for money for your stuff because you get a salary that feeds your

cravings and everything."

"Ee mma."

"Just study hard and stay away from boys my child. You will be reaping the rewards of your hard work once you get that degree. And you will be able to find a man who will marry you and make a respectable woman out of you."

Tsona nodded and her mother walked out. Tsona just continued scrolling on Facebook. Reacting on a few posts here and there before she went to WhatsApp. She placed her phone down and she smiled. She was going to do better than her sister. She was not going to disappoint her mother.

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At Kingsley's house

Kingsely walked inside his bedroom with Amelia and Amelia looked at him. They were sharing a bed?

"Grey?"

"Ma?"

"I have a question."

He placed her bags down and faced her as she placed her phone on the bed.

"Are we going to share the same bed?"

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DELICATE

#91

At Kingsley's house

Amelia looked at him waiting for an answer.

"Yes."

She nodded. She was going to accept that for now.

"Uhm you can take a bath and I'll warm the food."

"You weren't at work today?"

"I am working at home this whole week, will only be going to work on Monday."

Amelia squinted her eyes to clearly look at him.

"The club?" Grey laughed and she frowned. Why was he laughing? Did she say anything funny?

He pulled her to him and it felt weird to be holding her bulging waist. Amelia looked at him as he kept his eyes on her stomach before he looked at her face.

"I forgot that you are always asking questions. I own the club but people don't know that. I was talking about work from the office, not the club."

She nodded. She had figured that on her own in a way.

"Take a long bath and relax. Take a nap after and after waking up, you can study. I'll still be awake." He kissed her forehead and let her go, walking out of the room.

He slid his phone out and went straight to Google and typed out his question.

'How to make a pregnant woman feel better'

The results loaded. He went through the list. He reassured her, he gave her hugs plus he can't resist not touching her in any way. He didn't ask her what

she wanted from him, he should do that as well. He gave her food and was encouraging her to rest and take a nap. He frowned at the sex part, she hasn't been getting sex for the past six months he guessed because same, so he was sorted on that point. Take walks? He never really leaves the house, can't they walk around the house without leaving the yard? That would count as a walk right?

He walked to the lounge holding his phone as he researched more stuff on Google about pregnancy and everything. He knew how a baby was made, it's not as if he skipped his Biology classes. He just wasn't passionate about sciences.

Meanwhile in the bathroom, Amelia got inside the tub and she laid down, her hair still in those twists from two weeks ago. When was the last time she relaxed like this without being stressed? She was still stressed just a bit but she will get there. She closed her eyes as she submerged her whole body



except her head underwater. The water felt nice and she moved her hands to her stomach. She touched her baby bump and smiled.

"I'm sorry baby. I'll do better and daddy is doing better too. So sorry."

As long as her baby was still alive. She let out a sigh, feeling sleepy as well. She should take just a few minutes inside before going to sleep.

Ten minutes passed and Kingsley placed the warm food by the counter. Wow that was a lot, he should ask her if she is comfortable with him touching her stomach. Maybe she isn't and she has been under a lot of stress and pressure. He placed his phone next to the food but he picked it up again in seconds. His eyes scanned his last search. Apparently body massages are good. He can try it but he will have to buy oils or did he have oils? He wasn't sure. He walked to the bedroom with his phone in hand. He knocked on the door and the bathroom door opened. She walked out with a towel wrapped around her

body and she smiled.

"Hi." She yawned and got on top of the bed. It was so comfortable and soft. She placed her head on the pillow and he smiled.

"Have some rest." He walked out and she pushed the covers back so she could get undercover. This was the most comfortable she has ever been in a while.

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At Thero's parents

"Hello?"

"Oh hey, how's Keith?" Lisbeth asked Thero.

"Keith is fine. How are you?"

"Doing great actually. I have to go."

Lisbeth cut the call and Thero sighed. She always

cut the calls short everytime. He didn't believe that at one point he risked losing Amelia for Lisbeth whom he later realised that he doesn't even love. He ruined his own love life.

And now that it seemed like his parents didn't even believe him. He remembered what he saw and none of them believe him about Kingsley's abuse and his mother said Kingsley needed discipline and he didn't understand what kind.

Meanehile in the kitchen Victoria dialed Gomolemo.

"Gomolemo wee?"

"Hello to you too Victoria."

"Hello. Yeela Thero said she remembers you molesting Kingsley. Is it true?"

Gomolemo paused. Thero saw that?

"Me? I would never."

"Mxm. Thero is annoying sometimes. Bye."

She hung up.

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DELICATE

#92

At Thero's parents

Victoria walked to the bedroom and sat next to her husband.

"I just asked Gomolemo and she said no."

Thuto frowned. He had been stewing on what Thero just said and it was very unlikely for Thero to lie to them. And he did say he forgot his memories as he mentioned this, trauma did that sometimes.

"But think about it, Kingsley used to avoid her at events."

"Thuto Kingsley has his own moods kana."

"But I don't think Thero is lying. I should ask bomma to call him so we can talk. We cannot be going round in circles not knowing why he is distancing himself.

At least he should tell us why and we'll take it from there."

"Bu-"

"No buts. And if Gomolemo did that, she is more than likely to deny it just like she did. Victoria do you ever use your head when doing things? Now she knows that we might know and will try to deny it since we don't know Kingsley's side of the story."

"Gomolemo is my sister and I grew up with her, kenake and she would never do such."

"We will see."

Thuto picked his phone and Victoria sighed. Kingsley wasn't going to show up at their useless meetings anyway. She assured herself.

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At Kingsley's house

It was a few hours later when Amelia woke up from her nap. She felt so fresh as she pulled the blankets close. She wanted to sleep some more because that was wonderful, being at peace and in a very comfortable bed by the way. She turned and the bed was empty. It seemed like she slept all alone in that big bed. She got out of bed and fixed the towel wrapped around her body. The room was warmer than when she got undercovers. She looked around and saw that the air conditioning was on.

She walked barefoot to the lounge and she found him sitting on the sofa with a bunch of papers on the coffee table, his laptop on his lap and his messy hair. She watched him as he typed something and she smiled. Grey looked up from his laptop and smiled.

"You're awake."

"And it was the best sleep I have ever had in a while."

"I'm glad. Let me go warm up your food again, are you okay in a towel?"

She nodded as she sat on the couch. She looked at the messy table as she heard the microwave from the kitchen. She could do that by herself though.

He came back after a minute and he had placed the food on a tray along with a glass of juice.

"Thank you."

"Now you should eat and then take your pills."

She placed the tray on her lap and looked at him.

"Did you eat?"

"I'm fine, eat so you can be healthy Lia."

She nodded and started eating as he went back to his papers. He stopped for a minute and looked at her again as she ate, she was still beautiful minus her not being healthy enough.



"Are you comfortable?"

She nodded.

"Are you sure? Is there anything I should change? Things I should buy? Tell me so I can make a list and work on it."

She smiled as she placed the spoon down. He really wanted to know and he had love to give. A whole lot of it but why didn't he see that himself?

"You are doing more than enough, thank you so much."

"You don't have to thank me. Uh do you want a massage? I read up somewhere that it helps. I don't have any essential oils or anything."

Amelia smiled and pecked his lips. He touched his lips as she moved back.

"Thank you. Maybe after I finish eating and before I study? I have Bio-oil. Been using it for stretchmarks but we can use that."

"I hope you like the massage." She laughed. She was

sure she was going to love it. He was cute.

"Can I touch your stomach? The baby kicks right?"

She smiled.

"She does kick sometimes. At odd times even and you can touch my tummy. You're the daddy. Come touch.

She placed the tray on the table and she took his hands. He looked at her as she placed his hands on top of her towel. He looked at her then at the bump he was holding.

"Wow! So it's not heavy?"

"I'm used to the weight of the tummy." He rubbed her stomach and she smiled. He looked down at her tummy and she couldn't hide that smile. He was a natural at this and he wanted to tell her he wasn't capable of love? He was a loving person naturally.

"Do you want to name her?"

"Would you let me?"

"You're the daddy and it's our daughter."

"Thank you, I hope I don't disappoint you two."

"You won't. I know and I am so sorry for not telling you earlier."

"It happened so we can't change that-oh!" He said in surprise as he felt a kick and Amelia's mouth was going to crack from all the smiling she was doing.

"Was that a kick?" He asked? His voice full of awe and curiosity.

"Yes. She just kicked."

"Wow!"

He looked up at her and back at her stomach, his hands not moving.

"I am sure in two months when she is kicking, I'll be able to see her hands or her legs."

"Really?"

She nodded.

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At Amelia's mother

Ma Amelia kept trying to call but her daughter was not answering. This was unlike Amelia. What if she decided to kill herself? Maybe she was getting depressed and decided to kill herself because of what they said everyday.

She didn't have her roommate's number this time so she didn't know how to check if Amelia was okay. Her heart started racing as she typed a message and sent it to Amelia. She wasn't answering her phone.

She started pacing up and down her bedroom. It was

such a scary thought that Amelia decided to kill herself now when she was six months pregnant with an innocent child. She wanted to make amends and now her phone wasn't going through.

"Jesu wame!" It was a scary thought that she might have driven her daughter to that because she didn't have support. She just wanted her to learn her lesson and not think it's okay to fall pregnant while in school. She was going to take care of the baby. She wasn't sure if the baby was a girl or a boy, Amelia never mentioned the sex. She never said anything about seeing a doctor in regards to the pregnancy. Now she was in full panic mode.

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DELICATE

#93

At Ma Amelia's house

Ma Amelia stewed on the sofa as her thoughts ran wild. She couldn't sit still and Amelia's phone wasn't going through. She wasn't sure if she had Kgosi's number or were they still friends? You can never know with these things. Her phone rang and she quickly picked it up thinking it was Amelia but it was her sister.

"Kaone hi."

"Still nothing?"

"Nothing mma and I don't know what to do right now, what if she killed herself?"

"Amelia didn't. I am sure. She is stupid but not that

stupid."

Ma Amelia sighed as her shoulders dropped.

"Kids of nowadays are depressed and they kill themselves, we always see the RIPs on Facebook moo."

"Depressed ya eng? No one sent her to get pregnant mme gone. She went to Gaborone to study and she gets pregnant? She can't be depressed over something she brought over herself."(what depression?)

"But we were too harsh on her."

"She got the message right? She won't ever repeat mistakes like this and bathong nna tota I am disappointed, her younger cousins and her sisters were looking up at her."

"Ah. Let's hope she is fine then. Bye."

"Bye."

Ma Amelia hung up as Tsona came with the cup of tea she was sent to make. She sat next to her

mother. She looked so stressed and Tsona wondered why Amelia was being so dramatic and not answering her phone.

"Mama I'm sure she is fine."

"Maybe she is not, pregnant women have hormones and we don't know. I haven't heard from her ever since she hung up earlier le gompiano."(even now)

"Mama relax and drink your tea."

"The last time I relaxed, she got kidnapped and what i-"

She covered her face with her hands, not even touching her tea at all. Tsona sighed. Her sister was not on any social media apps. She was not even on WhatsApp, a very private app and she wasn't there now she wasn't answering her phone.

"Mama don't stress."

Tsona tried to assure her mother.



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At Kingsley's house

Amelia lied down on her back as he rubbed the bio-oil on his hands.

"Should I remove my towel?"

"Do you want to remove it?"

"For you to massage better. Thank you"

"You don't have to thank me, you have to be comfortable and happy. She will be happy as well when you're happy right?"

"Right."

She turned and she removed the towel, exposing her nude body. She saw his eyes darken and he blinked before he rubbed his hands together. She hasn't even shaved in a while. She was just a mess.

She laid the towel on the bed and laid on it.

"I'm ready."

"Are you comfortable lying down like that? Bump and all?"

"I'm fine."

He nodded as he placed his hands on her shoulder blades and she closed her eyes. He used his fingers to rub her shoulder blades and moved them down to her spine.

"Is it okay?"

"Ee rra."

He poured more oil on his hands and let his deft fingers work through the knots and the tension in her back moving up to her neck as well then her arms. He hoped he was doing it well and she was silent. Too silent for his liking. He changed positions and his eyes moved to her face. She was asleep. She really was tired hey?

He stopped saw it fit to stop massaging her and he walked to the other side of the bed. He didn't want her to sleep naked though. He moved the blanket to the side and he gently scooped her up in his arms. She stirred and he paused. She was still asleep. Now he felt weird getting hard over a nude pregnant woman, he was sure she wouldn't appreciate that at all.

He placed her inside the covers and Amelia's eyelids fluttered open. She released a soft yawn and smiled. "We love you..." she trailed off before she closed her eyes again. He kissed her hands and covered her with the blankets. She didn't have an exam tomorrow, so she will study tomorrow.

He walked out of the study. It all happened so fast, he had been thinking of calling her and then she calls him. Tells him she is pregnant and lays it all bare for him to see. It was just a whirlwind of events today and he will take these couple of hours to

process everything. Will he need to make one of his rooms a nursery? She mentioned something about her not having accommodation and wanting to hire a nanny, will she agree to stay here? It was far from UB he admitted but his-

He paused. His baby. He had a baby girl on the way. She didn't mention clothes or anything. He ran his hands through his hair, that means they will have to buy baby stuff then he will see if his helper will be comfortable enough to be a stay-in nanny. She was a kind lady whom he was sure wouldn't mind extra pay to help them take care of a child.

He didn't understand family dynamics though. His family was messed in the head and Amelia said her mother basically disowned her because of the pregnancy. It was his fault, if he had worn a condom or never even approached her, she would be in good terms with her family. But they were expecting a child and he was panicking, Amelia was underweight and he could remember from the time his doctor said she is low blood. What if she loses blood while

giving birth? He was a suitable donor but-

He needs to research about giving birth and all the complications that can take place just so he knows. He was a bad man and two innocent girls were brought into his life? He didn't understand his life but she made him happy. He forced himself to admit. Would the baby have his eyes? Should he search for a Spanish name for the baby? He was close to panicking and he thought of having some whiskey but maybe she won't like how it smells now that she was pregnant.

He sat down on the couch and sighed. One day at a time. As long as Lia was relaxed, healthy and happy, their baby was going to be happy and they will see what the doctor will say at their next appointment.

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At Lisbeth's parents

Lisbeth typed on her phone as she talked to this guy online. They had never really met before and he said he was coming to Botswana in Fall. She was trying something new and hopefully this was going to work out for her.

She read his message asking if he can call her. Was she ready to take this chat to the next level like calling and hearing each other's voices?

She replied with her number and threw her phone on the bed. That was risky.

She looked at her phone, waiting. To see if he will call.

Her phone started ringing and her heart started pounding. She picked the phone slowly and looked at the number before she answered.

"Hello?"

"Lisbeth?" Fuck! His voice. His voiiiiceee! She wanted to fangirl. He had such a dreamy voice.

"Hey."

"You're shy?"

"Uhm me? Uhm n-noo!"

"Ehe, I was scared for a moment. How are you?"

She sat comfortably on the bed and took a deeo breath before she conversed with this dreamy voiced stranger she has never seen face to face.

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Target not reached. This is our night insert. And I posted all the inserts I owe! Thank you and good night.

## DELICATE

#94

At Kingsley's house

Amelia woke up naked and alone in bed. She removed the blankets and she stretched her body. She had really been exhausted. One minute his hands were massaging her and now she was in bed? she probably fell asleep while he was massaging her. She yawned before getting out of bed. She walked to the door in darkness and switched on the lights. She sighed before walking to where her bag was. She took out her gown and she looked at it. It was probably going to look old to him but she wore it anyway. Her pyjamas didn't fit, the top anyway.

She walked to the window and shifted the curtain, it was night and she hasn't talked to Yaya to tell her



she was okay. Her owl eyes scanned the room. She squinted her eyes to see more clearly. She walked to the stand next to the bed and looked closer. She picked her phone and switched it on. She waited for it to restart. She brought the phone to her eyes as she entered her PIN before it required her password. She typed it out and waited for it to fully restart.

A minute later the phone started to beep uncontrollably. She sighed and closed her eyes. Once the phone stopped beeping she opened her eyes and checked the messages.

"70 missed calls?30 messages?"

She went to her call log. Her mother, aunt and sister had been calling her. She went to the messages.

Mama:Amelia answer your phone.

Mama:Amelia are you okay?

Mama:Amelia tlhemma answer your phone, I'm getting worried about you.

Mama:Amelia??

She read the messages from her aunt as well.

Aunty K:Amelia stop being dramatic and answer your phone.

Aunt K:Amelia o rata go rapelwa a ko o arabe(you like being begged, answer your phone)

Amelia placed her phone down. She rubbed her stomach.

"Hey baby girl, we're going to be fine right? Mommy is so sorry for not telling your daddy on time and for making you underweight because she was stressed. I am so sorry okay?"

She kissed her hands and placed them on her stomach. She was going to be fine. She picked the phone and sent Yaya a message first before she sent her mother and aunt messages. She placed the phone down and it was not even ten seconds later

when her phone rang. She checked the caller ID and it was her mother.

"Hello."

"Amelia never do that again, we were worried about you and thought you were suicidal."

Amelia looked at her toes, she was a mess and it was by some miracle her baby survived her low appetite and stress levels.

"I'm okay."

"Why was your phone off?"

"I was resting mama."

Ma Amelia frowned.

"Shouldn't you be studying?"

Amelia blinked back tears. She was alone in this pregnancy, woman literally said she was on her own and she was a woman now she will see what to do because no one sent her to get pregnant.

"I am."

"Amelia I will send money for glasses to-

"It's okay. I found the money for glasses."

"Where?"

Amelia breathed in. She hated talking to her mother. The past few months haven't been sweet to her.

"Mong wa mpa..."(the person who impregnated me.)

A bout of silence paused. Ma Amelia thought the dad was a dead beat and she had told Amelia so.

"He decided to be present?"

"I just told him today."

"You never told him?"

"No. It's okay, he'll take care of his daughter. You don't need to lift a finger or send money for anything akere I'm useless besides the baby wouldn't be existing if I agreed to abort."

Ma Amelia could hear the fatigue in her voice and she sighed.

"He is probably going to abandon you after you give birth, most men do that. Besides stay away from men, next thing you'll be having another baby after this one is born."

Amelia kept quiet. She was being negative and she was so adamant about Grey being a dead beat. Why?

"Amelia it's not like we can't take care of you, we have been taking care of you these past years. I will be taking the baby once it's born."

Did she even hear her saying her daughter? That she was having a girl? She just bulldozed her way after months of hurtful words and sometimes being insulted. It was supposed to be okay?

"No."

"No?"

"Ee mma. This is the same baby you asked me to kill mama, you asked me to kill my daughter and you told me I'll see what to do. I saw what to do, she will

be staying with her dad who will be able to afford to put her through school and buy her stuff that I can't even afford. I was literally blind for months and all you did was say I ruined everything by getting pregnant."

She touched her cheek. She was even crying.

"I know I ruined everything, I barely ate anything and everyday it was you or aunt Kaone calling to tell me I was a failure and that spreading my legs for older men got me into this. Aunt Kaone went as far as telling me I didn't know the man who impregnated me I was just a whore, mama was it because you wanted Kingsley? That you saw it fit to drive me towards depression? Is that it? because I can give him to you ga o mmatla mama."

"Amelia don't you dare-"

"Mama I was not okay okay? I am underweight and my baby is underweight as well maybe I shouldn't have been stressing but when the two adults that were your parents kept breaking you down, your

heart becomes weary and those words never go away. Maybe if you slapped me I would've been okay but emotionally? I was not okay, I just started eating today and gatwe I am close to having bp and I know it's the consequences of my own actions akere gatwe ke itirile seso sa banna ba batona mo go nna"(apparently I made myself a fool for older men.)

She rubbed her chest before she wiped her eyes with her hands. She sniffed. She didn't want to talk to her mother.

"I know I made a mistake but where everyday I'm reminded of it? It's okay that people on school judge me but mama you were supposed to be in my corner, you were supposed to be the loving mother I knew, i know i disappointed you. I know that but nna I am not okay and I hate talking to you and aunt Kaone because you spit venom on my everyday."

Her lips quivered as there was silence at the other end of the line. The bedroom door opened and

Amelia looked at Kingsley whose hair was a mess, he had probably been running his hands through it for hours. Kingsley locked eyes with her. She was stressing again. She was supposed to relax.

"Amelia you are being disrespectful now that he decided to step up and you are talking to me in any way?"

Amelia gave up. She wasn't taking her child to her mother, what if she suffocates the little baby? She covered her mouth.

"Amelia, this is what is going to happen. When schools close, you come home to give birth and then you leave for school. If the father wants the child, he can come here and see the child and pay child maintenance to me since I am staying with the child. Men don't know how to take care of kids and I am your mother Amelia. Not your agemate. You have no right to speak to me any how."

Amelia shook her head. She couldn't believe her ears.

"So next week, I am coming there to help you with



your bags and you are going home. Two minutes of seeing him and you are back to being disrespectful? Very soon you will coming back with a second pregnancy and crying the same way you are now. You are still a child Amelia. Very much my child and you are going to listen."

Kingsely grabbed the phone from her hands.

"Hello?" He said, his deep voice reverberated and Ma Amelia kept quiet.

"Hello?"

He said then he checked the caller ID. Ma Amelia's heart skipped, she was with him? She breathed in before she spoke.

"Can I speak to my child?"

"No. If it's to stress her then no."

"And who do you think you are? She is going to fail because of you."

"With all due respect please hang up. If she does fail school, I'll sponsor her myself. Please hang up you are stressing her and she doesn't need stress at this exact moment."

"I'm her mo-"

Kingsley hung up and sighed, he helped her stand on her feet as she let out a loud cry and he pulled her to his chest. He rubbed her back.

"Princess it's okay. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry princess."

He rubbed her back as he kissed the top of her head.

"Princess, I hate seeing you sad." She couldn't stop the tears that filled her eyes and those hiccups she had while crying while he held her in his arms. He picked her up and walked to the bed and sat down, placing her on his lap. He didn't say anything, just shushed her till she stopped crying and he placed his chin on her head. He breathed out. They still had a long way to go till everything is okay but from now

till she gives birth he didn't want her stressing, not a little bit.

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DELICATE

#95

At Kingsley's house

"Feeling better?" She nodded as she moved her head to wipe her tears away. He held her head and placed it back on his chest with her sitting comfortably on his lap.

"Ma? Words princess."

"Better."

"I'm going to need you to avoid her calls, for your mental wellbeing. Will it be possible?"

She nodded.

"Good. We need you stress free as possible princess, for the next three months. Did you tell your sponsor

about the pregnancy?"

"Yeah. I wrote a letter, to the dean as well."

"Good. You've been surviving on your monthly allowance?"

"Yes. I saved some money too."

"Okay. Just relax, you'll study tomorrow morning okay? I'll be here the whole day unless you want something. I just want you to be comfortable and relax, gain health weight so that our girl gains as well. Will you be able to do that for me princess?" She nodded.

"Good girl." He kissed her forehead and he looked at her hair as well.

"You didn't do your hair, is it because you don't want people to touch your head now that you're pregnant or?"

"I can't afford it right now. Hair is expensive."

He sighed and kissed her forehead. Had she told him earlier though.

"Amelia from now on, don't worry about money okay?"

Don't stress about such."

She looked up at him with her subtle red eyes. He looked into her eyes and smiled. He rubbed her chin and she parted her lips, his eyes moved down to her lips before he looked at her lips again and she smiled.

"I love you. I never did and won't stop. I love you okay?"

He nodded and pecked her lips. He pecked her lips again and he lowered his head to kiss her lips properly. He broke the kiss and she placed her head on his chest again. One saw she discovered from her tik tok for you page reminded her of him. She loved him and she wanted him to hear it.

She moved her head and picked her phone.

"Amelia.."

"Listen to this song okay?"

"It's your favourite?" She just had to smile. He was genuinely interested in what she wanted him to hear.

She opened her music app and placed her head on his chest. Amelia ignored the messages that she had seen on her notification bar. No stress. She played Guess I'm In Love by Clinton Kane.

"Listen okay? I love the song."

"I'm sure I will like it as well."

She looked up at him. He was a good man and she didn't see the monster in him. She badly wanted him to try therapy again. And to maybe face his abusers so that they see they didn't break him, he was a good man with too many broken pieces but good nonetheless.

She wasn't looking for perfection, they were both broken in different ways but they can be beautiful mosaic. Different but still intact. Meanwhile Kingsley listened, it felt like it was from his perspective because he could relate to the song as he held pregnant Lia in his arms.

And why do I get so nervous when I lool into your eyes?

Butterflies can't stop me fallin' for you

And darlin', this is more than anything I felt before

You're everything I want but I didn't think I'd find

Someone who is worth the wait of all the years of my heartbreak

But I know now I found the one I love

She released wrapped her hands around his torso and she closed her eyes listening to his heartbeat. Once the song ended she moved into him more.

"Lia?"

"Rra?"

"I want you to spend the last few months of your pregnancy here and if you want to leave after the baby is born, I can rent out a child friendly apartment for you guys."

She looked up at him. He would really do that?



"I think staying here is okay, you get to see her everyday." He smiled. He was hoping she would say that.

"I have no idea what I'll be doing."

"I have a few clues, I used to help my aunt with my cousins but some of the things we'll learn as we go."

He smiled.

"We are doing this parenting business?"

"Yes daddy."

Amelia squinted her eyes at him as she felt his hand on poking her butt. He was turned on? She smiled and kissed his lips.

"Amelia don't tempt me like that."

"Like what?"

He rubbed her chin.

"You know how. That's how you got pregnant in the first place amor." She didn't know what that last word but she assumed it was the Spanish he was

learning.

He kissed her lips and she moved her hands to his neck. She wrapped her hands around his neck and he broke the kiss as he moved his lips to the corner of her lips.

"te quiero." He whispered across her lips and she was lost but she moved her head for him to kiss her lips again. He did exactly that.

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At Ma Amelia's house

She got under covers and she looked at her phone. Amelia was with him again? Were they back together? Her sister had sent her a message saying Amelia was okay and just being dramatic. She would wait for Ameia to cool down before she called again. She sighed and closed her eyes bit sleep wasn't coming

fast enough. She thought about calling again but changed her mind. Amelia needed to calm down before she called again.

Meanwhile in the girl's room Lola stared at the ceiling.

"I can't wait to see Ame. The baby must be grown. I want to see the baby kick."

Tsona rolled her eyes.

"She wasn't supposed to fall pregnant."

"Tsona, a baby is a blessing and I think everyone is being hard on Ame for nothing."

"She has school."

"You're not Jesus Tsona. Besides imagine a little baby, will he or she have Ame's eyes? Ame has beautiful eyes kana. I can't wait to see her."

"Iyoo."

"I just don't understand your attitude towards Ame but anyways. I just can't wait to see my niece or

nephew. Babies are the cutest and I am sure Ame's baby will be cute gore wena. I can't wait to spoil the baby."

Tsona turned on her bed as she just watched statuses on WhatsApp. Lola was too young to understand these things.

She went to her contacts and she clicked on Kingsley's name. She breathed in and out. She made her number private before she called.

At Kingsley's house

Amelia looked into his eyes as he deep stroked her. She moaned into his ear as his hips jutted forward with her short nails scratching his back. They both heard a phone ring and it wasn't hers. He ignored the ringing phone as he continued to make slow love to her, he hasn't been in her for months and no ringing

phone was going to disturb him. Whoever called with have to call back. The phone stopped ringing and Amelia closed her eyes as her body started trembling.

"Be a good girl and come for daddy princess."

She moaned his name and he kept the same pace as he placed his lips on hers for a few seconds.

"You're a good girl." He said as the fresh wave of an intense orgasm hit her and he fucked her till her orgasm ended. He groaned as he released into her and kissed her neck. He slid out of her wetness and got out of bed heading to the bathroom while she closed her eyes.

He came back with a wet towel and wiped her clean. She opened her eyes as he was in between her legs.

"Princess?"

"Rra?"

"You need a shave."

She hid her face embarrassed and he smiled as he

got between her legs and moved up to remove her hands.

"But I told you before we-what we just did."

"I know. Don't stress about it."

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## DELICATE

#96

At Kingsley's house

He kissed her lips again and kept his eyes on her. Maybe she was tired and she needs to sleep.

"Are you tired?"

"I just woke up less than an hour ago."

"I mean you do need all the rest you can get."

Amelia wanted to ask what they were, six months ago they were not together and now he was naked on top of her naked body and she just wanted clarity from him. Nothing more. She breathed out as he lowered his head to kiss her and she felt the weight of his erection on her thigh. She opened her legs as his hands held hers above her head. He went full force on her lips, his tongue finding it's way inside

her mouth.

"Are you comfortable?" She nodded. He found her slick entrance and groaned as he eased his way into her. Amelia flinched and whimpered and he kissed her lips.

"I know, I know." He stilled for a second before his flexible waist started moving and his chest grazed her breasts. She hoped it wasn't too awkward with the baby bump but he didn't mind at all. She moaned his name and he drilled into her maintaining the eye contact.

"Te amo Lia." He groaned into her ear and it didn't take a minute for him to reach the spot and she fell apart under him.

"Good girl, good girl." He released his semen into her and he breathed hard against her neck.

"Fuuck!" He got off her and pushed his hair back. He found the towel and got between her legs again to wipe her clean. He got off the bed and walked to the bathroom where he placed the towel down and leaned against the closed door. He closed his eyes,



what did this mean for him now?

Amelia leaned back on the bed, the bathroom door opened and he walked out. She smiled as he got on the bed and he held her in his arms.

"Gey some rest."

"I j-"

"It wasn't a suggestion Amelia. Sleep."

"Okay." She placed a hand over her stomach and closed her eyes. Kingsley kissed her forehead as his mind started working and coming up with a lot of scenarios.

The next morning

Kingsely was woken up by the knock on his door. He turned to his side and Lia was sleeping soundly. Her perfect lipa pouted and her hands on her stomach now, cradling it even.

He got out of bed, must be the house helper. Was she early or did he wake up late? He picked his phone and checked the time. It was almost nine. He slid his feet in his jeans which were on the floor along with her gown. He wore a t-shirt before he walked to the door. He opened the door.

"Mr Carter, sorry for the disturbance."

"It's okay. You can clean the rest of the house."

She nodded as she looked at his messy hair. In all the months she has worked here, she has never seen his hair like that. She walked away but Kingsley sighed.

"Hope?"

"Rra?"

"Can you make breakfast for two?"

She hid her frown. For two?

"Yes sir."

He nodded and closed the door. She walked along

the passage. By ten she was usually done with cleaning because the house wasn't that dirty. She would then focus on cooking for him since he was a busy man.

Kingsely started picking up some of the items on the floor and put them in the laundry basket. He was tempted to wake her from her sleep but she needed all the rest she could get at this point. He headed to the bathroom and stripped bare before he got inside the shower. He was going to be a dad. Him? The man who swore was going to die all alone because no one deserved to have to tolerate his demons and he spent his whole life trying to keep everyone off and this little girl just waltzed her way into his heart without even trying. It was weird but then she was in his life forever till the world ends. He guessed and what he had said yesterday had floored him. The truth that has been staring him in the eye these past months. He loved her yet he had felt unworthy of her. He closed his eyes, letting the water run down his body.

Meanwhile in the bedroom, Amelia woke up. She stretched her body and felt that familiar soreness between her legs and she knew that yah neh, Grey was back. She looked at her sides and before she could even frown, heard the water running in the bathroom and she got out of bed. Did she bring her shaving stick? It was now embarrassing that she didn't shave. She walked naked to her bag and checked her toiletry bag. She took the toiletry bag and walked to the bathroom where she placed it by the sink. She opened it and took out her shaving stick. She sat on the toilet and the shower curtain opened as he stepped out in his handsomeness. She smiled as he kissed her forehead.

"Morning princess."

"Morning." He took a fresh towel from the rail and wrapped it around his waist as he watched her.

"Will you manage?"

"I think so."

She spread her legs and his erection sprung up. Fuck he needs to control himself. Amelia wondered how she was going to navigate this, her stomach was getting in the way. Kingsley swallowed.

"Let me do it."

"You don't have to."

He just took the shaving stick from her and he bent down in front of her.

"I won't cut you."

"I didn't say that, I wanted to do it myself."

"Let me help you.."

He started moving the stick on top of her apex where he shaved a considerable amount of pubic hair.

"Kana you are going to see it and it will look like a plucked chicken."

He looked up at her and he laughed.

"Thehemma shut up."

"I'm being serious, it doesn't look nice, just that it was kind of overgrown but I usually trim it and wena o ntsha gotlhe."(you are removing all of it)

"Sorry. Akere mme e jewa ke nna hela."(I'm the only who sexes it)

She rolled her eyes as she laughed. She sat still for a few minutes as he did that and he picked her legs to place them on his shoulders. She looked down at his dark head between her legs and she closed his eyes. Kingsley frowned as her folds glistened. She was wet? Fuck! He shouldn't even think of hitting it again, she should eat then study.

He looked up at her.

"Done."

"Thank you, ga e maswe maswe akere?"(it's not ugly right?)

He laughed.

"No, take a bath or a shower and I'll get rid of the hair

here."

He placed her legs down and she stood up while he rolled up the toilet paper to wipe the toilet. Amelia opened the tap and put the stopper as she filled the bathtub with warm water.

She got inside the water and he smiled as he walked out of the bathroom.

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## DELICATE

#97

At Kingsley's house

Amelia walked out of the bathroom with her body wrapped in a towel. He was almost done and he was combing his hair. She walked to her bag and placed her toiletry bag inside and took out her panties. She removed her towel and put her legs inside the holes.

Kingsley placed the comb down and shook his head. He really needed a haircut now. Maybe on a Saturday and he can take her with so she can do her hair?

That was a nice idea and they can pass by the shops. She never mentioned buying the baby anything.

Amelia picked out sweatpants and he smiled, she still wore his sweat pants? Amelia wore a very baggy t-shirt and her bump was still very visible.



"Are you done? What paper are you writing tomorrow?"

"Pharmacology at nine o'clock."

"Till what time?"

"Till eleven."

"I'll drop you off and then pick you up okay?"

"Thank you."

"Now come eat and then start studying."

"Yes sir."

He took her hand as he slid his feet in his slides then looked at her barefeet. He removed his slides and gave them to her.

"Wear them and let's go."

She slid her feet in those shoes that were three times her shoe size and they walked out of the bedroom.

"Morning sickness?"

"It was on the first trimester?"

"Trimester?"

"First three months but now I'm fine. I'm on my last trimester."

"Okay princess, you are going to have to keep up with me being clueless."

She could smell the food from a distance. This man was really intent on feeding her and making sure she was really fed.

"It's okay. Since you said we're staying here, will the baby sleep with us?"

"Lia?"

"Rra?"

"Make a list and we'll see how to navigate through it."

"Okay."

They got to the kitchen and he helped her sit on the high stool as he rubbed her hand.

"Dumelang."

Amelia said as the woman turned. She smiled at her.

"Hi." Hope realised why he wanted breakfast for two. She has never seen her boss with a woman before. She started working here five months ago after the lady who worked her, referred her and she had started to think her boss was gay. She was a beautiful woman and everywhere she worked, men used to want her and she would thwart them off but her boss seemed asexual if she could put it like that.

"Princess that's the house helper Hope, Hope this is my girlfriend Amelia."

"Nice to meet you Amelia."

"Nice to meet you Hope." Amelia said as she looked at the helper who was in jeans and a simple white shirt. She wasn't going to try to guess her age so she looked at King.

"Breakfast is about to be served."

"Thank you." Amelia said and Hope turned her back on them as she checked her pots and Kingsley just kept rubbing her arm.

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At Ma Amelia's house

She picked her phone and her bag as she was just about to leave for work. Lola left for school and she was tempted to call Amelia but instead she settled on sending a message. It delivered and she closed the door.

Tsona finally walked out of her bedroom and looked around the house Kingsley didn't answer her phone call. Maybe he was asleep she should try again this morning.

She dialed his number again.

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At Kingsley's house

Kingsely listened as Amelia tried to revise by telling him what she recalled from her pharmacology classes. He heard his phone ringing in the bedroom. He did miss a call last night and he never checked who it was.

"One second princess, let me go get my phone."

She nodded as he stood up and headed towards the direction of the bedroom. Hope looked at her.

"Hi Amelia, how old are you?"

Amelia frowned. Why was she asking? She quinted her eyes so she could see Hope clearly.

"I'm 20."

Hope nodded.

"Is the breakfast okay for you?"

She asked as she placed the plates in front of her.

"It looks delicious, thank you."

"Welcome. I haven't seen you here, not that the boss brings people here but the past five months I haven't seen you here."

"I see. I usually come here on weekends."

Hope nodded. She didn't work on weekends.

"So you're a student?"

"A nursing student."

"Wow!"

Amelia just nodded as she took her fork and started with the bacon. Hope just looked at Amelia, she was young like her niece and she did notice her bump.

Was she here because she was pregnant?

Meanwhile in the bedroom Kingsley answered his phone.

"Carter hello."

There was silence before a feminine voice came from the other side.

"Hello."

"Who am I speaking to?"

"Uh Tsona, we have met before Kingsley."

"I don't know you. Hang up." He said before he hung up. He took his phone and walked out of the room.

He found Amelia in the kitchen alone and she smiled at him.

"The food is good. Why are you frowning?"

"Someone by the name Tsona called me. People are annoying."

Amelia stopped chewing and swallowed, placing her fork down.

"Mang?"(who?)

"Tsona."

"Oh wow!"

"What?"

"That's my sister and waitsee! Yah no!"

"Your sister? How did she get my number?"

"I have no idea but I guess I am going to find out."

"Your family is starting to look weird."

"Trust me, I see it. I just wonder why she is calling you for that matter, besides your hot looks and you jusy existing."

"You love me for just existing?"

He smiled ane he placed his hands around her bulging waist.

"I love you because you are kind, handsome,



considerate and you are my baby's father. I love you for you Grey. Don't think you're a monster and on that issue, sit down."

He sat down. It sounded serious. She drank her juice and smiled.

"All those things you mentioned when we parted about the torture and stuff, you are never going to do them to me?"

"That is why I let you go Amelia, I didn't want to ruin you Lia, you deserve the world and more."

"And I did say you are my world and more, you are not what those people said you are and eventually you are going to have to stop letting the trauma be the only way you identify yourself. Babe, can I call you that?"

She asked and he nodded.

"Don't do that to yourself Grey please!" She sucked in a deep breath and she wasn't sure how he was going to take her suggestion but she hoped he wasn't going to get angry.

"Grey what if we go to therapy together?"

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DELICATE

#98

At Kingsley's house

"Grey just think about it."

She held his hands.

"We will be having a baby in three months and it would really be wonderful if you were at your best, us working to fight out past." She said and looked into her eyes.

"No pressure at all, just think about it okay?"

He nodded. She did make a valid point.

"Okay, now let's eat."

She turned and picked her fork again.

"How long has Hope been working for you?"

"Five months why?"

"Just asking, how old is she?"

"31 I think."

He said. He wasn't exactly sure about it because the lady who worked for him was very professional and she recommended Hope who has never given him any problem or showed any indecency.

"Does she ask personal questions?"

"Not that I remember no. Did something happen?"

Amelia shook her head. 31 and Grey was 29 and all of a sudden Hope was asking questions. Interesting.

"Let's eat."

"And you have to study princess, I don't know what you said earlier cause I hate sciences so you do you and I'll catch up with my work."

"Okay baby."

They ate as they casually talked and threw ideas around about baby names and Amelia shook her

head.

"I don't like those names."

"What were you suggesting then?"

"How does Warona sound?"

"Rosalia?" He chirped in and she pouted as she thought about the name.

"I'll no longer be Lia now."

"Are you jealous?"

She shrugged.

"Maybe."

"Warona Rosalia Carter, how does that sound?"

"I love it but please call me Lia..."

He fed her a piece from his plate and rubbed her chin.

"Okay but not for long."

She moved her head back.

"I don't like you, you know that Kingsley?" He shook his head with a smile. He had picked up from a few months ago that she only calls him Kingsley when she isn't happy with him.

"Te amo Lia." She frowned and she blinked.

"You said that last night and this other word, can't pronounce it because it sounded hard but what does it mean?"

He placed his fork down and held the stool at the sides and pulled it towards him. He placed his hands on her thighs.

"Google it." She squinted her eyes. "Tell me."

"No."

"I don't like you a lot okay? Just tell me it's not as if the world will explode. Or something."

"Te amo princesa. Eat up." He kissed her forehead and stood up.

"Are you studying in my study or?"

"I don't even want to see you."

"Okay." He chuckled as he walked away and she looked at her plate. She finished the rest of the food that was on her plate then she ate what was left in his plate as well before she picked the plates and walked to the sink where she washed those two plates they were using. Hope walked in the kitchen and she turned to smile at her.

"Hey Hope, just the person I wanted to see." Hope's smile disappeared.

"I didn't appreciate the way you quizzed me earlier, apparently it was unprofessional so if you could stick to your job and I'll stick to mine we'll be good."

"Amelia I was making conversation and I'm not your agemate."

"Still. The million questions were uncomfortable and if you could not try to ask them that would be nice."

Amelia smiled as she walked out and Hope rolled her eyes. Typical child. Did she know she can make any man want her within the blink of an eye? Did she know that?

Amelia walked to the bedroom where she got her books and walked to Grey's study. She opened the door and he was sitting on that very comfortable chair as he went through papers.

"Hey, full? Did you take your pills?"

She placed her books down and turned on her heel. The pills.

She headed to the bedroom and she took her pills and walked to the kitchen. She found Hope washing the pots.

"Amelia that was rude, you are still a child and if your mother knew you were cohabiting with a man while you should still be studying."

"I don't have family." She filled the glass with water and sat on the high chair as she took out the different pills one by one. She threw them all in her mouth and drank the water. She hated pills. Especially these ones she was given.

"That makes it worse because you should intentionally be



focused on school so you should make a future for yourself."

"I am making a future for myself. Thank you though."

She walked out of the kitchen and Hope shook her head. She hoped her niece didn't behave like this little girl.

Amelia walked right back into the study and she sat opposite Grey.

"Can I be honest?"

"Sure."

He said as he wrote down on his notepad.

"I don't like Hope."

"I suspected that when you asked questions earlier. What were you suggesting?"

"I don't like that she is the same age as you and she was asking questions about my age and course and family."

"Are you jealous princess?"

"I am." He paused and looked at her, a small smile creeping on his lips.

"Lia, you have to trust me though it is cute that you are jealous that other women might want me but you are the only one who gets dicked down before we sleep and cuddles as well."

Her nipples hardened and he saw the nipples pressing against the thin fabric of her t-shirt. Lord help him resist this temptation in the form of his baby mama.

"These past six months you have been celibate?"

"All I have been thinking about is you, I've been celibate till last night." He was being honest. Just her and his demons playing in his mind. Was he going to consider her suggestion? He wasn't sure about it himself.

She blushed and she composed herself to look at him and still voice out her opinion.

"But back to the issue at hand."

"Okay. I'll ask for another helper because she makes you uncomfortable."

"Thank you babe."

"And you should probably start studying because if I do have my way, I'm fucking you on the table. Pregnant or not."

She blushed furiously as she picked her notebook and highlighter. She looked up to try and say something but she stopped herself and forced her mind to focus on her books. She can do it and be a nurse. Make her baby proud to call her her mother. Now let's get into it.

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At Ma Amelia's house

Tsona stopped to look at the blank tv screen. Did he just say he didn't know her? Like he said he didn't know her and hung up? Wow!

She could still feel the sting she got from that embarrassing moment. She frowned and clapped her hands. She had used her softest voice ever and he still said he didn't know. He wasn't even interested in knowing the person behind the soft voice?

She clapped her hands again. He wasn't that rude when he was here watching the movie with them. Just too silent but he was good looking. Really good looking. Pity her sister fell pregnant though.

She didn't expect Amelia to fall pregnant though, she had been kidnapped and she should be away from the male species because who would trust men after being such a victim? Now she was pregnant when she was about to do her last year. Talk about bad timing as well.

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At Thero's parents

Victoria played with Keith on the carpet but her mind wasn't really there. Her husband was right, Thero had nothing to lose and he wouldn't just say something like that. If it went to asking Kingsley he wouldn't show up but she wasn't sure about anything now. She sighed as she thought about Rosa. Who would always 'ola' her everyday and helped her set up her garden and have tea with her as they talked regardless of their different educational levels.

She shook her head. That was in the past.

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A FEW DAYS LATER

# DELICATE

#99

At Kingsley's house

"Shit! Urg fuuck!" He groaned in her ear as he followed suit in coming and her walls tightly clenched around his length as her legs kept him locked in between her legs. He sucked on her neck as her legs dropped and his hands touched her sensitive breasts. He lightly squeezed her boobs and she opened her eyes as milk leaked. She told him it was normal, she was the nurse and he did google it and found it to be true. Apparently milk leaked from as early as four months and she started leaking as of recent. He kissed her lips.

"Good morning princess." He looked into her eyes and she blushed.

"Morning." She said out of breath. She smiled and

placed her small hands on his bare chest.

"Slept okay?" She nodded, that shy smile playing on her lips. Of course she slept okay, he was holding her even though she fell asleep before he could.

"Good." He pecked her lips and slowly slid out of her warmth, he tried. God he tried not to exhaust her with sex but it was hard not to when it felt so good to be buried inside her. He got hard again and he groaned. They needed to get ready for that quick check up before they headed to the salon. He needs a haircut and she needs to do her hair plus he needs to pass by his office to get a few files to work on while she is sleeping at night. She didn't know that he barely slept with her, as soon as she fell asleep he just slips out of bed to work, he didn't want to scare with him waking up sweatinh from nighmares and he usually returns to bed by two am if not three am when he is really spent. He just kissed her again and she welcomed his lips as she slipped her hands in his hair.

"Let's get ready okay?" Amelia nodded and he got off her. He stood up and Amelia's phone rang by the

bedside. Both of them looked at the phone and the name 'mama' flashed on the screen.

"Amelia I thought we agreed on you taking a break from those people." He started and Amelia pulled the blankets closer to her chest as she picked the phone.

"Grey, she is my mother. She does have her faults and I just unblocked her yesterday. She deserves another chance at redemption."

He raised an eyebrow. Wow! She was calling more stress onto her life and he was working on making the rest of her pregnancy as stress free as possible.

"Amelia I didn't say forever. Three months without talking to them won't hurt. Warona should be born healthy and wena ka bona o batla go ipiletsa bp akere Amelia?"(I see you want high blood pressure right Amelia?)

"Nyaa. But she is my mother, I just can't do that. She has been there for me for most of my life and kana maybe she saw her wrongs. I can never know if I keep her on my blocked list." Kingsley grabbed a



towel as he wrapped it around his waist. He folded his arms and looked at Amelia. Was she hearing herself? He was the one who comforted her when her mother was stressing her and she was stressing herself for fuck's sake. He didn't say forever, just until she gives birth.

"Amelia o ska batla go ntsholeka go le maphakela. Akere tla bo o lela after the phone call ke go didimatsa gone ha, o ska batla go ntena jalo Amelia."(Amelia don't you dare try to annoy me in the morning. I'll be the one comforting you after the phone call, don't try to make me that angry Amelia.)

"Why are you angry at me?"

"Because o akanya bomatla Amelia. Blocka motho yoo tle o tle go tlhapa, we have an appointment."(Because you think like a stupid person. Block that person and come take a bath, we have an appointment.)

"Kingsley she is my mother and maybe she has something important to say. In life you have to give people second chances." She patted her eyes and

looked at him. Kingsley laughed in disbelief. Did she have temporary amnesia or was she too sweet for her own good? She was crying a few days back and he thought they came to an agreement. This was irking him in the wrong way, so early in the morning for that matter.

"After talking to her, don't you dare cry after she hurts you and don't expect me to comfort you. And when we get to the doctor's office I don't want him to say your blood pressure is too high, eseng jalo wa go nkitse sentle. Wa itse wa lapisa Amelia?"(do you know you're annoying?)

He left her on bed and he walked to the bathroom, closing the door and she sighed. She stared at her phone and her mother called again. She breathed in and out before taking the call.

"Hello."

"Amelia did you block me? Kante why is that you now think you are a grown up? You need family, who do you think is going to help you with the baby?"

Amelia breathed in and she instantly regretted her

decision.

"How are you mama?"

"I hope you had time to think about what's best for the child. You can't study while staying with a child, we'll help you with the stitches and you can go to school leaving the baby here so you can do your final year."

"You and who?"

"Your aunt. We are more experienced with children, the child's father will take care of the child by sending money besides eventually he might stop and you cut your losses and move."

"Why do you want the child to stay there?"

"We are reducing your workload ngwanaka. You are still a child yourself."

Amelia breathed out and closed her eyes. There was no hint of an apology in her mother's voice.

"And did I tell you that I'm in Gaborone? I'm going to help you with the bags so you can come home."

"You're here?"

"Yes. I'll pass by your school by noon."

"-I I'm not going home for the holidays. You basically disowned me."

"Akere I was angry that you were pregnant even though we warned you."

"You asked me to have an abortion."

"And you didn't, now we are here. Where are you going to stay if you are not coming home Amelia? We are trying to help you."

"Mama you never apologised." Amelia blinked back tears.

"Apologise for what? Akere we never sent you there to open your legs for older men and now we are doing damage control. Helping you with a child because you cannot afford one."

Amelia's tears rolled down her eyes.

"Damage control?"

"Ee. Amelia you are still a child yourself."

"But a sorry won't hurt."

"Sorry for what Amelia? That you are pregnant? Amelia this is not America and this is Botswana. You decided not to listen to your parents and have a child while you are still one and I have to apologise for that? Nyaa mma."

"This was a mistake. You can go back home and I won't bring my daughter there. Thank you for the offer though." She said softly as she hung up and covered her face with her hands. Why was her mother acting this way? Why? She lifted her head up as Kingsley opened the bathroom door and he saw her teary eyes. He ignored her and she sighed. He was right and now she was crying but she could have avoided that. She got out of bed as she sniffed and picked that oversized t-shirt. She wore it and walked to the bathroom and closed the door. Her family hated her now, when she called Tsona to tell her to behave like a child her age, that 17 year old called her a whore. Her own sister a whore for getting pregnant. She closed her eyes as tears rolled down her cheeks. She should take a bath and get ready. She opened the tap and closed off the water,

she waited for the water to fill up the bathtub before she stepped inside.

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At Thero's parents

That same morning, Thero got ready to go get his haircut at Legend's Barber Shop. He trusted them with his head and maybe after that haircut he could talk to Lisbeth and take her out for lunch. Just nothing big, for them to talk as friends and co-parents. Just because they lost each other as lovers didn't mean they lost each other as friends. He sprayed his cologne and brushed his hair as he smiled. If by chance he can pass by UB to see Amelia. He knew he sounded and seemed desperate for someone who hasn't been in his life for the past 3 years but Amelia was that lovable. A whole gem he let slip through his fingers. She was smart, beautiful and kind. It was just lust that made him feel like

Lisbeth was the better option. His phone rang and he answered.

"Mate." His friend laughed at the other end of the line and he chuckled.

"Hey, I'll be in town in an hour's time."

"Okay. I'm just about to go to town as well. We'll meet there."

His friend agreed and Thero slid his phone in his jean pocket. He picked his wallet and slid it in his pocket as well. Time to go look presentable. He walked out of his bedroom. He was not sure what his parents decided to do about what he told them about Kingsley. He did tell them what he remembered and what they do with the information was solely up to them.

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At Kingsley's house

Amelia wore her spectacles after she was done getting dressed. She was yet in another maxi dress and sandals. She wore her own denim jacket this time, picked her phone and walked out of the bedroom because when she finished bathing Grey wasn't there. She walked to the lounge and she heard the car start in the garage. She sighed. Guess they were eating out for breakfast and she dragged herself to the garage. She got inside the car and placed her phone on her lap.

"I-I blocked her." He buckled her up before he reversed the car and she closed her eyes. He wasn't speaking to her now?

"And you are still going to unblock her so let's not talk about it. I was looking out for you and my child as well because Amelia you are not going to stress my child to the point of her being born with complications."

"I'm sorry."

The gate slid open and he reversed till he was out of the yard and the gate closed.



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My apologies for the late insert. I had a few personal errands to run.

DELICATE

#100

At the private practice

Kingsely held her hand as the doctor started speaking after the check up.

"Ms Mogosi you are gaining weight which is progress but your blood pressure." She looked down, too embarrassed to look at Kingsley.

"Guess you still have a long way to go with the stress but tone it down. The foetus is the main priority." She nodded, feeling Kingsley's eyes on her.

"How is your vision?"

"It's clearer now that I'm wearing glasses."

"Good to hear that. She should be religious to her medication, good and healthy food, less stress and she should also try exercise or body stretches."

"Noted doctor. Can I speak to you for a minute? Princess can you wait in the car for me?" He took out his car keys and handed them to her.

"Okay." She let go of his hand and held onto the chair as she stood up. She looked at the doctor then Grey before she walked out and closed the door.

Kingsley turned to look at the doctor.

"About her low blood, won't she lose a lot of blood during birth? I read that women sometimes lose blood and some do not survive birth. What are the odds? I didn't want to stress her." The doctor smiled. He was impressed that Kingsley was that interested in his partner's pregnancy and he was even thinking about the future and everything.

"Well women do lose blood during the birthing process but if it does happen that she does haemorrhage a lot, a blood donation will be very necessary." Kingsley made a mental note to clear his schedule after two months just in case she gives birth.

"Okay. That's okay and there might be low odds of

her losing her life akere?"

"So far there are no complications, she is still underweight making the baby underweight and if she lowers her stress, then she is lowering her chances of having pre-eclampsia which lowers birth complications."

"I understand now. Thank you doctor."

"Welcome."

Kingsely stood up and he checked his pocket for his phone. She was waiting for him in the car.

Meanwhile in the parking lot, Amelia unlocked the car and got inside. Her mother was in town and she didn't even ask her to be here. She had been begging for a single ounce of support for the past six months and she just decided she wanted to support her? She didn't even acknowledge that she was having a beautiful girl.

"Warona I'm so sorry my love." She rubbed her stomach and sighed. Grey was still angry at her and

she never told him she did look up those words he said to her on Google. A small smile crept on her face, she knew he had love in him and she could now see that they both needed this therapy thing, if he was going to agree. She didn't want to pressure him at all and she never raised the topic ever since that day. The car door opened and he got inside the car. Looked at her and sighed.

"Amelia what you did in the morning princess was not even funny."

"I'm sorry."

"Amelia, there is giving family a chance and there is avoiding a toxic environment and that's what your family is starting to look like. Amelia as much as you love them, choose your peace. We have Warona to prepare for and you have your last paper on Monday then we wait for Warona to arrive and you can focus on that instead of trying to force something that won't even happen."

"I understand."

"Do you really understand? Amelia if it was you alone

without Warona to think of then sure, I would let you hurt yourself with your toxic family like you want to do but there is Warona and whatever you feel, she feels and we have to think of her first querida." She nodded. She heard him loud and clear. He touched her chin and forced her to look at him.

"I hate having to say the same thing twice Amelia. Your blood pressure is worrying and you want to make it worse now, intentionally and I don't want to have be scolding you like a child, which you are but you are mine. I don't know if that makes sense but I don't want to scold you, just enjoy the last three montha of your pregnancy. Eat what you want, watch tv all you want, go for swimming if it suits your fancy, read a book, annoy me with your million questions just be stress free and don't think too much." She smiled and he pecked her lips.

"Do just that and you'll be a happy momma okay princess?" She nodded.

"Good girl." He kissed her and deepened the kiss which she moaned into. He broke it. He was too thirsty.

"Where do you usually do your hair? Do you want nails? And a pedicure?"

"I usually do it mo this other salon ha KB mall. I mean my hair."

"I am going to the barber, can we pass there first? I won't be long though and I'll take you to your salon to do your hair. Deal?"

She extended her hand and he took it and shook it.

"Deal."

"Good. Let's get going. Are you hungry?"

"I ate thirty minutes ago."

"I just wanted to know."

She buckled up while he started the car and carefully reversed out of his parking spot.

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At the barber shop

Thero looked at his fresh cut in the mirror. Hair cut done. He took a few pictures before he uploaded one on his facebook and he smiled. He was too fresh, too hot to handle. He grinned. Life always felt right after a fresh new cut.

"And I love it."

"And it suits you as well."

"Thank you. I will be looking fresh all month long, look at the sharp edges man." The barber smiled. He loved a very happy and satisfied client. Quality was everything to them.

Meanwhile outside, Kingsley looked at Amelia.

"Are you sure you want to get in? You can stay in the car."

"Ka go borega ke le one mo koloing."(I'm going to be bored all alone in the car)

"You can play games on your phone or read an ebook."

"I'm leaving with you. It's not as if I'll be on my feet



the whole time. Just watching you get a haircut. She pushed her glasses back and smiled.

"But you didn't want me to experiment on it, all I needed was a scissor and I would style your hair like a professional."

He raised a skeptical eyebrow.

"You don't trust me to cut your hair? I am good at it."

"You're not a barber."

"But I can be your barber if you let me."

"You're blind as a bat Lia."

"I'm wearing glasses I can see but you're fake Grey, you won't let me cut your hair." He shook his head laughing. He got out of the car and walked to her side to open the door for her. He handed her his phone as he locked the car and then the car keys as he placed a hand around her waist. They walked to the barber shop and Amelia smiled.

"I've never been here before."

"It shows." Kingsley looked around and spotted his barber. He looked at the pregnant little lady besides

him and walled with her.

"You're still a fake boyfriend."

"You're exhasuting Amelia."

"I could've done your hair mme. O fake ebile ga ke go rate."(you're fake and I don't like you.)

She held the stuff in one hand and extended her arm so she could slip her hands in his hair. He side eyed her and she blushed.

"We're not in the bedroom princesa where you pull my head down your gorgeous thighs to eat you out. Let go of my hair." He said in a husky whisper. She did let go and resisted the urge to cross her legs. On the other side of the same barber shop Thero finally stood up on his feet just as his eyes thinned to slits. His heart thudded in his chest and he swallowed dryly.

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# DELICATE

#101

At the babrber shop

Thero rubbed his eyes to make sure his eyes were not deceiving him but that was Amelia. He would recognize her from anywhere. In him spotting her, he didn't miss the bump or how she smiled when she was speaking to Kingsley who was talking to the barber. He had already paid and he breathed in as he tried to swallow down his emotions. They were still together? And she was pregnant? He walked towards them and Amelia frowned. She hoped Thero wasn't here to cause trouble or harass her about asking for love back

That was ancient history. Thero looked at Amelia, hoping the bump was a figment of his overactive imagination but turns not. He forced his eyes to look

at Kingsley and he cleared his throat.

"Hello."

Kingsley turned to face him. His face blank of any emotion.

"Hello can we talk?" Thero asked King and waited to hear what he said.

"Okay."

Kingsley walked towards Amelia and he didn't miss the way his eyes shined nor the way he smiled as he lowered his head to speak to Amelia. He swallowed. Hard for that matter. Kingsley was next to him in minutes and they both stepped out of the shop so he can hear him out.

"Uhm I-I started to do therapy." Thero started and Kingsley just nodded.

"I remembered everything that happened in my childhood through therapy and I remembered what Gomolemo did."

"I see." King replied and Thero was expecting a different answer. Maybe tears or anything.

"I am so sorry she did that to you and got away with it."

"Yeah."

Was Kingsley human? There wasn't an ounce of emotion in his voice or face.

"I kind of understand now why you cut the family off but you could've told them too."

"If you remember your whole childhood, you would understand why again. Seems you have a lot of remembering to do." He said and turned on his heel. Thero stopped him.

"Uhm is Amelia pregnant?" After he asked that question, he wanted to shoot himself in the leg for asking such. Of course she was, he saw her stomach and she looked happy.

"Yes. Any questions?" He shook his head as Kingsley walked back to the barber shop. Thero closed his eyes as his lungs started to close up on him. He held onto the nearest car as he forced deep breaths. It was that one mistake that led to such events. Amelia had been his and it had been them

against the world when they left for tertiary school. She had kept her promises while he got derailed and sex tempted him and he chose the one who gave him sex. Had he stuck with their plans through and through, on her 18th birthday he would've taken her virginity and she would still be madly in love 3 years later. Instead this 3 years later she was madly in love with the man she thought his cousin was and it hurt, that he still loved Amelia and that it was his fault he lost her now she was in love and pregnant for his cousin. Therapy had been the best thing he did but he never got over her. He didn't know why he wanted another chance but he did, a chance to make things right and if he could go back to change the hands of time and his actions he would do that. He took a deep breath and looked towards the barber shop. Something choked in his throat, he never really took her anyway or went to do casual things like getting a haircut while she was around. He swallowed painfully, it was a bitter pill to swallow that he kept her secret, didn't even protect her and he was the bigger fool. She was gone and never came back to him. He had been young and a

fool but she wasn't going to understand that. He swallowed his hurt and closed his eyes. His mind going to the day he had told her he loved her and wanted them to be more than friends.

She had unplaited her huge fro for him to see, exposing it to him and going over to his place because she didn't have a phone just tell him she said yes. A tear trickled down his cheek. She had been vibrant and very much his. They spent afternoons together, just pure, raw undiluted love till he ruined it. He was going to spend the rest of his life regretting that decision because if by chance Kingsley is to show up at family functions he was going to have to see them happy with their child and it will hurt. Hurt that he didn't know what he had till he lost it, hurt that he never got a chance to right his wrongs.

Meanwhile in the barber shop, Amelia watched how they trimmed Kingsley's hair and practically shaved it at the sides. Her boyfriend was hot and she looked around, hoping no women kept their eyes on him.

"Princesa I'm almost done."

She just nodded as she slowly boiled in her own thoughts. He was going to be the centre of attraction. Mans was effortlessly hot and it was something she was going to have to deal with. She was going to ask what Thero wanted once they leave this place.

Twenty minutes later he was done and they were walking to the car.

"Can I run my hands through your hair? Do you think Warona is going to have the kind of hair you have?"

"No, not in public plus I just got it done. Want to ruin my hairstyle?"

"O montle thata and go a ntena."(you're too handsome and it annoys me.)

"Someone is jealous."

"No. Why would I be jealous?"



He unlocked the car and opened the door for her while he jogged to his side. He got inside and he wanted to roll down the tinted windows but he got a better idea but the better part of his mind got him. He was exhausting her, he started the car as he placed a hand on her thigh and squeezed it. She smiled as she placed a hand on top of his hand.

He reversed out of the parking spot and drove off.

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In the mall

Thero sat on the chair as he waited for his friend to show up. He checked the comments under his pictures and wow! He even got a lot of shares on his picture but he wasn't that happy anymore. Just seeing Amelia pregnant kind of messed up his mood and knowing for a fact that she is not carrying hos

child hurt even more. He felt a slap on his back

"Hey ya mate." He forced a smile as he turned to fist bump his friend.

"Hey you, been waiting. Have a seat."

On the other side, Ma Amelia walked out of the store holding two plastics filled with baby clothes. Amelia said she was having a boy right? Or was it a girl? She didn't hear properly about the sex of the baby so she bought a few unisex clothes. She was very happy with her purchase and she should take a taxi to her school and then talk to her. Speaking on the phone just didn't cut it but first she should buy food.

Pregnant women usually craved junk food so she should eat something and buy her food thereafter before heading to her varsity dorm.

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At the salon

Amelia sat down as Kingsley sat down next to her and she faced the mirror. She didn't want to sit down for hours plus she wanted to ask him if he can take her to school to get the rest of her things.

"Hello, it's been a long time." She said as the hairdresser looked at her hair.

"Indeed."

"I'm going to wash it then carrot french?"

"Okay." The hairdresser had noticed the gentleman she walked in with and wow! She had never seen anyone like him before.

"How long are you going to take?" He asked Amelia and all the ladies' eyes were solely on him as they drunk his voice. Imagine hearing him moan in your ear and male moans were such a turn on.

"Uhm in two hours I think." He nodded and pressed his phone. Will she be hungry in two hours? Was that how long she usually took for her hair appointments?

Amelia didn't know she was going to do her hair, she

would have removed those twists yesterday. She sat still as her hairdresser started to untwist her hair.

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My sincerest apologies to everyone who stayed up late waiting for the insert. I fell asleep way earlier than I anticipated. Also my apologies in advance because I have to go do my hair so not sure when I'll be done unlike Amelia but anyway Good morning and have a blessed productive day.

DELICATE

#102

At the salon

Amelia stared at her reflection, forehead all shiny and popping.

"How much is it?" Kingsley asked as he looked at how it made her eyes stretch in a chinese kind of way. Wasn't it painful?

"P100." Kingsley nodded as he took out his wallet and took out the P200 note as he placed it on the hairdresser's table. The hairdresser did Amelia's edges and laid them nicely.

"Doone."

Amelia stood on her feet. She stretched her body and looked at Kingsley.

"Let me find change."

"It's okay, she looks beautiful." Amelia smiled as she yawned. She forgot how tiring it was just to sit on a chair to get your hair done. The hairdresser thanked him and he took Amelia's hand.

"Thank you so much." Amelia said once again before they walked out.

"Bonang!"(look at you.)

"Pretty hurts or whatever Beyonce said..." he chuckled.

"You are pretty princesa."

"How do I say thank you in Spanish?"

"gracias"

She said it to herself as they walked to the car before she turned more confident to tell him.

"gracias."

"bienvenida"

She smiled. Oh wow, she guessed that was thank you.

"And you are teaching yourself that? Wow! You are

smart."

"And you are smart too and going to ace those exams."

"I hope so. Babe I have a favour to ask."

"I'm listening."

"I want to go pack up the rest of my things in my room and and sign out. Will you help me? It's going to take three hours and the time is like noon so we can go?"

"Okay, start packing. I'll drop you off at school and go collect a few of my files at the office. Sound good?"

"Perfect. Thank you so much."

"Welcome princess." He unlocked the car and opened the car door for her as she got inside. He walked to his side and got inside as she started to buckle up.

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At the mall

Thero sat down and talked to his friend over lunch.

"So I met this girl. I didn't exactly meet her but.."

"But?"

"But she has a child man and we have talked a couple of times. She is beautiful, if I was her baby daddy I wouldn't have left her."

"Is she a student?"

"Yeah she is. In one of the local universities, what would you do mate?" Thero looked at his food.

"I don't think you'd take advice from someone who lost the woman he loved and who equally loved him back." The friend frowned.

"I was young and dumb and cheated on the sweetest girl, ka nna mabela and I demanded sex from her, she was 17 and I was 19 at the time. It turned bad and it seems as if someone told her I was cheating.



She left saying it was over and she went missing. She was found a week later though."

"And you blame yourself for the kidnapping?"

"Yes. But fast forward I met her a year ago at our home village after not being in contact for two years. At that time I had settled for my baby mama and everything changed."

"And you still love her, you changed but it takes a special kind of woman to take back a cheating man."

"I know that." Thero breathed out. It hurt physically when he thought about Amelia with Kingsley and now that she was pregnant and tied to him forever.

"She didn't want me back. Turns out she moved on and with my cousin. When I tell you that it hurts, I mean it."

His friend could see it by the look on Thero's face.

"My baby mama and I are co-parents and it's fine, she deserves someone who can love her and not me who chose her because the main chick decided to leave and guess what?" He said as he placed a fist

over his mouth. It had felt like a literal punch to his gut.

"She is pregnant. With my cousin's child and she looks so happy with him. You see the cousin I grew up with who was always distant and never really showed affection or happiness? He was with her and it was just emotional distress on my side. She is gone forever and there is literally nothing I can do." Thero sucked in a breath as he blinked the tears away.

"She is happy and that's all that matters right? I'll find someone else knowing that I learnt my lesson. I hurt her and she wasn't those crazy women who shit post on Facebook and trash men about them doing this and that? Hell she isn't even on Facebook. She just let me be peacefully and she never looked back. Not for a second because we had plans as young as we were and I went off the rails, now I'm the one in pain while she is living her best life. Ah life. Life will humble you so go for what you want. If it's that lady with the baby and you like her to give her a chance, go for it. You'll never know heyy." He finally said as

he drank his juice with a heavy heart. He needed something stronger than juice but it was twelve fucking noon. He sighed and covered his face with his hands. She looked happy and all the bad he thought about Kingsley faded because a woman who was not treated good wouldn't be that happy.

"It will be okay. With time."

"I'll just have to move on. Find a girl in London and take it from there."

His friend just noddef. Not sure how to comfort Thero.

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At Campus

Amelia threw herself on the bed and Yaya smiled. Her friend looked happier now and she was glad. That was all she wanted.

"And you look happier."

"Does it show?" Amelia asked with a huge smile.

"It does." She sat upright and touched her stomach. Warona Rosalia Carter. She loved the name and couldn't wait to meet her baby girl.

"Yaya am I going crazy or the people around me are crazy?" Yaya sat next to Amelia.

"Kana my little sister called my boyfriend maloba and when i confronted her about it she called me a whore instead of apologising. A whole 17 year old calling her sister a whore." Yaya clapped her hands.

"These kids. She is the whore, who calls her sister's boyfriend?"

"And I never even have her his number. Koore waitse ke ha ke sala ke eme tlhogo."(I was just surprised)

"Probably jealousy. People like that will fumble and fall on their own and then try to act like saints when they want help. Let her be, she is still too young to understand but make sure she never goes to your boyfriend's place or stay with you guys when she

wants accommodation. O mo time ngochi."(refuse)  
Yaya said as she did the action followed by her last words which was something kids did and Amelia smiled.

"You are good person and you might forgive her for such but just let her live her life honestly. Some people you let them be for your own well being and you move with life. Baby girl is about to arrive in a few months mommy and no plans. Whyyy?"

Amelia laughed.

"Plans? I have none."

"Urg, you deserve a photoshoot. Pictures at a nice picnic mommy to be. You fell pregnant while in school but so what? Enjoy it and be happy."

"I am trying to enjoy it."

"Plus mma wena wa ithusa. Rona re tla bo re amusa bana re le bo thirty while you are enjoying knowing that you have no babies to take care off and your kids will relate well to you."(you are helping yourself, some of us will be nursing kids while we're thirty)

"But still. The father is so excited gore mma wena."

"Love to see it. Why are you here? You are supposed to be relaxing mma."

"Packing the rest of my things."

"Okay, let me help you to make it much more easier."

Meanwhile Ma Amelia walked up the stairs to where Amelia resides. she held the plastics in hand and she looked around. The door was slightly ajar and she smiled. She knocked on the door before pushing it open.

"Ke mang..."(who is it....) Amelia trailed off as she turned to see her mother at the door. Her heart started racing as Yaya looked at Amelia's mother.

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DELICATE

#103

At Campus

Ma Amelia looked at Amelia who was wearing cute eyeglasses and she looked like she just got her hair done.

"Hi Amelia." Amelia breathed in and nodded as she walked to the wardrobe to get her big suitcases to start packing. Yaya read the vibes in the room and she didn't want to be the one to get in between family matters.

"Ame, I'm going to get some food." Amelia nodded and Yaya walked past Ma Amelia who closed the door as soon as Yaya left.

"How have you been?"

"Fine." Amelia answered as she walked back to the

wardrobe to take out the rest of her clothes and she threw them on the bed as she got more of the clothes. She might be done in less than four hours and she can sign out by the RA's room. She opened the suitcase and sat on the bed as she started packing.

"Amelia are you going to ignore me like this?" Amelia folded her clothes in silence. Ma Amelia placed the plastics by Amelia's feet.

"I bought the baby clothes and let me help you pack so you can rest."

"It's fine. I'll be done then I can go."

"I'm leaving tomorrow. You'll have to wait till tomorrow morning." Amelia calmly placed the folded t-shirt in the suitcase and looked at her mother.

"I'm not going to Bobonong." Her mother frowned.

"Your relatives don't live here and if you aren't going to Bobonong where are you going?"

"Somewhere where I won't be reminded how much of a failure I am and how much of a whore I've



turned out to be." Ma Amelia gasped.

"Amelia, there is a difference between being shown your wrongs and being called such." Amelia humphed and forced herself to be calm. Warona was her first priority. Only Warona.

"Okay."

Amelia continued packing and her mother looked at her first born daughter. She could see her tummy and it hurt her as a parent to see her university going daughter pregnant.

"Amelia this silent treatment you think you have, won't work." Amelia didn't even turn to face her mother just kept packing. Warona was what was important, she didn't want to raise her blood pressure.

"I don't want anything to work, I accepted what I can change and working towards what I can change."

"At least we are on the same page."

Amelia shook her head. Her mother was not even trying to listen.

"Amelia please listen, I am your mother and I want the best for you."

"I listened and you tore me down with words, I don't want to listen anymore. I don't want the lectures and no, I am not giving you my baby. That is all I have to say."

Amelia breathed in and out before she looked around the room. She walked to the open window and breathed in as her mother looked at her.

"I just want to be at peace with myself and this pregnancy without you or aunt Kaone being a part of it, you caused my depression and my low weight. But you didn't care, just wanted to get your point across in the most hurtful way and you did. Can I just be at peace without you trying to still hurt me." Ma Amelia opened her mouth and closed it again as she looked at Amelia who was staring out the window.

"I am not going to Bobonong. Thank you for travelling all the way here, I'm fine and thank you for the baby clothes as well even though it's the same baby you wanted me to abort. Thank you." Amelia

walked back to the bed and sat down. Her phone beeped and she checked the message. It was from Grey and he said he was on his way up the stairs. She placed her phone down and put her jeans in the suitcase before she heard a door knock. She stood up and opened the door. Grey walked in and held her waist.

"I'm done at th-" He paused as he saw her mother. She looked at Amelia who shrugged.

"I didn't call her, I swear to God." Ma Amelia looked at her own daughter saying she didn't even call her in front of the man she once said was her friend then boyfriend then baby daddy. Grey searched Amelia's to see if she was lying but she wasn't. He kissed her forehead as they stepped the room.

"Kingsley this is my mother, I believe you guys met that time you were watching a movie with us."

Kingsley nodded at her mother's direction. He just didn't want Amelia stressed and it seemed as if this woman was stress on her own.

"Amelia we can talk it out. Peacefully." Ma Amelia

said with a soft voice and Amelia sat on the bed.

"It's clear she doesn't want to speak to you. Let her be in peace and please leave." Ma Amelia watched Amelia ignore her existence and didn't even speak up for her.

"Amelia is my da-"

"That you stressed to the point of exhaustion and other health problems. Please leave, I won't repeat myself the third time."

Ma Amelia looked at handsome Kingsley then Amelia then both of them before she shook her head.

"Amelia you are going to need me one day and you are going to regret treating me this way."

She walked out of the room and closed the door while Kingsley sat next to Amelia.

"Are you okay?"

"Yeah, I didn't talk back or anything. I need to rest away from them."

"And you are going to rest away from them okay princess?" She nodded as he pulled her to him and she rested her head on his shoulder.

"We are going to learn how to raise Warona right?"

She nodded.

"Lia?"

"Rra?"

"I thought about the therapy suggestion and it won't hurt to try therapy." Amelia smiled. Finally!

"Thank you. We'll find a therapist and take it from there but thank you love." Kingsley just nodded and moved another hand to her stomach. He rubbed the bump and he smiled. Warona Rosalia Carter. Wow!

Ma Amelia walked down the stairs still blown away by her daughter's behaviour. Was she that toxic that Amelia felt the need to cut her off or to 'take a break' as she put it? When you show them their mistakes it's wrong. When you keep quiet about it, it's also wrong. She didn't know but she hoped and prayed

her other daughters were not going to repeat Amelia's mistake. Not at all.

So her trip here was rather useless? Wow! Amelia chose a man over her own family, where was the man the past six months Amelia had been begging for glasses or any kind of help? Where was he? And he thought his handsomeness gave him the right to chase her out like that. She rolled her eyes as she started walking. The gate was kind of far but she might catch a bus home now at this time because she travelled all this way for nothing.

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Apologies if it's short. Have a good night. Thank you for reaching the target. Le di star

DELICATE

#104

At Campus

Ma Amelia decided to sit down and she closed her eyes. Amelia chose a man over family? The same man who wasn't present 6 months ago and he decides to show up and she now says she has been saying hurtful words to her? Wonders shall never cease to exist. She took out her phone and dialed her sister's number. Kaone answered after a few rings.

"Hello?"

"Hello Kaone, I'm at the university and Amelia doesn't want to listen."

"Uhu. Kante Amelia o batla go bolellwa ga kahe? Ra re ra mo thusa ene o itirela ga gagwe?"(How does

Amelia want to be told stuff? We try to help her and she does her own?)

"I am shocked. She chose a man over me? A man who might leave her for another woman." Kaone shook her head.

"Amelia o rata banna, kana o tla bona a tla kiba kiba ka mpa e nngwe gone ha after a sena go tshola yoo."(Amelia likes men, you'll see her with another pregnancy shortly after this one)

"At this point, let her destroy her own future with men and babies. We wanted to excuse her this one time."

"Amelia is disappointing me, this is not the sweet girl that was raised to respect her elders."

"Let her be. She will need us one day when there is no one to turn to and that man left. Skolo se padile because I'n sure she isn't giving her best to school."

"Waitse nna I'm disappointed. Truly disappointed by her."

"Don't stress yourself too much, life out there isn't as



sweet as she thinks. Men change. Ele gore who is her baby daddy? Amelia o sematla she can be excited over a mere taxi driver being her baby daddy." Ma Amelia swallowed as she remembered that Amelia's father was a mere combi driver who gave her lifts for free and a few coins. She shook her head.

"Some man."

"It can't be some man. Driving a taxi and trying to take care of a baby does not go together. Babies are expensive as hell." Ma Amelia sighed.

"He looks like he has money because he was the one who saved her when she was kidnapped." Kaone frowned. Her sister mentioned that in passing.

"The one who paid the medical bills for that private hospital she was in?" Ma Amelia nodded. Kaone tried to find a job but damn the child was smart. Imagine trapping a well off man with a child.

"Wow! So he is the older man she has been seeing?"

"Yes." Ma Amelia didn't dare mention that she wanted Kingsley's number and that Amelia plainly

refused with the number.

"We'll talk when we get here, akere mme when one is pregnant, damages have to be paid?" Kaone enquired.

"I guess."

"But we'll talk. Bye."

"Bye." Ma Amelia hung up and she sighed as she got up on her feet and walked to the gate now.

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In Amelia's room

Kingsely watched her as she packed her stuff up and he smiled. She was beautiful did she know that? An unexpected pain enveloped his chest and he faced the other way, the fact that his parents were not alive to know her and if his parents were alive he would have never gone through that trauma in his childhood.

He knew their names and it was by chance that he discovered his mother was Spanish. He closed his eyes, even the grandmother that had claimed to love him never really talked about his parents, he had seen a picture of them and she was beautiful. So beautiful. He looked at Amelia once again, she was beautiful and kind hearted.

Amelja turned to look at him.

"What is it? You look down." He chuckled at how she had gotten so good at reading him now, how she sensed that or was it her motherly instinct kicking in?

"Nothing. Keep packing."

She just nodded. She had made the right decision right? Her mother was stressing her more and when she told her that she was depressed and underweight she just ignored that. She was going to be okay, study for this last exam then rest and enjoy her pregnancy. Eat well and allow Warona to grow as well.

Yaya pushed the slightly ajar door open and she

looked at Amelia.

"Are you fine?"

"I'm fine Yaya. I'm good." Yaya breathed out a sigh of relief. She wanted to ask Ame if she had spoken to Kgosi this past week. There were flying rumours around and she was sure Amelia hadn't heard the rumours since she was in her own world.

"Babe, can you wait for me in the car? I'll call you to help me with the bags." Kingsley nodded and nodded in Yaya's direction as a way of greeting her before he walked out. Yaya breathed out and looked at Amelia.

"Ame?"

"Ma?"

"Have you talked to Kgosi?"

"I blocked her why?"

"There have been rumours around about your alleged baby daddy." Amelia paused. People had nothing better to do with their lives.

"That he is what? Going to leave me?"

"That you might be a little gold digger and wanted a man who was monied." Amelia continued folding her clothes.

"Okay. He is monied. So what? Do they want him ke ba mo neele a ba je botlhe?"(do they want him so I can give them him to sleep with all of them?)

"Calm down Amelia, that man loves you, a blind bat can see that."

Amelia chuckled.

"People will talk and it's okay. At my village I'm used to being compared to my mother because she did bad things in her past and they judge me with her actions. It's no surprise that they saw me with King and they saw news. Whether it was Kgosi or not, it doesn't matter. If they want him they can go after him. The thing is he doesn't want them back so...."

"You're mature for your age."

Amelia laughed.

"Mxm. Yaya?"

"Ma?" Amelia looked at Yaya and she pushed her

glasses back as she smiled.

"I liked the way you danced on that pole." Yaya laughed.

"Thank you."

"Can you teach me?"

Yaya's eyes widened. What?

"Okay after I give birth not that I'm going to go to the club or anything or strip for anyone or anything. Hmm?"

"Sure? I don't have a pole and I usually use the one at the club I work at."

Amelia closed her eyes. How to make Grey.... she smiled. She didn't want people to know that she is the only person who calls him by his second name, it was hers to use in a way. Okay how to get Grey to buy a pole without knowing he is buying a pole..

"I'll find a way and you can teach me. Deal?"

"Deal." Yaya shook Amelia's hand and she smiled. She had to be positive and think happy thoughts. Just happy thoughts and nothing more, nothing less.

"What can I help you with?" Yaya asked as she walked towards Amelia's wardrobe.

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At Hope's place

Hope read the letter again, hoping her eyes were deceiving her. He was really firing her? Obviously it was that little girl and she has been working there peacefully all these months. She looked at the keys she was supposed to return and she had an idea. She closed her emails and stood up. She was going to town now and she will pass by his house later.

Her phone rang and she picked up.

"Hope. Hello?"

"Hey Hope. I was thinking that we can meet for drinks and go out for dinner?" Hope sighed. He was

trying. He was really trying but she didn't want him and he had to get that through his thick skull.

"I can't. I'm sorry." She hung up and on second thoughts, she needs to change her clothes and wear something more sexy that shows her legs and her gorgeous figure. She had a lot of work to do and she wasn't going to be fired without no valid reason. She might even convince him too.

She headed to her bedroom.

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At Campus

Amelia looked around. She was done. Done packing up everything and now she was calling Grey to come get her stuff.

"Yaya, he will come pick my stuff. I'm going to get



that sign out form from the RA."

"Okay." She left Yaya in the room and walked to where the RA lived.

Meanwhile Grey made his way up the stairs. The door to her room was open and he walked inside.

"She went to get the sign out form from the RA." He just nodded and he picked up Amelia's suitcase before he walked out of the room. Yaya pressed her phone as Amelia came back and sat by her desk, filling out the form.

"Amelia?"

"Hhhmmmm?"

"Do you want a maternity photoshoot?"

Yaya asked and she smiled. That was sweet. Really sweet but maybe if she wasn't a student she would have one.

"Maybe in future." Amelia said and Yaya scrolled through pictures of nice maternity shoots. Maybe as a surprise. She will have to work overtime at the club

but she does make a lot of money in one night. 1k in a single night is a lot and schools are about to be closed so maybe next month she would have organised the whole thing without Amelia knowing.

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DELICATE

#105

At Kingsley's house

Amelia sat on the couch as Kingsley took her stuff to the room they shared. She looked at her feet and sighed. She was still wondering if she made the right decision in regards to her mother but she had only two options. Go with her mom and have to endure being called out on her mistakes while her mother and aunt hurled hurtful words her way or go with Kingsley who would never. He was a sweet man minus him thinking he was a monster which he was not, he was the sweetest man to ever walk this planet. In her own opinion anyway. She sighed.

"Hey Warona, it's your mom again. I hope you are doing fine." She said and sighed. She hoped one day her mother and aunt were going to accept Warona

and for Tsona to apologise. It was all wishful thinking but it would be okay and they would learn to be a family again.

"I really hope your granny and aunts accept you one day baby." For now she was just the black sheep of the family because she fell pregnant and everyone was against her now. Kingsley passed by her again as he went to get the last of her stuff and she kept her eyes on him as he walked past.

He was a really good looking man and a kind person who didn't deserve what happened to him. And now it seemed like everyone wanted him. That didn't sit well with her as well. She was glad he wanted to try therapy again, she didn't know which one he would prefer though.

She would ask the psychology students she knew that had their practicals at Marina what was what and if she had to book in advance. Or would he prefer a private psychiatrist? She didn't know but after her last paper she would look for one and they

would go for sessions. He passed by her again and he smiled her way. She smiled back as he took the last of her bags to his room. She closed her eyes and leaned back on the couch. It was only a minute later she felt his hands squeeze her shoulders and she smiled.

"Are you okay?"

"I'm fine."

"Sure?"

She released a sigh.

"I'm wondering about my mom."

"Just for these months for peace and then after Warona is born, you can try connecting with her again, maybe she will be less angry. I don't know."

Amelia nodded. He was right. Maybe seeing Warona was going to make her forget about the anger and accept her back. She loved her mother and what she was doing now was hurting her.

She opened her eyes and looked up at him and he smiled. He placed his hands around her neck and

she smiled.

"I love you okay?"

"Te amo princesa." She giggled as he kissed her forehead.

"The day we met. At Game city.."

"Let's not even talk about that.."

Amelia smiled.

"You denied knowing me. Why?"

"Amelia!!!"

"Babe just answer me.." she whined and he sighed.

"I didn't want to form a connection with you Amelia. I was not the best person for that and emotions weren't things I handled well."

"I was so upset that the man who saved my life didn't even remember me. Kana I was kidnapped....."  
her voice trailed off as she looked at him. She squinted her eyes at him. She held his hands and removed them from her neck.

"The kidnapping..how did you find me Kingsley? I

was missing for a week and I was locked up. I am sure no one had clue about my whereabouts."

Kingsley rubbed his neck and he shouldn't lie to the mother of his child. She deserved to know what had happened and she might not appreciate the dishonesty.

He sat on the couch next to her and he ran his hands through his hair, ruining the fresh haircut and Amelia picked a cushion, placing it on her stomach as she waited to hear what he had to say.

"Amelia when I had said I was a monster, I meant it and I-" he rubbed his neck and looked at her. She pushed her glasses back and wasn't saying a word.

"I- you know I run a sex club right?" She nodded. She knew and now thinking about it it got her in some kind of way because at the club there were a lot of beautiful women and she-

Shd shook her head. She met him at a sex club where she gave him her virginity just like that and raw for that matter. She shouldn't think too much

about it.

"Well uhm, I work with people. Remember that event I had and told you to come with then cancelled on you last minute?" Amelia ran her tongue on her front teeth as she nodded. She did remember that day. She was wondering what the event was about and he ended up going alone after telling her she should not come.

"Okay we'll get to that one. Uhm your secondary kidnapper if I can call him such owed me. A lot of money if I must say."

"I'm listening.."

"Well since I run a sex club he bought you from your first kidnapper. That's how you ended up being locked up in the room. He wanted to sell you to me to cover up for his debt because if you were working in my sex club you would be making a lot of money from that and that would cover more than half of his debt." Amelia shook her head. So if he hadn't found her halfway through with her suicide mission she was going to work for him? She couldn't hide her



astonishment.

"If it wasn't for me wanting to commit suicide, I would've been another prostitute?" Kingsley could hear the hurt in her voice.

"No, I refused because my sex club deals with people who have consented for what the different jobs entail, I run a sex club based on consent not forced or kidnapped women Amelia. I know how it feels not to have consent for something." Her features softened at that last sentence. She closed her eyes.

"Anyways when I walked in on you bleeding, my intention was to let you free...Yes he paid half of the money he owed and I killed him so he paid for what he did."

Amelia looked at him. He killed a human being?

"You killed him?"

"Yes Amelia. You can hate me and call me evil. I know. I wasn't even going to buy you." He ran his hands through his hair again.

"You killed him?" She asked again, her heart racing. Those hands that give pleasure to her body have killed?

"Yes Amelia! And I don't regret it one bit and he wasn't the first person I killed in my whole entire life and I also don't regret those murders. I make a clean job out of it anyway." He said as he looked at her horrified face. She was too sweet. Amelia swallowed and she didn't even hear an ounce of remorse in his voice. People are bad but what if they had family?

Before she could utter a word, they heard the gate open and Kingsley stood up on his feet. Meanwhile outside, Hope walked inside the yard in her thigh slit skirt and boob tube top. She had released her braids from that tight bun she used to don to work everyday. The door was opened and she stepped inside. Kingsley met her at the door and she flashed a smile.

"Hi, I read the email sent to me and the letter. What did I do?" She asked as she looked up at him.

"Your job has come to an end. You know what you

did. Can I have my keys?"

She opened her bag and handed him the keys.

"Mr Carter you can reconsider this, these past few months have been okay and nothing was out of place and I suddenly got my contract terminated." She said as she kept her eyes on him. Was that a fresh cut? Though he messed up his hair but it looked new. He was a good looking man and she smiled.

"Pleass reconsider this."

"Thank you for your services but I won't be needing them anymore." He said as he pointed to the door. Hope looked at him, expecting his eyes to roam her body because she had an hourglass figure and her legs were out, forget the winter sun but he was looking at her face. He was emotionless and she just walked out. She had a plan B so...

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## DELICATE

#106

At Kingsley's house

He walked back to the lounge and Amelia looked at him without saying a word.

"Are you angry princesa?" He asked.

"I'm still trying to wrap my head around what you told me." He folded his arms as he leaned on the wall and tilted his head.

"It's okay. You don't have to accept that."

"Uhm you mentioned something about that event...."  
Kingsley gave her a bleak look. The truth and nothing but the truth.

"It was an auction sale."

She furrowed her eyebrows. An auction sale? He

didn't want her to go to an auction sale? She was confused and Kingsley moved towards her direction and he sat on the arm rest instead of next to her.

"You're too innocent baby girl." She was still confused.

"Amelia, I have never been in a relationship before and you are the first relationship I ever had. My childhood fucked me up in the worst possible way so it was hard to relate to women normally or as a man in love would do. After the molestation, it never does go away, uh after it I was a recluse and kept to myself most of thw time. It was only in University where I used sex as a way of- I don't know how to out it, projecting my trauma. It was nothing serious really, one night stands here and there but when I started working and having my own money, the world of sex was broad and I could do what I want." Amelia looked at him and she listened. He was telling her and she appreciated the honesty.

"I went to auctions. Those aren't regular auctions, wr buy people." Amelia removed her glasses, rubbed her eyes and put the glasses back on. What?

"T-trafficking?"

"Not trafficking. These are girls who willingly sign contracts agreeing to be submissives for the person who was buying them. Usually a month or two."

"Submissives?"

"Yes. Everything their master says goes and they can't question that because they get paid for such. So I used to do whatever because I bought her and I have needs that need to be satisfied." Amelia opened her mouth then closed it. She touched her lips and she gave him a look. She wasn't sure she knew him anymore.

"Amelia you don't have to accept this. I was just letting you know yet again. I haven't bought a sub ever since that encounter at the club."

The club. The sex club. Amelia thought. This was just so complicated.

"Think about it. Ask questions but please do not disclose the information to anyone. About who the club owner is, the auctions because I work with people who really are not to be messed with." He

kissed her forehead and was about to walk away when he heard his name. She was barely audible but he heard her.

"Ma?"

"How did you acquire the club?"

"It was more of like an investment, bought it when it was failing and turned it around." She nodded and he walked away leaving her with her thoughts.

Sex club owner. Killer. Bought girls and morally grey human being who had a lot of wrongs and nothing was black and white about this handsome who had emotional and physical scars. She was hungry. So so hungry.

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At Ma Amelia's house

Tsona slid her feet in her shoes and Lola looked at

her.

"Where are you going?"

"I'll be back. I won't be long." Lola's lips set in a straight line and Tsona sighed.

"I won't be long Lola, I'm going to see a friend I'll be back."

"Okay if you say so." Tsona walked out and Lola sat on the couch as her older sister left her all alone in the house. She walked to the bedroom to go get her small phone and she sat on the mat as she looked for her big sister's number. She wasn't sure if she had airtime so she made two callbacks to her. She placed her phone down and waited. The phone started ringing after a minute and she smiled as she answered.

"Hello Ame. Are you okay? Is the baby fine? Is the baby growing?"

Amelia chuckled.

"Slow down with the million questions."

"I'm sorry about that, I just haven't seen and talked to



you in a while."

"I'm doing good Lola, the baby is growing pretty well."

"I am sorry everyone is rough on you. A baby is a blessing and I have always wanted to be an aunty. Buying dibonzi and sweets for the baby after school." Amelia burst out laughing.

"Dibonzi? Di baba jaana? O tla mpolaela ngwana mma Lola." (Chilli chips? When they are so spicy? You want to kill my babu Lola)

Lola laughed.

"How will you know?"

"Just but that is sweet. I am sure she will love you too." Lola grinned.

"She? It's a girl? So I can play dress up with her? Being the last born is not nice."

"Maybe if you visit her here.." Lola's smile dropped.

"Is it because of what bo mama say?" The 13 year old asked.

"Kind of. Anyway I am happy you tried to reach out to me."

"I love you Ame and as I said. A baby is a blessing and she is a blessing, she happened for a reason..."

"I know baby. I know. Keep studying and akere the house is always clean?"

"I don't like form 1.."

"Even now you haven't gotten used to school? Akere you guys are writing your midyear exams?"

"Yes. Apparently these marks are for the prize giving ceremony. I am good at Agriculture and Accounting so I am hoping I will get prizes for that."

"I hope you get them my baby. We'll talk soon sweetie. Bye, I love you."

"Bye bye Ame. Hugs and hug the baby for me."

"I will." Amelia laughed as she hung up and Lola placed the phone down with a smile. She got up to go make herself something to snack on while watching tv waiting for Tsona to return from God knows where.

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Later that night

At Kingsley's house

Amelia headed to the study and found him working. He was always working if he wasn't with her.

"You're always working."

"Takes my mind off things."

"I-I thought about what you told me." Kingsley placed his files down and faced her.

"I'm listening princess."

"Everyone has a past and it might not be roses and unicorns but it does shape us in a way and the past will always exist." He nodded.

"You were honest with me and I appreciate that. I

really do appreciate that you keep opening up to me." She paused and took his hands in hers.

"We'll work on everything and for now, we are good."

"Are you sure?"

"Positive. So earlier on, you were talking to Hope?"

"Yes. Thank you Lia." She just smiled as she removed her glasses. She placed them on his desk and rubbed her eyes. She released a yawn and looked at him.

"Let me take you to bed princess, you must be tired."

He stood up and walked to the other side where he helped her up and picked her glasses as well. They both walked to the bedroom where he found the case and put the glasses inside. She was in her gown and he removed his tee before pulling the blankets open for her. She got inside and he joined her as he held her in his arms. He was going to wait for her to fall asleep.

Amelia snuggled close to his neck as he held the back of her waist.

"I love you okay?" He nodded and kissed her forehead.

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At Ma Amelia's house

Lola abruptly woke up from herself as she looked around the sitting room. She fell asleep while watching thw movie and Tsona wasn't home yet. She heard the knock again and she yawned as she stood up walking to the door. She paused at the door and waited.

"Who is it?"

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## DELICATE

#107

At Ma Amelia's house

Lola's heart skipped a beat as she asked the question again.

"It's your mother." She sighed in relief as she recognized the voice too and she unlocked the door too.

"Hello mama. I thought you werr going to come tomorrow."

"I changef my mind. Lock the door, I am so tired." Lola locked the door as her mother headed to her room and she yawned as she walked to the bedroom. Why was Tsona not home yet? Their mother was home and she wasn't home yet. Why? She shook her head, her sister was just-just too outspoken for her

liking and she wasn't sure if she liked it or not because look at her now. She wasn't even here and her mother had said she will be back tomorrow, not tonight. Anyway, it's none of her business. She changed clothes and wore the pyjamas Amelia bought for her last year. They were really nice. She switched off the lights and got undercovers.

"Lord, please protect Tsona wherever she is and Lord let my sister Amelia be happy with her babh as well. Let mama stop being angry at her and Lord thank you for my life. I just want to get those prizes during prize giving. Amen."

She closed her eyes and covered herself with thw blankets. It was winter time and it was so dark outside. Tsona wasn't even back, how was Tsona going to explain this to their mother?

In the same village, Tsona sat in the hut that was candle lit as she pulled the fleece closer to her body. Maybe this was a mistake. Moikagi was going to varsity yeah but she wasn't even sure if he was going

to make it there at varsity. Moikagi walked in and smiled.

"Are you warm enough? I wasn't sure you were even going to come. I used to think you are not my type."

"With this type thing, one has to see and I don't even know my type. You said you are going to do which course ne rra?" She asked as he sat next to her. It was kinda awkward for Moikagi. Never had a girl over before and she was a very beautiful girl. Talked too much but still a very beautiful girl. He wasn't going to have sex with her or anything, just talk the night away since she said she could spend the night when he had been thinking of walking her home before 8pm.

"Mechatronics. Ke engineering ko BIUST."

She nodded but then looked at him.

"Market wa Engineering is saturated though Mo, how are you going to find a job when on Facebook we always see graduates from bo 2016 looking for jobs and we are here."

Moikagi smiled. Smart too.



"The thing is it depends. If I don't get a job, I'll have to start my own thing."

"How sure are we that it's gonna work?"

"Don't be too negative. Which course will you be doing?"

"Bsc honours in Bachelor of Intelligence and Data Analytics.."

Moikagi paused.

"BIDA?"

"Yes. That's the one."

"It seems nice, you like computers?"

"A whole lot, even though I never had computers from home but the school computers were not that bad." Moikagi laughed and she smiled.

"Akere you computer studies students always had access to the school computers, it was an unfair advantage."

"No it was not."

"It was."

"Not."

"Was..."

"Okay fine it was and I'm sorry." She said as she laughed and he just looked at her. They locked eyes and he held her chin. She was such a beautiful girl, no doubt about it. Tsona broke the stare and just smiled. Her last school ex said she was a bad kisser and left her because of that. Moikagi smiled as he started a new topic to discuss and Tsona answered more than willingly.

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At Kingsley's house

That same late night as Kingsley held a sleeping

Amelia in his arms, his eyelids fluttered. He was fighting sleep so bad as he yawned. He needed coffee, caffeine just so he can go work but damn he was tired. He didn't want to wake her in the middle of the night all sweaty and clammy from a bad dream. He kissed her forehead and finally closed his eyes. His fatigue manifesting itself as the sleep he didn't know he needed with his girlfriend in his arms.

It was only ten minutes later that a cab stopped in front of the house and a lady in all black paid the cab driver. She was going to call another cab after this one.

"Thank you." The cab drive away and she smiled as she opened her bag to take out the keys.

"Okay, let's do this."

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It's short. I know. Yesterday's insert.

[11/18, 06:58] Ntsiki: DELICATE

#108

At Kingsley's house

She looked at the lock that she was very familiar with these past few months. Who fires her for no reason? She did nothing wrong and this man paid a lot to upkeep his house. No one in this day and era would pay a mere maid 3k. Especially since there were no kids or anything. She took out the key to unlock the small gate she was used to entering. It unlocked. Now she had a copy of her own keys so she was here to test it all out. She stepped inside the yard and the security alarms started ringing. What? She used to enter here with no security alarms. Kingsley woke up abruptly to the security alarms going berserk. Was there a power outing while they fell asleep. He looked at Amelia who was still asleep and he stepped out of the bedroom.

Outside, Hope ran to the small gate that was slightly open and she stepped out before Kingsley could. She locked it and ran to the nearest bushes.

Kingsley opened the door and looked around. There was no one here and it didn't look like there was a power shortage. He will check with his cameras in the morning to see if there was any trespassing. He yawned as he walked back to the house. He locked the door and decided to switch on the security inside the house. Any movement in the lounge and kitchen will be detected and the alarms will ring, notifying his security company. He walked to the bedroom and he looked at the sleeping woman in his bed. He at least has to get better for Warona. He couldn't imagine anyone molesting his baby girl if it so happens that him and her mother were to not be there. He had to give her the childhood he never had growing up. A safe, stable healthy childhood. Warona deserved all that and more and her mother deserved to rest. He joined her in bed and pulled her to him as she released her sighs and snuggled closer. Her body instinctively knowing who it was.

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The following morning

At Moikagi's hut

Tsona was woken up by her bladder. She needed to release so stood up from the mattress and quickly pushed the door open. She saw the pit latrine toilet and walked there to relieve her bladder. She walked out of the pit latrine minutes later and looked for the tap so she could wash her hands. She saw Moikagi step out of the hut.

"Good morning." He said as the winter sun accompanied by it's vold winds hit her. She looked at him as he walked towards her.

"Morning."

"How was your sleep?"

"It was good. Really good. Thank you."

"Glad to hear that. Should I walk you home?"

"I would love that." She looked at her feet and he looked at her feet and they both laughed.

"You should wear your shoes."

"Of course." He walked with her to the hut where she picked her jacket and slide her feet inti her shoes. She ran her hands through her braids and she smiled as he picked his jacket and they walked out of ths house. On the way they started talking and Tsona couldn't help but smile. Maybe she should give him a chance. Just maybe.

The two youngsters walked to the street where Tsona stays and just as they were a few house away, Tsona frowned.

"Flip!"

"What?" Tsona's heart started beating slowly as she stopped walking. Her mind going haywire and her thoughts all fuzzy. Her mother was home. She

started breathing in slow breaths. Her mother was home. Sje was home.

She was supposed to come back today afternoon and she was home.

"Oh My God!" Moikagi held her shoulders as she breathed in and out, heartbeat starting to go wild and a sudden headache starting.

"Charlotte you're scaring me now." Tsona felt a weird sensation in her stomach.

"Charlotte?" She closed her eyes. She was screwed for sure.

"Mama, Moikagi mama is home. I'm screwed."

Moikagi stared ahead as she swallowed. He can only imagine the trouble she was going to be in. Tsona closed her eyes. He called her with her official birth certificate names. She didn't even like that name and preferred her nickname Tsona over the name Charlotte. She forced deep breaths.

"You need to go. Oh God!" Moikagi could hear the panic in her voice as she covered her mouth.



"Are you sure?"

"Yeah."

He hugged her and ran away while she walked forward. Her mother was sweeping the yard and she could literally feel her heart beating out of her rib cage. She was surprised her heart was still inside because she wished it would stop and she could die here and now.

Ma Amelia looked through the dust as she saw someone who looked a lot like Tsona come walking towards the yard. The gate opened and Tsona took slow steps as her mother placed the traditional broom down and held her waist.

"Tsona? Ke wena?"(Tsona? It's you?)

Tsona's words stuck in her mouth and her tongue felt heavy as lead and she nodded timidly. Ma Amelia looked at her daughter. It was just around 7am and if Tsona is just arriving she didn't stay at home.

"Hee wena o tswa kae?"(where are you from?)

Her mother's voice raised a pitch and she swallowed. Words failing her and she took a step back.

"Charlotte?"

"M-ma?"her voice shook like the leaves did on a windy day and it was more of a whisper too. Ma Amelia shook her head.

"Get inside the house."

"Ee mma." Tsona ran into her house and she touched her cheeks. She was crying already? She walked to their bedroom and found Lola still asleep. Tsona closed her eyes. She should take a bath and sleep. Did her mother let her go just like that? She took her toiletry bag to the bathroom and opened the tap as the warm water filled the bathtub.

Meanwhile outside, Ma Amelia couldn't believe it. Tsona was only 17. Just a mere 17 year old. This was unacceptable. She stopped sweeping and walked to the backyard where she looked at the

branches of the 'peperebomo' tree. The branches were very flexible and long. She cut one out, ignoring the smell as she removed the leaves and looked at the thin long stick. She shook her head as she walked inside the house and she heard the water splashing in the bathroom. She was out and now she was bathing? This little girl was shocking her.

She opened the bathroom door and Tsona's eyes widened as she looked at the stick, her body was wet from the water and the stick was long. Her eyes pleaded with her mother.

"Mama. It will never happen again."

"Wa ntlwaela waitse Tsona."(you are disrespecting me Tsona.)

Her mother walked closer and Tsona had nowhere to hide. She was naked and wet and her mother had a stick in her hand. Her mother raised her hand with the stick and she brought it down her back and she screamed.

"Mama weee!!! Sorrryyy!" She was already screaming

and her mother just forcefully took her hand forcing her out of the water as she brought the stick down on her wet body

"Banna Tsona! O ngwana!"(Men Tsona! You are child!) When she was out of the water, her mother repeatedly lashed her body as she cried out for help. Her mother didn't stop as she beat the hell out of her and she was still crying and apologising. The stick landed on her back, all over her thighs and legs.

"Go tswa ha o ntlela mpa ga o bona o dira jaana. O ngwana Tsona!ngwana!"

"E-eee mmmaaaa." She cried out as she was continually whipped. The lashed ended on her butt too. Her mother just beat her naked.

"Go tswa moriri ko tlase doesn't make you a woman. O ngwana Tsona. Ngwana!!!!"

"Ee mma!" She cried out.

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Yesterday's insert as well.

DELICATE

#109

At Mma Amelia's house

Mma Amelia walked out of the bathroom leaving a weeping Tsona on the floor. Tsona felt her body ache all over and she couldn't move from where she was sitting. She didn't even want to see the stripes on her body. Tears rolled down her cheeks at that beating she just got. She couldn't help but cry some more in the bathroom.

In the bedroom, Lola heard Tsona crying, she was woken up by her oldest sister crying and screaming. Their mother probably caught her or something. She closed her eyes as Tsona's heart wrenching sobs got to her. She just picked a pillow and covered her face but it was of no use because she could still

hear Tsona crying.

"Yoh!"

Was she going to listen to this for the next few minutes? Ma Amelia picked her traditional broom and walked inside the house. She didn't want any stories now, maybe had she stopped Amelia from dating that Thero boy then maybe she wouldn't have dated at all and she wouldn't be pregnant right now as we speak. And now Tsona has started but she hasn't left for varsity as of yet.

Ma Amelia placed the broom in the kitchen before she went to the bathroom where Tsona was still on the wet floor, crying.

"Hey, sutlha sutlha!"(Wipe those away.)

Tsona quickly wiped her tears away as more tears rolled down her cheeks and she wiped them away.

"We still have to talk, go get dressed wena.."

"G-go botlhoko."(it's painful) she cried out and her mother really didn't care about that.

"You brought that upon yourself. If I find you here in

the next ten minutes, you're getting another beating." She walked out and Tsona cried out as she crawled to the bathtub and held onto it so that she can stand. She swore every part of her body ached and it was getting worse. She forced herself up on her feet and she bit down her lip so hard as she picked her towel from the top of the toilet seat. She covered herself with it and started walking towards the door as slowly as she can just so she cannot cause more distress to her body.

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At Kingsley's house

King sat in front of the desk computer as he watched the footage from last night. Amelia was still asleep and he didn't want to wake her. She did not hear a thing last night. The last thing he needs is her thinking his house is unsafe when it perfectly was. He rewatched the clip of the small gate being

opened and of the alarms ringing before the person ran outside and closed the gate. Only one person recently had access to the gage keys and the house keys. He watched the black figure leave. The figure looked female as well.

"Can it be Hope?" He asked himself. What was her agenda for coming here if it was here? He will call her and also ask the security team to change the locks and up the security level of his place. Right now, he should look for a helper, one that will help once the baby has arrived.

In the bedroom, Amelia woke up all alone and she closed her eyes. She hoped she was going to wake up in his arms but she will take this. She got up from the bed and walked to the bathroom to relieve herself.

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At Thero's parents



Thero wasn't sure if he should keep the news of Amelia's pregnancy to himself. And if he tells them, Kingsley will hate him more if he told them and it was none of his business. He wasn't about to meddle on business that was not his. Lisbeth never showed up for the late lunch he suggested, she was probably busy and he let her be.

They are co-parenting really well so he wasn't going to ruin that no. It was time to sort his life and first thing's first was to let Amelia be. It was a hard lesson, he was going to cherish the next woman he loves and show her how serious he was with her. He might be young but years fly by and he would need a wife and have more kids in future. Time to get his priorities right.

Meanwhile in the lounge Victoria sat down as she had her morning tea. It still hasn't sunken in that her younger sister molested Kingsley. Gomolemo was the sweetest person she knew and she wasn't like

that. Not at all. Her mind wandered to years back when Rosa was pregnant with Kingsley.

\*years back\*

Rosa rubbed her growing baby bump as Tori came back with tea.

"Thank you so much. So what do you think?"

"I think it's a great idea."

"Thank you. When are you and Twotwo trying for a baby?" Tori burst into laughter. There was absolutely no way Rosa was going to pronounce her husband's name properly was there?

"I have accepted the mere fact that you call my husband Twotwo and it's just so funny Rosa.."

Rosa shrugged and looked at Tori.

"Hhm? You would make a cute baby." Victoria hated this baby topic. Everytime it was brought up and she had to say soon. Her husband was reluctant and she

was sure he was debating with himself whether to have a baby with a woman like her who didn't even have a degree to her name.

"Soon Rosa. Have you thought of names?"

"Mmhmm..my husband wanted to give him a setshwana name."

"Setswana Rosa."

"That Tori. I said no, I want something I can pronounce and I thought Kingsley was perfect. He can be called King for short. I love it."

"Does he have a second name?"

"I want him to, not sure. Maybe Gris.."

"What's that? Chris?"

Rosa shook her head.

"It's Grey in Spanish. Amor won't be happy about that cause I refused a setshwana name...yikes. I'll see what to do about it."

Tori smiled. Rosa wasn't even that into herself, she was quirky and weird with her curly frizzled hair and

those green eyes of hers that glittered like emeralds. People in Bobonong had been surprised at seeing her in their village. Her green eyes made her stand out in the crowd.

"I hope you have a little one soon so that they play together and grow up together sí?" She said and Victoria just nodded and Rosa went off like a bird as she talked with her.

\*present moment\*

Victoria shook off the memory. Don't think about it, Kingsley was not that important and he was not even her son. Her only son was Thero. Just Thero and he was her only concern. Whatever that happened to Kingsley was on him, his grandmother could have taken the favourite grandson and stayed with him. She didn't even thank him after all she did raising him and the more he grew up the more he annoyed her. She rolled her eyes. If he was molested then why didn't he speak up? Thero's childish brain

was probably making up scenarios that were so unnecessary.

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At Hope's house

Hope's phone rang and she picked up the private number.

"Hope, hello?"

"Hello." Her heart skipped a beat.

"Mr Carter."

"Hey, there are a few things I need to finalise before I let you off work." She frowned. She thought it was all. Or did her charms work on him and he wanted to change his mind.

"Okay sir."

"Can I see you Monday morning? At my office?"

"I don't know where that is."

"Will send the directions." He hung up and she punched the air. Yes. So he didn't see her and her charms worked. She didn't even need the keys and she realised that getting in at night wasn't going to work. Not at all. So sneaking in was not an option and it was stupid of her to sneak into his house.

Her phone rang.

"Hello?"

"Hello, it's me. I'm done with my exams, can I come there till I go home?"

"Kgosi why?"

"I had a fight with mom and we said horrible words to each other. Everything is falling apart aunt Hope. My best friend found a new best friend and she is pregnant. Mom says I am being a spoilt brat and just -my life is falling apart and my boyfriend? He is cheating on me because I wasn't ready to have sex with him." She burst into tears and Hope could hear from her voice that she was hurt.

"Okay. And let the boy be, you will find a man who will love and appreciate you for who you are.."

"I-and to think I wanted to-uhm thank you. I'll come over." She hung up and Hope sat down on the chair.

At Kingsley's house

Kingsley found Amelia pressing her phone and he sat next to her.

"Good morning. I have been looking up therapists online. Is it okay with you?"

"Yes princesa. That's okay."

"Alright." There was silence and he held her hand and kissed it. Amelia smiled in his direction and kept on looking for therapists.

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TWO MONTHS LATER



## DELICATE

#110

At Kingsley's house

Amelia stood up on her feet, holding on to the bedside table. She touched the table looking for her case to take out her glasses. Her eyesight was getting worse and she was really getting worried. It seemed to be more than not seeing anymore but she hadn't voiced out her concerns to Grey as of yet. She didn't want to worry him about anything at this exact moment. He was really trying. She opened the case and took out the glasses. Everything looked better now. She walked to the bathroom and she looked at her reflection in the mirror. Two months of peace and whole worried daddy to be. She touched her tummy.

"Hey Warona, mommy reporting again. Daddy went

to work and I have school next week but have been excused for a month and a half. Don't you want to pop out now sweetie? I'm ready and the doctor is happy with your growth nana." She smiled as her baby kicked and she sat on the toilet seat, legs spread and both hands around her tummy.

"I am sure you will love what mommy and daddy did for you my baby. We both love you and working on ourselves to give you the very best. Especially daddy. Do you know daddy already calls you Lia? I am so jealous waitse Warona?" She laughed alone and she heard her phone ringing in the bedroom. She forced herself to stand on her feet and walked to the bedroom. It stopped ringing for a second before it rang again and she looked at the caller ID.

"Baby hello."

"Morning princess. Did you eat? Did the helper show up?"

"I just woke up and I am not sure. I didn't hear the intercom ring and I haven't eaten anything. I feel so heavy Grey, can't your baby pop out already?" She

heard his heartwarming laughter at the other end of the line and she smiled.

“We have a month to go baby.”

“I am tired Grey, I am so heavy and she is always sitting on my bladder this one.”

“If it makes you feel better, I’ll be home around lunchtime..”

“I feel so much better.”

“And I’ll give you that foot massage along with a full body massage okay?”

“I would actually love that my love. I love you babe. I have to take a bath now.”

“Okay princess. Te amo.” He hung up and she was about to place the phone down when it started ringing in her hand. Yaya. She answered the call.

“Hello Yaya.”

“Mommy to be. Hi. I want to take you out today. Be ready before 10am mommy to be. I am not negotiating. Please and thanks.” Yaya hung up and Amelia looked at the phone and she sat in the bed.

She had to get ready? For what? She had clothes, clothes she never wore because she didn't ask Grey to buy them but that hard headed man did buy them and she just let the clothes be in the wardrobe. He already spent a lot of money on buying baby things from the cot to the clothes to the diapers and baby bottles. He even bought her a breast pump. Warona had everything she needed and more.

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At Ma Amelia's house

Ma Amelia looked at Tsona who has been behaving ever since that beating. She only spoke when spoken to and she was always silent. She was just reprimanding her and she just switched off.

"Do you have everything you need?"

"Ee mma. Excuse me." Tsona stood up and headed to the bedroom and Ma Amelia sighed. Tsona sat

down on the bed and she inserted her other sim card and waited for her phone to restart. She put in her PINS before the phone restarted. She closed her eyes and she she looked at her arm that still had those faint marks from the beating, some of the stripes never went down and disappeared. She should probably wear a cardigan over that just to hide them. Her phone restarted and she went to her contact list. She pressed on Amelia's number and she called her with the sim card she didn't know. The phone rang for a few minutes before it was answered.

"Hello?" Tsona closed her eyes. Amelia hates her for what she said. She probably hates her.

"Hello? Who is this?"

"Uhm Amelia don't hang up." Her voice pleaded and there was silence at the end of the line.

"Tsona?"

"Ee mma. It's me...."

"Bua ka speti mma."(make it fast)

“I would like to apologise for my behaviour and everything I said. I was wrong to call you that and I am so sorry Amelia.”

“Sure.” She will take that.

“I was out of line.”

“Mmmhmm...is that all?”

“Ee.”

“Sharpo.” Amelia hung up and Tsona looked at the phone screen. She sent Moikagi a text message and she placed her phone down. She left it in the bedroom as she headed to the sitting room where her mom was already holding her bag.

“I am going to see your aunt, I’ll be back.”

“Ee mma.”

Her mother walked out and Tsona held the tv remote and she switched channels.

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At Kaone’s place

Ma Amelia arrived and she found her sister sitting on a chair in the veranda. Kaone removed her shades and smiled looking at her sister. It was almost Spring and it was getting warmer.

“Hello. Sit down.”

“Hey.”

Ma Amelia sat down and Kaone offered her the juice and biscuits that were on the small table in front of them.

“Thank you.”

“Hubby took the kids out just so I can rest. Isn't he amazing?” Kaone gushed and Ma Amelia nodded.

“And did I tell you that Tlotlo is about to graduate. Kana he is almost an engineer and I swear Debswana is going to hire him mma. That child is a hard worker.”

“He is hey...”

“Mmhmm...not sure if he has a girlfriend but I am sure he will meet a fellow engineer there at work if

he hasn't met one in Canada. Other kids making their parents and relatives proud with clean record sheets." Ma Amelia forced a smile. Was that a dig at Amelia?

"Anyway, no one has ever showed up to pay damages? Kana motho o re senyeditse ngwana kana."(this person ruined our child)

"Kaone?"

"Ma?"

"If one of your daughters were to fall pregnant what would you do?"

Kaone laughed it off as she took a sip of her juice.

"My daughter won't fall pregnant, the talk is very important and if need be I might ask them to take contraceptives. If it happens that they do fall pregnant, I might be angry but ke bo ngwanake, so I'll be with them every step of the way." Ma Amelia nodded. She has been listening to her sister all this time and bashed her own daughter along with her sister who would do anything for her children. She was a fool alright. She was stupid and her daughter



hated her right now.

“Anyway, who did you say made Amelia pregnant? You never mentioned the name just that he can afford to pay expensive private hospital bills.”

“Kingsley..”

Kaone frowned. Kingsley? She heard of that name before. She wasn't sure where but she heard of it before. She was sure she did.

“Kingsley? Ema pele..”(wait) She tried to think but she heard of the name. It rung loud bells in her mind but she forgot where.

“I heard of the name somewhere just not sure. Anyway this Kingsley should send his family to pay damages, Amelia has school and she should be a nurse. How much did Amelia get last semester? It would be such a pity if she failed and discontinued kana UB doesn't play when it comes to academics mma.”

“You can ask her yourself. We're damages ever paid for your children?” Kaone frowned.

“We are talking about Amelia, not me here.”

“But we’re they ever paid?” Kaone looked into her drink.

“No..”

“Thank you. Stop wanting Amelia’s damages to be paid if yours weren’t paid and the children you have are not your husband’s children. Gologa ngwanake o tswe hela mo go ene.”(leave my child alone.)

“I was just trying to help.”

“She is okay and I am sure she doesn’t need your help Kaone.”

“Iyoo. Okay. Very soon she will be bringing another child for yo-“

“Okay. It’s her decision to do so. Lesa go bua Bo maswe ka Amelia as if she didn’t help raise your children. She has never been rude or ungrateful to you but you want to bring her down. Tswa hela mo go ene mma. If you want her damages, tell your baby daddy to pay damages for his two children and we will talk about Amelia’s damages.”

Kaone shut up and she drank her juice.

“I think I am coming down with a headache and I need to rest.”

Ma Amelia stood up and said bye. She walked to the gate and Kaone looked at her biscuits on the table. Her sister suddenly switched the conversation and started talking about her life not her daughter’s failure and disappointment. She rolled her eyes. Who was Kingsley? The name was so familiar to her and she had to know it. She was positive she knew the name.

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At Kingsley’s Office

He placed his signature at the end of his revised Will. He had thought he was going to end up being alone so most of his properties were to be turned into

orphanages but now he changed that again. His small family was getting everything, Alia and Warona deserved only the best and he was going to give them the best. His phone rang and he looked at the screen as his doctor's name flashed. He was dreading this call with everything in him.

"Hello?"

"Hi Mr Carter. I got your results back." Kingsley closed his eyes as he digested what that meant.

"Okay."

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DELICATE

#111

At Kingsley's Office

He ran his hands through his hair, not caring about ruining his slicked back hair.

“Good news or bad news?”

“I think you should come find out for yourself.” His doctor replied and Kingsley's heart started to thud in his chest. When he went there for his normal checkups he was usually given the green light over the phone and it was usually nothing like this in any way. He was starting to think there might be something wrong with him. Those headaches might have been it? But headaches are normal especially with someone who had stopped taking caffeine because the doctor said he should lower his intake and it was probably some withdrawal symptoms.

“Okay. I’ll be there.” He hung up and his phone rang again. He looked at the screen and picked it up.

“Hey princess.”

“Hi. I am meeting Yaya today and I was just letting you know love.”

“Are you comfortable with going out? Should I call for a cab to pick you up?”

Amelia smiled at the other end, there was no one considerate like her baby daddy.

“Yaya says she has that sorted out.”

“Okay princess. Did you eat though?”

“Ee rra. I ate, took a bath and I am waiting for Yaya.”

“Okay amor. Massages later right?” She laughed and nodded. They used the time they spent together to talk about what happened I. Their weekly therapy sessions. She had discovered a lot more about him and he understood her more. Couple therapy was working and now he slept on time and for the first two weeks she would wake up to find him still awake and staring at the ceiling.

It wasn't until he revealed his reasons and Amelia would spend that time talking to him or them coming up with weird bedtime stories they were going to tell Warona till they fell asleep. He would wake up because of a nightmare and she would be there to calm him down or talk him out of it, assure him it was just a dream and everything that happened was just the past, it didn't have to hurt him now unless he gave it power to hurt him.

"Massages later. I love you okay and wouldn't trade the world for you. Bye bye." She hung up and he looked at the phone with a smile but the smile disappeared as he thought of his looming doctor's appointment. He looked at the picture he had printed of Amelia that was on his desk, did she know she had a beautiful smile? He laughed remembering the time he literally ran out of Game because of this Rihanna look alike that was now his baby mama and the only person who had a piece of his heart. She was beautiful inside and out. Too pure and still his innocent princess. One who had the guts to want her virginity taken in a sex club while she didn't even

know him that deep enough. He leaned back in his desk and he rubbed his smooth jaw, maybe he can catch her at home before she leaves. He was still going to leave anyway plus he had a doctor to see. He grabbed his jacket, phone and bag as he checked his pockets for his car keys, he didn't forget anything here.

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At Kingsley's house

Amelia slowly turned around as she looked at the black dress. It looked nice on her and now she needed a denim jacket or a cardigan to hide her arms, she hasn't gotten over the fact that she doesn't need to hide her body in public. Her boyfriend was patient with her and he understood why she was usually covered up in public. She slid her feet in her sandals and she picked her phone and small bag from the bed. Was she okay or she should



wear a much brighter colour? This colour felt gloomy but she looked so good. Before she could even change her mind she heard the car horn. Yaya knows how to follow directions, she turned to look at her butt that was growing or was it the baby fat? She walked out of the bedroom and she looked around the house. Maybe she shouldn't go but she didn't want to cancel on Yaya. She was being paranoid. The car horn sounded again and she walked to the main door. She removed the keys and stepped out as she locked the door. This set of keys had keys for the small gate. She thanked Grey for that.

Speaking of keys, she was right. Hope wanted Grey and the fact that she tried to break in here though she was fired was just too low for a 31 year old woman. Even Amelia herself wasn't too desperate to do that. Hope was crazy and Grey did good firing her, what if Hope was going to be a danger to her and her baby?

She opened the small gate and stepped out, making sure to lock it as the door opened. She got inside the car and she hugged Yaya.

“Hey, you are glowing by the way,”

“Thank you and nice to see you too.”

“How are you? How is the baby girl doing?”

“I’m good. We are good and happy, just waiting for her to pop.”

“You certainly do look ready to pop.” Amelia chuckled as she pushed her glasses back and she buckled up at the back as Yaya did the same too.

“So where are we going?” Amelia asked and Yaya just ignored that question as she enquired about the baby and how Amelia has been preparing for the baby.

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At Ma Amelia’s house

She arrived and found Tsona mopping the sitting room.

“Tsona?”

“Ma?” Ma Amelia sighed and shook her head. She should talk to Tsona once Lola is back from her Saturday study. She should also try to reach out to Amelia. Even if she was eight months too late, at least she will know that she tried and Amelia is justified in ignoring her.

She waited outside till Tsona was finished and she disappeared into the kitchen, probably leaving by the back door to spill the dirty water away.

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At Ma Carter’s place

She looked at the pictures she had of her youngest son and his wife. Rosa was such an Angel in human form, she always wondered why she died and her son? His death was unexpected and it had been too late to save him. She closed her eyes as she

remembered Rosa who was too stressed towards the end of her pregnancy. Maybe that's why she didn't survive after giving birth. She hoped that at least Rosa would live to see their son grow up but she died a week later. One day by God's grace Kingsley would be back and come talk to them. They would apologize if need be, just to keep this family together.

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DELICATE

#112

On the road

Kingsley's phone vibrated. He pulled over the next stop before he checked the message. Amelia said she already left with Yaya. There went his surprise and he was sure she must be enjoying herself. He should probably change direction and head to the doctor's office to see what was up. He sent a text back and leaned back on the driver's seat. He couldn't help but think of his parents and what led to their death. Being raised up in an abusive environment, he never got the chance to know why his parents died and everything. Hell, he didn't know if he was the benefactor to their properties if they had any. Not that it mattered now but that big void will always be there, that he didn't know and have his parents. It showed and it hurt at the same time. He

closed his eyes and placed his head on the steering wheel, letting those emotions that came out of nowhere to settle down just so he can drive. He let out a steady breath and lifted his head and started the car again, taking his time in joining the main road before he drove off. At a slower pace this time, his thoughts haunting him and his main focus not being on the road.

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At Kaone's house

Kaone sat on the veranda thinking. The name Kingsley was familiar. Too familiar for her to let it go. She closed her eyes trying to think about it. Her mouth formed a straight line.

"Kingsley. Kingsley??" She opened her eyes. She remembered who Kingsley was. She could actually remember. Kingsley? Was it the same Kingsley her

sister was talking about? The smart quiet one who kept to himself? Was it him? The one who was the youngest in class and his parents never showed up for prize giving because they were too busy though he was the only one who was getting most prizes? Was it the same Kingsley.

"Kante ne a fana ka mang?"(what was his surname?)

She got it. Kingsley Carter. Was that the same Kingsley her sister was talking about or a different one? She picked her phone up and went to Facebook to search him up. At that time, he had the potential of being a hotshot if he had opened up and took care of his hair, he still looked exotic at that time. It was mist definitely not that Kingsley.

Where would Amelia meet him? Amelia? The village girl Amelia?

"Kingsley Carter." She typed in the search bar and nothing popped up. He wasn't on Facebook? Everyone was on Facebook these days. But she wouldn't blame him, he was such a shy kid at school and his nose was in his books when other kids went

to play. Only talked when talked to. No, it wasn't him. Definitely wasn't him.

She looked at her empty glass and jug, this was just a chill and lazy day. She better refill her jug and glass as well and relax today.

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At the park

Amelia gave Yaya an awkward glance.

"What are we doing at a park?" She asked as she removed her glasses to rub her eyes and she wore them again.

"Relax tlhemma Amelia." Amelia held her dress as she stepped out of the hired cab and she picked her bag, placing it on her shoulder and Yaya smiled.

"So, have you thought of a name?" She asked and Amelia grinned.



"We did and we love it. Warona baby."

"Then I can't wait to meet Warona, let's go mommy."

Amelia followed Yaya to the other side of the park and her smile faltered as they got close to the set up. She looked around.

"Surprise my baby!"

"Yaya you did that for me?"

"Yes my love.." Yaya walked closer and she picked the sash and placed it on Amelia.

"Put the bag down love, I hired a photographer too." Her jaw dropped.

"You were serious about the photographer thing?" Amelia said as she placed her bag on the soft blankets that encompassed the picnic. It was pink and she was wearing black, such a contrast. No wonder she felt like she should have worn something lighter.

"And you didn't tell me?"

"Surprise chomi." Amelia giggled.

The photographer came out of nowhere with his camera and Amelia laughed.

"You really planned this hey..."

"I did sis now all you have to do is stand there looking pretty. He'll take random shots as well." Amelia rubbed her eyes. She didn't even wear makeup or do anything fancy.

"Ga ke maswr akere?"(I'm not ugly right?)

"Not at all, babe you are a natural beauty."

"But if you had told me then I would have bought a dress and hired a make up artist."

"Mxm!" Amelia laughed as the camera flashed.

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At the private practice

Kingsely sat in front of the doctor maintaining a sombre face.

"Mr Carter?"

"Yes?"

"We went through our regular tests and I have a question."

Kingsely breathed in and nodded. This was making him more anxious.

"Does your family have a history of genetic diseases?"

Kingsley frowned.

"Not that I know of but I am not too sure because my parents are not alive."

The doctor looked at Kingsley and the test results he had.

"Does Amelia's family have a history of genetic diseases?"

What the fuck? What was the doctor playing at?

"I do not know. You could have told me to bring her

here so she can answer that for herself. What is going on doctor?"

The doctor pushed two papers towards Kingsley who picked them up and his eyes scanned the words printed on the first piece of paper before he looked at the second piece of paper. He could literally feel his heart beating in his throat and when did it go there?

"Doctor?"

"Those are what the results are saying, of course we can conduct further tests on you two.."

Kingsely felt the world shift under his feet.

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## DELICATE

#113

\*Years Ago\*

Rosa rubbed her bulging stomach as she looked at her husband. He must be joking or something.

"Rosa say something."

"There must be a mistake sí? Amor you're not dying on me. You can't be." She pleaded with him with teary eyes as she rubbed her stomach. They were going to be happy with little Kingsley.

"-I the doctor said it's too late to do anything." Rosa shook her head. No. She cannot lose her happy person, they said till death does them apart. Was this the in sickness and in health part of their vows?

"Don't think like that. We can pray to God. We can be okay.." Yaone moved closer and placed his hands

around her stomach and kissed it.

"Hey King, I am so sorry."

"Don't speak like that. You will be fine, you won't be gone when he is born." Yaone sighed and kissed his wife's tears away. He was scared himself about what he was told. Those little things that he attributed to being tired actually meant something more, something beyond him and there was no way to stop it now because the surgery was risky and he was probably going to die under the knife.

"Rosa it's okay. We'll be okay." He placed her head on his chest as he wiped her tears. Rosa kept telling herself they will be fine but she wasn't stupid, she might lose her husband way before her baby is born and King will grow up without a father. It hurt her and she sobbed some more. Lamenting over what she and her son will lose in the near future.

\*Present day\*

Kingsely looked at the doctor who looked at him. King closed his eyes and his joints went weak. Fuck! This was not happening to him. This was just a bad dream right?

"Mr Carter?" The doctor's chair scratched against the tile as he attempted to move to Kingsley.

He used his finger to tell the doctor to stay where he was. He had to process his thoughts. This? It was just..fuck! How did he break this to Amelia? How was it going to be?

"Well we still have time and we can book you for MRI scans and everything..."

Kingsley opened his eyes and looked at the doctor. He didn't understand that this was going to stress his girlfriend and ah fuck! He was meant to be alone that's for sure because how long was this going to take? He had a baby on the way and sh-

"Mr Carter? Are you sure you're okay?" Kingsley gave the doctor a perplexed look. How was he okay after the bombshell that was thrown at him.

"We can discuss poss-"

"I need to think." He stood up on his feet as he undid the tight tie to be able to breath. This office was small and suffocating him.

"Bu-" He walked out and the doctor removed his glasses as he rubbed his eyes. He needed time to get over the shock. He didn't know why they never detected this before or was it because this time he did things differently in regards to the testing and added more tests? Either way they found out what they found out and now it was up to Kingsley to take the next step.

Meanwhile Kingsley walked out of the hospital looking down. He was already breathing in harsh breaths. He took out his car keys and unlocked his car. He heard the car unlock and he held onto it for stability. He forced himself to breath but his lungs weren't cooperating today. He opened the car door and threw himself in the car as he took oit his asthma pump from the compartment and brought it to his mouth. He closed his eyes as his chest rose and fell at a rhythm of it's own. He had to think



logically, not with his emotions. If he thought with his emotions how was Amelia supposed to think? Amelia..fuck!

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At the picnic

Amelia smiled as she drank her juice while she and Yaya were discussing or rather, Amelia was going through the country's health system.

"Generally mme.." She paused to push her glasses back before she placed the glass down.

"I honestly see how some nurse treat patients mma. They give us good nurses a bad name."

"See why I don't go to the hospital that much?"

Amelia nodded as she picked her glass again.

"Honestly, the attitude is so unnecessary kana Yaya. I was shocked at how one mid wife ignored a

pregnant woman who was about to give birth. She was on her phone scrolling through Facebook kana mma. Waitsee!"

"Tota these are the kind of things people never want ti believe unless they went through such." Amelia took a sip of her juice as she looked at the food on her plate. Yaya went all out for her mini baby shower. It was the sweetest gesture and she really appreciated it.

"True. They give nurses a bad name. Anyway thank you so much for today."

"You deserve happiness Ame, I'll send the pictures to you."

"I guess I have to download WhatsApp again..." Yaya laughed.

"I forgot that you hate social media."

"It's not a nice place and I like my peace."

"It depends honestly but I get your point. Your peace over everything."

"Exactly." Yaya ate the fruits on her plate and she

smiled looking at Amelia.

"A toast?" Yaya picked up her juice glass. Since the pregnant one was having juice, might as well support her.

"To love, happiness and success." Amelia chirped in and raised her glass as Yaya raised hers.

"To love, success, happiness, more years of friendship and more babies.."

"More babies? What? Noo!" She laughed as their glasses were brought together and they clinked.

"To us."

"To us." They drank their juices and Amelia smiled yet again. It was hard to hide that smile of hers.

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DELICATE

#114

At the park

Yaya pressed her phone and looked at Amelia.

"I know you hate social media but can I post our pictures together on my Facebook account?"

"I am sure one or two pictures won't hurt right?"

"I'll show you which pictures I am going to post okay?"

"Okay. I really enjoyed today. Thank you so much."

"More than welcome, you deserve this. Maybe after this we can go do a little bit of shopping."

"Shopping?"

"I didn't buy baby girl anything and I saved up just for

her, wena o tla i'hustlera akere?"(You'll hustle)

Amelia laughed. "Not Warona replacing me, first it's Kingsley replacing me with Warona now you? I feel very betrayed."

"She is the new you, she is going to be cuter so we don't need you."

"Mxm. I don't like you anymore Yaya." Yaya laughed as she stood up on her feet. She helped Amelia stand on her feet and she looked at the message that just reported. The people who set up the picnic will be here to get their stuff.

"You're sure you're full?"

"I am, thank you so much for this. I don't deserve you waitse Yaya?"

"You deserve me Amelia. You deserve me and I deserve you. Don't cry."

"I am not." She said laughing as Yaya extended a hand to help her stand up on her feet. Amelia stretched her body and rubbed her baby bump. A month to go but at this point, anytime was tea time

and baby Warona might decide to make an appearance. She was excited. They better get done with this shopping so she could go home-

Amelia paused. Home. She called Kingsley's place home? Realisation dawned on her, home was where he was and wherever they go, he will always be home. A smile formed on her lips, she was already missing him now. Home. He was home. She wasn't letting him go because wherever he was was home.

"Ame?" She turned to face Yaya.

"The people have arrived, let's go my love." Yaya extended her hand and took Amelia's hand in hers.

"Let me pick my bag and phone." Yaya did that for her, took the sash off Amelia and she held Amelia's bag in her hands along with the phone. The two started walking away from the picnic scene as Amaelia marvelled at her little realisation. Now she couldn't wait to see him tonight.

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## At Ma Amelia's house

Ma Amelia looked at Amelia's number while she contemplated calling her. Amelia hated her, she had been so horrible to her own daughter and never listened when she spoke. She closed her eyes as she thought about their last call when she said she had been depressed and underweight. A lone tear rolled down her cheek and she quickly wiped it away. Was she okay? She could vividly remember Amelia saying 'her' was she having a baby girl? She smiled alone as she opened her eyes and looked at her first born's contact. Maybe later on, she wasn't going to stress her like she has done the past few months. She shot herself in the foot and could only hope her sweet daughter could forgive her mistakes.

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## At Kingsley's house

Kingsley sat in the dark study as he thought about everything. His only concern was Amelia and Rosalia. He couldn't even bring himself to care about himself when he had two people, people he learned to love despite his flaws that really loved him back. How was this going to affect them? Should he tell Amelia now? He was probably going to stress her. He should go back to the doctor's office and they work out a solution but it was going to be hard to hide him getting treatment when he literally lives with her in his house. He had to work his way around that. He closed his eyes and leaned back. He didn't even know his family history now he was stuck with some disease he inherited and how it wasn't detected earlier was a mystery to him. Will he still be able to donate blood because Amelia had a rare blood type and he was exactly that blood type once he starts treatment? Fuck! Everything wasn't going according to plan and he hated it. He hated that instead of trying to learn how to take care of his sweet baby he



was going to be in and out of treatments. He hated his life right now.

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At the mall

Amelia and Yaya walked inside the store and they headed to the baby section.

"Ame I like this cute pink romper. Bona.." Yaya picked up the item of clothing and brought it up to her chest to show Ame.

"Warona would look so cute with this, I'm taking this." Amelia chuckled as Yaya picked more clothes for her baby.

In the same store, Kgosi walked in and as she walked around, she could hear Amelia's laughter. She was in the store? She had tried to call her but by the looks of it, she had blocked her. She walked to the sound, ignoring the music that played in the shop.

She saw Amelia who was wearing some cute pink glasses and a nice dress. She could see the baby bump. She licked her lips as she walked towards her.

"I think Warona is already spoiled."

"She should...." Yaya trailed off as she set her eyes on Kgosi who stood there.

"Uhm hi. Yaya and Amelia."

"Hi. How are you?" Amelia asked and Kgosi answered back. Yaya just ignored Kgosi as she went through more baby stuff.

"Ame, I'm going to get a basket. We really need one."

"Okau. Don't be long." She replied back and Yaya walked away as Kgosi faced Amelia now.

"I am so sorry for everything."

"It's okay. I moved past it."

"And you look beautiful, you are glowing."

"Thank you."

"Amelia?"

"Hhmm?"

"I am really sorry for being the one to ruin our friendship." Amelia forced a smile that didn't quite meet her eyes. Their friendship hit rock bottom the moment she was told that she was imagining Kingsley being her boyfriend and that she was delusional.

"It happened hey. Maybe it was bound to happen. Who knows." Kgosi brought her hands together.

"Maybe one day we'll be friends again."

"Maybe but I doubt it." Yaya came back with the basket and Amelia threw in the baby clothes in there.

"Shall we continue mommy?"

"Well of course." Amelia turned her back on Kgosi and Kgosi walked away. As soon as Kgosi was out of sight, Yaya looked at Amelia.

"What did she want?"

"She wanted to be friends again."

"Ha.a asoze mna. Ga o kake wa kgwa wa boa wa batla go ja se o se kgwileng"(Never. You cannot

want to take back what you discarded)

"I thought exactly the same and besides it's life. The ones who hurt you are the ones you swore would be on your side till eternity."

"With humans don't think eternity. Everyone changes and that's life."

"I guess." The two continued baby shopping and Kgosi looked at them from a distance. Already replaced and discarded like a used tissue. She was partly to blame but it hurt that Amelia was happy with Yaya being her friend and they got along so well too. She licked her lips once more before she decided to leave the store. She might find what she wanted at another store so it is no biggie.

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At Kingsley's house

It was hours later when the cab stopped by the

house. She hugged Yaya.

"I enjoyed today and thank you again and again."

"Welcome and I love you." Amelia broke the hug and she opened the car door as she stepped out. Yaya handed her the plastics and her bag.

"Don't forget your phone as well."

"Oh thank you."

She got the phone and she smiled as she walked to the gate. She frowned seeing Kingsley's car. He was home? It was only a little after three and he was home and why wasn't the car parked in the garage? He usually came home around 5pm and he would give her massages and since now she couldn't like have sex because she was always tired, he uh-he always gave her oral sex. She blushed even thinking about it. She pressed the intercom. Maybe he was busy. She placed the plastics down and opened her bag to take out the keys. She unlocked the small gate and she picked the plastics to walk inside. She waved at Yaya who was in the cab and it drove off. It was a nice gesture just to make sure

she was safe. She closed the gate and walked towards the house. It was his car alright and why didn't he tell her he was coming home early?

She opened the door and she walked inside the eerily silent house. It didn't feel right. Not at all. Cautiously she walked to the bedroom where she found him asleep on the bed, shirt, shoes and all. She quietly placed the plastics down and walked to the bed where she removed his shoes as gently as she could. He moved and she paused to make sure he was still asleep. She placed the shoes down and she walked over to kiss his forehead. His hair was already messy and she really liked it like that. His eyes fluttered open and she smiled.

"Hey. Just arrived back. You can sleep. What did you eat?" She asked him. She can try to whip up something quick then come rest here with him. Kingsley rubbed his eyes, one moment he had been awake and stewing over what happened the next he had fallen asleep.

"Hey princess. It's okay. You must be tired. I'll-" he yawned and she smiled gently.

"It's okay. I won't be long. You must have had a long day." His eyes looked into hers and he didn't want to shatter her with what the doctor said about his health. She didn't need stress. He forced a smile as she kissed his forehead.

"Rest okay baby." She walked away.

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## DELICATE

#115

At Kingsley's house

Amelia walked to the kitchen and opened the freezer. She should fry some chicken wings and some pasta will do? It was quick and it won't take much of her time. She took out the plastic and placed it on the counter. She rubbed her back as she walked to the pantry to take out the pasta and maybe she should make chakalaka as well. Yeah. That will be all for today and for dinner they might as well have some bread and something or whatever she craves.

Meanwhile in the bedroom Kingsley finally got out of bed and changed out of his clothes, slipping into something comfortable before he slid his feet in his slides and walked out of the room. He made his way to the kitchen and he found her already slaving in front of the stove. He saw the way her hands rubbed



her back. She should be resting and she wanted to cook for him? He should be doing that for her yet again he was useless and nothing but a liability to her at this point. He walked behind her and wrapped his hands around her as he kissed her neck.

"Hey."

"Hey. I'm cooking.." her soft voice made him smile and maybe for the next hour he can forget his fate yes? That would be really nice.

"You don't have to. Honestly princess."

"I want to. Are you okay? Was work hectic? Is the club going along fine? Hmm?" He hesitated for a moment. He shouldn't even tell her, she was going to be stressed and stress is not good for her or for Warona.

Amelia picked up on his hesitation and she kept quiet, waiting for him to tell her what's wrong.

"Work was fine and the club is fine."

"I see. Is that all that is bothering you?"

She turned and lifted her hands to hold his face. He

nodded slowly and she stood on her toes to kiss his lips.

"Okay. I'll be done in an hour tops."

"Can I do anything to help?"

"Uhm open those chakalaka tins and that will be all."

He walked to the pantry and took out the tins.

"Lia?"

"Rra?"

"How you feel if I was to rent you an apartment, uhm like a fully furnished one for you and little Lia?"

Amelia paused. He was kicking her out? He was already tired of her presence?

"It would be okay but why? We initially discussed that maybe we'll live here? Well until I'm financially stable which is after a year because I'll be graduating next year and that's when I'll be working and stuff plus being placed in a hospital as an RN." She looked at him as he ran his hands through his already messy hair. She looked at the wings in the pan then back at him.

"I feel there is something you don't want to tell me. Tota renting an apartment would be okay, Warona would need a nanny as well because I have rounds and shifts at the hospital ke dira final year but akere if you lived with us, you would be able to bond with her after work and relieve the nanny of her duties instead of visiting once in a while because we basically live in the same city Grey." She turned her back on him and focused on the pan and he ran his hands through his hair yet again.

"You have a point." He admitted and she just nodded.

"What's eating you up? It's unlike you to come home early and you fell asleep still in your work clothes, totally out of character and I have been observing you these past two months. It's either you tell me what's up and we see whay to do or you stew in your thoughts and get stressed alone. I won't allow you to toss and turn in bed ke stress o bapile le nna."(lying next to me)

He smiled.

"You are quite demanding Lia."

"I am not. Done with the chakalaka? Did you take out the koo beans as well?"

"I need them?"

"Yesssss!" He walked to the pantry to take them. The beans needed a can opener.

"After opening it all up, what should I put them in?"

She turned to face him as she massaged her waist. She should sit down for a few seconds. She walked to the high chair and sat down.

"A Tupperware container love. Did I tell you?"

He took out the container.

"About what?"

"My day, so Yaya came to pick me up and she had planned the sweetest surprise for me." He smiled.

"Okay tell me more."

"A picnic and a professional camera man to take pictures. It wasn't anything fancy but I loved it. She also bought baby clothes for Warona."

"That's nice. You enjoyed yourself?" Shd nodded her

head and he kissed her forehead.

"I am glad you did."

"It was really sweet and considerate of her honestly waitse love. Urg I loved it. But back to what you were saying earlier on. About me moving out?"

He breathed out as he moved away and looked for a can opener. He found it and walked to the counter.

"Amelia I don't know. I won't be of any use anyway so you might as well move out." Ameloa frowned and her eyebrows furrowed as she placed both hands on tbe counter. What did he mean by that? He wasn't useless.

"King you aren't useless, whatever that lady said about you is a non-factor. You are not useless.."

He opened the can of bean and focused on that.

"Kingsley?"

"Ma?"

"What is it? Kana something is bothering you and I just want to know. Don't shut me out. You are literally there for me every step of the way, keore you

are always there now you want to shut me out?"

"Because you are the flower that I need to protect, my sweet delicate flower and I hate it when you are hurt Amelia."

"I might be delicate as you put it but regardless I need to know.."

He poured the beans along with the chakalaka inside and Amelia stood up on her feet to check her chicken wings.

"After I am done cooking we'll talk. Please." He just nodded.

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At Oxford University

Thero walked around campus and sat down holding his phone as he scrolled through his Facebook newsfeed. He pausef as he clicked on the pictures.

That was Amelia with Yaya, well Yaya was a Facebook friend he had recently added because she was cute and he had been in her dms tryna shoot his shot but girl was hard to convince. She was friends with Amelia? What a small world.

'It's the friends we meet later in life that make life worth living I love you Ame ' that was the caption and it didn't show her pregnancy bump just some cute pictures of them smiling at each other and a few shots of them holding glasses. Amelia was glowing and well Yaya was beautiful but he couldn't take his eyes off Amelia's beauty, she had gotten a shade lighter, musy be because schools have been closed and she has been indoors.

He commented with a heart under the picture and he passed. Now he should forget about Yaya. If she was friends with Amelia she probably knew and no wonder she was playing hard to get. Well he will find another girl to hit on. He was now the guy with serious intentions. Pure intentions if he put it as such.

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At Yaya's bachelor pad

Yaya replied to all the comments with a thank you. Amelia was so pretty in these pictures. A natural beauty who didn't even have to try so hard to look beautiful. She ignored the dms of people asking for her friend's number. Even on WhatsApp. She had a man and she was very happy with that man. Her phone beeped. Not another message again. She went to the message and she frowned.

Kgosi:waitse banyada, you take my best friend away from me and now you are posting her? She doesn't even like Facebook.

Yaya frowned. What was her problem again? Nah she wasn't going to reply her message. That was bitterness on another level, do we fight over friends these days? Are we still in that era?



She kept on scrolling through her newsfeed.

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At Kingsley's house

Amelia finally dished up an hour later and she held both plates in her hands as she headed to the sitting room. She placed the plates down on the table and sat down on the sofa, breathing in and out. King walked in and he looked at the food.

"Thank you."

"Welcome. I am listening Kingsley." He sat next to her and held her hand.

"Amelia you shouldn't even be stressing.."

"Just tell me what's on your mind.." he breathed in and he held her hand.

"Today I went to the doctor's office..." her heartbeat decelerated in this instance as he rubbed the back of

her hand.

"I-I don't know how to tell you this..." she kept quiet, listening to her own heartbeat. It didn't sound like good news. Was there something wrong with her or the baby?

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## DELICATE

#116

At Kingsley's house

Kingsley looked at her again and he ran his hands through his hair.

"I- fuck, I saw the doctor today." She nodded again, feeling his tight grip on her hand and just letting him. She did want to know why he was so bothered today

"He-My results came back." She frowned. Results?

"What was wrong? Those headaches you usually complain about?" He licked his lips as he nodded looking at her. Amelia just nodded slowly. Now she was scared.

"I- I apparently have a brain tumour." Amelia let that sink in. A brain tumour. A brain tumour? Her baby daddy had a brain tumour like cell growing in his

brain. She blinked profusely as tears flooded her owl like eyes. She removed her glasses and placed them on the table as she breathed in and out.

"A brain tumour?" He nodded and she let go of his hand as she placed her hands over her face.

"Good God!" She breathed into her hands. Kingsley closed his eyes. This was the reaction he didn't want from her. Amelia removed her hands and turned her head to face him.

"Is it benign or malignant?" Kingsley didn't know how to answer that.

"I don't know. I left as soon as I saw the results." Amelia rubbed her eyes and her face. Good God. How was this going to happen? They were expecting a baby and even if the tumour is not cancerous he has to go through radiation or some form of chemotherapy. And they needed to find out if it was cancerous because if it was that meant he had brain cancer and-

Tears rolled down her eyes.

"I'm so sorry. I am complicating your life right now, first by getting you pregnant now you are stressing over me which isn't necessary. You shouldn't even be stre-"

"And stop trying to make it look like everything is your fault. For Warona it's a fifty fifty thing and in no way is it your fault that you are sick right now okay? I thought that we talked out that mentality at therapy." He licked his lips again.

She took his hands and breathed in.

"We will see what to do okay? We will work everything out. I swear." She kissed his forehead and let go of his hands as she held his head before she ran her hands through his hair. Hair he was going to have to lose to get through treatment.

"Kingsley and you want me to move while you are trying to deal with this on your own? Not by a long a shot Mr Carter."

"Amelia Warona is first priority. Not me."

"And you are Warona's dad and Warona needs to see you too, Kingsley don't shut me out please. What

else did the doctor say?" She asked.

"He asked me about my family medical history which I know nothing about." Amelia looked at him and breathed in.

"Well, I know they hurt you. All of them and in particular Gomolemo and Victoria ruined your whole childhood but at some point you need to confront them. I don't mean getting back with them and playing happy families but confronting them about what happened in the past and why they did what they did, whilst at it you can speak to your grandma. I don't like any of your family members..but she probably knows more about what happened to your parents and she can give you their stuff. Medical records just for the doctor to check. Also that makes it easier for Warona to be checked for any genetic diseases at birth." She finally said. Maybe she should get checked as well. Kingsley thought about it for a few seconds.

"That makes sense."

"I know but it's up to you. Even if you don't confront

your abusers about what happened, you can still see your grandma to ask about your parents." He didn't deserve her did he?

"But tomorrow you must go to the doctor's office. I'll go with you and we will see how to deal with this." She said as she placed her head on his chest.

"I love you okay? I really do but you need to learn to understand that you are not alone sometimes, I will try not to stress the baby. I won't stress your daughter but she needs you too so don't push us away. Chemo and radiation require a whole lot and you can't be all alone in trying times like that." He definitely didn't deserve this beautiful human being.

She scooted closer to him and breathed in his cologne.

"I pray to God that we'll get through this." He rubbed her back gently in silence. Their food forgotten now.

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At Ma Amelia's house

Tsona sat on the bed as she texted Moikagi who had already left for BIUST. She was leaving in two days for Gaborone and she couldn't wait. She was really excited about school and she didn't need to spend her book allowance on a laptop since the school she was going to gave them all laptops. That was an added bonus.

Moikagi:Can I call?

Tsona:No. I don't want another beating.

Moikagi: Sorry.

Tsona:mxm! It's not funny how is BIUST?

Moikagi:so far so good. Lessons haven't started yet so we'll see as it goes.

Tsona texted back and forth with him till she got tired and said bye. She placed her phone down and yawned.



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At Kaone's house

Kaone served her husband food before she sat next to him.

"You have been down.."

"I got into a fight with my sister.." he shrugged.

"Siblings do that all the time though. And they reconcile after. No big deal."

Kaone just nodded. Her sister hasn't called ever since she left her place and maybe she was worrying over nothing.

"You are right. How was your day with the kids?"

"I loved it and they were such good soorts. How was your relaxation day?"

"It was very relaxing and you know what might make

it more relaxing?" He smiled as he picked up the tray of food. Loving her train of thoughts.

"Eat up and I'll show you." She stood up and she walked away giggling while he laughed. Kaone headed to the bedroom.

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## DELICATE

#119

At Thero's parents

Victoria walked Keith to the bedroom he had in this house before she went to press the remote control to open the gate. She wondered who was here this early and for what reasons exactly? It was a normal working day and her husband was out to work and she was here at home. Where she apparently belonged. The gate slid open and she opened the curtains. That was weird. Gomolemo was here? In the morning? Didn't she have work? She opened the door and she stepped out, meeting her sister halfway.

"Hey, and why are you here so early in the morning?"

"I was just checking up on you.." Victoria smiled as she hugged her sister.

“You could have called, I am good. Are you good?”  
Gomolemo forced a smile as she nodded.

“I was on my way to work and I thought, why not check on my sister and see how she is doing.”

“We always talk mme but it is good to check on people personally too. I appreciate it.”

“Mmh..about that Kingsley issue you asked about, were you serious?” Victoria stepped back and folded her arms. She came all this way to ask about Kingsley?

“What issue? Gomolemo are you hiding something?”  
Gomolemo wanted to lick her lips but she had lipstick on and it was probably going to be ruined so she pressed her lips tightly together before she smiled.

“No.”

“Then there is no issue, I don’t know what you are talking about.”

“That time you asked abo-“

“If that will be all, have a good day nnaka and I have

to take care of my grandson for the day. Bye.”

Victoria walked inside the house leaving her sister there and Gomolemo sighed in frustration as the door closed with a loud thud. Was her sister getting more suspicious? She shouldn't have come here though. She walked out of the yard and the gate closed. She got inside her car and she picked her handbag from the passenger seat. She went on Facebook to try to find Kingsley but he wasn't there, she wanted to find out which company he worked for. Maybe she should throw in a quick apology and all of this will go away. Yeah. That will make everything better and she can forget it ever happened. An apology usually fixes a lot of stuff and it works most of the times because the events happened in the past and there is nothing that can be done to change the past. She dialed her PA.

“Hello? I'll be a bit late for work, so you know the company Kingsley Carter works for?” She asked her, so she can find out. Surely she must've heard about him. Surely.

“I think I have heard of him and his smart wit. Let me

look it up for you and get back to you in a few minutes.”

“Thank you.” She hung up and she started her car. She was waiting for her PA to report her findings. Her phone rang and she picked it up.

“Hello?”

“He works for Kgosi Investments.”

“Awesome, let me get going. Thank you.” She hung up and she drove off. On her way to apologize for her sins.

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At the doctor’s office

Amelia sat next to Kingsley as the doctor could finally continue what he said yesterday before Kingsley stormed off. It was too much to deal with, obviously but now they needed to know.

“Well Mr Carter, since you read the results, you might have missed an important part in the process, the tumor is not big so we can still catch it while it’s still early, chemo and radiation will be factor that will help such and we need to move fast.”

Amelia just rubbed Kingsley’s hand.

“We need to come up with a treatment plan ASAP, as early as next week you need to start your treatment because by the looks of it it might be cancerous.”

Silence enveloped the room and all Amelia could hear was hear was her beating heart.

“Cancerous?” The doctor sadly nodded.

“But we can have further tests and I’ll push for the results to be sent to me tomorrow morning and we will start the treatment plan.” Kingsley was numb from all of this. It was happening so fast, too fast. One minute he has these innocent headaches and his normal check ups the next there might be a possibility of him having brain cancer? The odds were really against him.

The doctor faced Amelia. “How has your eyesight

been?" Amelia released a shuddered breath. She looked at Grey who had a somber look and it was only going to add to their already building up problems.

"It's getting worse by the day." The doctor took that down as well.

"Have you been able to come up with the reason why it so?" She didn't want to admit it to herself so she shook her head.

"We will conduct tests before I can even give my take on the matter, it might be false suspicions so it's better we test it out and see what happens next." The doctor said, he didn't even ask about the baby cause he knew the child was fine, they had a scan last week so everything was well with the baby.

Amelia squeezed Kingsley's hand and he smiled her way, she smiled too as she took a very deep breath. This was yet another obstacle they would have to move past.

Three hours later they walked out of the office, each



thinking about the future they had and what everything meant. Amelia looked at him and she placed her hands around his torso.

“I-let’s not even think about it, please..”

“Agreed. Would like to go to the office with me?”

“Okay.”

“Are you hungry?” She nodded as they stepped out of the hospital and made their way to the parking lot. They had eaten breakfast but this just drained the hell out of her. He unlocked the car and opened the door for her. She got inside and he walked over to his side.

“Breakfast and then the office right?” She nodded.

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At the mall

Lisbeth sat down on one of the benches. She was here to shop and to have fun but now she was just

tired from going through shops and not finding anything she wanted. She squinted her eyes and she saw Tumo. Her guilty conscience nudged at her as she remembered all the hurtful words she spat at him when she was helping him. It had not been her fault that Thero had broken up with her to chase a very beautiful girl, a younger one who had no stretch marks or baby fat and was a size 26. She closed her eyes as she swallowed her pride and stood up. She walked in the direction she was heading before she called out his name.

“Tumo?” Tumo turned and saw her, he continued walking. He didn’t want to be shamed for his body weight or for her to look at him with absolute disgust. Lisbeth ran towards him and she caught up to him.

“Hey Tumo..”

He finally stopped.

“Hi.” Lisbeth stood in front of him and she smiled sadly.

“I wanted to apologize for being rude months ago.”  
He nodded.

“I really mean it. It was mean and uncalled for. Did you pass the module?” He just nodded.

“Thank you. I have to go.” He walked away with his chiskop and she released a heavy sigh. He didn’t even want to speak to her.

“Tumo wait...” she walked up to him again.

“I am really sorry an-“

“I heard you Lisbeth, okay!!” He said and she stopped. He walked away and she watched him. She licked her lipglossed lips and looked up. She had been in a bad space at the time but it wasn’t his fault, she just took out her anger on the wrong person.

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I am well rested. Thank you. We’ll continue with our inserts. Three more to go.

DELICATE

#120

At Kingsley's Office

Amelia babbled as they walked into his office. It was safe to say most of his colleagues were surprised to see him with a woman and it was a pregnant woman on top of that. She looked like the Tswana version of Rihanna in a way. She looked around his office. Pretty dark.

"Your office does show that it's your office." He smiled,

"I'll take that as a compliment amor."

"Trust me, it is." She sat down and he sat at his desk as he opened his drawers to take out a few files and he placed them on top of his desk. There was a door knock and she looked at him as he answered.

“Come in.”

The door opened and his PA walked in.

“Good morning Mr Carter, miss?” She paused as she looked at Amelia.

“Just Amelia please.” She corrected and the PA nodded.

“Mr Carter there has been someone who has been here hours ago just to see you..” Kingsley frowned as he looked at his PA.

“Did the person set an appointment?”

“She said it’s urgent.”

“She? Did she give you a name?”

“She just said you know her and she would like to speak to you even if it’s just two minutes of your time.” Amelia looked at the PA then Kingsley.

“Should I excuse myself?” She asked Kingsley.

“No princess. Sit down. Call her in.” He relented and the PA had to hide her shock at the way Kingsley called Amelia. He wasn’t a cold man after all. Ever

since she started working for him, there has never been a woman here in his office except clients and her of course but his girlfriend? They had never seen him with a woman before.

“Okay sir.”

The PA walked out and Amelia smiled.

“Can I walk around and see your office?”

“You don’t even have to ask.” Amelia stood on her feet and placed her bags on the table as she walked around the office. She walked to the painting on the wall.

“It doesn’t make sense.”

“It’s not supposed to make sense, it’s art.”

She shrugged.

“Art should be beautiful and it looks so bland and meh.”

“Wa lapisa”(you’re annoying)

She giggled as she moved around. She placed her hands protectively over stomach.

“I can’t say I like or hate your office.”

He chuckled.

“You are neutral then..” the dood opened and they both looked at the door as his PA walked in followed by someone Kingsley knew too well. Amelia saw Kingsley tense up as his mouth formed a line and she rubbed her arms. She walked closer to him and the PA excused herself.

Gomolemo took in Kingsley for the first time in years, he had developed into a handsome young man, all muscles and a sharp jawline that could cut through glass. She had forgotten how exotic he looked especially with his hair, it was always so fascinating to her. His eyes that looked more dark than brown and if you weren’t careful you would actually believe he had black orbits. She breathed in as she looked at the woman by his side. See, there was nothing wrong. He had a girlfriend and she was very pretty. Too pretty that it hurt her pride that the girl was younger and she looked like an American celebrity she couldn’t quite remember.

“Hi.”

“Get out!” His hostile voice sent chills down her spine. Just like that? Amelia looked at the woman then Kingsley. Who was she? She didn’t even know this woman. Her eyes searched Kingsley’s eyes and he finally looked at her. She wanted to know who was this and what was happening.

“Hello.” Gomolemo said in Amelia’s direction. Amelia paid no heed to the woman who has just been asked to leave and Gomolemo felt her chest rise. She was older than both of them and they should respect her as their elder.

Kingsley just kissed her hand and faced Gomolemo. How dare she? He wasn’t doing this with Amelia here, he should have done this a long time ago because now she was coming to his work place. For what reason? To finish what she started?

“Kingsley I just came to apologize.” She pleaded and Amelia squinted her eyes. Apologize for what? She wasn’t liking this woman already.



“Leave. I hope you die on your back home now leave.” Gomolemo is heart stopped beating for a second. He just said that with a straight face and that girl next to him didn’t stop him.

“My girl, can you talk to him for me? I am sorry and I had been young then and I really wanted to apologize and make amends.” Amelia removed her glasses then rubbed her eyes. Gomolemo still noted that the girl next to him was beautiful. Too beautiful. That made her jealous, she did admit to herself. That he found a young, beautiful girl whose beauty can even make other people jealous.

“Who are you?” Amelia asked and Gomolemo was ashamed of her rough voice, she had a soft voice as well. Really suited her face.

“Gomolemo” realization set in and Amelia laughed in disbelief as she moved away from Kingsley. She held her waist. The sheer nerve. This wasn’t her battle but damn she wanted to throw hands at this woman for everything she put Kingsley through. She breathed in and out.

“Get out!” Amelia repeated Kingsley’s statement and Gomolemo looked at her.

“I came to apologize.”

“O tsenya letsatsi mosadi. Tsamaya tuu!”(you are very unnecessary woman. Leave please!)

Gomolemo shook her head.

“I tried to reach out and apologize for my wrongs but it seems as if you don’t want my apology.” She walked to the door and walked out. The door closed and first thing Amelia did was walk to where Kingsley was and hug him.

“Are you okay baby? Are you fine?”

He nodded and she just hugged him tight.

“I hope she never bothers you again.” She said and Kingsley closed his eyes. Thoughts were being thunk. He had a few phone calls to make shortly after this. Seemed like she was going to be a problem and he didn’t want to deal with problems next week when he was starting his treatment.

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In Gomolemo's car, she thought about the girl who was with Kingsley. She knew? Men were usually too embarrassed to talk about such experiences so she knew? But she was the only person she could use to get to Kingsley so he can forgive her. Did her sister perhaps know her?

She dialed her sister's number.

"Hello?" Victoria said at the end of the line.

"Hey, I passed by Kingsley's office to say hi and I saw him with a pregnant girl. I assumed you knew her cause mpa ya begiwa" (pregnancy is always reported.)

Victoria frowned.

"I-I don't know anything but I'll ask Thuto and his annoying mother about it. What did the girl look like?"

"She is so beautiful wena. Is she from Botswana?"

"If you are talking about Amelia then yes she is from

Botswana. Her mother is the village bicycle.”  
Gomolemo knew exactly who Victoria was talking  
about. That woman could get any man she wanted.  
She was that beautiful.

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DELICATE

#121

Inside Gomolemo's car

"That's her mother?" She asked her sister.

"Yeah. I don't know what these boys see in her, even Thero wanted her at some point or whatever he was doing with that girl, but he found his head and dated Lisbeth now I don't know why he was stupid to leave Lisbeth now."

"I see. Well I was just telling you that she is pregnant."

"Thank you I guess. Keiithhhh! Sorry I have to go. Bye.!" Victoria hung up and Gomolemo chewed on her bottom lip. She should probably hang around to talk to that girl. Amelia her sister had said. She would understand right? A lot of people do a lot of

things they regret in their youth and if Kingsley just said he forgave her then that would be more than enough.

## Inside Kingsley's office

Amelia sat down as Grey did the same too. He ran his hands through his hair, ruining it so early in the day.

“Don't let her ruffle your feathers my love.”

“I will never forgive her.”

“You are more than justified not to forgive her love. Honestly she did you wrong and not even her apology will wipe away the past or the blot it left, your inner child is still wounded and rightfully so. Are you done with whatever you came to do in the office?”

“Not quite, I have to meet my boss and serve my leave..” she frowned.

“For the treatment I guess?” She asked. It had to be

because of that.

“Well the leave was underway, a parternity leave..”

“A parternity leave?”

He chuckled.

“Yeah! You need all the help you can get with the baby and besides I’ll work from home but now that we have other problems that working from home won’t be possible but it was more like a maternity leave.” She gushed.

“I-” she covered her mouth with a huge smile and she laughed into her hands.

“You are the best you know that?”

“I didn’t. Will you be okay in the office for a few minutes?”

“Yes sir. You’ll find me waiting here.” He picked a red file and kissed her cheek as he walked out. Amelia removed her glasses and rubbed her eyes. Now all alone with her thoughts, she didn’t want to think much about what the doctor had said but it was possible that she might have a serious eye disease.

She was a nurse in training and she didn't want to have to not practice because of her poor eyesight. It was scary that out of nowhere her eyesight started being poor and now that she was almost close to completing her degree stuff pops up. Well Warona was not a mistake. She rubbed her tummy and felt the tiny strong kicks on her stomach. She laughed alone and rubbed her tummy more.

"Glad to know that you are well my baby.."

Meanwhile Kingsley took out his phone. He needed Gomolemo dealt with and ASAP. He never does this but she was starting to annoy him and what gave her the right to show up to his office? He dialed a number and the phone rang for a few seconds before it was answered.

"Hello King. What do I owe this pleasure?"

"I need you to do something for me." He spoke in whispered tones as he walked to HRs office.

"I got it."



“Good. By tomorrow I want the job to be done.”

“Nice doing business with you.”

“Likewise.” He hung up and knocked on the door before he opened the door. The HR manager looked at him as he strode inside her office as if he owned it. Rumor traveled fast in these offices and it seems he had brought a very gorgeous female with him to his office. Surprising too.

He placed the file on her desk.

“Good afternoon. I’ll be in leave for the next few months as I have obviously stated and those are the leave documents filled and signed.”

She picked up the file and she opened it before she placed it back on the desk.

“Will look into it.” He nodded and he walked to the door. She wanted to ask something but she kept her thoughts to herself. He wasn’t the type to chit chat with his colleagues anyway.

Kingsley closed the door and he ran his hands

through his head. Two problems solved now he had to see his boss. He walked to the elevator as the doors slid open. He stepped inside and he pressed the buttons so he can go to the highest floor.

In Kingsley's office Amelia looked at her phone again and she went to her contacts and unblocked both of her mothers numbers. Aunt Kaone was still going to be blocked until further notice. Maybe she had been too nice to see that her aunt her was toxic and she tolerated it since she lived with her and she was under her care while she was still doing her basic education. She dialed her mother's number and she answered immediately.

"Amelia, hi. How are you? How is the baby?"

"Uhm we are fine. How are you and the girls?"

"We are fine, Tsona ebile she is about to leave for Gaborone on Wednesday." Amelia chewed on her lower lip. The conversation was a bit cold and it lost that thing that was always there when she used to talk to her mother before this whole Kingsley thing

happened.

Ma Amelia waited for her daughter to speak. It was a start that she had unblocked her and she called.

“That’s good.”

“Really good. Are you fine? Did you manage to pass last semester?” She asked.

“I did. Thank you. I have to go now. Bye.” She hung up and looked at her phone. Their relationship would never be the same and the whole conversation was awkward.

Kingsley reached the boss’s floor and he knocked on the door before he opened it and stepped in. His boss turned around and faced him, he looked at Kingsley in a different light and he felt his heart weaken as he closed his eyes. A string headache attacking him.

“Aah!” He grounded in pain as he placed his hands on his head. Kingsley was lost as he approached his boss but he lifted a hand to stop him so he can stay

back.

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DELICATE

#122

At the boss's office

Kingsley stayed back as his boss rubbed his temple and he could see his neck muscles popping as if he was in absolute pain. Kgololo forced himself to focus and he reined in his mind and heart. Fuck!

Kingsley curiously looked at his boss for minutes as his boss finally opened his eyes. Kgololo Jr looked at Kingsley, why did he have to feel all of that? He breathed in and out and looked at Kingsley.

"How may I help you?"

"I just submitted my forms for a leave and I am sure the email I sent reached you." Kgololo nodded. It did indeed reach him and he found it odd that his head actuary wanted such a long leave and now he got

the picture.

“I did. Can we talk after work? Outside the office?”

“Of course Mr Kgosi. Excuse me.” He walked out and Kgololo rubbed his temples, damn this was heavy as fuck! Did he need to call Emma as well? He used his office phone to dial Emma’s office phone.

“Ems?”

“You are disturbing my peace. What do you want?”

“This is going to sound so complicated but I need your help. Could you do me a favour?”

“Okay fine, shoot bro.”

Meanwhile Kingsley walked to the elevator and he stepped inside as his contact called him.

“Hello?”

“She is still by the office buildings. In the parking lot.”

“I see. Keep your eyes on her and I trust you to strike as soon as she leaves these premises. You know

what to do.”

“Boss are you sure?”

“200% sure. Do it and don’t kill her. That will be too easy. After it I want you to let her go as planned. She will kill herself eventually.” He shrugged as he stepped out of the elevator and hung up his phone. He walked to the office and opened the door. He found Lia conversing with his PA. His PA excused herself under the pretense of work or something along those lines and Amelia grinned at him.

“You chased her away, you’re such a grouch you know that?”

“She is an employee. She has work.”

“Still being kind can never kill you..”

He rolled his eyes at her and she rubbed her tummy.

“Being unkind gets the job done. Are you hungry?”

“You literally want to feed me every single hour. I am fine. While we are here, we can like find a nanny.” He looked at her.

“My iPad is in the car, you could have used that.

Tshwara.” He handed her his phone and she smiled.

“Can I take picture with it? Kana this is an iPhone and you have never handed me your phone before. Can I?”

He ran his hands through his hair once again as he told her the passcode and she frowned.

“Wait those digits sound familiar...” he laughed nervously. Something he never does and she repeated the passcode under her breath.

“That’s my birthday.”

“I know and my mother’s birthday as well.” Her eyes widened. She shared the same birth day and month with his mother? His mother? Wow!

He sat down and opened his files as she looked at the phone. Now she wanted to see his mother now, she looked at him as his hair fell down in all it’s curliness and she went to the camera app. His phone was simple and didn’t have any unnecessary apps like hers but either way.



She smiled at the camera. She looked good on his camera. Like really good.

“Will you take picture of me with your phone?”

“Sure.” He didn’t look up and she stood up.

“I think I need the sunlight, I will be back. I hope I don’t get lost as I walk outside. Is it okay I take your phone with?”

“Okay. Don’t answer my calls and if you need me, call your phone here.” She nodded understanding that very well. She stood up and kissed his forehead.

“See you in a few minutes.” She walked out of his office and the minute she closed his office doors all eyes were on her. She ignored the questioning eyes as she walked to the elevator. She hoped to remember the floor she was on and everything. She stepped inside all alone and before the doors closed someone stepped inside as well. A male. She held onto the phone as the male stole glances at her and read the tattoo along her collarbone.

“Hi.”

“Hello.” She replied and she unlocked the phone and just went to his gallery. There was nothing much there.

“You’re beautiful by the way.”

“Thanks.” He looked at her again. Was it possible for one to look like she didn’t belong here? The pregnancy didn’t even diminish her beauty as most women would go through a lot of pregnancy changes. Some big noses and chubby cheeks but she was fine. Just petite and pregnant. He wished his baby mama had looked that good during pregnancy and he would have never cheated on her. And what was more surprising was that she had walked out of Mr Carter’s office. Amelia felt like this elevator was going to take forever with her inside. When it finally stopped she walked out first and she looked at the reception area as she said hi to the receptionist and she walked outside the building. The sun was shining and bright so this iPhone had to do it’s job and make her beautiful. He man who had stepped out of the elevator with her stepped out of

the building and looked at her once more. She was young as well and beautiful. Her name must be Lia, he assumed just by looking at the tattoo. Girls with tattoos were usually considered red flags but man she was too beautiful to even be a red flag. Must be a pink flag instead.

Still outside, Gomolemo spotted Amelia and she got out of her car. Good. She can convince her to hear her side of the story so she can convince her boyfriend to forgive her and case closed. No past to haunt her now. She locked the car and walked to the front entrance of the building where Amelia was sitting down with a phone in her hand snapping picture. Kids of these days. Always taking pictures. She noticed a man who was watching Amelia with peaked interest. She got it. The girl was pretty for her own good and it was now annoying that people can be this pretty now.

She cleared her throat. Amelia looked up and her smile disappeared in an instant and she placed the phone on her lap. Gomolemo sat down and Amelia

moved away as she sat down.

“Hi. Amelia right?”

“Get to the point.” She was rude?

“That’s rude.”

“Get to the point please or move mma wa disturber.”

Gomolemo clapped her hands. Wow!

“I wanted you to talk to Kingsley for me.”

“No ms peadophile.” Gomolemo’s jaw dropped.

“I am no-ke tla go klapa”(I will slap you)

“I will scream and claim bodily harm to my unborn baby and you will go to prison.”

“Excuse me?” Amelia rolled her eyes and stood up. It took everything in her not to land a slap or punch to this woman’s face. The audacity. The gull she had to show her face here after everything she put Kingsley through.

“It is an offense to just want to choose violence on a pregnant woman and to abuse kids as well. You should be ashamed of yourself waitse

mosadimogolo ke wena. O tlabisa kgala and I actually feel sorry for their kids or do you abuse them too or let your sister abuse them too?" Amelia asked as she picked the phone up and released a bored sigh.

"Y-you-"

"The truth hurts? You will burn in hell or better yet? You should be raped and feel how it feels to be helpless when someone who has power uses you. I wish and pray you get raped. Gang raped. Gongwe you will know how useless your apology is." Amelia stood up and Gomolemo was still in shock at what she said. A woman wishing for another woman to be raped?

"And I pray it happens to you. And if it does, Modimo tla bo e le star because what goes around usually comes back around. That's life in full circle. You get what you give and your karma has been long overdue if you are still here with fake apologies." Amelia walked away and the guy who has been watching from the sidelines shook his head. That small thing could spit venom?

In Kingsley's office, the door opened slightly and the head of Marketing, Emma walked in. She could sense it and her special ability was seeing dead people. She could sense the cold air in the room. Kgololo was right, a few wrongs had to be put right and everything had to come to light. Everything as in everything. Kingsley looked at Emma whose head was peeking inside the office.

"How may I be of help?" Emma forgot how cynical this dude was, he was handsome and if she wasn't a married woman with kids, he could be a great partner but that was not the point.

"Just checking in." He raised an eyebrow.

"Since when did you start to 'check in' inside my office?"

"No need to be rude waitse."

"Is there anything else?"

"No. Bye." She stepped back and closed the door. Kingsley continued with work and Emma kept asking

herself why now? Why did they notice this now but get their ancestors and guides had a funny way of making things happen.

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## DELICATE

#123

At the office

The elevator opened and Amelia walked to Grey's office. She found him head down and busy with books. He looked up and his hair covered his eyes and she laughed.

"Let me not disturb you okay?" He smiled.

"Te amo."

"I love you too." She smiled and placed his phone down. She picked hers and texted Yaya just to chat with her while Kingsley was busy with work.

Meanwhile outside, Gomolemo walked to her car. Well that little plan didn't go according to plan if she said so herself. He will forgive her, eventually. Maybe



not now but that little girl he had was too much. Who the hell speaks to elders in that way? She shook her head. No wonder everyone didn't like her mother, now she had a vile little demon as a daughter. She shook her head again and reversed her car. She wasn't aware of the figure that was cars away that kept a close eye on her. It was easy having to find the woman after being given a name and all you had to do was search the web for pictures, everyone used social media and many had their pictures splattered all over the net. Now with the added information that she was around Kgosi Investments it was quite easy. The man walked to his car and started his car as he watched Gomolemo's car reverse out of the parking spot. He took note of the plate number. He was being paid good money for this so he better make it count. His car followed suit minutes later.

Inside Kgololoks office he faced his sister.

"You sensed other spirits?"

“Yeah. But nothing bad or creepy. You do know spirits roam the earth, I genuinely think his parents are resting in perfect peace. Honestly. Tota is there anything we can do in regards to what you saw?” Emma asked and Kgololo released a heavy sigh.

“I am still not sure, it was too hazy but we’ll find out by the end of the day today.” Emma nodded.

“Let me go, I have work to get through.” She stood up and walked out while Kgololo leaned back. What does it mean?

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At Thero’s parents

Victoria served her husband lunch as he sat down.

“I was talking to Gomolemo earlier and she said she had dropped in to see Kingsley.” Thuto paused. Since when does Gomolemo see Kingsley? The more he thought about it, the more that whatever

Thero had said began to make sense. Now his wife stupidly told her sister now Gomolemo went to see Kingsley? Victoria was really stupid.

“Did you have to tell your sister what Thero told us? Maybe she went there to try to get Kingsley not to go talk. As much as he had been absent most of his nephew’s childhood he really wanted to know why he decided to cut them off. He just looked at his wife who brushed him off.

“Regardless, apparently Amelia is pregnant.” She said and looked at her husband expecting a reaction from him but he picked up a piece of meat and bit into it.

“How is that our business? He cut us off so we have no right to meddle in his business and no one complained to us Victoria.” He said and Victoria swallowed her words.

"But still we should know."

"It's none of our business Victoria and also stop telling your sister our business. That is really stupid of you." There was that word again. Stupid. She was

stupid. Will always be stupid to him. She looked at him before she stood up and walked out of the lounge. Thuto placed the food tray down and he washed his hands before he stood up. He should probably go back to work.

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At the office

Amelia rubbed her eyes. She was getting really sleepy and it was lunch time. She yawned and Kingsley lifted his head.

"Food is on the way and I promise that after this we are going home okay?" She nodded as the door opened and his PA walked in with food. She sat upright and wore her glasses as Kingsley cleared his desk. He closed his laptop and looked at her.

"Now we can eat." Amelia looked at the PA and mouthed a thanks with a small smile. She nodded

and walked out.

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On the road

Gomolemo frowned as the car behind her flashed its light in her direction. Was she breaking a road law? She looked around and the road she was using had few cars on it regardless of the time being lunchtime. She stopped by the side of the road and the car stopped next to hers. The man in the car got out and walked towards her car. Gomolemo rolled down her window and she looked at the man who gave her a warm smile. She smiled back. He looked harmless and he was handsome too. She should hear what he has to say.

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# DELICATE

#124

By the roadside

Gomolemo listened as the handsome stranger talked.

“So I wasn’t doing something right?” He shook his head while biting her lip and she smiled.

“Dinner?” She blushed as she looked down. An older woman like her being wanted by such a handsome man like him?

“Tonight?” He lifted her chin up and rubbed it as he looked into her eyes and she blushed some more. Luckily he couldn’t see it because of her skin tone.

“Yes. If you are free of course..” she started out with the possibilities. Her kids will be with their dad this whole week and she needed to live her best life, she

has been single for way too long and dinner with a snack like him wasn't such a bad idea the more she thought about it.

She grinned and he maintained his eye contact with her as she rolled her eyes laughing.

"It's a crime to make a woman feel that way." He let go of her chin and he clasped his hands.

"Well then, I guess I am guilty of the said crime." She shook her head with a huge ass smile on her lips, her eyes glittering with mirth and a bit of sunshine after her gloomy day.

"Can I have the pretty lady's numbers now?" He slid his phone out and she looked at those veined arms and how his biceps showed on his golf t-shirt. He wore that deliberately she guessed.

He looked at her and he smiled and she looked down.

"Ke 7 mang?" (it's 7 what?) he asked and like a little child she blurted out her number and he saluted at her as he walked away.

"So y-"

“I’ll give you more information through call or text in an hour. Have a safe drive.” He winked and she flushed. She faced forward and placed her hands on the steering wheel. She should probably pass by the shops. At least some good came out of her day today, she didn’t achieve her set goal but at least she met a handsome dude who wanted to take her out on a date. She called her secretary.

“Hello? Something came up today, I won’t be able to make it to the office at all.”

“Okay Ma’am. Should I cancel the meeting that was scheduled for three?”

“Reschedule it. Thank you and see you tomorrow morning.”

She hung up and started the car, joined the road and drove off but not before craning her neck to see the handsome stranger. She didn’t even ask for his name. Or he was kidding and he won’t even call her? Men sometimes were pieces of shit to be honest, he might delete her contact after this encounter and she will never see him anymore. She shook her head



as she continued driving.

The man in the car smiled.

“Let’s see how we are going to play this game Gomolemo.” He said to himself as he looked at her number on his phone screen. He will call once the job is done, right now it was under way and Mr Carter hated half done jobs, he preferred being notified of everything once it was done or complete. He started his car, it was going to be an interesting night for sure.

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At the office

Amelia had opted to go wait in the car for him. He

guessed this quiet office life was not for her hence she chose nursing. He didn't know how he got blessed with such a delicate flower like her, it was a blessing he questioned himself for receiving every single day. Just feeling her pure undiluted love in all it's forms. She can be a handful when she wants but he didn't know how he let her go the first time. At this point he could quietly say in his heart that he was a fiend and she was all he needed. His eyes widened. She was all HE NEEDED. Like everything he could ever ask for. He covered his mouth, she was all he needed and the realization of it all was that she was his safe haven, he fell victim to the sound of her love and that was it. Now the possibility of him having brain cancer genuinely scared him because if he does die from that he will never see her or Rosalia again. He was surprised that tears welled in his eyes and he closed his eyes as they rolled down his cheek. His heart raced. He didn't want to leave them, he hoped it was a better outcome. A door knock disturbed his very sensitive thoughts and he opened his eyes as he rubbed his eyes repeatedly to wipe away any trace of crying and he cleared his throat.

“Come in.” His boss walked in. It had slipped his mind that he had asked to see him after work. He checked the time and he was only a few minutes away from knocking off. He breathed in as his boss made himself comfortable on his office chair and looked at him.

“Are you okay?”

“I’m good. I am wondering what this meeting is about?” This time Kgololo could carefully observe him but if he can touch him to know what steps to take? The door opened suddenly and both men looked at Amelia who stopped by the door. Her eyes widened as she looked at Grey, he was in a meeting?

Kgololo looked at her and Kingsley and the future was laid bare to his eyes as he looked at both of them. How things were to happen and it was just destined that exact way, he swallowed and he stood up. There was absolutely nothing he can do but he will consult later tonight to be sure of that.

“I-I just wanted to ask about your long leave but now I understand.” He said as Amelia moved from the door.

“Hello.”

“Hi and take care of the little one.” He said and walked out. Kingsley looked at her.

“Sorry I took so long.”

“I totally understand besides it gave me time to think about everything. What if we go to Bobonong?”

His eyebrows furrowed and she walked to the chair as she sat down.

“You might give birth anytime and I want only the best for you..” she breathed into her hands.

“But if we go there, you can ask your grandmother about your parents before you start treatment next week, that way you won’t have millions of questions and your mind will be cleared of those Grey. Think about it tonight and tell me in the morning.” He sighed.

“Okay. I’ll think about it.” His phone rang and he looked at the caller ID. Amelia looked at it too and her heart skipped a beat. He answered it.

“Hello.” He placed it on loudspeaker and placed it on the table.

“I have both your results. I had to rush the lab to do it because well this is urgent and a few things were picked up from your scans as well.”

Amelia nervously glanced at Grey as his jaw ticked. He was trying to maintain his cool but how can he when things were falling apart?

“I’m listening.”

“Well....”

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## DELICATE

#125

### At The Office

Amelia looked at Grey and he looked back at her.

“Well it turns out that the tumor is malignant.” Tears filled Amelia’s eyes and she closed her eyes as she leaned back, causing a lone tear to roll down her cheek. Kingsley swallowed. That only meant one thing.

“In layman’s terms the tumor is cancerous meaning you have brain cancer but in it’s most early stages so we still have time to eliminate the threat.” He covered his face and the doctor continued speaking.

“For Ms Mogosi her test results show nothing but her current eye diagnosis. There are no traces of any hereditary diseases so let’s hope after the pregnancy

it gets better. It's just astigmatism and myopia.”  
Amelia nodded as Kingsley kept his hands over his face.

“Mr Carter? Are you there?”

“Yes, I'm here.” He removed his hands from his face.  
Fuck!

“We will have to come up with a treatment plan as early as next week to get everything underway.”

“I understand.” He opened his eyes and looked at Amelia who was looking at him.

“We will be just fine.” She mouthed in his direction and he smiled a little as the doctor went on. Amelia looked down, she wouldn't try to lie to herself and say she was fine, this diagnosis just rocked her world. If she had thought Warona rocked her world, her partner having cancer rocked it further.

The call ended and Kingsley looked at her.

“You're good? To drive?” He smiled sadly.

“I'm not an invalid Amelia.” She forced a smile, seeing how he was trying to remain positive.

“I know my love. Let’s go. I’m cooking okay?”

“Are you sure? I thought we might order takeout or something..”

“No sir.” She stood up and he got up from the office chair. He picked up a few files and she took them from him as well as both their phones which she placed on top of the files.

He moved from his desk and took a good look at his office, he wasn’t going to be seeing this for a long time. His throat bobbed and Amelia watched him drink in his office, she could imagine how he was feeling and she just had to be there for him. No questions asked. Just her partner through thick and thin even though they were currently co-habiting with a kid on the way. He had to fight for their little girl if not for her, she could only hope he was ready to fight this cancer. Grey licked his lips, remembering the first time he had occupied this office, he had felt like a person in control of his life, his past buried and dead to him along with everyone in it and it was here where he had really felt a sense of accomplishment. He chuckled, his throat closing up on him.



He had cancer and it was hard to believe just as he found it hard to believe that he had woman who loved him, a woman whom he was very much attached to, a child on the way and it was crazy how that happened within a single year. His heart rebuilt and then crashed in a single year. Months even. He swallowed painfully, allowing his heart to bleed in pain just for this moment. Amelia looked at the files in her hands and she blinked away her tears. They will walk out when he was ready even though her back was paining her and she badly needed to lie down. Warona was getting heavier with the day and she mused that could be because of how well taken care of she was and the love she has been receiving from the dark brooding handsome half Latin man with the fuzzy hair. Kingsley cleared his throat.

“We can go.” She nodded and they walked out of his office. When Grey was by the door shortly after Amelia stepped out, he looked at the office again and he closed his eyes briefly before he took out his office key in his shirt pocket and he locked the office.

He will be back. Sooner. He hoped.

He placed his hand in the small of Amelia's back as they walked to the elevator.

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At Gomolemo's place

She got ready for her night out. The handsome man did send a message and she was glad he wasn't pretending to be genuine to her. She had sent her kids off with their father and she had some alone time now. Just her getting ready for dinner, she decided to drive herself to the restaurant even though Daniel offered. That had been very kind of him but then again she was an independent strong black woman, she wanted to take herself there. Her phone rang and she quickly went to pick it up.

"Hello?"

"Hello beautiful, getting ready for our date?"

"Of course. I am almost done and I will definitely meet you there." He laughed and that laugh of his sent goose bumps all over her body. She smiled in anticipation. She couldn't wait for tonight.

"That's what I want to hear. Bye for now." He hung up and she continued getting ready. Spraying a bit of that fragrance she recently bought but has never used. She hummed her favourite tune, completely relaxed and allowing that serotonin to run through her veins.

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At Kingsley's house

Amelia threw herself on the couch and she yawned as she stretched her body. Kingsley sat next to her. He was brooding and she didn't like that one bit, how distracted he was and he was silent all the way

home.

"King? Grey?" He leaned back and ran his hands through his hair and she sighed.

"Babe, we can do this. You startung treatment, us taking care of our baby girl and I will finish Nursing school as well." She faced him and took his hands in hers.

"Grey tlherra."

"I-" she saw tears in his eyes and she kissed his hands.

"Babe, I can see you are scared of your emotions. I can see you're hoping you're not hopeless. Why can't you show me?" She gently probed.

"It's okay to feel and not try to bury it and act strong, the first step is accepting the emotions as they come. Babe I already know who you are in the dark and your scary parts and didn't run for the hills. I will never run..." she let go of his hands and touched his face.

"Big guy, talk to me.." he chuckled and she smiled.

He had a sinful smile and she was never going to tire from seeing it.

"I-I am scared Amelia." His voice cracked as the smile faded and he closed his eyes.

"I am so so scared..." his voice trailed off as his throat bobbed and it was the way his voice shook and how his jaw ticked whilst her hands were on his cheek. This was going to be a long road.

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## DELICATE

#126

At Kingsley's house

She just held his head and made him place it on her thighs.

"And it's okay to be scared, this on it's own is scary but it's our new reality that we are going to have to come to terms with." She ran her hands through his soft hair and he closed his eyes, enjoying the feel of her fingers on his scalp.

"It-our new reality.." he trailed off.

"Babe, I don't care if you dump me in future..I-" he opened his eyes and lifted his head, cutting her off as she watched him.

"Who said anything about you being dumped." She shrugged.

"People do break up all the time, and who knows but for now we are together and I love you and we are going to fight this. The cancer has been detected early so that's a good sign, lucky if I may say because it gets to be treated earlier and then everything will go back to normal. In a way."

"I will have to wrap my head around that reality then."

"We both have to do that and you should start treatment as soon as possible. I will be by your side unless of course you want to do it alone which is totally fine, I m-" he cut her off with a kiss and he broke it as he whispered close to her lips.

"You talk too much."

"I just want everything to work out."

"Now you are stressing which isn't good for Lia." She rolled her eyes.

"Warona Grey. Warona! Ke nna Lia.." he chuckled, pushing back the current situation to the back of his mind to fully enjoy these small moments with her.

"Are you jealous of our daughter?"

"I am not. There are other names like Wawa, Rona, Rosa or her full names Warona or Rosalia.."

He shook his head with a smile playing in his lips.

"Okay now you are jealous and it's not cute." He placed his hands on her stomach and Warona started kicking. He looked up at Amelia.

"See? Even Lia doesn't like you jealousy.."

"Tsamaelang koo tlhe. Ntlogele ebile."(get out of here. Let me go.) He laughed and she ended up laughing, the sound of laughter in the room lifting the heavy gloom that was in the room because of whatever that happened today.

"Jealousy doesn't look good on you Amelia."

"Lia! My name is Lia to you Kingsley.." he kissed her stomach.

"How small will she be?"

"Really small..."

"I won't hurt her in any way right?" She shook her head.



"You won't. I'll show you how to take care of her from bathing her and holding her the right way. Even burping her but be careful about the burping..babies usually throw up after feeding.."

"I'll learn.." he said. Wondering if he won't be weak from the treatment or something might go wrong.

"Babe, before treatment mme we can go to Bobonong.."

"You might give birth an-"

"And there is a hospital there as well. Just before you start treatment next week. Even if we go for like a week max and you gather information about your parents, get the closure you deserve..." he sighed.

"Do it for you. Not for me or Warona. Just for you and your piece of mind, don-t you think it's time ti face the ghosts of the pasts and not allow them to haunt you anymore? Just face them headon instead of them giving you nightmares?" His eyes thinned. She knew he had nightmares? He usually worked himself to the bone before sleeping and if tit did happen he had one, she would still be fast asleep.

"H-how did you know I get nightmares?"

"I hear your screams and then you abruptly wake up, a part of me would want to comfort you but you would hate it if I did because you always slept so late, probably running from them.."

"Amelia...."

"We'll work on everything okay?"

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At the restaurant

Gomolemo locked her car as she held onto her purse and walked inside the building. She was all jittery and couldn't wait to see the handsome Daniel within her proximity. She clicked her phone to check where he said he would be and she lifted her head and spotted him. Perfect!!

She catwalked to his table and Daniel being a gentleman stood up on his feet and pulled the chair open for her. She took her seat opposite his and she smiled seeing that he had ordered wine for her.

She looked at him.

"I don't know if I should be worried that you ordered a drink before I came or not." He looked at his glass which was half empty..

"You can have mine though.." he walked to his seat and he handed her his glass and she took it. He drank her wine and looked at her.

"See?" She giggled as she placed her hands on the table.

"Okay. Sorry about that. A girl can never be too careful."

"A girl has to be very very careful."

"Indeed." He clicked his fingers and a waiter came to their table as Gomolemo took a sip of the wine. Red and sweet. Just the way she liked it. She held the stem of the glass and shook the wine and looked at

the waiter with a smile as he recited their special of the night and she ordered exactly that. Her eyes moved back to Daniel and he smiled.

"O montle tlherra.."(you're handsome) he looked down and rubbed his jaw and she took another sip and placed the glass down.

"O shy?" He licked his lips and she giggled when he finally raised his head.

"I'm supposed to be the charmer here.." he grinned and she was taken away by how good he looked. She took another sip and Daniel took her hand in his.

"Well I would like to get to know you more." He kissed her hand.

"A pretty woman like you? Unmarried by now?"

"And a young man like you?" Daniel laughed and kissed her hand again.

"Age is definitely just a number. You are probably ten years older than me which is nothing but a number.."

She rolled her eyes playfully and he let go of her hand.

"Hence we can get to know each other. We can take it as fast or as slow as you want because Gomolemo I do want to know you as a friend and as a woman."

She felt her insides flutter and when was the last time she felt this good? She took another swig of the wine and he grinned.

"Easy with the alcohol pretty lady.."

"A single glass never killed anyone and it wasn't even full pretty boy."

Daniel shook his head as they struck a conversation.

It was only twenty minutes later when the food arrived and Gomolemo's eyelids fluttered. Was the alcohol starting to kick in now? Sweet wine was the worst though. With it being sweet and easy to make you drunk.

"Uhm excuse me, let me go freshen up." He nodded and she stood up with her purse and walked to the bathroom.

Daniel looked at the time and he dialed a number.

"Be on standby.." he hung up.

Gomolemo walked to the sinks and held on. She yawned and she rubbed her eyes. She opened the tap after establishing she was the only one inside and she splashed water on her face. She yawned again. She wasn't drunk was she? She struggled to close the tap but she eventually did and she paused as she tried to think but nothing was clicking. The bathroom door opened and she looked at the door. Was that a man or she wasn't seeing clearly?

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DELUCATE

#127

At the restaurant

Gomolemo rubbed her eyes repeatedly. The man got closer and she staggered back. The man was swift because of her disorientation. He placed a cloth over her nose as she screamed into it and the screams eventually died out as she closed her eyes and nearly collapsed. He held her arms and he looked at her. They were being paid good money so they had to make it really worth it. He looked around the bathroom. They had made sure that the cameras were off for this so it would be impossible to trace her. He huffed as he pulled her out of the discreet bathroom.

Meanwhile in the restaurant, Daniel's phone reported a message. He looked around and he stood up from

the table. He searched his back pocket for his wallet and fished out a couple of pulas from the wallet and he placed the money on the table. He walked to the restrooms. Time to eliminate the evidence.

He got there and he saw her purse. It probably had her car keys, house keys and phone. He took out a handkerchief and picked the purse, stealthily walking out and making sure he wasn't seen.

In the car parking lot, he saw the white Toyota wish and he nodded. He took out her car keys and he looked for her car. He didn't come with his car and was dropped off by that Toyota wish, because he had a plan and his plans are always foolproof. Carefully he approached the car and he unlocked it. He will wipe off all evidence before he leaves her house, this was going to turn out to be one of her worst nightmares. How he knew her house? Well that was information he best keep to himself. He started the car and reversed carefully out of the



parking spot. He drove the car till he was out of the parking area and he could see the road close by. He joined the road a minute later and a sinister smile made his lips curve. It was good to be wicked in a way.

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At an abandoned place

An unconscious Gomolemo was placed on the cold floor. The five men in the room looked at her. She wasn't bad looking at all and she was an older woman. Probably in her later thirties or early forties and you do know what they say about older women. The older they get, the sweeter the berry.

"And we are being paid just for this."

"Extra money is good and I have been in jail for quite too long, haven't enjoyed any p\*ssy ever since.." the buffer one of the five commented. The all looked at

him.

"I get her first but it's useless when she is still out, it doesn't make it any fun." They laughed as they walked out. Maybe an hour or thirty minutes will do.

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At Gomolemo's house

Daniel carefully parked the car and he unlocked the door. He stepped inside the house and it looked homely. With kids' toys all over the lounge and the tv was still on. He headed to the kitchen and he could see a half eaten apple on the counter, a half empty glass of water. It really looked lived in. Time to do his job. He headed to the bathroom, surely there were cleaning gloves here. Women loved cleaning and he was sure she didn't clean because she was excited about going out on a date with him. He saw the yellow cleaning gloves and he wore them as he

headed to the bedrooms in the house. He opened the doors of the first two. The kids' bedroom, he had assumed and now he was in her bedroom. It was messy. He had to get to work here.

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At the abandoned place

Gomolemo lifted her head, it was heavy and she was on the floor. She held onto the cold tile and she looked around. It was dark in here. She wasn't tied up or anything so it was okay. She forced herself to stand up and paused, to allow blood flow to circulate before she collapsed on the floor again. She closed her eyes, time to figure out where she was and what was going on here.

She heard voices as she walked to the door and she leaned into the door to hear what was being said

while she ignored her aching head. She was at the restaurant now she was here? She tried to remember who she was with at the restaurant and now she couldn't. Was her date looking for her? Did he think she dodged him? Her heart pounded as the room went silent and she heard footsteps. Heavy ones for that matter. She held her breath.

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The next insert will contain graphical scenes. Reader discretion is highly advised and please do not report the next insert. Do NOT READ the next insert if you are a sensitive person. Thank you for your patience yesterday and today.

DELICATE

#128

At the abandoned place

On if the men touched the door handle Gomolemo swallowed. The room was dark and she was sure there was nothing in there she could have used to try to protect herself. She chewed on her lip. She was stupid. She could have looked around for something but maybe that movement was going to draw attention to her. She breathed in and out as whispers flew and she licked her dry lips. As soon as the door opened she should try and run for her life. She should run and figure out what to do.

The buff man could sense that there was someone by the door, he smiled sinisterly. Time for the show to begin, he was she first in line so he better take his time and then let all the other guys hit it.

He opened the door and Gomolemo moved back as she saw a buff figure by the door. The person walked inside the room and she expected him to switch on the lights but he did not. From the outside of the room, one of the guys locked the door and got out of the room they were in. They will be back.

Gomolemo looked at the guy in the dark. She hugged herself as her lips quivered.

“Who are you? I want to go home..”

He laughed and she moved back.

“Well it’s a long night to be wishing to go home isn’t it Gomolemo?” He said and that sent instant shivers all over her body as she continued to move back.

“I don’t know you. I don’t know how you know my name but if you try anything, I will report you”

He laughed again. He laughed so loud and it made Gomolemo’s skin crawl that he was laughing. What

was he trying to do?

The man walked closer to her and she started screaming and he laughed.

“It’s not going to work. No one can hear you.” He got closer and she was pinned against the wall and he immediately got to business, he held the strings of the dress and pushed it down and she tried to push him away but she couldn’t move that hard body away from her and he forcefully kissed her lips. Tears filled her eyes as she tried to push him away. Was she going to be raped? For what? What did she do?

The man dropped the dress and his rough hands moved to her panties, whether she was wet or not didn’t matter. As long as he found his release inside of her. It has been way too long without being inside a woman. He pushed down the panties knowing that she won’t be able to hurt him or do anything.

Gomolemo gasped as she cried. She didn’t deserve

this? Who were these people?

“I’ll give you money, just don’t do anything to me.....” she pleaded but that plea fell on deaf ears as he picked her up and placed her on the cold hard floor as he undid his pants fly, hearing the zipper made the reality seem more scary. She didn’t deserve this. He took out his erect d\*ck and there was no foreplay, he shoved it all inside of her and she screamed as the tears burned her eyes.

“Stoop!” She screamed as he held her hands above her head and he curved his back as he started to pump inside of her and she cried, her body betraying her by moistening and her clit twitching. She didn’t consent to this and she didn’t want this. This was rape and she didn’t know who this was. The man grunted on top of her as he thrust in and out of her opening and he swore under his breath as she cried out. And she came. He laughed.

“You are enjoying g this you little trick.” She cried. She wasn’t. Not at all. He came inside of her and he stopped. Gomolemo wanted to Luke so badly, she was so disgusted with herself and that she came



and he came inside of her. She hated this and she wanted to escape and report this to the police. The man licked his lips and then forcefully started to penetrate her again and again as she cried to the point of her tears drying and she had no more tears left to cry. Once he was done after what seemed like ages, he got up and left her there on the floor weak and disgusted and violated. The door opened and she couldn't even move. She closed her eyes, her heart breaking over and over again. As that buff man walked out, four men walked inside the room and she weakly opened her eyes. Hearing the whispers. She tried to turn but she felt hands spread her legs apart. And her mouth was covered as she heard a zipper being pulled. Tears rolled down and she couldn't scream. The man immediately put his thing inside of her and she could do a single thing. Nothing.

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## At Gomolemo's house

Daniel looked around the house, it didn't even look like she had went out. All he was waiting for was for her to show up and then they scrub off the evidence. He had his people bring gloves and everything he needed to erase the evidence of his presence here. His boss was going to be happy with the job well done. That old woman must've done something for someone to subject her to such cruelty but oh well, a job is a job and he had to do it to his best.

His phone rang and he answered it. He could hear her crying and pleading in the background.

"Hello boss, we will be done in an hour. After this we drug her to fall asleep?"

"Yes. Thank you for being such professionals."

"That is what we are paid for," the call hung up and Daniel looked around the house. Now he had to wait for an hour to elapse. In the meantime, he should

head to the bathroom and try to see which of her body baths she uses and the body wash, she was going to be clean and put in bed. When she wakes up? This will seem like one bad nightmare and she might go crazy trying to prove something that never happened. He chuckled. Smart.

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At the abandoned place

Gomolemo weakly closed her eyes, she must be bleeding and she was so sore. She didn't have any fight left in her. As she closed her eyes, one of the guys came with an injection and injected her with the drug, it was going to be in her system for as long as she was going to sleep and it wasn't easily detected. They saw the blood on the floor. But yah no, she had a sweet p\*ssy so it wasn't all bad. Now it was time to take her home and leave the rest of the guys to clean up and pretend this night never happened.

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## At Gomolemo's place

Two hours later, Gomolemo in her blacked out state was being scrubbed with her own body washes and after that she was taken to the bedroom. She was slipped in her pyjamas and her panties before being deposited in bed. Daniel spent an extra thirty minutes cleaning and making sure no trace was left as she slept on her bed. She looked so peaceful but it was only a matter of hours before the nightmare starts and she wonders what happened. He smiled as he slightly closed the bedroom door and he took one last look at the house. With gloves on he walked out of the house and closed the door. He didn't lock it as he walked out of the house and he walked to the gate. He opened it and closed it, he was glad that it was just stones in the ground making it hard for shoe prints to be seen. His job was done. He did it

really well for that matter.

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My apologies, I can barely focus on a task for more than ten minutes. It took forever to write this.

DELICATE

#129

The following morning

At Kingsley's house

Kingsley was the first to wake up. He rubbed his eyes as he stretched besides her body and yesterday before he slept, he received the feedback on that little situation he asked to be handled. There was a little bit of satisfaction in the mere fact that now she was traumatised as well. Maybe not like him whose virginity was snatched away from him and the abuse that went on for more than a year repeatedly. And the fact that she acted as if what she did wasn't wrong in every context. He was never going to heal from that and he really hoped she killed herself from the trauma or ends up in a looney bin

and being fed pills that weren't going to help her. Who knows, they might think she is schizophrenic because there is no evidence of whatever that happened to her and it will all be in her head. She might confess too. Just as long as she also faces trauma, he will heal in hell. On that note he closed his eyes. What if he actually dies, the cancer turns into something else and he leaves this earth. He didn't want to imagine how Lia and Warona would cope. He had to be positive for both their sakes.

He turned his head to look at Amelia who was sleeping peacefully. He should try to make breakfast, just so she can rest. She was heavily pregnant and she needed all the rest she could get. He moved his hands to her stomach and he smiled, she moved a bit just to be comfortable on his chest and he smiled some more.

Amelia opened her eyes and she found Kingsley looking at her. She smiled as he brought his lips

down on hers and she received that kiss happily.

“Morning.”

“Good morning love.” He rubbed her chin and he made the decision right then and there.

“I thought about what you said. About going to Bobonong...”

Amelia yawned, her hand covering her mouth as she maintained eye contact with him.

“And?”

“We can go. Just for a few days.”

“When specifically?”

“We can book a flight to Francistown and then rent a car to go to Bobonong, it’s faster that way.” Amelia’s eyes widened.

“A flight?” He nodded.

“I’ve never been on an aircraft before, what if I hate it? Is it scary to be able to fly close to the clouds?”

He pecked her lips.



“You won’t even feel it. It’s just so peaceful..”

“Isn’t it expensive though?”

“It is not. We are flying locally princess so the costs are low.” Amelia shrugged. Low to him but flight tickets were expensive either way but she was going to savour this experience and enjoy it.

“So we should get to packing and get ready for our flight?”

“Of course.”

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At Gomolemo’s house

Later that morning, she finally woke up from that deep sleep and she closed her eyes in pain. The burning sensation between her legs and she was sure she was bruised. She forced herself to sit up straight and she frowned opening her eyes. She was

in her bedroom. In bed? She moved her hand to her private parts and she winced but it didn't even make sense. Tears filled her eyes, she was raped yesterday and she was in her house? What movie was she in? This wasn't real life? She experienced it and she could remember that man pulling her dress and forcibly entering her. Her throat dried up as tears trickled down her eyes, those men holding her legs and forcing penetration as she pleaded with her life and money but none of them were listening. She slowly brought her knees to her face as she burst into a heart wrenching cry that couldn't even mend her own heart or erase the memories. She felt so dirty and so used. Her hands shook as she tried to wipe her own tears, she wanted to report this to the police but who would listen? It seemed like one bad nightmare that she was home when she remembered that she was out with Daniel. Daniel! Bingo.

But her phone? Her car? Nothing made sense, the fact that she was at her house didn't make a lot of

sense to her. How? When? She cried out in frustration. It wasn't making sense.

She pushed the blankets aside and looked around the room. Everything seemed normal but she was raped. She was sure of it, she knew she was raped. She got out of bed slowly, ignoring the pain on her thighs and the pain between her legs, a not so subtle reminder of what happened. That sent a fresh wave of tears to her eyes, how could people be so cruel? She literally did nothing wrong to deserve this and now she didn't know where to start with the reporting. She heard voices and now she was at her house. It didn't make sense. She slowly walked out of the bedroom and she kept looking around, hoping she could understand what was happening. She frowned seeing her phone in the living room. How? The tears rolled down her cheeks and she wiped them again trying to make sense of everything. She picked her phone up and looked at it. She unlocked it and went to contacts. Her sister always believed her when she told her, she should call her so she can

accompany her to the police station. She dialled her sister who answered minutes later.

“Hello? Gomolemo?” Her lips shook and that sob escaped her lips. Victoria frowned. Why was her sister crying?

“What’s wrong? Did something happen to the kids?”

“I-I ha-aaave been raped.”

“Raped? By who? When? How? Where?”

“I-I don’t know because it all happened at night now I’m in my house but I wasn’t there...” Victoria paused to think about it. Could it be possible that someone sent a spiritual husband to her sister? They always hear of such? Or even a thokolosi. It could be possible.

“Lemo ga she thokolosi tota?”(is it not a thokolosi?) she asked and Gomolemo cried some more. She was raped by men and even though it didn’t make sense, she was raped by men.

“No. I was raped.”

“Where?”

“I don’t know but I woke up at home....”

“Ae wena. Should we look for a prophet? Ka tswa e le thokolosi tlhemma wena.”(it must be a thokolosi)

Gomolemo cried, Victoria wasn’t even listening to her. It wasn’t anything spiritual.

“My legs hurt and it shows I had sexual intercourse.” She tried to explain.

“Baloi ba Bobonong ba go pagame. We are going to look for a prophet for you, you will be fine autwe? From what you are saying? It must’ve been a nightmare and what if dithokolosi tsa teng di go tsentse dibati wena? I’ll look for a prophet. For now use coarse salt, so they don’t visit you at night.”

Victoria concluded and Gomolemo didn’t know why her sister wasn’t believing her story.

“Please pray okay? You’ll be fine. Bye.” Victoria hung up and Gomolemo slid onto the floor crying.

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At Ma Amelia's house

Tosha looked at the room she had occupied for years as she pulled her bags. She had to go for school and she wasn't sure when she was going to arrive at Gaborone, thank God that she managed to secure school accommodation so she was heading straight to school.

Her mother helped her with the bags and she smiled as Lola also carried her small bag.

"I hope you behave in Gaborone." Her mother said and Tsona nodded. Her boyfriend was in BIUST anywhere and that was hours away from Gaborone. They walked out of the room and once they were out of the house, her mother locked the house and they walked to the gate. Tsona was hoping to see her sister and apologise to her face to face. They walked to the stop and took a taxi to the bus station.

Meanwhile in the taxi Ma Amelia's phone rang. She looked at the caller ID. It was her sister. She heaved a sigh and answered the phone call.

"Hello?"

"Hey, I was just checking up on you. How are the kids and Amelia?"

"Everyone is fine. Thank you for asking." She said and Kaone bit her lower lip.

"I am really sorry, I hate it when we fight and I am sorry if I offended you."

"You should be apologising to Amelia as well but okay. I have to go." Ma Amelia hung up and she looked ahead.

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At Kingsley's house

Amelia held his hand as he pulled the suitcase.

“Ready to go my love?”

“Very ready. I am so excited.”

“I can tell. But we won’t take long at Bobonong, you are close to giving birth and we should be here in three days or less.”

“I understand plus you have to start treatment.” He nodded. He was trying not to think about that for now, just be normal even if it’s for a few days.

They walked out of the house, well on their way to find answers and maybe there might be more secrets being pulled out of the hat or new revelations that might rock their world. Who knew what they were going to find on their sudden trip to seek answers?

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DELICATE

#130

At Bobonong

Finally after five hours of traveling with stops in between, Amelia and Grey walked inside the small guest house. Grey took the keys from the reception and he pulled the bags to their assigned room.

“You should rest now.”

Amelia nodded though she slept most of the journey, with a few cramps here and there but she wasn't going to worry him with that now was she? Maybe if things went well, they will be done tomorrow because traveling had exhausted her and she just wanted a massage or something. She didn't trust Warona too, she didn't want to give bath here because her aunt worked at the hospital here and she didn't want her near her child. It seemed as if her

aunt hated her so she didn't want Warona close to her but maybe after this, they will see her mother. She just wanted her mother back which was asking for the impossible at this point. She sat on the bed and rubbed her heavy stomach.

"Hungry?"

"We ate on the way, I'm still full and thank you for offering, we can rest. How are the headaches?" He rubbed the back of his head as he closed the door and locked it. He joined her on the bed and she just ran her hands through his hair.

"Rest okay? We'll deal with the rest tomorrow after resting. Maybe when we wake you can buy dinner and we rest some more. You need the rest, I know you are pretending to be fine when you are not. You take care of me and I take care of you." She said softly as she yawned.

"Let's sleep." She kicked off her sandals as she snuggled up to his chest. He slowly rubbed her back and she smiled.

"I love you okay?" He nodded and she closed her

eyes as he finally did too.

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At Gomolemo's house

She was still stewing on whether to report or not. What if they don't believe her? It also didn't make sense to her that everything was here but she was raped. She remembered that very vividly. She closed her eyes. She didn't d-

She paused. Tears rolled down her eyes. Was this how Kingsley felt when she experimented on him? Most male children get their virginity broken at a young age and that should have made him happy that older women loved and wanted. That he was attractive and desirable. She closed her eyes. If her own sister didn't believe her and blamed spiritual things, how were the police going to believe her? She screamed alone in the house as it came crushing

down again. The memory was still fresh and there was no way to erase what happened?

Was this karma? Was the universe punishing her? She was sorry. She tried to apologize to Kingsley and he didn't listen, she went to him with good intentions and now she was raped. She was sorry.

"I am sorry okay? I am sorrrrrryyyyyyyy" she cried into her hands in desperation. She was sorry, she wanted to take these memories away, for it to stop hurting and forget that she was violated by men she didn't even know. She didn't even know what she did to them to deserve that.

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At Thero's parents

Victoria sat quietly in the empty house. Her husband was at work and the silence was too loud because

her thoughts were racing. She switched on the TV to force external noise. She didn't want to be left alone with her thoughts and everything that forced her to think. A song started playing on the channel and she realised she was on the music channel. She sighed and listened, hoping it would take her mind off things not knowing it was going to make her question a lot about herself.

But I can't bring myself to swim when I am  
drowning,  
In the silence, baby let me in,  
Go easy on me baby, I was still a child  
Didn't get the chance to feel the world around me  
I had no time to choose what I chose to do so go  
easy on me.

She paused as she closed her eyes, she literally married Thuto when she was twenty and she had been a wife to him for all these years. Even taking

Kingsley in when she had refused and her mother in law forced him on her because of her so called infertility. She literally hated Kingsley for existing because his mother was everything she was not and he was the grandson who was loved and she was called barren.

You can't deny how hard I tried,  
I changed who I was to put you both first,  
But now I give up, go easy on me baby.

She wiped the tears that rolled down her eyes as she closed her eyes. She could vividly remember that time when her husband was courting her and he never made her feel less of a woman because of her educational background and she had been a literal sweetheart. The most sweetest woman in this village. Well mannered and so very lovable. Even kids all around loved her. More tears rolled down her eyes as she could see how Rosa used to love her

and how Kingsley got Rosa's eye shape but not her eye colour. She sobbed. She changed and did vile things and she changed who she was to try to not care about everything. Was it time to close this chapter? Was this the end? Her husband still considered her stupid and he never wanted another child after Thero. She accustomed herself to him and fit into him while he did nothing. And Kingsley? Sh-she didn't know how to go around addressing that issue. He did nothing wrong and she?

"Oh my God!" She cried into her hands as the song ended in a sad note and she couldn't stop crying at how she had turned out and truly ignorance was bliss, she had ignored that voice in the back of her head that told her she was far too gone and what she did couldn't be reversed and she pretended she did even care about my of it and justified herself that he deserved it when he deserved none of it. Her phone rang and she wiped her tears as she picked her phone and answered it without checking the caller ID since her tears blurred everything out.

"Hello?"

Thero frowned. What was going on? Did someone die?

“Are you okay?” He asked in a gentle voice and just like that the floodgates were opened and Victoria sobbed so loudly and in the most unattractive way.

“Mom it’s okay...”

“I made so many mistakes Thero...I-I am such a bad person..” she cried out as she covered her mouth with her hands.

Thero didn’t know how to react to that.

“I don’t know how to face my sins and I wish it is going to be easy, I-I am such a bad person and evil and oh God!” She cried and Thero was speechless to his mother breaking down over the like that.

“Ma-“ she cut the call as she cradled herself into a ball and cried. She didn’t know how she was going to face this and how to go about it. She couldn’t stop crying as every moment of the last replayed in her head. Where was the sweet Vitoria who loved life



and everything bright? She lost herself so much in this marriage and she ruined an innocent child's childhood. She was such a bad person.

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Skolo and mental health ke ntwaga ya maisiraele see you later guys.

## DELICATE

#131

At Thero's parents

Victoria only stopped crying an hour later after she hung up on her son. She rubbed her swollen eyes and she covered her face with her hands. She breathed into her hands. She knew what she had to do and that was to atone for her sins and first step was talking to her husband whom she had already made up her mind about. She closed her eyes, this was going to be a hard journey but she had to do it, for her peace and for everyone's peace.

She removed her hands and she fanned her warm face. She sniffed and her lips started quivering yet again. It didn't even feel right that she was here right now. She smiled in sadness, she turned out to be

something she was not. She had to wait for her husband to come back from work so they could talk now.

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In the bus

Tsona stared out the window as she watched the trees go by. A new chapter in her life that would have been exciting if she had held onto her horses and not insulted her sister that way. Amelia took care of them even when she had school work and she always talked to her and she disrespected her in the most demeaning way. If her mother knew, she might get another beating that's for sure. She released a heavy sigh as she watched the trees disappear and her thoughts wandered off to her new beginnings at varsity school and how she envisioned it was all going to be like.

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At the guest house

Amelia woke up and winced. That sharp pain below her stomach woke her up and she looked at Kingsley who was fast asleep. She grinned in pain as she forced herself to stand up on her feet and walk to the bathroom. She rubbed her stomach.

“Warona, now is not the time tthe my baby. Now is not the time.” She said as she rubbed her stomach and she bit her lower lip as a sharp pain hit the other side of her lower abdomen. She walked to the toilet and sat on top of it as she closed her eyes and massaged her tummy. Braxton hicks right? These must be Braxton hicks because there was no way she was delivering Warona here. No way. She let out a soft scream as the pain intensified and she still didn’t want to believe that she was about to go to labour. Nope. No.

“War-ah!” In the bedroom, Kingsley was woken up by that soft scream. Still sleepy, his hand moved to the side but the space next to him was empty and he yawned as he forced open his eyes.

“Lia?” He called out as he tried to sit upright.

“Lia? Amelia?” He got up and walked to the bathroom where he found her breathing in and out with her legs apart.

“What’s wrong? Lia?”

“I-I th-“ she screamed as she placed a hand below her big stomach and Kingsley knelt before her.

“Talk to me...”

She laughed in pain.

“I think I’m having contractions and uh! The clothes and yoooh!” She screamed and it took a few minutes for Kingsley to register.

“As in the baby wants to come?” She rolled her eyes as she leaned forward to ease the pain in her lower back. She forced the deep breaths. She was a fourth year nursing student, she knew better and she can

do better. She forced herself to breath. Kingsley was frozen on the spot. She was expecting their child? Now? As in now? Today now?

“Kingsley tthe rra take me to the hospital...” she begged as she forced those deep breaths. Kingsley snapped out of it and he picked her up.

“Let me take you to the c-ah fuck!” He placed her down again and he walked out of the bathroom. He quickly picked the car keys and rushed to the bathroom where he lifted her up in his arms.

“Let’s go princess and you’ll be fine...”

“You are not the one who is going to ah-dilate ten centimetres to push a head out of your vagina..” he shut up. He read up on about pregnancy hormones so he wasn’t going to anger or agitate her some more. He just walked out of their room and rushed out of the guest house to the car with her in his arms.

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At the hospital

Kaone ran her hands through her hair as she sighed exhausted from her shift. She was here till midnight and she was already tired. She paused. She was always tired these days and-wait a damn minute. Wait a damn minute. When was the last time she saw her period? When? She tried to count down and it went down to months. Was she pregnant? She quickly walked to the office she used and opened the drawers to take out a pregnancy testing kit. She looked at it with a smile, hopeful that she was cementing her marriage with a child at long last though it was pretty unexpected.

Meanwhile in the parking lot, Kingsley closed the car door with his foot and he locke d the car.

“How are you feeling?”

“A mess but it’s your fault..” she cried out in between those deep breaths of hers.

“I know. I take full responsibility of everything princess. It’s all my fault.”

“Y-yes...all your aaaah! Mma weeee!” Her amniotic sac was still full and she was already in pain. She wasn’t looking forward to this giving birth business. Not one tiny bit. She prayed to God it would be easy like those women from ‘I didn’t Know I was Pregnant’ who the baby just slides down with minimal pain because no! No! No! She wasn’t about to cry that much. Hell she knew women in the labour ward ran around naked as if they are crazy and some start to lift things and she didn’t want to do that. No! Warona should behave and not make her do that.

They walked inside the hospital and one of the nurses looked at Amelia who was in Kingsley’s arms. Of course they knew who she was and well him? He looked oddly familiar but they couldn’t put their fingers on who he was. So that was why Amelia wasn’t around? She was pregnant. Wonders shall never end. One of the nurses showed the, to the labour ward and it was that exact moment that



Kaone emerged out of her small office with a smile playing on her lips when she saw Amelia and worse. Kingsley. The cute shy boy who was in their grade holding her niece in his arms. She quickly walked forward to them.

“What’s wrong?” She asked as Amelia breathed in and out. Kingsley looked at the nurse.

“I think she is about to be in labour...” his voice was smooth and polished and deep and wow! She tucked her hair behind her ear, hoping he would recognize her from their former school days.

“Amelia?” She called her name as Amelia focused on her breathing...

Kingsley kissed her forehead.

“Princess, how are we feeling? The pain on a scale of 1 to 10?” He asked and she felt a little bit jealous of the affection he was showering her niece with. Her baby daddies were never present for the birth of the children and no one held her hand through it all and here was the older man her niece had managed to score and he was very affectionate towards her.

“Talk to me so they can help you, I know this is not the ideal place we planned for our child to be born but we will have to make do...” he said as he talked to her as they were led to the labour ward. The door opened to the room and there were other women inside the room, preparing to give birth.

“Men are not allowed.” The midwife inside said.

Kaone had followed them inside. She took out her phone to text her sister.

Kaone: Amelia is in hospital, she is about to give birth and she came with the baby daddy...

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I will see you guys around kora past three for the second insert.

DELICATE

#132

At the hospital

Kaone held her phone as she also stepped inside the room. Men were not allowed inside because there were other females inside.

“Sir men are not allowed...I the first nurse said and Kingsley looked at Amelia whom was still in his arms.

“Is there perhaps a private room I can pay for? Because I am not leaving her here all alone.” Kaone swallowed. Wow! He was so authoritative and one of the nurses excused herself to go find a private room for Amelia. King placed Amelia on the bed and he pushed her braids back as she breathed in and out. At least her water wasn't broken as of yet.

“How is it so far?” He asked her sweetly and she wanted to cry so bad. He looked at her and he got the answer he needed.

“I will be with you every step of the way autwe?” She nodded and he kissed her forehead. Kaone stood there watching like an intruder as he talked to Amelia. Her phone buzzed in her pocket and she took it out. Her sent had sent a message.

Sister:Kaone stop lying Amelia is not in Gaborone. She shook her head and texted her back.

Kaone: she is with Kingsley in the labour room. She is in Bobonong though.

She said and placed her phone in her pocket. She clasped her hands and walked forward to ruin the couple’s pep talks.

“Amelia you know what giving birth entails akere h-”

“Excuse me but who are you?” Kingsley said to the other nurse. She was getting way too comfortable calling her Amelia when he didn’t even state her names. Amelia took Kingsley’s hands and placed them where it hurt and he gently rubbed there as she did those breathing exercises. They kept her sane till now, doing them some more won’t hurt and she wasn’t about to waste her energy and breath on her aunt Kaone. She was not doing that at all to the woman who bashed her throughout her pregnancy.

“Her aunt.” She said proudly, accepting the fact that he didn’t even remember her from school, she still looked the same and he got hotter.

“Well what I am not going to allow is you stressing her, she is trying to keep calm for fuck’s sake and doesn’t need any stress, if possible can I ask for another nurse?” He said and she was offended that he said that. She turned on her heel and walked out, meeting other nurses and midwives on the way.

“Aren’t you helping?” The first nurse asked her.

“They chased me away, gatwe I am stressing Amelia so ah.” The other nurses looked at one another.

“Well we found a private room anyway for her.” She nodded and walked away.

In the labour room Amelia was breaking a sweat and her water was still intact. She groaned as she held Kingsley’s shoulders. This handsome man was no longer going to flip her like a sausage on the braai stand ever again, look at the consequences of their own actions. The nurse walked in.

“I found the room for her sir, if you could just follow me and I will be taking your details.” He picked Amelia up and they walked out of the room that had other women inside, the two had pretended Z if they are in their own word and ignored the other people in the room. Minutes later, Kingsley was helping Amelia undress just after he gave all her details and his as well. Amelia held onto the bed naked and she was alone with Kingsley. The midwife said she should call once the water breaks and it gets more

serious than this. Kingsley looked at her bulging stomach and just her as a whole. Was it maybe a blessing he thought of shaving her last week?

“How are you feeling?”

“Like hell Kingsley, like fucking hell.”

“Since when do you curse?”

“Stop as, I got useless questions.” She let go of the bed and ran her hands through her braids as she tried to sit on the bed and ignore the contractions. Warona was going to take her sweet time to break the water right? Kingsley helped her sit on the bed and she breathed in and out as she moved her legs up and down.

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At Thero's parents

Victoria served Thuto his food before she sat next to

him. Somber face and all. Thuto frowned. His wife has never looked at him with such severity and seriousness. What was going on? Was she dying?

“Vicky? Are you okay my love?” he asked. Victoria nodded. The endearments and nicknames he used on her no longer having the same effect, not when all these years he has done was call her stupid along with his mother.

“I have something to tell you and after this confession, I would like a divorce.” Thuto chocked on the food.

A divorce? Why? Who was she seeing?

“Victoria when I said till death does us apart I meant it, whoever that mam is I will kill him.” He said in his most serious tone and she chuckled.

“There is no man but I want a divorce after trying to right my wrongs and atoning for them. I don’t care if I walk out with nothing at this point, I lost myself to the point where I don’t even recognize who I am anymore so that is that.” Thuto placed the tray down. No way in hell he was giving her a divorce.



Absolutely no way at all. But he will hear what she has to say and what she supposedly has to right.

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The night insert

## DELICATE

#133

At Thero's parents

Victoria took a very deep breath and looked at her soon to be ex-husband.

"Well you are going to hate me for it and before I even start, I haven't been happy with how you and your mother treated me." She started out,

"You made me feel stupid and you used the fact that I failed against me and when Rosa was around? You snubbed me as if I was nothing and I will never forgive you for that. I just brushed it off and was like why did you marry an educated man then." Tears filled her eyes and Thuto looked at his hands. She had never mentioned this years ago and she is mentioning it now? It has been on her mind ever since?

“I’m sorry.”

“I lived with the fact that maybe I am stupid and I was called out for being that so ,any times, instead of teaching me you called me stupid. Your mother called me stupid. Everyone knew I was stupid. Ne ke se motho wa sepe.”(I was just nothing)

She rubbed her eyes and breathed in as she was about to drop the bomb, she wasn’t going to apologize to him, Kingsley was the one she was going to apologize to.

“And when you and your mother forced Kingsley on me? I hated you two more and that hate was transferred to Kingsley as well.” Thuto paused as he lifted his head to listen to his wife. She hated Kingsley.

“I hated the fact that you long refused to give me a child of our own and forced your brothers child on me and expected me to know how to take care of a newborn baby, one I didn’t even birth.”

“You and Rosa were friends and I-“

“You never gave me the option to say no, why

couldn't your very educated mother take care of her grandchild instead of giving it to the fool named Victoria? Hng? Why?"

"You were young an-"

"No, you just wanted me to agree and you manipulated me to agree with the promise that we will have our own child one day then after Thero you refused to let us have other kids again.." she rubbed her cheeks and she looked at him.

"It wa-"

"It was all for you. This marriage has been about you and you and no one but you. I hated you and everything related to you except my child of course, I became a monster to an innocent child. I hated Kingsley so much and he hates me too so it's understandable."

"It never show-what do you mean?"

She laughed in disbelief at her own actions. She better start the divorce process tomorrow, even if she leaves without a single penny to her name it will be okay. She should have done this a long time ago,

but she was still young and didn't have the time to choose what she wanted to do. She changed who she was to suit him and that ate her up and she transferred the rage to an innocent child.

"I did a lot of things to Kingsley, said hurtful words.." she paused as Kingsley's young face came to mind, the time she had killed the kitten he was given by the neighbors and how he had been excited when she finally gave him attention and bathed him then instead she almost drowned him in the bathtub. She could vividly see him gasping for breath and him having asthma almost killed him. She closed her eyes, the times when she hit his asthma spray when he had an attack with the hopes that he dies but she ended up throwing it at him after a lot of hurtful words thrown in his face.

"Things like what?" Thuto asked getting suspicious. His guilty conscience coming into play at the fact that he failed his young brother in raising Kingsley. He was never a present father figure and even towards his son, he was never around and it showed. All he ever did was shout at Kingsley and beat him

because he got a mere B and whine about how he should be a doctor instead of that career he chose but now he makes more than a doctor makes and his own son must have chosen medicine just to suit him and for him to be proud of him.

“The burn on his leg? Ke mo tshubile ka metsi a hisang.”(I burnt him) Thuto rubbed his eyes and flicked his left ear. Was he hearing correctly? Wasn't it an accident when he tried cooking and they told him to stop going to the kitchen if he was going to get hurt?

“It wasn't an accident and for the past few years of Kingsley's existence? I tried to kill him more than once and on many more accounts than I can count. The only person I will apologize to is him, I will find a lawyer to draw up divorce papers Thuto. I'll sleep in the guest bedroom.” She breathed out and stood up. She looked at the man she has been giving her body for more than 30 years and she shook her head. She walked away while Thuto stood abruptly on his feet.

“Victoria wa peka naare?”(Victoria are you crazy?)

She turned and faced him and laughed hysterically.  
“Maybe I am hey!” She said before walking away leaving him to stew in his thoughts.

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At the hospital

Ma Amelia arrived, she wasn't buying Kaone's story one bit but the curiosity was killing her so she decided to come and see for herself. She walked to Kaone's small office and she found her behind her small table staring up the white ceiling.

“Kaone?” Kaone snapped out of it. She looked at her sister.

“Can you take me to Amelia's room?” Kaone sighed.

“I was chased out.” Her sister could only guess why. Kaone bashed Amelia every chance she got so maybe Ame was protecting her own peace. She

didn't even know Amelia was here in the village.

"I'll ask one of the nurses to show you the private room, she isn't alone." She said. Her sister nodded and Ma Amelia walked out.

Kaone rubbed her flat stomach, she was expecting her own bundle of joy with her husband and she couldn't wait to meet the child. Her phone rang and she picked the call with a smile, it was her husband.

"Hello my love.."

"Hey, I have a suggestion or let me put it this way, a proposal for you.."

"I am listening..."

"I was thinking that we hire a nanny."

Kaone frowned.

"A nanny for what? We have been doing fine these past years without one, why would we need one?"

"We'll talk when you get home."

"Okay." She hung up and rubbed her temples. She



stood up and fixed her top. She rubbed her flat stomach once more before she walked out of the consultation office.

In the private room, Amelia walked around the room waiting for her water to break because these were obviously contractions.

“Breathe..”

“Kingsley shut up tlherra wena wa ntena!” (You are annoying me)

He laughed and she couldn't help but smile as she walked around the room naked. It wasn't anything he has never seen before anyway and at least it was the two of them in here, no other women were around to see such madness.

“I hope this baby looks like me because look at what I am going through. I have been through a lot.” He laughed as he stood up and walked to where she was.

“What has to happen now?”

“Waiting for the water to break then I dilate to 10 cm..koore nna-Ae!” She said in disbelief. She was really pushing this child out of her neh.

Outside the room, Ma Amelia sat on the bench, she could hear Amelia talking to Kingsley and she sounded...happy. Like she really loved him. Shame

“Amor should I play music?” He asked. She shook her head as she sat on the bed and moved her feet up and down. He rubbed her lower back and she smiled at him.

“We’ll be f-“ Amelia looked down and looked at him.

“My water broke! Call the nurse tlherra!” She half shouted at him and he looked at the wet bed sheets and at her. Fuck the baby was seriously on her way. She snapped her fingers.

“The nurse. The nurse...” she said and he moved from the bed and looked at her. He needed to call the nurse.

He walked out of the room and he frowned seeing

her mother there. He breathed in and said hi, for Amelia's sake before he went to look for a nurse. Ma Amelia sat there rigid, the weight of her actions falling on her like a tone of bricks. Had she stuck by her daughter's side, she would be a stranger in this sense and she wouldn't have to hear that she was here and giving birth. Amelia could have told her herself.

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## DELICATE

#134

At the hospital

Kingsley walked in with the nurse followed by the midwife and Amelia was on the bed groaning. He wasn't going to stress her by telling her that her mom was here, he just wanted his girlfriend to give birth to a very healthy baby and then he gets through whatever reason they came here for before he whisks them off to his house where everything had been made ready for Rosalia.

"How are you feeling?" She gave him an incredulous look. This man didn't understand that she was pushing a whole child out of her vagina did he? A whole human being out of her and he asked her how she was? She was not okay. Not at all.

"You are far from reaching ten centimeters, we will

keep on checking.” The nurse said and the midwife took a look. The nurse was right. It was going to be one hell of a long night here. They walked out and Amelia breathed in and out.

“H-help me off the bed.”

“What if you drop the baby?” She wanted to laugh but she was in pain. She just lifted her hands and he helped her off the bed and stood close to her. She started walking around the room nude.

“Grey, you will never impregnate me again.” He chuckled and nodded. The possibility of a little family with her wasn’t so bad and he was willing to settle with this 20 year old who was mindlessly walking naked in the room with no shame. He paused. He was even thinking of settling with her? He smiled alone and Amelia wasn’t paying attention to him as she rubbed her back. She didn’t want to get an epidural or anything, just a clean natural birth and then she nurses the stitches while taking care of their baby. Grey will have to see-

She screamed into her hands. Kingsley held her hand.

“Are you okay?”

“A contraction just hit.” He placed his hands on her back and massaged slowly and she closed her eyes.

“I am so tired Grey, ke lapile.”

“You will rest when she is here okay? I am with you every step of the way amor.” She nodded as tears rolled down her eyes. She wanted to sleep and maybe when she wakes up Warona will be out of her body. He stopped rubbing her back and moved his large hands to her face and rubbed her tears away.

“We are in this together right?” She nodded.

“Good.” She removed his hands and continued to walk around the room before more contractions hit her and successive of one another. She asked him to place her on the bed and he helped her sit on the bed.

“Can you fan me?” She asked him and he looked around the room. There was nothing he could fan her with.

“Can I go look for papers in the car or anything?” She nodded and he kissed her a hint forehead.

“I will be back in a few minutes.” He walked to the door and stepped out. Her mother was still outside the room and this time he walked away without even acknowledging her. Ma Amelia looked at Kingsley who walked out and she looked at the room. Should she get inside? Maybe this was the leap of faith she should take to try and fix her relationship with her daughter.

She stood up and walked to the door, she held her door handle and she looked through the small glass which wasn't very clear. She was probably in pain. She opened the door and stepped inside the room. Amelia frowned. He was back already from the car? How? She opened her eyes and her heart skipped several beats as she and her mother locked eyes. She didn't have the energy to say anything so she focused on her breathing and massaging her lower abdomen.

“Hey, your aunt told me you were giving birth and I didn’t even know you were in town. H-“

“Mmmmmhmmmm....” She responded. She didn’t want a lecture. This was not the place or time for that, she needed to push this baby out of her and rest.

Ma Amelia stopped speaking, she shouldn’t explain herself right now, Ame was in pain and childbirth was no child’s play. It was a die or live situation and maybe she might increase her blood pressure by being here like she has been doing he past few months. She looked at her daughter and walked out. She sat on the bench and tapped her foot nervously on the floor.

Amelia groaned in pain waiting for Kingsley. Relief covered her features when he walked in with a few papers and a handkerchief and he stood by her side to start fanning her face. She was grateful for that as she breathed heavily. She wanted to push so bad.

“Nurseeee! Aah nna ka pusha.”(I am pushing)

Kingsley stopped fanning her and he walked out of



the room as she screamed inside there. He went to look for the nurse and he found them on their phones.

“She is pushing, she needs assistance.” The nurse frowned as she stopped chewing her gum. She was far from ten centimeters, they were in her room literally ten minutes ago. The midwife pressed her phone.

“Tell her it’s not yet time.” She said and Kingsley breathed out in exasperation.

“Will you help her or not? If anything happens I will hold you accountable..” he said and he wasn’t bluffing. He left them there and the nurse spit out her bubble gum.

Kingsley tried to remember what he read about in regards to giving birth. He knew that some nurse were negligent and that was why he didn’t want her giving birth in a public hospital. Now he is telling them she is pushing and they disregarded that...

He walked into the room and rolled up his shirt sleeves.

“They say you aren’t supposed to push..” Amelia groaned D’Souza of perspiration covered her face. She bit her tongue as she pushed. It was so hard.

Kingsley stood next to her as he wiped her forehead.

“I don’t know what we should do at this point..”

“I am pushing.Aaah!” She breathed in and out as she started to push, she could feel the head wanting to come out. She wanted to cry right now but the tears she shed earlier weren’t there now. Kingsley walked over to the other side of the bed as she bled trying to push the baby. Fuuuuuuck! She has low blood. Double fuck!

Just as he held her knees, the door opened and the nurse accompanied by the midwife walked in. He gave them a cold stare as they both looked down.

“Uhm I will need you to push Amelia..” the midwife said as Kingsley moved and walked to Amelia’s side.

He held her hand and kept trying to reassure her as she screamed trying to push the baby out. The nurse frowned and looked at the blood she already lost. She was going to need blood. A lot of it.

Amelia screamed as she pushed and the midwife encouraged her, she closed her body, she was tired....

“Amor, you can do this..Don’s give up now.” He said and she cried out as she gave one final push and the baby’s head popped out.

“One more time. One big push. One big push.” She squeezed Kingsley’s hand as she did just that and all of Warona’s head was out. The midwife pulled the rest of the baby’s body out and she looked at the baby.

“It’s a girl.” She said and slapped the baby’s bum as she let out her first cry to intake oxygen for the first time since being out of her mother’s womb.

The midwife handed the nurse the baby who was then covered in a small white blanket and handed the baby to the mother. Amelia laughed in disbelief

as she looked at the baby, she already had soft hair and she was light skinned. She looked at Kingsley whose eyes were fixated on the small human being who has just been delivered.

“Hey baby..” Amelia said weakly. She looked at the small baby in her arms and she wondered if she should give her baby the breast but she was so tired. She was exhausted.

“Can I hold her?” Kingsley asked. She nodded and he tried to be as gentle as possible. She told him how to hold her and he followed her instructions. The nurse and midwife looked at them. Not many men could stand to see women give birth let alone be there in the labour room. Men were like children and they grew up knowing that men weren’t allowed in the labour room and that they also had to see the baby when it was a few days or weeks older just so their bad aura doesn’t affect the newborn.

Amelia frowned as she felt the need to push again. She closed her eyes as she pushed out the after birth. She was almost scared that there was another baby in there.

“Hi Rosalia..” Kingsley finally said as he looked at the wrinkled new born. Her eyes were closed and she was so tiny, he was scared of breaking her or being careless with this little human being. He cautiously gave her a finger and her small hand struggled to wrap it around his and he smiled. Amelia looked at them and she didn’t know she could fall in love again just looking at this.

“Can we clean her up and the mother as well before she feeds her?” Kingsley looked at them. For people who were almost reckless and careless with Amelia, he should probably follow them as they clean Warona up.

He gave the midwife Warona and he looked at Amelia who was slowly closing her eyes. He was following her. The nurse remained and he walked out with the midwife.

“Sir, I can assure you she is sa-“

“I have to ensure it myself and you were negligent when I told you she had to push, I don’t trust any one of you around my daughter.” The midwife sighed. It’s

not as if she was going to switch the babies or run away with the baby, though the baby's hair showed that she was kind of mixed but then again the father was mixed. It was clear to see. She didn't want to be sued or reported to her bosses so she would let him follow her. Kingsley paused. Clothes..everything was in Gaborone. He didn't know how soon can what they bought arrive here or maybe they should go back as soon as possible.Maybe tomorrow morning, he can buy a few stuff though most of it was at Gaborone.

He slide his phone out as they walked inside the room where babies were being cleaned. The other midwives were shocked to see a man in there. He slid it back in his pocket. They were going to be here for a few days. He sat down as he watched the midwife clean up Warona. He smiled looking at the baby. He had a baby, a baby girl for that matter. One he was going to take care of, cancer or not.

Ma Amelia had seen her grandchild and she thanked God in her heart of hearts. She will speak to Amelia, maybe she would have softened up and they can resolve their issues.

At Kaone's house

Kaone had left the hospital and she sat in her car. Stewing on ways to surprise her husband and tell him about the new addition to their family. She smiled. She opened the car door and walked inside the yard. The kids were sitting by the benches outside and they all greeted her and she greeted them back. She walked inside the house and she was met by the wonderful aroma of food. He cooked? Nice..

She headed to the bedroom and placed her bag down. She got out of her nurse uniform and placed it on the bed. The bedroom door opened and her husband smiled.

“Hey love.” She grinned back.

“Hey...Uhm I have a surprise for you” she blurted out. She couldn’t keep it in any longer. He walked closer and pulled her half naked body towards him.

“I am listening.I

“Uhm I’m pregnant.” She said. Her husband stilled. She was pregnant? How? He was screwed. Kaone maintained her smile.

“Say something..” He forced a smile.

“When did you find out?”

“Today at work, it just hit me that I didn’t see my period so I took the test”

He kissed her neck while his heart pounded.

“I can’t wait to meet our baby..”

“Me too, do you think it’s a girl or a boy?”

“Definitely a boy..” she laughed and placed her head on his shoulder.

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## DELICATE

#135

At the hospital

The midwife and Grey passed Amelia's mother as they made their way into the room with the baby. Amelia was all cleaned up and she opened her eyes weakly. She smiled softly seeing her baby and Grey. The midwife looked at the man who followed her and how he had been watching her as she cleaned his child up. The midwife handed Amelia the baby who was wrapped up in a tiny blanket. Grey made a mental note to pass by PEP in the morning to at least buy her clothes since they left everything at Gaborone. Amelia smiled looking at her baby and Grey noticed her paleness. He hoped it wasn't low blood but either way, he was more than willing to donate his blood.

“Is there anything wrong with her? He asked the midwife who looked at Amelia.

“I don’t think so. Let me leave you guys.” The nurse walked out and he sat next to the bed as she took out her breast. She looked at the cute girl with the curly hair and she smiled.

“Hello Warona, I’m your mom and there is y-your daddy...”

“You’re pale.”

“I probably need to sleep but let me feed her first.” She took out her plump breast and brought the nipples to Warona’s small mouth and she watched as the baby fisted her small hands and opened her mouth to latch onto her breast. She winced and Kingsley was a bit concerned.

“Are you okay?” She nodded.

“It’s painful to be honest. But I’ll get used to it though with time.” She laid her head on the pillow and watched Larona latch onto her breast with her closed eyes. Kingsley smiled. This was his little family and he had to fight this cancer for their sake.

Amelia released a content sigh as she looked at the small baby in her arms and she closed her eyes for a few seconds. She was a mother and her baby was here. Her eyelids fluttered and she looked at Kingsley.

“Uhm my mother is here, can you tell her to come in?” She said. Regardless of how angry she was with her mother, they were family.

“Are you sure?”

“Positive.” She yawned and looked at the nursing baby in her arms.

“Okay. If she does try anything funny, I am chasing her out.” Amelia nodded as Kingsley looked at his daughter’s face one more time and he smiled. They made that human being and she was just so tiny. He really hoped he wasn’t going to break the little one. He stepped away and headed to the door. He held the door knob and breathed in and out before he pushed her door open. He looked at Ma Amelia who raised her head to look at him. She swallowed.

“Amelia wants to see you.” That is all he said before

he opened the door wider and left it like that, heading to Amelia's bedside. She closed her eyes and thanked her ancestors for this change of heart.

She stood up and walked to the open door. She closed it once she stepped inside the room and she turned to see her first born daughter holding her first born child. She smiled in embarrassment, the mere fact that she wasn't there for her daughter was still going to be with her child for years but she could change her ways now and be a better parent and an even better grandmother. Maybe it was how it was supposed to be. Her mother never had a son and her sister had girls and she had girls as well. Now Amelia had a girl.

"It's a girl?" She asked in a low toned whisper and Amelia nodded.

"You can come closer, her name is Warona.." she said and Kingsley looked at her. She caught his gaze and chuckled.

"Warona Rosalia Carter.." Ma Amelia nodded with

gleaming eyes.

“It’s a beautiful name and-” she turned to face Kingsley who was by the other side of the bed.

“Thank you for taking care of her when I couldn’t.” He just nodded. She couldn’t or didn’t want to? Either way, he wasn’t going to stress his princess with that so he better keep his mouth shut.

“How are you feeling?”

“Tired and this is weird and beautiful at the same time. Look at her soft curls and hair.” Amelia said with a small smile playing on her lips.

“You’re pale.” She just nodded as her mother pointed out the same thing Grey did.

“And he is Warona’s dad and my boyfriend.” She lifted her eyes to him and laughed at the way she was introducing him.

“King that’s my mother. You met before but yeah..” she looked at the baby that brought them here together. How she was suckling her mother’s breast with her tiny fist on top of it.

“She is beautiful.”

“Let’s give her a few days..she still looks like an old woman.”

“Stop calling my child an old woman..”Ma Amelia looked at Kingsley and how he was so focused on the baby. She really had been standing in the way of her daughter’s happiness.

“I pushed her out so I have every right to call her that.” Came Amelia’s raspy voice and he shook his head and kissed her forehead. He whispered in her ear.

“Te amo Lia. Gracias por nuestra pequeña familia.”(I love you Lia. Thank you for our small family.)

She understood the te amo and she nodded as he moved his head and looked at Warona.

“You can hold her after she is done feeding.” He nodded and Ma Amelia had to accept then and there that her daughter was happy with this man who was years her senior and there was nothing she could have done or could do to stand in their way. That small crush towards Kingsley had to disappear now

and she will be alright.

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At Kaone's house

She laid on her back as she massaged her still flat stomach. She was so excited about this baby and she couldn't wait to share the news after she was starting to show. The bedroom door opened and her husband walked in.

"Hey babe.." he started off as he sat by the edge of the bed and he looked at her face, she was so excited and he didn't want to shutter that dream for her. She has been nothing but a good wife to him and a few moments of temptation had led him here. Imagine her blaming him that she lost their baby and

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It would be a mess and she would never forgive him. He needed a plan to make that other woman lose

her pregnancy then, how? He didn't even know but he guessed his wife knew since she was a nurse and she would help him, unsuspecting.

"How are you feeling?"

"I'm fine. Just fine. No morning sickness or anything."

"Is it too early to start making a nursery from scratch?"

"Maybe we can do that after my first trimester, pregnancy is delicate during the first few months and anything can cause a miscarriage."

"Things like what?"

She sat upright and crossed her legs.

"Stress, bad diets...generally anything."

He got closed and squeezed her thigh.

"Then we will make sure you are taken care of, starting with you laying off the night shifts." She sighed.

"I will have to go through that with my supervisor so I



will let you know if it does happen or I get less night shifts and more morning shifts.”

“Perfect. What worse do we need for a healthy pregnancy.” She grinned. His interest in her pregnancy clearly showed he wanted this child.

“Wait, why did you say we need a house helper?” She asked and he bit his lip.

“I was thinking clearly when I called.”

“Ng ng. There must be something that made you say that. We have been doing fine without a house helper all these years so why now?”

“Well my cousin was looking for work and I was like why not help her? Kana these days some graduates have degrees that are at home collecting dust and I thought I could help.” She paused and thought about it.

“That was a sweet idea but the thing with living with family is that they tend to interfere in marriages. Let’s say we have a fight or disagreement, tla bo a ya go bolella batho ko lapeng gore re a lwa..wantshwara?”(they will go and tell people that we are

fighting, you understand?) she placed both hands on the soft mattress.

“So no. It was sweet of you but maybe help her look for a job, a cleaning job or anything even help her set a table to sell magwinya,menoto and soup to school kids by the gate ya Bobirwa Junior kana any school, kids buy stuff like that around Bo six when they get in school since morning study starts at half six.” He smiled and touched her cheekbone.

“I hear you.”

“Good. Why haven’t I met this cousin of yours by the way? I think I know all your family members and not once have I heard them say they need a job.” His heart pounded. Damn. She was smart and she wasn’t lying when she said she knew his family like he knew hers.

“A distant cousin.” She tilted her head to the side and looked at him. A distant cousin? How convenient.

“Ah. I see. Okay. I can talk to her if you want. Woman to woman.”

“It’s okay babe..” she nodded with a smile.

“Okay. Anyways what’s for dinner? I am famished.”

“Come.” He got off the bed and extended his hand towards her. She took his hand and he helped her off the bed.

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At Ma Carter’s house

The old woman held onto the bed as she went on her knees. She pulled the suitcase out and she smiled. It was lonely nights like this she missed her last born son. She really failed him because Kingsley lived as though they didn’t exist. She sighed. One day he will come back home and it will be well with them.

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At Thero's parents

Thuto turned and he sat upright, frustrated from his thoughts and his guilty conscience. Guilty that he couldn't see how his wife abused his brother's only son and guilty that he somehow pushed her to be someone she was not and he broke her self esteem and she was willing to walk away without a cent to her name. Just to be free of him. He closed his eyes and his phone rang, piercing through the silence and annoying him more.

He picked up the call from an unknown international number.

"Hello?" He answered. There was soft breathing at the end of the line and he closed his eyes. He had to hung up. This was a wrong number.

"Two two Carter?" The soft feline voice sounded and he frowned. Who was this?

"Who are you?"

A pause.

“Tasha...” a deep line formed on his forehead as his mind tried to remember a Tasha. Who was Tasha? He didn’t know a Tasha.

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DELICATE

#136

At Thero's parents

Thuto was still perplexed. Who was Tasha? Tasha held her breath. He didn't know of her existence so he was probably shocked. If she could describe who she was would he believe her? She did do her research and he has two children. Well the other one's social media was non-existent and the other one was a Med student at Oxford.

"Hello? Are you still there?"

"Who are you?" Thuto asked.

"Tasha Jones. You Uhm were seeing my mother decades ago, Lily Jones.."

Thuto's heart stopped for a good minute. No. This

was not happening.

“Well I do not know her.” Tasha sighed. She was about to leave for Botswana anyway so it wasn’t a big deal.

“Okay. Thank you.” She hung up and Thuto stared at the phone screen. Lily? He last saw her over 25 years ago while he was overseas, his wife didn’t know about that and now there is a Tasha? Surely it wasn’t what he was thinking. It couldn’t be that.

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At Gomolemo’s house

She screamed in her sleep begging for those men to let her go she was innocent. Tears rolled down her eyes as she kicked the blankets away and abruptly woke up with a sheen of sweat covering her whole body. Hyper alert, she looked around the whole room to make sure there was no one and there was none.

She closed her eyes and broke down crying. She was raped for crying out loud but nobody would believe her and her sister literally thought it was a thokolosi. That was crazy as hell and she knows what happened to her she wasn't stupid. Not at all. She tried to calm down and think about the positive aspects of her life, she had healthy kids and a good job. She was happy with life right? She was happy right? But her mind took her back to what happened that night and she screamed out hysterically. Was she going to be okay? Would a therapist believe her? Or would they take her to the looney bin? She wasn't crazy at all, she knows what happened.

She picked up her cellphone from the bedside and the light from the electronic device temporarily blinded her. Her eyes recovered from that in a few seconds and she went to her sister's contact number. She pressed the call button and she chewed on her lower lip, anxiety gnawing at her from the insides and fear of the unknown future crippling her thoughts as the phone rang and rang with no



answer. When she was about to give up after seven tries, Victoria picked up the call and fresh tears rolled down her eyes.

"Vicky?" She said and Victoria frowned. The only time her sister had called her Vicky was when they were kids and she was scared of the dark so she would wake her up in her sleep in a small voice chanting 'Vicky' continuously till she woke up.

"Gomolemo what's wrong? It's late." Gomolemo could hear the dismissive tone in her voice.

"I can't sleep." Victoria sighed as a yawn escaped her lips, she had a long day and she was going to have an even longer day when she wakes around seven because she had to answer for her deeds and she definitely didn't need Gomolemo's childlike behaviour.

"Well have a shot of whiskey or something. I have a lot on my plate and I can't be babying a grown adult. Please get a grip." She said and Gomolemo shrank as more tears rolled down her eyes.

"I was raped Vicky! Why can't you believe me?" She

lashed out and Victoria rubbed her temple. Oh God.  
"Lemo wee? O robetswe ke matholwane mma, you need to see a prophet or ngaka ya setswana."(You slept with a thokolosi.)

Victoria rubbed her arm. Her sister wasn't listening and she was so so scared. She looked around the dark room and all she could see was her in that dark room with that huge man on top of her then her having to beg those men not to take turns on her. She didn't realise she was sobbing uncontrollably till her sister screamed on the other side of the phone.

"Tomorrow we will see a prophet or a psychologist. Whichever one works. Please sleep and try to calm down. Goodnight." Victoria hung up and Gomolemo let the flood water flow as she cried, unhinged and alone in the darkness of the room she was in.

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## At the hospital

Warona was sleeping by the small bed set up next to Amelia. She hadn't opened her eyes yet so they were hopeful she would soon. Amelia was fast asleep but her paleness got to him. A little bit too much. Ma Amelia looked around the room and nodded in Kingsley's direction as a way of letting him know that she was well on her way. Ma Amelia walked out and Kingsley slipped his hands in his pocket as the door closed. Now he had to get answers fast and tomorrow was the day, he won't be long though so that was better. The nurse stepped in and he looked at her.

"Why is she pale?"

"Blood. But we are keeping her under observation so we will let you know."

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## DELICATE

#137

Kingsley sighed and nodded. He sat by the bench and he ran his hands through his hair, it felt weird that he was now a father and it wasn't a future thing they talked about when they said Warona will be here and now the baby was here. He got up and walked into the room where the two important ladies in his life were fast asleep. He didn't know how to take care of a newborn at first but Google and turned out to be a trusted companion now he knew which lullabies to sing for Warona to fall asleep if she does wake up in the middle of the night. Maybe she will wake up and it will be up to him to lessen Lia's load.

He sat by her bed and he looked at the sleeping baby. She was ethereal and unreal. He extended his finger and placed it on her small stomach and she moved. He smiled looking at her tiny body, she was okay. Healthy and her weight was okay and she didn't

need machines to breathe. That was one of the things he was also grateful for.

He ran his hands on her face and her eyelids fluttered open as she looked at him with a small smile on her face. She extended her hand to his face and he held her hand.

"Join me on the bed."

"I won't hurt you?"

"Not at all..." she wanted to sleep next to his warmth and let him just snuggle her. Kinglsey removed his shoes and did all he could to lie next to her.

She moved closer to him and smiled, the lights were still on and she was slowly fully awakening.

"I had to go through many nightmares to dream next to you."

She said with one of her pretty smiles that revealed her pearly whites. She had really found salvation in the form of his grace and she prayed he never took it away from her because she was not ready to be another one of his mistakes.

"Really?" He asked and she nodded.

"I love you and I hope we get through whatever that's going on right now. The cancer and everything okay?" He nodded and kissed her forehead.

"We made a beautiful baby my love. She is ours and pretty baby."

"That we did." Lia closed her eyes, falling asleep and leaving her significant other half awake as he kept turning to see if Warona was okay and breathing.

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The following morning

Amelia woke up alone in the bed and she scrunched her nose. She slept with Grey. She looked around and he walked in holding Warona.

"Morning, she was crying and I didn't want her to disturb your sleep, you look better." She nodded. The

stitches hurt and she wasn't sure what she was going to be doing in the bathroom at this point. He handed her the baby and she looked at her closed eyes and her small fisted hands.

"Let me go buy her clothes. I will be back in an hour or so.." she nodded.

He kissed her forehead and he extended a finger to touch Warona's small fist. She was just so tiny and she hadn't opened her eyes as of yet. Kingsley walked out leaving Amelia with the baby. She removed her breast and said a short prayer. God she hoped it wasn't going to hurt like the first time. She gave her the breast and she sweetly latched onto it and she was going to get used to this. She looked at Warona who slowly opened her eyes. Amelia frowned. What the hell? She looked into Warona's small eyes and she moved her head back. Her eyes weren't deceiving her. She will ask Grey? What was up with that eye colour because she had chocolate browns and Grey had hazel brown eyes, why did their baby have a completely different eye colour?

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At the guesthouse

Kingsley walked out of the shower and he just went through their big suitcase looking for a smaller bag to throw in Amelia's clothes. His phone rang and he sighed. He sat down on the bed and rubbed his temples. He looked at the ringing phone and it was an unknown number. He picked up the call.

"Carter speaking, hello." There was soft breathing before the person spoke.

"Hello Kingsley, I know I am the last person you want to speak to-and please don't hang up. This is the last time I'll be bothering you." He ran his hands through his hair. What did Victoria want now?

"I am really sorry for being the wicked witch of the west and ruining your childhood. It was wrong of me to do that to you, you were innocent and your parents were actual sweethearts whose lives had



been cut short. I see the error of my ways and I know I can't undo the trauma I made you go through but I sincerely apologise, I am too ashamed to see you face to face because my guilty conscience will get worse and I know I can never reverse time. Thank you for listening without hanging up and I am really sorry. Have a good day." Victoria hung up knowing he wasn't going to forgive her but she extended an olive branch so it was up to him to see what to do with the olive branch.

Kingsley stared at the phone screen. The apology doesn't make any difference because he has to live with the trauma and regardless of what she said, his whole life had been ruined by her and her sister. He licked his lips and he looked at his feet in the sleepers. He better get dressed, pass by his grandmother's house to get answers then the shops before he headed to the hospital. He didn't need to stress Amelia with petty issues.

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At the hospital

Ma Amelia had told Lola that her sister had given birth and the glee on Lola's face was definitely contagious. She held Lola's hand as she knocked with her other one.

"Come in." Ma Amelia let go of Lola's hand as she opened the door and got in.

"Hello Ameeee!" Amelia chuckled.

"Not to loud Lola, she just settled and she can screan her tiny lungs out."

"Sorry.." she whispered back and walked to the bed where Amelia was holding Warona who was just looking at her.

"Look at her eyes, what's her name? I was so excited I didn't hear mama tell me the name."

"Her name is Warona Rosalia.."

"Aaw man and look at her eyes, she has green

eyes.." Amelia nodded as Warona just stared at her and she gave her her finger.

"She is so cute and tiny. Kopa go mo kuka.."(Can I hold her?) Ma Amelia walked in and she wasn't too traditional on who gets to touch the baby. She was still trying to mend her relationship with her daughter.

Amelia told Lola how to hold Warona before she handed the baby to her.

"She is sooo small" she grinned as she looked at the little one she was holding in her arms. She really hoped she wasn't going to cry. Watona looked at the new stranger who held her, she fisted her hands before she burst into tears.

Amelia laughed as she laid her head back.

"Let me feed her.." she forced herself to sit upright and she took the baby from Lola. Ma Amelia sat down and watched the two girls dot over Warona.

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At Ma Carter's house

She was sitting outside basking in the sun amidst the cold winds. Spring was near and winter was wearing off. She saw Kingsley's car park by the gate and her old fragile heart jumped for joy. She had been thinking deeply about him yesterday and he was here. Wasn't God good. She smiled as he stepped out of the car and walked to the gate. He had his father's walk and he looked like both his parents, may their souls rest in perfect peace. She picked up her cup of tea and sipped on the strong Five Roses mix that she loved so much and would die without it.

Kingsley opened the gate and he saw the old woman. He rubbed his temples with an effort to keep the lingering headache at bay, those painkillers better work because he has to see his little family as well.

He walked to the verandah where the old woman was sitting and his ego didn't allow him to apologise

for their last encounter. He wasn't sorry about that, they disrespected the mother of his child and that was something he was going to tolerate. Ever.

"Kingsiiiiiii..." He chuckled.

"Dumelang.."

"Hello ngwana ngwanaka, la tsoga? O ka nna hatshe." (hello my grandsons. How are you? You can have a seat.)

He sat down on the chair opposite hers and she sipped her tea.

"It's nice to see you and I have been thinking about you, you look so much like your parents. Rosa would have been proud, she wanted you to learn her language Spanish because she was not that good with English." The old woman started off and she stared into space. Kingsley kept quiet, he was learning the language on his own and hopefully if he lives long enough to beat this cancer, he will teach little Lia how to speak Spanish.

"You really don't know much about your parents do you? Let me go get my suitcase and tell you all about them. I hope you have the time to listen." He nodded and the old woman excitedly stood up. She balanced herself for a few seconds before she walked inside the house.

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## DELICATE

#138

At Ma Carter's house

She picked the suitcase that had the pictures and death certificates, just all the lovely memories she decided to cherish for as long as she lived. She made her way to the verandah and Kingsley put his phone back in his pocket. Amelia's phone was in the car and he couldn't text her that he might show up a bit later, he hoped it wasn't going to take the whole day.

The old woman placed the suitcase down and instructed Kingsley to open which he did. He looked at the many document inside and the old woman asked him to pick a handful to hand them to her.

"I am so sorry we have never had moments like this and now after almost thirty years of your existence I

am doing this." He just nodded and she looked at the first document.

"Ah this is your father's birth certificate, it was a really hard pregnancy.." she stared into the space again as her mind took her back to decades ago when she was still young.

"It was difficult and your grandfather, MHSRIP was scared out of his mind, your uncle was just a playful toddler and he didn't know what was happening. We almost lost your father that day but thankfully he lived." She sighed. Now he was gone. She looked at the next document.

"Your uncle and father had been fairly good at school but they worked extra hard after the passing of your grandfather so that they would be able to take care of me, they were good children growing up and I was proud of them." The old woman went on as Kingsley listened without even interrupting her.

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At Oxford, London



Thero went through the WhatsApp statuses and he frowned seeing the man Lisbeth posted. He zoomed in on the picture and it was more clearer on who it was. That was his friend. Of course a part of him was angry that his friend was dating his baby mama but then again he had no right to dictate who Lisbeth dates, the therapist made him see that he wasn't at all entitled to anything and that no one owed him a thing. Hell the universe didn't owe him a goddamn thing and he was acting spoiled. He just replied that status with a 'congrats on your new relationship.' Then he passed.

Sooner or later, Liz was bound to move on and marry another guy who was going to step father Keith and he was going to marry someone else. Even to this day, he couldn't help but feel a twinge of regret.

Amelia had done nothing wrong and he just cheated on her, he could imagine the hurt he himself would go through if he was cheated on for absolutely nothing and a baby came out of the situation. A baby was a really permanent reminder of his life choices.

His phone vibrated with a message from Lisbeth.

Liz:Thanks.

That was all she said and he figured he hurt her as well, imagine lovinh someone who dumped you for the person he loved and called you a mistake. He closed his eyes. He was very glad both these women weren't into social media or else he would have been dragged in the streets of twitter and Facebook. He stared at his phone screen. Life on his side was school and video calls with his son. Nothing exciting or worth writing home about. No stable relationship, he looked for Amelia in every girl and when he thought he was doing well in the talking stage with Yaya, boom she was Amelia's best friend and if she was Amelia's best friend then Amelia was going to come up in conversations and he would get obsessed about her life wanting to know what she was doing. So he ghosted Yaya. He was surprised when she didn't call or send a message demanding for an explanation. It was quiet. His phone rang, breaking into the silence. He saw the caller ID and he

answered.

"Hello mom. How are you? School is good. Med school is hard but you know we have to keep on trying."

"Hey. I understand tota. There is something I have to tell you." Thero's heart skipped several beats as the hair on the nape of his neck stood on it's ends. He stared out the dorm window as he waited for her to continue.

"I am listening."

Victoria breathed in and out. She wasn't changing her mind about this.

"Your father and I have decided to get a divorce." Thero blinked. A divorce? Well when he was younger his father travelled a lot but that was business. What happened? Did they get into a fight?

"Why?" The only important question he had to ask and Victoria had to be kind enough to tell her son the truth.

"For the past few years I haven't been happy and I

was an angry person for decades, I took it out on Kingsley who did nothing wrong and I left him with a lot of trauma, I changed and that wasn't who I was to be honest. Maybe in leaving this marriage I will be able to find myself again, it's never too late to find yourself again. I might rediscover myself again at 49 and it will be a blissful journey to self healing and much more. I just wanted to tell you." He couldn't argue and say they should give their love a chance, he was no longer a child and these things happened.

"I can't say I fully understand you mogher but do you, do you and be happy."

"Thank you. Have a great day, I will call to check in on yoh kater during the day." She hung up and he sighed.

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At Ma Carter's house

Ma Carter finally went silent when she held her son's last pictures with his pregnant wife. It had almost finished him and it was those days people were very judgemental and thought Yaone was being ended off by AIDS when in reality he suffered from a rare form of brain cancer that was diagnosed too late and they had to count their days with him. She showed Kingsley the picture. Kingsley couldn't even recognise the bald weak man who was on the bed with his mother besides him.

"Those were the last few weeks when he was dealing with stage four cancer." Kingsley's heart broke, for the man he never met but had been described as loving and wonderful.

"We didn't have advanced technology at the time as well, it was found too late. It was brain cancer and we just had time to spend with him." Kingsley's heart raced fast, he had cancer but he didn't want to be a statistic and leave behind his mini family. Not when he had opened his heart for love and just being loved.

"It was a hard time for us, especially your mother. She was still pregnant and imagine losing your

husband a week before giving birth then joining him in the grave a week after giving birth. She had excessive haemorrhage.." the old woman said softly and turned her head to hide her tears.

"It was a really dark time for the family and I don't know why I had been rude to Victoria because when we told her to take care of you she did." He chuckled. Now that being 'taken care of' was a lot of damage. He didn't even want to relive his past again because it hurt, therapy was okay so far.

"Are you okay though?" It was that question that made Grey introspect his whole life.

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At the hospital

Amelia put the baby down to sleep and she looked around. Her mother had left with Lola and there was a gentle knock on the door. She really hoped it was

Grey.

"Come in." She said as she held onto the rails. She wanted to go to the toilet and he was just here in time to help her. He has been gone for a while and he said he wasn't going to take long. Kaone walked in and she sighed closing her eyes. God! Not now.

"How are you feeling?" Kaone asked. She asked the other nurses what the baby's name since her sister refused to tell her. She thought by now she would find Amelia drowning or depressed because a child is no kid's play and she was just a child herself.

"I am good." Now Amelia had to sit down for her to leave or better yet go with her child.

"Are you sure? Being a mother is no walk in the park an-"

"If you are here to taunt me or expect me to say I am stressed, then I am not. At least I won't burden my niece to take care of my two kids." She said and Kaone gasped.

"How dare you?"

"If you want respect please respect me as well, I fell pregnant and had a baby who is very much the centre of the universe and I won't regret her. Ever. Please leave o ntsoetsa bp mmangawane."(please leave you are raising my bp aunty.) Kaone wanted to speak but she kept her peace and walked out. Amelia was ungrateful. She took care of her and her sisters.

Amelia looked at the ceiling.

"King where are you?"

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At Ma Carter's house

Kingsley looked at his parents' photos. They had so many memories together.

"Your mother was an orphan did I tell you that? She



was so smart and loving, she loved you. We are deeply sorry for failing you, your parents are probably turning in their graves right now. Re itshwarele ngwanaka."(forgive us my child)

"Her name was Rosa and she had grey eyes, she is beautiful."

"Yes and you have her kind of hair and eye shape. No wonder she gave you a second name as grey."

"I named my baby Rosalia.." the old woman paused. Tears filled her eyes. He had a child and she had no idea. His parents must hate them right now.

"You have a baby? I have a great grandchild?" He nodded and she covered her mouth in shock and excitement.

"If you wish, you can tell me about Rosalia, it's a beautiful name..."

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See you guys again from 7-9 for our insert marathon  
then 11-1am

## DELICATE

#139

At Ma Carter's house

Kingsley sighed and looked at the old woman. He got the information he wanted so he was good. Time will tell if he will be able to treat her like other grand kids do so he wasn't rushing this.

"She is a beautiful little girl." He said and she beamed. She was wondering who was Rosalia's mother.

"And her mother is she beautiful?" That was when Kingsley knew he had to leave. This woman bashed Amelia and said she wasn't for him when she is the only person who has been here for him regardless of him pushing her away in an effort to save her from the darkness within himself. She was too delicate for this world. A perfect pink rose blooming in the

freshest of spring and he was going to protect her from his family.

"She is. I have to go. Thank you and I will pass by one day to get a few photographs."

"No, thank you for passing by and next time please bring Rosalia and her mother. I would love to meet them before my dying day." He just nodded and stood up. He walked to the gate and the old woman had found peace. Half the peace she sought, it was the first step and it was a process so she was not going to rush it all. She smiled alone as he stepped inside his car and she said a short prayer to protect him on his journey.

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At Thero's parents

Victoria thought of calling her sister but no, that one was starting to be delusional with her rape theories

when she might be sleeping with a spiritual husband or one of those things usually mentioned when one has sex in the dream. She held her phone in her hands and looked at her manicure, she was about to embark on another journey in life and she was excited. For the first time she was excited, would she date again and meet other men who would see her for what she was and not belittle her? It was a world full of possibilities and explorations. The door opened and Thuto walked in. Her smile dropped and she sat there rigid.

"Hi.."

"Hello." The energy was now awkward and he sat by the other corner of the bed.

"What's the real reason for this divorce?" He asked her again.

"I did tell you yesterday the real reason for wanting to divorce, we don't have to fight like cats over property and stuff, if you want everything you can take it akere you called me stupid and uneducated and that you wouldn't waste money on a stupid brain,

take everything that is yours. Dilo tsa batho di dipuo."(people's things come with a lot of talk)

"Why didn't you tell me you hated that? I am sorry."

"It was something you did whenever you got the chance and I always tried telling you but I am nothing but a housewife so what do I know. I am still leaving and I talked to Kingsley. I don't know if he will forgive me or not but I talked to him and we will see."

She said and Thuto shook his head.

"You are really serious?"

"I am and thank you, I guess for the years of marriage." She shrugged and Thuto could see that she had really made up her mind.

"Okay, you'll still get your share of everything." She just nodded. He nodded as well and he stood up on his feet. He sighed. It was over then.

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At the hospital

Kingsley finally walked inside the hospital room and both of his girls were knocked out. He really did take his time. He ran his hands through his hair and placed the bags on the table. He walked to where Rosalia lay and he watched her sleeping peacefully. His small family.

"Hello little princess, this is your father princessa.."he said as softly as he could and he smiled before sitting down on the chair next to the bed. He took Amelia's hand and her eyelids fluttered open.

"Hey.." she said in her sleepy voice. He kissed her hand.

"Sorry I came late, I went to see grandmother and we'll talk once you're fully awake."

She smiled and forced herself to sit up right.

"Talk to me, she slept a few minutes ago and I am exhausted. My mother and sister were here and they got to see her. She has green eyes."

"My mother had green eyes."

"Guess it's the genes...What did your grandma say? Is she well? Old people tend to get sick easily."

"She is okay.." he sighed. They will talk once they were out of the hospital.

"I brought food and clothes for you and Lia.." she rolled her eyes playfully.

"I'm the only Lia."

"She is the little Lia and I like that name."

"Nna wa ntena Kingsley."(you annoy me Kingsley)

"Te amo princesa."

"I love you to baby." He kissed her hand. They will see what the future holds at this point.

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At Gomolemo's house



Gomolemo paced up and down the house. She felt like she was being watched and the tears rolled down her eyes. She wanted this paranoia to stop but it only got worse. She walked out of her room and headed to the lounge where she picked up a note pad and pen. She sat down and started penning down everything as tears rolled down her eyes. After she finished writing an hour later she left the note on the table and walked to the bedroom where she looked around. But it was too easy but will the fear stop? Maybe she should go to the police and report right?

In her pyjamas and her messy hair with stinky breath, she slipped her feet in her sleepers and grabbed her car keys. She was going to the police station.

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TWO YEARS LATER

DELICATE

#140

At Kingsley's house

Amelia released her braids from the tight bun they were in as she stepped inside the house, she immediately slipped her feet out of the crocs and walked on the white tile with her bare feet. The house was too quiet for her liking and it was only 7pm. She walked to the kitchen and there had been nothing on the stove. She ran her hands through her braids, she was exhausted from working all day and there was no food? He has got to be kidding her. She opened the fridge and it was just the usual food in there. She closed her eyes and counted up to ten, she had sweetly asked him to get groceries. It was a simple request and she even sent him a list. She

shook her head and in her scrubs, she walked to the bedroom. All her frustration evaporated when she saw her baby sleeping on her father's chest. She smiled and she took out her phone to silently snap a few pictures, she was daddy's little girl and they were both asleep on the bed. No wonder the house was quiet. She tip toed inside the room, closed the door as gently as she could before she placed her bag down. She walked to the wardrobe and took out her home clothes as she liked to call them and walked to the bathroom to change. When she was done, she smiled to herself yet again. She shouldn't wake them up and she should make something to eat as well.

She walked out of the bedroom with her phone in hand and a message beeped on her phone screen.

Tsona:Hi sis, I haven't found a place to rent and I was wondering if I can stay with you while I am still looking, schools are about to open and ka kopa tota.

Amelia read the text over and over again. She was definitely going to have to say no, she is her sister

but this isn't her house and Kingsley wouldn't allow it. Well he would allow it if she asked nicely but she wasn't comfortable with her sister here, let alone taking residence here. She might have forgiven her but she didn't forget that her now 19 year old sister wanted Kingsley for herself. She texted back.

Amelia:unfortunately that won't be possible but I can help you look for an affordable place sis

Sent. She kept walking and she placed her phone on the counter once she got to the kitchen. Whip up something quick and delicious for her two babies. Well her boyfriend and baby. This cohabitation thing might have not been part of her lans years ago but it happened and him fighting with cancer was the scariest time of their lives. With a newborn and treatments and how weak he was, new developments in his condition, new treatment plans and dosages? It was a mess and it was draining, on the other hand she was doing her final year which was so hectic she had to ask her mother to help with Warona just for a month so they can figure out what was going on and what they had to do. They really

weren't coping and they had to be there for each other emotionally. Messy as hell. Tomorrow is his last chemo session and hopefully the doctor will have good news for them. It was all she had been praying for the past two years, him back to his full health. She sighed, there were a few good things that came out of this though, he bonded with his daughter and it was such a lovely relationship to witness, she taught him how to cook and he was okay at it. The food was chewable, eatable if she could say that. Her phone vibrated and she picked it up.

Tsona:I wouldn't be asking if I haven't tried looking for a small one room.

Amelia bit her lip. No. No.

Amelia:I'll help you look for a place to stay.

She sent the message and placed the phone down. She opened the freezer and took out the meat that was still there.

Meanwhile inside the room, Warona woke up first and she looked at her dad. He was still sleeping but she didn't want to be the only one awake. She lightly slapped his cheeks.

"Dada?" Her small voice came out as she tried to wake him up. She touched his whole face in an attempt to wake him up.

"Dada? Papa? Tsoga.."(wake up) she said. He wasn't waking up and she held back tears. He didn't want to wake up with her? She burst out crying and in the kitchen Amelia could hear Warona crying. She walked to the sink to wash her hands and wiped her hands with her oversized t-shirt as she made her way to the bedroom.

When she opened the door, Warona looked at her and cried some more.

"Baby what's wrong?" she walked to the bed and picked her up, detaching her from her father. She was heavy but now she had to shush her.

"Hmm? Talk to me sweetheart, what's wrong?" She fisted her small hands and rubbed her eyes looking

at her mama.

“Papa, not waking up..” Amelia rubbed Warona’s tears.

“Daddy is tired okay, you do know daddy has to see a doctor to help him be fine my love, let him rest and we can cook together then surprise daddy with food okay?”

“Food?” She asked.

Amelia nodded. Maybe she had been unreasonable when she asked him to get groceries. She mentally slapped herself. She should have known better, they will get groceries on Saturday.

“Delicious food, we can make his favourite hmm? He will like that.”

“Uhm daddy happy?”

“He will be very happy. Let’s go okay?” She nodded her head and made an attempt to slide off her. She let her and Warona walked to the bed. She tried to climb it and Amelia chuckled as she helped her climb the bed. Warona kissed her dad’s forehead like

he always kisses hers and mommy's.

"Te amo papa." She said and slid off the bed. Amelia blinked back tears, they did a good job and you could see the love radiating from the two year old. Well she will be two in a few days. Warona gave her mother her hand.

"Go."

"Of course baby." They walked out of the room leaving Kingsley in there.

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At Thuto's house

He sat in the dark with a bottle of whiskey next to him. It has only been a year since his divorce and he couldn't move past it and what made it worse was finding out Tasha was her daughter from one of his mistresses when he used to travel. That made it more easier for Victoria to divorce and Tasha was



older than Thero so his evidence of cheating was there, he wanted to fight the divorce but the cheating and then the court would be in her favour. And he heard from his mother that Kingsley was battling cancer and it was only his grandma that he let in. He sighed. He failed as a father, an uncle, a grandfather and a son. It was such a saddening truth, even Keith no longer came here, he preferred his grandmother over him and he was his son's spitting image. He drank the whiskey straight out of the bottle as he contemplated his life decisions.

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At Mma Amelia's house

Tsona looked at her sister's message. She honestly wouldn't be asking if she wasn't desperate. It was temporary, even if it's just for a month. She can help by baby sitting Warona, the rent on the places she saw were expensive and they needed a roommate.

Some people didn't want to even share so she needed something that is less than P900.

She walked to the kitchen where her mother was standing by the stove.

"Mama?"

"Yes?"

"Can you talk to Amelia for me, I still can't find accommodation and she is the only person I know."

Ma Amelia sighed and looked at her daughter.

"Amelia might be working but she is cohabiting, as wrong as that is, she is an adult who has a child and a partner, she doesn't want you to stay over because she has a man. Men are weak and very soon tla bo le lwa gotwe o mo tseetse monna. She is ovoidinh such issues, I don't have friends in Gaborone but even if I had, people never feel comfortable with guests in their houses even if it's just a week."

Tosha sighed. That happened years ago, she has a

long term boyfriend that loves her and she loves him too. She doesn't want Amelia's man, she had been childish at the time and now she was mature. He also didn't like her that way as well.

"I don't even want her baby daddy mama, at all. I won't be staying for free mme kana, I'll help with house chores and baby sitting Warona."

Ma Amelia sighed. Her other daughter will be stranded in Gaborone and schools are about to open.

"Okay. I'll talk to her."

"Thank you mommy." She smiled as she hugged her mother while holding her phone with her other hand.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you...." She kissed her mother's cheek and she smiled.

"Thank you. I owe you my salary when I start working." Ma Amelia laughed and shook her head.

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## DELICATE

#141

At Kingsley's house

Amelia's phone rang on the counter and Warona looked at her mother as it rang. She sighed. She should have put it on silent and now it was disturbing their mommy daughter time. She wiped her hands against her t-shirt and she picked it up as Warona looked at her.

"Hello mama.." she said and Warona scrunched her face. Amelia realised that and she half laughed and placed the phone on her chest.

"It's grandma baby.." her baby smiled then frowned. Why did she look like Kingsley whenever he was deep in thought. She touched her chin and kissed it as she giggled.

She placed her phone against her ear with the other hand and maintained eye contact with Warona.

“How are you? How is everything? Are you guys coping?”

“I am trying but I can’t exactly complain.”

“Are you sure? You don’t need a helping hand with Warona?”

“If that’s your way of wanting to see your grandchild we might come over during the independence holidays.” She said. Hopefully all will be well with Kingsley, God knew how much she literally cried up to the heavens every chance she got just for King to be okay.

“Your sister said she was looking for a place to stay...”

Amelia face palmed.

“I can’t let her stay here, of course if I had a place of my own I would have her there until she found a place of her own but I can’t because it’s not my house.”

“But why don’t you look for your own house ngwanaka, you are working and you earn a salary, you graduated a year ago and you are a qualified nurse, it’s not like you depend on RraWarona for anything.” Her mother pointed out and Amelia knew that her mother wouldn’t understand.

“You won’t understand mama, let’s just leave the topic because I don’t want to fight.”

“But you do know that he didn’t marry you, ska inyadisa ngwanaka. Men change and he might throw you and Warona out once he heals and then go for another woman.”

“Mama not this again. Honestly. Just because I refused for Tsona to live here, you tell me this. Even if what we have ends, I will leave with no regrets at all knowing I gave him my very best and I didn’t lose anything from our time together. He is not my husband but these days it’s not as if a marriage certificate is enough, even married people divorce. Some in a matter of months after marriage..”

Ma Amelia sighed. There was no way she was going

to convince Amelia otherwise.

“Don’t you want to explore the world, maybe with a nursing degree explore the positive of getting into medicine?”

“One day but not now, I love what I do and it is my passion. Tell Tsona I will help her look for a house, I’ll ask around and if I can’t find one cheaper then we’ll all chirp in to help her pay rent. There is no need for her to stay here.”

“Are you insecure that your sister will seduce Kingsley? You know Tsona doesn’t see him like that and he doesn’t as well..”

“Mama. Please, please..not today tlhemma. I am really not spoiling for a fight, I have a lot on my plate than to entertain such trivial assumptions.”

“I was just pointing it out.”

“And it doesn’t need pointing out, this is not my house. I don’t know how many times am I supposed to say this and the owner of this house really needs space to breath and move freely in his own house without unnecessary guests.”

“You’re sister is an unnecessary guest?”

“Now you are putting words in my mouth. Bye mama. We’ll talk.” She hung up and place her phone down. She looked at Warona and smiled.

“We are almost done baby then we surprise daddy right? Yes..” she kissed the baby’s forehead and walked back to the stove leaving her on the high chair as she clapped her hands then placed her face in her small hands.

30 minutes later, Amelia placed the food on the table in the lounge and she went to pick Warona from her chair. She placed her down on her feet and she took her hand.

“Let’s go check on daddy baby..” they both walked hand in hand to the bedroom and he was still asleep. Amelia smiled as she walked to the bed and kissed his face.

“Babe? Hey, wake up my love.” She said with a cheerful voice and Warona attempted to climb the bed. Amelia rubbed Kings shaved head and she



kissed his lips.

“Grey? Baby wake up!”

“Mama..” Amelia helped her climb the bed. Once Warona was on the bed she crawled towards her father and as always she hit his cheeks. Amelia winced. She hated the little slaps she got from those hands, they were painful.

“Papa...daddy?” She said in her small voice. Amelia touched King’s neck to feel his pulse, okay she was worrying over nothing. He was just sleeping and she didn’t even know what time the two decided to take a nap. She placed her palms on his heart as well and it was beating.

“Should we eat then sleep with daddy? He must be exhausted..”

“Food for papa mama..”

Amelia gave her daughter a pitiful smile.

“He will eat when he wakes up.” Maybe he saw the need to take his pills even though he was doing better the past few weeks. She couldn’t help but be

worried about him now. Warona placed her head on her father's chest and Amelia smiled. They should try waking him up one more time hey..

"Baby? It's time to wake up now, we made food for you..." she said and placed her hands on his face. Her fingers moved to his eyelids and she opened his eyelids so he could at least wake up. He scrunched his face and she opened his eyelids again.

"Grey?" She said softly and she heard a groan escape his lips. Finally. He opened his eyes weakly and in his dizzy state, could see what looked like Amelia and his chest was heavy, as if something was on top of him. He moved his arms to touch his chest and he ended up rubbing Warona's back. The little girl's eyes lit up as she moved her head to look at her daddy. She giggled and kissed his forehead. Kingsley chuckled weakly as Amelia looked at him.

"What is wrong? Do we need to go to the doctor? What did you take? What happened during the day? Are you okay love? Hmm?" She touched his cheek and then moved her hands to his shaved head.

“Okay.” He said and she raised an eyebrow.

“Just a headache, a strong one an-“he paused as he watched Warona detach from him and slide off the bed.

“Mama food for papa..”

Amelia smiled.

“Go get what you can okay princess?” Warona excitedly walked out of the room and Amelia rubbed Kingsley’s cheek.

“You scared me for a moment.” She lightly kissed his lips and smiled. Hopefully the doctor will give them good new tomorrow. That was her only prayer.

“Te amo.”

“I love you too.”

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My apologies if it’s short, still dealing with the side effects

DELICATE

#142

At Sabrana Psychiatric Hospital

That same night, a nurse walked inside the white room as the patient with the tied hands counted backwards. The nurse sighed. This patient was such a sad case and even as the years went by after her going to the police, she wasn't getting better. She looked at the pills on the tray. Were the pills somehow making her go crazy? She didn't think it was the pills. She was seeing things that weren't there and had never happened. Some mental conditions were ones you would never believe existed in Botswana. Imagine being black and you were said to be schizophrenic? This profession of hers came with a lot of surprises. She said the words in her head before she cleared her throat.

"Hey darling, time for your daily medication." The woman stopped counting and went silent. She turned her head to look at the nurse and immediately tears started rolling down her cheeks.

"I'm not crazy! I'm not!! I don't deserve to be here, this is worse than jail!! Please tell Kingsley I'm sorry!" She screamed out as she fought with the restraints on her hands. The nurse sighed. She always did this. Always and it was getting tiring.

"Everyone who is here is insane sweetie, you're not an exception." The nurse replied in a saccharine voice that made Gomolemo want to die. She wasn't insane. It happened. She wasn't insane. She kept quiet and the nurse placed the tray on the small table.

She stood in front of Gomolemo and she looked at her.

"Now open your mouth.." Gomolemo couldn't fight it so she opened her mouth and the nurse put the pills in her mouth and held a glass of water to her mouth so she can swallow. After Gomolemo gulped the water mixed with the pills down the nurse forced her

to open her mouth so she can check if she indeed swallowed her pills.

"Good. That's nice. Your sister is coming to visit you." She said as she picked her tray up and was well on her way. The nurse always said that just to give Gomolemo false hope and for her to calm down. Gomolemo didn't even know if it was day or night and her sister was only going to be here in the morning or in the afternoon. Gomolemo closed her eyes, she didn't know what she was given but it was always too strong for her. The door shut closed and Gomolemo's thoughts faded into nothingness as she laid there on the bed.

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At Victoria's house

Victoria sat on the sofa with her hot cup of cocoa and she silently reflected on her life. Hearing her

sister admit to molesting Kingsley was-she didn't know how to feel about that honestly. Yes Victoria herself had been an angry human being but not seeking sexual gratification from a minor, that was totally absurd and very crazy, something had to be psychologically wrong with someone to find pleasure in children. Now she had been scared that maybe she tried it on Thero as well. Thero managed to clear that up and Gomolemo's children showed no signs of sexual abuse. That didn't justify how Victoria herself abused Kingsely but what Gomolemo did was crazy, no wonder she started to make claims about being raped. It was her sins eating her up. She didn't know if she should even show up at the hospital. Her sister was just a mental case and she didn't want to deal with that person. She was better off locked up in the looney bin where she belonged. A whole menace to society, she was a paedophile for crying out loud and that made her physically sick. She placed the mug down, her desire for the hot cocoa already dying out.

She looked around the small house, it was okay and

from what she got from the divorce settling, it was enough to buy a house and live the rest of her days here as a single woman. Her grandson was an absolute darling as always and the fact that her ex-husband's child had shown up a week after she had told him she wanted a divorce was a blessing as well. Evidence of his infidelity made it much more easier for her to emphasize on the divorce more. She was happy to be rid of his toxic mother and never having to see that old woman's face unless necessary. She could breathe though the guilty conscience of what she did to Kingsley would never really go away, she has to live with herself despite knowing she damaged him and her sister did more damage in a very innocenr boy who was unfortunate to lose his parents before he could bond with them. She sighed and leaned back. The fact that Rosa really did love her and she treated her only child this way, it weighed heavily on her heart and that went to show just how much that farce of a marriage changed her whole character and instead of leaving, she decided to stay all these years married to a cheat and a man who never valued her one bit.



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At Kingsley's house

Amelia and Kingsley finally put Warona to sleep and they both walked out of the bedroom. Amelia quietly closed the door as they walked to their bedroom. She smiled as he placed his hand on her back. They behaved like a married couple sometimes and she was already used to this living arrangement of theirs. This independent woman sh\*t will definitely miss her, she was her man's other baby when he wasn't focusing on their baby. He closed the door behind him and they walked to the messy bed. She got undercovers and he joined her under the covers.

"Switch off the lights, you're the last person..."

He smiled as he pulled her close and she rested her head on his chest.

"I will." He simply replied and kissed her cheek. He

closed his eyes and Amelia sighed with a sad smile. He was tired and mans was basically fighting for his life so he needs his rest. She couldn't even remember when was the last time she had sex. She released the breath she had been holding as his arm wrapped around her and she placed her hands on his arm.

"Babe?"

"Hhmm?"

"Are we ever going to get married mme?" She asked.

"Do we have to get married Amelia? We are still okay the way we are and it is a nice arrangement.." she just nodded.

"Okay. How are you feeling?"

"Tired and out of hope." She closed her eyes. He didn't want to have hope that the doctor will give him a clean bill of health because everytimen something new came up and more treatment meant him getting more sick and it just tore her heart to bits and bits of pieces.

"Don't lose hope. Please, we are going to win this okay?" He just breathed out and the silence said a lot.

"At this point, what matters is cherishing my moments with you and Warona, I don't know what the future holds." A lone tear rolled down Amelia's cheek and she quickly wiped it away.

"Don't say that, you are not leaving us babe." She turned and faced him. He looked into her eyes and she could see the fatigue and the dulled down brown of his eyes. He can't give up now, not when they are so close to the finishing line. Her eyes welled up with tears as she kept her gaze on him.

"You are going to be okay, I know so and we will be happy okay?" Her tears dropped and he rubbed them with his thumb.

"I hate seeing you cry because it hurts me too, babe don't do that." She shook her head. She couldn't help it. She placed her head on his chest and started to sob softly against his chest. He rubbed her back to calm her down. He wasn't really hopeful about his next appointment. Anything was possible but if he

had maybe tried to pretend to be hopeful just so his little delicate one doesn't cry then she wouldn't be crying right now.

"Maybe it will work out, babe it's okay." He gently soothed her as his eyes fought to close on their own. It took minutes for her to quieten down and she lifted her head to look at him with red eyes. He rubbed her cheeks and she placed her head back on his chest.

"I love you okay? Lia and I love you so much Grey. So damn much and we want you to be okay, we are praying for you to be okay." Her words were muffled by his chest but she was sure he heard her.

"I love you guys too. You are both the best thing that has ever happened to me." He kissed her head.

"Let's sleep and we will deal with everything as it comes" he said as he finally closed his heavy eyes. Amelia just listened to his beating heart. She bit her lower lip trying hard not to cry again. God should hear her now, she was begging Him to make Grey okay. That was all she asked for. Just that.

DELICATE

#143

The following morning

At Kingsley's house

Amelia woke up first and left him in bed as she opened the door. Why was Warona knocking on the door this early? She picked her up along with her teddy bear. Warona rubbed her eyes with a small fist and she smiled at her mother. Amelia looked into those pretty green eyes of hers and kissed her curly hair.

"Morning baby, daddy is sleeping.."

"Want papa.." she said in the most sleepest voice and Amelia shook her head as she walked to the bed. She placed Warona next to her dad and her baby just

placed her head on Grey's chest. She nodded and closed her eyes, their relationship was so beautiful that she was jealous of it sometimes. She kissed both their foreheads and walked out to make breakfast. She better buy groceries after the appointment with the doctor. She took a day off for a reason and they were going to be together as a family. She yawned as she made her way to the kitchen.

Meanwhile in the bedroom, Warona opened her eyes and looked at her dad. Grey felt the weight of this tiny human on him and a smile curved on his lips. Warona touched his cheeks and she kissed his forehead.

"Te amo papa." Kingsley kept his eyes closed, his baby girl was just the cutest. Maybe there is hope that he will be fine after all. He opened one eye and she giggled as she she touched his face more.

"Morning princess..."

"Hiiii..." he smiled and rubbed her curly hair as she giggled more.

“Where is mommy?”

“Out.”

“Let’s go to her okay?” He sat upright and they looked at each other. She smiled as he held her and got out of bed.

“Let’s see what mommy is cooking then we all get ready to go see the doctor okay princess?” She nodded as she rested her head on his shoulder.

Meanwhile in the kitchen, Amelia was debating with herself on what to make for breakfast.

“Morning princess..” he said and Warona lifted her head to look at her dad. That was her? Amelia faced Kingsley’s way and she chuckled. That look in Warona’s face was definitely hers whenever she was annoyed.

“Morning baby.” Warona gave her mother a confused look. Both those names were hers..

“I think she doesn’t like the fact that you called me princess first and I called you babe.” Kingsley

laughed and Amelia smiled. These cute family moments were everything and more, nothing was going to ruin her peace including her mother and sister.

King placed the baby on her chair as he made his way to Amelia and wrapped his hands around her waist.

“Morning Lia, how are we this morning?”

“We are doing pretty good this morning baby and how are you feeling?”

“Better.” He kissed her neck.

“Let me make a few phone calls and I’ll be back okay?” She nodded and he let her go. She smiled and he smiled back. Whatever time God was going to give her with this man she was going to take it. Fully.

Kingsley left the two girls in the kitchen as he walked to his study. She rarely ever uses it and she doesn’t exactly like it so it was the safest place. He turned the door knob and switched on the lights



illuminating the room. He thoughtfully looked around, in a way he was no longer a fan of dark places, she was the light that lit him up in all his darkest moments and he never wanted darkness to consume him ever again. He walked to the desk and sat on the chair. It always felt so good to be here sometimes, he opened the drawer and took out the small velvet box. On many occasions he was hopeful he was fine or he beat this cancer so he could finally propose to her, at first he thought he was crazy to want to get married but the more he thought about it, the more it felt right, he looked at the ring and how he could describe Amelia's delicate personality with just that ring. He looked at it for sometime. Maybe today was the day he was finally going to get the green light and he could make plans for the future instead of living in the now not knowing what is going to happen. He took it out of the box and the light shone on the small diamonds surrounding the big diamond and he smiled. Maybe it will be after months when he is fully okay and he gained back his weight and he will propose, just a private function for two or where it all started. He smiled. That would be

nice. He could already picture it already. How she would look walking down the aisle towards him, the man who wanted to protect her from himself but ended up falling head over heels in love with her to the point of her being his Achilles heel. He placed the ring in the box and back into the drawer. Today had to be a good day.

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At Kaone's place

Kaone woke up exhausted, she looked at the side of the bed and it was empty and it looked as if it had never been slept on. He dined come back home last night? Wow. Tears stung her eyes and she breathed in trying to not let it get it to her but the tears fell at their own free will. She got out of bed and she rubbed her eyes, she didn't know why her husband was doing this, she didn't know honestly what wrong she did to deserve such.

She made her way to the kids bedroom and obviously the older ones had long left for school and she was left with her 17 month old baby in the house. She wanted to cry so bad when her phone rang and she ran to the bedroom to pick it up.

“Hello..”

“Hey babe, I am sorry I couldn’t make it home, the work load was too much and I just decided to sleep in the office.”

“Okay.”

Her husband frowned at the other end of the line. She wasn’t questioning if he was telling the truth or not?

“Just okay?”

“Yeah, I have to go, ngwana wa leka.”(the child is crying) she hung up before he could say anything and she closed her eyes as she leaned against the wall and slid down the wall dramatically as tears rolled down her eyes. She was tired and already sick

of this marriage. It didn't take rocket science to guess that he was cheating on her, she picked her phone and called her sister. Her sister's phone rang a couple of times before she answered.

"Hello?"

"Thuli? He is cheating on me...meee..." she cried out in agony and Ma Amelia frowned. Her sister was being cheated on and that broke her heart.

"Kaone, calm down and talk to me.."

"Thuli he is cheating on meeee!! An-" her voice broke and she sobbed some more.

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## DELICATE

#144

At Kaone's house

Kaone's wailing was interrupted by her baby crying and her heart broke into more pieces as she forced herself to keep it together.

"You're not okay, I'm coming over to help you with the baby and we can talk." Thuli said and she nodded as the call got disconnected and she rubbed her eyes with her hands. She stood up as her knees wobbled and she supported herself with the wall. More fresh tears filled her eyes as she bit her lower lip and her child's cries got more loud.

"I'm coming baby.." she tried to say with a raspy voice from that sobbing and the crying she had done the night before. Should she involve the elders in this? She wasn't strong enough for this, this was one of

the challenges she didn't want to face in marriage. She sniffed and rubbed her eyes and nose. She breathed in and out and stepped away from the wall. She stood rigid for a few seconds before she walked out of her room to head to her baby's room in the house, she found him crying his lungs out. He was such a cry baby but she loved him and was going to cherish him. She picked his heavy weight up and she knew that babies sensed emotions bitumen she was going to have to be strong.

"Hey big boy, time to get clean and eat." She forced a smile and the baby stopped crying and looked at her in puzzlement. He touched her face and she smiled some more.

"Let's go."

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At Ma Amelia's house

Tsona served her mother breakfast and her mother looked at her.

“I talked to your sister and it is still a no, we can help you look for a place.” Tsona sighed. She tried and it failed and she has to find other ways now.

“It’s okay. You tried.”

“Your sister suggested we help you with rent while you look for a cheaper place.” Tsona nodded. Fair enough.

“It’s not as if she is refusing, that house isn’t hers so..”

“It’s okay, I understand but why does she want to cohabit?”

Thuli sighed. Those were really reasons known to her oldest daughter and not her.

“Only Amelia knows why she wanted to cohabit at such a young age tota. She knows what she is doing ngwanaka plus she is an adult, a mother as well so..”

“I guess.” Tsona said.

“Do you mind making lunch today, I need to go see

your aunt..” Tsona nodded as she added sugar to her soft porridge before adding milk. That was okay.

“Thank you.”

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At Sabrana Psychiatric Hospital

Victoria contemplated seeing her sister, she was the same person as all the other times she has been seeing her. It was not going to make any difference today. She sat in her car and she decided to leave, her kids and baby daddy will visit her. Her situation wasn't getting better and she wasn't a doctor so there was nothing she could do. She took out her phone and dialed the number.

“Hello.”

“Hello, how may I help you?”

“I would like to cancel the appointment I had with a



patient inside, I'm Victoria Mathumo, sister to Gomolemo..."

"Oh, that one. Okay ma'am. Such a pity, our patients do love seeing their family."

"I know, something came up and I had to attend to it. Have a good day."

"You to ma'am."

Victoria hung up and she started her car.

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At Kaone's house

Thuli paid the taxi driver as she stepped out of the taxi, her full hips filling her maxi tight dress as she closed the door. She walked to the gate as her hips swung side to side and her relaxed hair gathered into a nice sleek tight bun. The taxi man looked at her

before driving off, older women were the it these days and this one wasn't old. He swore she wasn't, she looked like a woman in her late twenties and she looked sweet. She turned to close the gate and he saluted while she smiled and he drove off a bit embarrassed that she caught him looking. Thuli walked to the door and knocked a few times before Kaone answered the door with swollen eyes and the baby in her hip. She looked tired and just not herself. Her hairstyle looked old and she was a mess, even when she herself was going through a lot she never made it show like her sister did. She took the child from her and Kaone broke down crying. How did she get here? She honestly had no idea how she got here. Her sister rubbed her back as she walked inside the house. She hadn't started cleaning as of yet and she sighed.

"Did he eat?" She nodded as she wiped her tears. She was mess, her marriage was a mess. Her whole life was a mess.

"Let me get started and help you clean, take a shower, wear fresh clothes. Take your time and try

not to think too much. You will find food ready and this little guy all settled in, children sense energies and you are currently not in a good headspace right now.” Kaone nodded and her Dee to the kitchen as she released a heavy sigh. She was burdened. She licked her dry lips and closed her heavy eyes. She could imagine him with another girl in his office or even booking a hotel with the girl. The signs were not too hard to miss, he had too many late nights in the past year and she had tried to ignore the scent of cheap perfumes all over him and acted like fool. She never confronted him and today it just came crushing down on her, that this man was cheating and treated her like a second option even though they were a married couple. Tears rolled down her eyes once more and she rubbed them away. With a heavy heart, she walked to the bedroom. The bedroom she shared with her serial cheater husband. She laughed in disbelief, how could such a sweet man do this? She had never thought he would do this to her. People do change and that change unfortunately hurt her.

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## At Princess Marina Hospital

Lisbeth smiled as she helped an elderly lady join the line. School was already open for medical students and doing her practicals and shifts at the hospital was turning out to be a fun activity. With her maroon scrubs she made her way outside, to breathe in the very least. She smiled. She was very happy with her progress and how fast she has come, well she had seen Amelia here a few times since she was a RN. She still looked the same, not much had changed about her regardless of the fact that she had a child. Well she had less than two years left to push for this medical degree so she had to keep working hard. Amelia didn't start with A levels and besides nursing was a 4 year course. She rubbed her eyes as Tumo passed her there. She sighed. He still avoided her like the plague and she didn't know men could keep

grudges that long. She apologized to him and she didn't know what more he wanted. They were course-mates for crying out loud. She sighed as she turned on her heel and followed him.

"Tumo wait.." Tumo sighed. Not this girl again. He stopped and turned to face her. Lisbeth looked up at him, over the years he had started to look good or was it because of the now flexible hours they had and he decided to tone his body, he was still bald but his face was shaping up. His lips were in a thin stern line.

"Is there anything wrong?"

"I long apologized. Why are you avoiding me?"

"What do we have in common except the course, we are not friends Lisbeth. Excuse me." He walked away and she was floored. At the way he talked to her, as if she was nothing and that he really had the audacity to talk back to her. She frowned and she didn't know why that sent blood rushing through her veins as excitement built in her heart. What the hell was wrong with her?

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## At the private practice

Warona sat in her father's lap as her mother entertained her. Kingsley on the other hand was battling his anxiousness. What would the verdict be today? Maybe something popped up that required further treatment and he was sneer going to get fine. Amelia lightly squeezed his hand and smiled up at him. He smiled back and looked down at his daughter who was really giving her mother attention. His two girls in one room. He took the last dose today and now waiting for the doctor who was taking his sweet time just didn't sit well with him. Maybe indeed something was wrong and Amelia's hope would be shattered. He be surprised that maybe another tumor started growing or anything. His father died of brain cancer. How was he different. He closed his eyes for a few seconds as the door

opened. Amelia grip on his hand tightened and he opened his eyes.

Amelia licked her lips, she was waiting for good news. God wouldn't do her like this right? They have suffered and it was more than enough.

"Sorry to keep you waiting, had to make sure I had the right information. Hello" he said to Warona who nodded and he chuckled. Their child was literally the cutest thing ever and she stuck to her dad like glue.

"Uhm are we ready for this?" Amelia's heart dropped. This was bad news, usually when the situation went from better to literally the worst and it became a total nightmare in their part. The doctor noted the resigned look on Kingsley's face. He cleared his throat and kept a poker face as he looked at the couple.

"Hit us with the news, I guess..." Kingsley said flatly and Amelia looked down, tears ready to roll down because all she ever did was cry when it came to Kingsley's health and his future.

"Well..."

. DELICATE

#145

At the doctor's office

Grey and Lia exchanged glances as they anticipated the results that were just about to be said.

“The scans from last week all came back and we had to double check them with the ones from the week before the last to be sure..” Amelia held his hand with both hands as she nodded. Understanding why the doctor had to double check. Kingsley looked at Amelia's hand before he closed his eyes, the nausea from the chemo treatment was starting to creep up on him and his eyes were so heavy.

“I can fairly say you are in the clear.” Kingsley's head shot up and Amelia froze. Did that mean? It meant-  
The doctor smiled as he looked at the couple and



the unsuspecting baby.

“Mr Carter, you are currently tumour free and cancer free, the scans are all clear. There is nothing.”

Amelia’s lips parted as she processed what the doctor was saying. He was cancer free? Like really okay? Tears welled in her eyes and she let go of his hand as she covered her mouth. God came through for them, God came through for them. He came through! Kingsley didn’t know how to react. He was totally cancer free? After a gruesome two years of fighting the invisible monster he was okay? He could do normal stuff? He closed his eyes.

“God!” It was unbelievable. Warona looked at both her parents. This was strange. She touched her father’s cheek and he opened his eyes as he looked up. He didn’t even know how tears ended up in his eyes.

“Let me give you guys privacy.” The doctor pushed back his chair and left his office, he felt like he was interrupting a very private moment.

“Papa?” He looked at her with a smile and those

tears gleaming in his eyes.

“Yes angel?” Amelia looked at them and Warona extended her hand to wipe her mother’s tears.

“Mama..why cry?” Amelia laughed softly as she wiped her own tears and her toddler just looked at both parents.

“I’m happy baby, very happy.” Kingsley took her hand and squeezed it. He mouthed a thank you and she laughed with tears filling her eyes again. God came through for them. Kingsley patted his under eye and kissed Warona’s forehead. A second chance? With these two ladies? He was gladly taking it. With both hands even.

Two minutes later, the doctor walked in and smiled.

“Congratulations on your fight against cancer and coming out victorious.”

“Thank you.” From there on he went on to state how life was going to be after cancer and what changes usually happened. Most cancer survivors had what

medics termed 'Cancer brain' which is somehow caused by radiation treatment or chemotherapy and it usually didn't last long so he should wait it out for a month or two. Amelia smiled throughout the conversation. He was okay. They were going to be okay and that was all that mattered.

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At Kaone's house

Ma Amelia finally put down the child as Kaone headed to the kitchen to put her plate in the sink. They had been eerily silent while she was eating and Thuli could tell her sister had been on the verge of tears but she had tried to be strong. Kaone came back and sat on the couch and stared at the white wall.

"I feel like a fool."

"He is the fool, not you. He doesn't know what he

lost.” Kaone chuckled.

“I love him so much but I don’t know now..” Thuli just sighed.

“What do you want to do now?”

“I don’t know, maybe involve the elders. Ga ke itse tota.” Thuli wasn’t a marriage expert let alone a relationship expert. Her relationships failed and she had three kids from different men, besides she didn’t want to advise her sister. When the advise backfires she will be blamed and told that she isn’t married and that she has never been married before.

“Think about whatever you want to do okay, everything is in your hands.” Ka one just nodded. She hoped her sister was going to advise her or help her find a way forward but she just told her to think. If she thinks she is going to go crazy just thinking about it all.

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At Kingsley's house

Amelia looked at Warona in the back of the car and Kingsley in the passenger seat. He was okay. She just couldn't believe it. He was really okay and he was never going to suffer like that again. He was okay. She leaned on the car seat as Warona fiddled with her seatbelt.

"We did it." She said as she turned to look at him and he smiled. That smile that drew him to her and she couldn't hide the happiness radiating from her in waves.

"We did. Thank you for standing with me through it all."

"And I would do it again and again." He took her hand and kissed it.

"I love you Amelia."

"I love you more Grey. More than you can imagine."

King turned his head and looked at his wif- oh she was not his wife yet. He had to rectify that soon. He

smiled as he looked at the little Ray of sunshine his girlfriend gave birth to.

“Hey you, we should probably go inside.” She smiled. Amelia rolled her eyes. This child was besotted with her father. They really did give her the home they both never had, a happy home. A very happy one.

They both got out and Amelia opened the back door to get the little girl.

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At Tshepi M Publishers

Yaya placed the manuscripts in front of their editor and she smiled. She loved her job and this newly opened publishing company by the country’s best selling authors was the best. Just the staff made up of ten strong women who got the job done and made way to allow new creatives to break into the

industry. Her phone rang as she walked out of the office. She smiled. She really hoped her friend was coping, Amelia has been through a lot and she deserved to catch a break.

“Hello Ame..”

“Hello Yaya, how are you? I have been such a bad friend right?” Amelia asked regrettably.

“No, you are human and you have been going through stuff that drained you. Are you okay baby? How is my god daughter? I miss her so much.”

“Your god daughter is fine and I feel like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders Y. Today we got the green light. We are finally cancer free..” Amelia said with a shaky voice and Yaya half screamed in the phone. It was the way her friend said ‘we’ she and Kingsley were one and if that wasn’t love she didn’t know what was.

“We are okay. We are going to be okay Yaya.” Amelia wiped her tears as she talked on the phone and Yaya held back tears.

“Congratulations okay? You deserve happiness and such good news motho waaka. You deserve it and God saw you through.”

“I-I-I’m so so happy and thank you for those small favours. Looking after Rosalia whenever we asked an-and just thank you so much.”

“And I would do it again for you my love autwe? Without hesitation, Rosalia is my baby too and you two are great parents and great human beings. If you want to celebrate tonight, I can babysit her.”

Amelia just nodded. Her heart was so light and it was a feeling she missed dearly.

“I don’t know if she will agree but maybe. Thank you.”

Yaya saw Tshepi pass by as she talked to Amelia and that instant an idea hit her.

“Ame?”

“Ma?”

“Have you ever thought of telling your story?” Amelia



chuckled. She wasn't a good narrator and she didn't like people and how they would judge her.

"You know people have judged me all my life Yaya."

"I have an idea.."

Amelia rubbed her cheeks.

"Okay, I'm listening."

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A MONTH LATER

I think we reached the target of shares for our sponsor. Next insert to follow at 1130hrs.

## DELICATE

#146

At Ma Carter's house

The old woman looked at Warona who was on the carpet playing with her teddy bear. Her grandmother promised to come see her and Warona's sake, she had to tolerate Thuli. She was an okay woman and Amelia turned out to be a really good girl. A nurse and very beautiful, look at her beautiful grandbaby. Kingsley was on remission so there was a lot of hope that the tumours won't come back and he will be fine. Her phone rang and she smiled as she picked up the call.

"Hello?"

"Hello bomma.." Thuto has been so distant ever since his divorce with Victoria. She never did like Victoria in the first place but she ended up

apologising for how she treated Victoria in the past. She didn't seem to care though or was she putting up a front? Thuto did tell her most of the things and he blamed himself for Victoria's actions which she told him not to. She might have been a bad grandmother by forcing King into that woman's arms just so she can mistreat King but what Victoria did was solely on her and the guilt will always eat her up. No matter how many times she apologises to Kingsley. The guilt will always be there and she will have to live with it.

"Hello, how are you?"

"I'm surviving, since I am off at work, I decided to come visit you. Along with the kids."

"The kids? Including the one you abandoned?" Thuto rubbed his head. He didn't know about Tasha's existence so how was he to know of her existence?

"Yes. Thero is around and he will be bringing Keith along as well." The old lady gushed.

"A full house with my child, grandkids and great grandkids is going to make me so happy. They can

come along. I have Warona here too."

Thuto smiled sadly. That was Kingsley's child.

"Wa Kingsley?"

"Ng. She is such a sweetheart, she has Rosa's eyes and looks like both her parents..you should see her.."

"I doubt Kingsley would allow me near his child."

The old woman just nodded. There was a lot of work to fix the tie that was broken.

"I head you. I can't wait for all of you to come here, will be waiting."

"Okay bomma. Bye."

"Bye bye." She hung up and Warona looked at her with those glittering emerald eyes. She crawled to the couch and held onto it before she stood up and giggled.

"Hiiii.." she said as she walked to her great grandmother.

"Hello Rosa.." the little girl grinned and the old woman's heart elated.

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## At Kingsley's house

Amelia woke up later than usual. She hated the night shift with passion and she wasn't used to it. She turned on her side and the bed was empty. She sighed. She wanted to see him leave for his first day of work in two years. Two full years and he just returned to work to do what he loved. Her heart. She touched it dramatically, she loved celebrating his achievements and she remembered how sick he was on her graduation day. That morning he was such a mess but he forced himself to come see her while he was in a wheelchair. She had wanted to convince him not to come but he wanted to see his little Lia graduate. She was the third best in her course and that counted for something. And that car she drove? It was a push gift plus graduation gift from him to her. And she couldn't even wake up to

see him off? She rubbed her eyes and picked up her phone to call him. While the phone was ringing, she looked around. It was too quiet without Warona but she always enjoyed the old women's company. Her mother and grandmother so it was not a huge deal for her to visit them. They'll get her on Sunday. Definitely get her on Sunday. She was sure that she was being stuffed with food and she was gladly eating it to her heart's content.

"Hello princess." She breathed.

"Hi. Good morning uhm sorry for not being able to wake up and see you off to work."

"It's okay princess, you were tired and I didn't want to wake you. You work so hard trying to save lives.."

"Now you're over exaggerating my job, how does it feel?"

"On a scale of ten? An eleven out of ten. I missed being busy and working and using my brain."

"Don't overwork yourself ka go kopa, it's only been a month."

"Ee mma."

She looked at the duvet as she stuck her leg out and looked at her ashy heels and toes. She cringed.

"Have you thought about it?"

"Will they protect our privacy and respect it?"

"Fully, I went over the contract and yes, of course I will leave out other details and tell things mostly from my side.."

He breathed out as she held her breath.

"Okay. You have my permission."

"Thank you and I love you okay? Take care of yourself. If I am able to get out of bed, I'll bring you lunch."

"And dessert?" She laughed.

"Mr Grey Carter please calm your horse. Bye babe. I love you, I love you I love you mxwah!"

He laughed at the other end. He forgot that she was just twenty two because she can act so mature and in other instances she lets go and acts like child.

"I love you too princesa. Bye." He hung up and she placed the phone on her chest.

"Where did I put that contract?" She closed her eyes. Where did she put it? She couldn't exactly remember where but she was going to sign it and deliver it before heading to Grey's office. She couldn't wait. She bit her lower lip and dialed Tshepi's number. Tshepi answered a few seconds later.

"Hello?" Amelia laughed. It was hard to believe Tshepi was only two years older than her and she looked younger than her.

"Hi, Amelia speaking."

"Hi Amelia, how can I help you? You thought about it? Uhm it's still okay if you don't do it."

"I can't find the contract but I want to do it. He agreed."

"Wait he what?"

"He said yes. Well this book is happening, well you're the writer.."

"Thank you so much, you won't regret it one bit. I



promise. You won't regret it."

"I know I won't. I just finished reading your book 'THE GAME' wow!"

Tshepi chuckled.

"Thank you."

"And I want you to sign my copy, for bragging rights of course."

"Ee mma. I'll fax you the contract and you'll bring it to my office and once again. Thank you Amelia for doing this, I really appreciate it and I'll thank Yaya for asking you to tell your story and for even thinking I can write it.."

"You are welcome. I'll send the faxing details and I'll drop it off."

"Alright. Have a good morning."

"Thank you. Blessed morning Ms M."

She laughed.

"Mrs in a few months. Just putting it out there."

"Aw man. Congratulations."

DELOCATE

#147

At Kingsley's house

Amelia went through the document Tshepi faxed and she placed her signatures wherever she needed to sign. Done. All done. She walked out of King's study and made her way to the bedroom. She placed the document on the already made bed and she slipped her feet into her sandals as she wore a bomber jacket on top. She picked her bag and the document not forgetting her phone and her own copy of THE GAME. She headed to the kitchen and placed the stuff on the counter as she picked up the food she had packed up in the lunchbox. Her car keys were on the counter as well. Now it was time to go.

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## At Tshepi M Publishers

Amelia walked through the door and smiled as she passed Yaya who was rushing somewhere.

“Hello and bye sis.”

“Hey.” Ame headed to Tshepi’s office where she found her typing on her laptop with the phone against her ear. She placed her stuff on the table and Tshepi smiled. Amelia saw the glittering rock on her finger and smiled, a part of her jealous that she wasn’t married. It is okay not to get married, she and Grey had a suitable arrangement and they were happy. That was all that mattered. Nothing else.

“Hey Amelia.”

“Hi Tshepi, nice ring.” She blushed and looked at the ring.

“Thank you. How are you?”

“I’m doing good. Came to drop of this.” She handed her the signed document.

“And for you to sign this for me.” She handed her the novel and Tshepi picked a pen to sign the book and she wrote a message for Amelia as well on the title page.

“All signed up just so you can brag.”

“Thank you and I look forward to working with you Mrs??”

“Bathong Amelia, Mrs Something. That is all I’m going to say. That is all I’m giving out.”

“Not even an intial?”

“No ma’am. Nope. Not even an initial.”

“Just a hint...”

“I’ll tell you some other time. Thank you so much for this opportunity and you’ll be the first one to read it once I’m done with the manuscript.”

“Awesome. Bye.”

“Bye bye.”

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## At Kingsley's Office

Amelia parked her car and she leaned back. She yawned into her hands. She wanted to sleep again but she did promise to bring him lunch and bringing him lunch she would. She got out of the car.

Meanwhile inside the office, Kingsley looked at the pictures he was sent and he was more than satisfied with the pictures. How is he going to convince her to take a leave from work and travel with a toddler? How? They never glad to opportunity to travel before because life got in the way of their travels but now? They could see the world and enjoy their life with no reservations whatsoever. A few minutes later the office door opened and she stepped in holding a lunchbox.

“Hey daddy. I brought lunch as promised but I’m tired.” He smiled as she placed it on the table and she walked to the couch in his office. She removed her sandals and jacket before she laid down on the couch.

“You want to sleep?”

“Ng tlherra wena. Enjoy and remind me to say no to night shifts because they will be the end of me.”

“Okay baby, I have a question?”

“Mhm...”

“Do you have a passport?” She yawned and shook her head.

“I don’t h-have one.”

“Why?”

“I-I don’t know..”she shrugged and he sighed.

“You and Rosalia should get passports soon.”

“Why?”

“Just to own one.” She raised one ye suspiciously at him as he looked at his laptop.

“Okay, maybe this week.”

“Good.”

“I miss her.”

“I miss her too, we’ll get her on Sunday?”

“Definitely.” Amelia closed her eyes and he smiled looking at her. He was sure he got the right ring size and that it would definitely suit her. He was excited altogether and he knows that his comment about marriage a month ago, kind of made her give up. If she knew he had been planning this for the longest time.

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My apologies for the short insert

[DELICATE

#148

At Kingsley's Office

Amelia lay on her back as she pressed her phone. Her mother sent her pictures of Warona playing and she smiled. Warona was such a happy baby and it made her happy.

“Baby we made a happy baby right?”

“Rosalia is a sweetheart just like her mother.”

“Smooth. Real smooth Mr Carter.”

He chuckled as he went through his files and Amelia scrolled through the pictures she just sent. She replied with hearts to each and every one of the pictures. With her fake Facebook account she logged onto Facebook and she saw Tshepi finally announcing her engagement. She wanted to react



but this was a ghost account so she should probably not. She passed by Yaya's posts. Her friend was lonely and in the last few years, she has not had a boyfriend or a sneaky link or anything. She sighed sadly. She did hope she will meet a Prince Charming like those in the novels and that guy will sweep her off her feet. She scrolled past and she frowned seeing someone she followed having shared Thero's post. She hasn't seen Thero in a long time, she has been so busy with her life and everything around her. She read the post and smiled. That was maturity and someone who was moving on, finally realising his mistakes. Everyone's lives were coming together and hers was just starting out to be okay, there was the rainbow after the storm they had been through. She lifted her head to look at him and he lifted his and smiled. He mouthed an "I love you" and she mouthed it back.

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Days later

At Bobonong

At Ma Carter's house

Amelia stepped out of the car and covered her head with her hand. The sun. And it was only spring time for crying out loud, Summer wasn't in as of yet.

Kingsley got out and locked the car parked outside since there was a car inside the yard. He placed his hand on the small of her back as they walked inside the yard. The door was slightly ajar and they could hear chatter and children inside, Rosalia's voice included. Amelia knocked on the door.

"It's open." She opened the door and they both stepped inside the house. Thero slowly placed the orange juice down as he looked at his cousin and Amelia. He swallowed saliva before he smiled.

"Hello."

Kingsley nodded and Amelia smiled. Warona on the other hand saw her parents and continued playing with Keith. She never had a friend to play with before.

“Hi, bo mmaiye ba kae?”(where is grandma?) the old woman walked out of the kitchen with Tasha who was attentively listening to her.

“Hello my child. Rosalia is playing but her bag is packed.”

“Thank you so much. We’ll get it.”

“Okay. I cooked, Kingsley do you know Tasha? She is your cousin, your uncle’s daughter.” He just nodded as he watched Warona play.

“Tasha that is Kingsley and Amelia. Rosalia’s parents.”

“You guys have a beautiful little girl and I love her green eyes.” She said. Noting that both parents didn’t have green eyes, so she was wondering how come she has green eyes?

“Thank you Tasha. Thank you.” Amelia replied, knowing Grey he was just going to nod his head and

keep his peace. She took his hand and looked at the old woman.

“I made lunch as well, feel free to serve yourselves.”

Now that was more like it, she dragged Grey to the kitchen where he sat down and she opened the pots.

“Why are you grumpy?”

“I am not.”

“You are...” she said as she opened the cupboard to take out plates.

“You know why...” she closed her eyes and sighed. They haven’t been intimate in years. There was no time for that, she was nursing stitches and he started treatment and from there on it was just hugs and kisses. No sex on the table. Living like brother and sister in a way.

“Grey, we talked about this.”

“You talked about this.” She served the food and placed his food in front of him.

“and we had a mutual agreement, remember?” He sighed as she placed the plates on the table and sat

next to him. She kissed his cheek.

"I love you okay?"

Meanwhile in the lounge Thero looked at the two kids playing and as much as he had to let Amelia go, he couldn't help but wonder where they would be if he hadn't fucked up. Now his kid was playing with her child, a pretty girl who looked like her and was literally the brightest child he has ever seen. She was such a curious mind and seeing Amelia's child was somehow a reflection of his horrible decisions years earlier. There was a knock on the door and Thero snapped out of it as his father walked in. Old man has been pretty messed up since the divorce while his mother was living her best life. Sigh. He didn't know it would be that bad and when Tasha showed up, his mother gave more reason as to why she wanted a divorce. Tasha was living proof of his father's infidelity and the DNA tests proved that he was a match.

"Hello, I just introduced Tasha to Warona's parents."

The old woman said nonchalantly. Thuto nodded at first, his mind not there then it clicked. Warona's parents were Kingsley and Amelia.

"He is in the kitchen if you want to talk to him." The old woman added yet again. Thuto nodded and headed to the kitchen where he found the two eating while speaking in hushed tones. Well Amelia was the one doing most of the speaking while Kingsley listened.

"Dumelang." Amelia lifted her head.

"Dumelang, do you want food? I can dish for you."

"I would have to decline, can I speak to Kingsley?"

"Sure." She took her plate to the sink and left the two men in the kitchen. Thuto sat down and he sighed into his hands.

"I know you're not obliged to forgive us lot for what we did to you and tge childhood trauma inflicted upon you but I would like to apologise again."  
Kingsley just nodded and Thuto looked at his brother's son.

"I was supposed to love and protect you as would a father do but I failed. Your father would be so disappointed to hear that I failed his only son. A lot of years have gone by and it still feels like yesterday since your father's death."

"How was he like?" Kingsley asked and it was in that moment that Thuto had hope for the future. That maybe it wasn't all lost.

"Ah. Well your father was a very naughty boy growing up. He used to get in trouble and I would help him out of that. Don't tell your grandmother about that." Kingsley chuckled.

"I won't." He listened to Thuto telling him all about his father from the brotherly perspective and not the motherly perspective he heard from his grandmother.

In the lounge Amelia listened to the two women talk without interjection or anything. It was always lovely to watch people talk about their interests and getting to know each other without the objection of a third party. Thero looked at Amelia and he just had

to get this off his chest.

"Amelia?" She turned her head and looked at him with a friendly smile.

"Hi..how have you been? Is medical school alright?"

"Med school is fine. I still have two years to go.."

"That's good. It will be nice to have a doctor in the family since no one wanted that kind of job, how is Lisbeth? Is she okay?"

She was asking all the right questions but not the questions he wanted her to ask.

"How is King? After everything?"

She placed her hands on her lap and a big smile covered her face.

"Good. He is in remission and we are doing better than we ever were. Fingers crossed that he stays this way for years to come."

"Yeah." His tone had an underlying sad projection to it and Amelia could only think it was about him scared to death about losing King since they have never been close for years now.



"He is in the kitchen with your father, you can talk to him."

He just nodded.

"Bury the past and forge a new future kind of talk, at some point the past has to be buried and we can't be angry forever. Especially after experiences that threaten to take us away from our loved ones."

"I do guess you are right. Thank you and you look happier with him."

"Thanks. Now go!" He smiled and stood up on his feet heading to the kitchen.

Tasha looked around and it was all just ladies and the two toddlers playing on the mat.

"So Amelia what do you do?"

"I'm a registered nurse and what do you do?"

"I studied economics so what I can say is I work in the bank." Amelia tucked her hair behind her ear.

"More people working in the bank, maybe I chose the wrong profession here."

"Don't be silly Ame, we need more health care workers in this country, where are we going to find kind nurses to take care of us oldies?"

The ladies laughed and shook their heads.

"Amelia?"

"Ma?"

"I am really sorry for judging you years ago and for judging you based on your mother's past. Your mother and I squashed our differences for your sakes. I hope you find it in your heart to forgive me and you are a good child. Stubborn but mostly good."

"I'll take that apology and call it a truce."

"Okay. Apologies over and done for so-" Amelia's phone rang and she looked at the random number.

"One second, let me take this." She stood up and walked out the door as she answered her phone.

"Amelia speaking, how may I help you?"

"Hi, Amelia. It's Kaone. Your aunt."

Amelia sighed.

"Please hang up if you are going to be rude and throw not-so-subtle digs at me."

Kaone released a shaky breath.

"I am not. I wanted to apologise. I was rude because I was jealous of you." Amelia looked at the phone screen in utter disbelief. She was jealous? Of her?

"You were jealous?"

"Ee mma. That a child could have everything I wished for. Especially when Kingsley decided to start taking care of you because I had turned your mother against you and made her see all your mistakes and wrongs and not the bright side."

Amelia's jaw dropped. Wow! She had no words to describe how she felt right now.

"I just wanted to get it off my chest and I am sorry for being part of the cause of your distress. I really am. Bye." Kaone hung up and Amelia clapped her hands. Family can be evil and she knew that but she was jealous of her? Just Amelia as a whole? Wonder shall never cease. She stared at the blank phone

screen and shook her head walking back into the house.

"Amelia have you looked into real estate?" She smiled. Now she was being drawn into an intellectual conversation.

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TWO WEEKS LATER

DELICATE

#149

At Sir Seretse Khama International Airport

Amelia looked at her stamped passport as she held Warona's hand.

"This is so exciting. Aren't you excited baby?" She bent down to ask her daughter.

"Plane. Fly?"

"Yes my baby. We are flying." Kingsley looked at his two girls.

"Let's go you two, we'll talk after boarding the plane."

"So we're really getting out of the country?"

"Yes." He pulled the luggage bags as they followed him.

"I need to take lots of pictures, for the memories."

“Agreed.”

Amelia picked Warona as the flight attendant took their luggage and Grey took her handbag from her.

“Thank you.” He smiled as she started to walk up the stairs and he walked closely behind her. Warona smiled at her father and he touched her cheek as she giggled. An air hostess directed them to their seats and they were flying first class so that meant more privacy and food she guessed. She was just all to excited for this trip outside Botswana and it was her daughter’s first trip as well. Marvelous. They sat down and Amelia put Warona in her seat then buckled her up really well.

“Who should sit next to her? Me or you?”

“I’ll volunteer.” He sat on the sex next to Warona’s and Amelia sat opposite Warona. They all buckled up and he gave her handbag. It had their essentials basically and she took out his phone. She entered the passcode and went to the camera app.

“Smile you guys.” Warona gave her a toothy smile

while Kingsley shook his head with a little smile playing on his lips. This was the week and she had no idea, she knew they were here to enjoy themselves. He couldn't wait to see the surprised look on her face once she discovers the real reason they are here. She was beautiful. Inside and out, his little delicate flower. She didn't let him bleed on her, instead she helped him stitch up those cuts and look at him now. He was forever grateful for the shot at life again. With her around and their little family, that he was hopeful they will expand in a year or two. Maybe two boys and one more girl and they will be sorted. If she does agree to go through the labor experience again.

“What are you thinking about?”

He smiled and extended his hand towards her. She took it.

“You, us and our family. How far we have come and how far we are still going to go.”

She nodded.

“We still have more years together. A thousand more

years more my love.” He grinned and squeezed her hand.

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At Ma Amelia’s house

Ma Amelia read Amelia’s text and smiled. She placed her phone down. She was so excited to travel out of the country and even when she called last night, you could hear the genuine excitement in her voice. Excluding the trials to get here, she was proud of all her girls. One was a nurse, the other studying and she was left with less than two years of schooling to graduate and start working. Just as she was thinking, her daughter called. She picked up Tsona’s call.

“Hello Charlotte.”

“Hi mama. Uhm there is something I need to tell you.” The seriousness in Tsona’s tone had Ma



Amelia's heart beating two times it's normal rate. She prayed to God it wasn't pregnancy or else she was going to die of a heart attack right here and now.

"I'm listening."

"Well uhm, I wanted to introduce you to my boyfriend. During the independence holidays. If it's okay with you. It's okay if you don't want to meet him. He is a good boy and he is studying at BIUST." Tsona held her breath, waiting for her mother to say something.

"Can we discuss this once you're here. Not over the phone." Stoma breathed out. She didn't sound angry.

"Okay mama. Bye."

"How are you? Before eye hang up? How is school? How is the house you're reuniting now?"

"School is school, it's always exhausting and the house I'm renting is okay mama. Thanks to you and Amelia for helping out with the rent, I used my book allowance to buy a bed and some stuff. It's okay mama. I love it. Thank you and I love you bye." She hung up before her mother could interject. Kaone's call came through and she sighed.

“Hello.”

“Hi, Thuli. How are you? I was thinking we could spend time together...”

“Are you okay?”

“Adjusting but I’ll be fine, I’ll be okay in the end.”

“Sure?”

“Hundred percent sure.”

“If you say so, you can pass by in the afternoon today.”

“I sure will. Thank you for listening to me and I am really sorry for everything said to and against Amelia.”

“Okay. See you later.” Ma Amelia hung up and she went through her gallery as she looked at her grand baby’s cute pictures.

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## At Sabrana Psychiatric Hospital

Victoria stood by the reception as she enquired about her sister. She didn't call the day prior but her children's father had mentioned that Gomolemo seemed sane.

That she was fine and the kids saw her. She had to believe that because that man would not lie to her. Not at all.

"Hello. I would like to se-"

"Gomolemo right?" Would you follow me to the doctor's office?

"Of course." She followed the receptionist and she was led into the office. The doctor looked up from his files.

"Patient 107's sister.." the doctor nodded and Victoria stepped inside as the door closed behind her.

"Take a seat ma'am." She sat down cautiously. Not liking the feeling in the pit of her stomach right now.

“Well, you do know your sister has been with us for a few years and she has never gotten better...”

“I do believe it will take more time but she will get there eventually right? She will be okay..”

The doctor sighed and placed his hands on the table. They also were surprised by the turn of events and it wasn't anything they could control now.

“Mentally, are you fit?”

“Yes of course.” Victoria's appalled by this question. Of course she was alright. Why wouldn't be?

“Well your sister, your sister died in her sleep.” Over the years he had to develop a heart of steel to be able to deliver such news to families. Families who wanted their loved ones to be better and instead some of their loved ones committed suicide while others gave up in their sleep. Too tired to fight the demons who learnt to swim no matter how much they were drowned by the pills. Victoria laughed and clapped her hands.

“It's a good joke doctor but I need you to stop. I came here to see my sister and I know her room.”

Denial. It always started like this. The first step to grief.

“Ms, your sister is no more, she was found dead this morning by her attending nurse.” Victoria’s smile disappeared as she finally focused on the doctor’s grim face. She was gone? This was a joke right? Maybe he was joking and then he will tell her that Gomolemo is fit to go home. She angled her head to look at the doctor.

“Please, I need to see my sister and talk to her.”

“She is gone.” He said with finality and that sent shivers down Victoria’s back. She bit her lip as she looked at the doctor. Her heart slowing down and her mind shutting off. She just looked at the doctor, with her face void of any emotions.

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And thank you. Special thank you to Ms Mikie Katz Lemon, our daily breadwinner

DELICATE

#150

At Sabrana Psychiatric Hospital

Victoria angled her head to look at the doctor and it didn't quite sit well with her that her sister just died like that.

"She is really gone?" The doctor nodded and she released a shaky breath as she covered her mouth with her hands. She couldn't bring tears to her eyes as a part of her thought it was karma. Karma for what she did to an innocent boy and maybe she might die in her sleep as well. She closed her eyes.

"Is it possible to take her body to a mortuary so the family can make funeral arrangements?"

"Of course, you are the family so it is your call."

Victoria nodded. She stood on her feet and turned on

her heels. She came here to see her instead she was dead. She sighed. This was the cycle of life she guessed, she better spend a lot of time with her child and grandchild before karma locates her and takes her away from her family. Her heart raced as she walked out of the hospital and headed to the car where she quickly unlocked it and sat down. She picked her water bottle and drank the water. How was she going to break this down to her niece and nephew? That their mommy was no more and they had their father as their only parent? She was just their aunt but those kids loved their mother and it will break their little hearts. She sighed. She will tell them.

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Madrid, Spain

More than 15 hours later, Amelia and her little family arrived at their final destination and she grinned as

she hugged Kingsley who was holding their little girl.

"Thank you for this."

"We needed to relax as a family, there is a driver coming to pick us up."

Kingsley grinned and Amelia kissed his cheek before kissing Warona's cheek. She was asleep and peacefully at that. Kingsley's heart was at peace. He was on the soil his mother stepped on, where she was actually born. He was going to enjoy his mini family vacation in Spain.

"Amor, I think you should have taken Spanish lessons." Amelia shrugged.

"You'll translate along with your daughter.." he laughed as he spotted the black car and the chauffeur stepped out. He stood there with the luggage and Amelia just looked up at him. He looked like he belonged here as well. The chauffeur greeted them in crisp English and Amelia greeted him back while Kingsley nodded. He got the bags and the mini family followed him to the car.



After the bags were placed in the boot, they all got inside the car and Kingsley placed let Warona peacefully sleep on his chest. He touched her little head and kissed her hair.

Amelia leaned back as he took her hand and kissed her.

"Thank you. For everything."

"No, thank you." He smiled and kissed her hand as the car finally started and the driver drove off.

"Where are we going?"

"You'll see little one." She rolled her eyes.

"I always hated that reference.." he chuckled and she smiled.

"I'm not so little anymore."

"Really?"

She rolled her eyes yet again as they bantered, a few giggles here and there. Kisses and just staring at the little sweet girl they made together. Kingsley looked at the little girl and wondered if they could have another child. A boy preferably. He looked at Amelia.

"How about a boy?" She glared at him.

"Lia is not even five years old yet."

"We can make a boy hmm?" He rubbed her hand and smiled at her. Her breathe caught in her throat and she swallowed.

"Not yet, once she is five years old we can try for another child." He just smiled and nodded. Not in five years. Not happening. He kissed her hand again and she smiled.

A child? Now? No. Not happening. She was going to be Warona's hot mother who picks her up from daycare. She didn't need another child and besides they weren't married as of yet. She loved him but the fact that he wanted another child out if wedlock sent alarm bells.

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At Bobonong

At Ma Carter's house

The old woman and Thuto read the letter again.

"It's fine?" She asked as she looked at it again. They were paying for a lot of things and her eyes nearly popped out when she saw the figure that Kingsley had scribbled on the paper.

"This is a lot." Thuto agreed. This-this was a lot but they had to honour Kingsley's wishes and that was what he wanted.

"So the half spanish boy went full traditional wifh this..." she said with traces of mirth in her voice.

"Damages for ruining her purity, damages for getting her pregnant, magadi for Warona and magadi for the mother? Yess." Thuto replied and the old woman just asked him to read the letter again requesting for a meeting with Amelia's side of the family. Obviously these discussions are going to take time and after a week or two if they set dates accordingly they will go through patlo and the magadi paying process. As long as Kingsley was happy they were happy and it

was all that matters. That everyone in the family is happy.

"How is Tasha?"

"She is okay, Thero went back to the UK but he will be here for the Christmas holidays and if everything works out fine, the traditional wedding will take place here and everything will be sorted."

"This is going to be a nice Christmas for tge family this year."

"It really is."

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At Gaborone

Kgosi went through her pictures with Amelia. That was years ago and she only saw her that one time at the hospital. She had said hi with such a bright smile and she didn't even look like a mother. She didn't

even know how she got so vile towards Amelia but such is life. You lose people on the way because of your own character and it us up to you to build yourself back up.

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At Lisbeth's parents

Lisbeth sighed as she lain exhausted on the bed. Night calls and shifts, it was hprrible bit she wouldn't trade it for anything. It gave her sweet pleasure to know she was so close to achieving her dreams regardless of the mishaps she met along the way. With a sweet smile, she turned and picked the diary by her bedside. She wished nothing but happiness for Thero. He was reformed and everyone deserved a touch of happiness in their lives. She started to pen down all the qualities she was looking for in a man along with her goals, she was sending this to the universe. Makukhanye kwande because she

needed to attain the highest level of success. A part of her still felt bad about how she treated Tumo, she just hoped that he will fully forgive her so in the meantime she will stay away from him. Like really away from him.

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At Madrid, Spain

Amelia walked around the house he rented for all of them. It was so cozy and homely. Kingsley watched the way her face lit up. Maybe they should have yearly holidays and he heard about the fourth of July in America. So she can watch and Rosalia can watch the celebrations and just live their best lives.

Amelia turned to face him with a small giggle.

"Why are you looking at me like that?"

"Like what?"

"Like that..." he walked closer to her and he just ran his hand through her hair.

"I love you. More than life." His gaze pierced into hers and her body relaxed into his as she slowly wrapped her hands around his neck. He held her cheeks in his hands and pecked her lips. Once. Twice. Thrice before he lowered his head and their lips locked. He let go of her cheeks and his hands dropped to her waist and he squeezed it a bit as she fully immersed herself into the kiss. His large hands moved lower and he squeezed that small part of hers as she bit his lip. She was just as hungry for him as he was for her but she had made him wait for way too long. The doctor long gave him the green light. He broke the kiss and rubbed her lips.

"You'll have to wait princess." She fluttered her eyelashes and he chuckled kissing her lips.

"Patience baby." Her hands went to his shirt buttons.

"Baby but we both want this, we both need this my love." She slowly unbuttoned the first button and he chuckled as he held her small hands.

"As if you weren't ignoring mw when I asked for it, how the tables have turned." She smiled and moved her hands away.

"But akere now you can, uhm you know." She stepped back and removed the top she was wearing and he laughed. His body was already responding and he wanted to smack his head. In the literal sense. He slid his hands in his pockets to adjust his pants. Amelia flipped her head as she stood in front of him with her bra and pants on. Her fingers found the button as she unbuttoned her pants and pulled them down her smooth legs.

"A matching set?" He gave her a wolfish grin and she nodded.

"Yes yes! Do I need to remove more to convince you?" Her hands were already at her back as she tried to unclip the bra. Kingsley bit his lip as he stalked closer and closer to his future wife. He picked her up and threw her over his shoulder as she screamed.

"Bathong!" He smacked her ass.



"Ouch Mr Carter." She laughed and he walked with her to the bedroom and closed the door with his foot. He threw her on the bed like a ragdoll. Respectfully and she giggled as she watched him unbutton his shirt. This man could never resist her. Not in a million years. He bent down to remove his shoes and socks before he started to pull down his jeans and he left all those items as a messy heap on the carpeted floor. He joined her on the bed and he made her sit on his stomach.

Amelia rolled her eyes as she unclipped her bra and threw it across the room. Her breasts did look a bit bigger, all thanks to Warona Rosalia Carter.

"Not so shy anymore?"

"Nope." She lowered herself on his body as her nipples grazed against his chest and she kissed his throat. Kingsley let her take the lead. For now. His hands slipped into her lace panties and he squeezed her buttocks as she moved against him. He decided to pull her panties down as she stopped kissing him and looked up at him.

"I'm taking the lead?" She bit her lip anxiously. That wasn't the point, she wanted him to do her.

"Yes pretty angel. Do your best and maybe you might score brownie points."

She raised an eyebrow as she looked at his boxer briefs and the tent it formed. She moved back a bit.

"What kind of brownie points?"

"What do you want?"

She closed her eyes.

"Uhm I have everything I want and need."

"Well you get more of what you want and need. Surprise me baby girl."

"Alright."

She breathed in and out before pushing down his boxer briefs. His full erection sprang before her eyes and she suddenly felt like a virgin again. Seeing his ribbed erection and not knowing if it was going to fit inside of her. Was it? She has never had sex ever

since Warona was born and she had had stitches and maybe her coochie shrunk. Kingsley watched cog wheel turn in her mind and he waited for her to make up her mind. Amelia closed her eyes. She was taking one for the team, she was a woman and she was going to give him a run for his money hey.

She pushed her hair back as she moved forward to kiss him. Their teeth grazed against each other and she placed her hands on his chest before she  
#EXPLICIT

It was hours later, when Grey slipped out of bed leaving Amelia to sleep all alone. Her hair was tousled on the pillow and he smiled as he bent his head to kiss her cheek. It was a wonder Warona was not awake at this time. After this he really needed to rest to get rid of the jet lag but for now he will let his princesses rest. He walked over to their suitcases and he bent down to open the suitcase. Good thing she didn't pack his suitcase so he managed to keep

the ring there. He found the box and he removed the blue diamond and smiled. It was perfect. Too perfect. He pulled the blankets over her chest as she said something inaudible in her sleep. He slid the ring on her ring finger, kissed her hands and her forehead again before he picked his boxers and wore them. He walked out of the room and as he walked past Warona's room, the door was pushed open and the two year old yawned as she held a teddy in her hands.

"Papa?" He smiled as he picked her up.

"Hey princesa, how are you feeling?"

"Ok." He kissed her forehead.

"Let's go make something to eat."

"Mama?"

"She is asleep. She is very tired amor."

She yawned again and placed her head on her father's shoulder as the two walked to the kitchen.

"Tired too."

"You just woke up but you can go sleep again."

"Mommy..Want mommy."

"You want your mommy?" She nodded and rubbed her eyes with a small fist. He kissed her head and smiled. He placed her down on her feet and she held the teddy bear's hand.

"The open room. You'll find her, don't wake her up." She nodded and turned on her heels as she slowly walked in the direction they came. She will find the room. She was a smart girl.

Kingsley walked to the kitchen and he held his waist. What to make? She taught him a lot of things and he really hoped she was going to enjoy this meal. He also hoped he put a little Carter in there as well. Call it double wins. He wifes her up and hopefully they will be expecting a baby in a few months. His ancestors better make it happen.

Meanwhile in the bedroom, Warona pushed open the door and she watched her mother sleep. She walked to the bed and she looked at it. It was big. She

looked at the door expecting her dad to walk in but there was no one. She tried to climb the bed but she failed. Tears filled her eyes and she walked to the side her mother was.

"Mama?? Mama?" Her little voice came out in an attempt to wake her mother so she can put her on the bed.

A very dazed and tired Amelia yawned as Warona's voice came in echoes. She lazily opened her eyes as Warona kept calling her.

"Mama??" Amelia yawned as she sat upright while pulling the blankets against her chest. She rubbed her eyes with her right hand and sighed. Still feeling sleepy and sore, she extended her hands towards Warona who looked at her hands and a frown formed on her small face. She moved her body closer so that she can be picked and once she was deposited on the bed she took her mother's hands and Amelia frowned as well, feeling a foreign kind of heavy on her hand. She released a yawn and she

looked at her hands.

"What tha-" her eyes widened as she looked at the diamond ring that snuggled her finger comfortably. Heavy maybe because she wasn't used to it but what the fuck? Was this what she thought it was? Her heart rate picked up as tears stung in her eyes while Warona looked at the ring. Her small fingers touched the diamond ring and she looked at her mother.

"Are you crying mama?" She shook her head. Warona inched closer and her small hands held her mother's cheeks. Tears rolled down Amelia's eyes and Warona rubbed them.

"Sorry mommy. Is ok." Amelia laughed mid tears as she kissed her daughter's head but she wanted to kiss Warona's daddy more. Was this? He- she couldn't fathom this.

"Daddy.." she let go of her mother and she rolled down the bed, her teddy no longer in her hands as she walked out of the room. Amelia looked at the ring and it's intricate designs. She wanted to sob

loudly because she was happy. This was an unexpected surprise. She removed the ring and she looked at it. She frowned as she saw an engraving.

'Queen of my ♡' with his initials written inside the heart. She slid it back on her finger and covered her face as she cried into her hands. He wanted to marry her.

In the kitchen, Kingsley sat down as the chicken wings defrosted. Chicken wings and french fries will do for the girls right? There was some bread around and juice. That will do for now. And once she wakes up they will watch all her romantic movies. Now he couldn't wait for Christmas with his wife. Sounded like a plan. Warona walked in the kitchen and walked to her dad. She shook his leg.

"Mommy crying."

"She's awake?" She nodded and he chuckled.

Warona woke Amelia up. Amelia was fast asleep when he left.

"Okay, let's go see why she is crying. Did you wake



her up?" She shook her head a little too hard. She woke Amelia up alright.

He picked her up as they walked to the bedroom. He let Warona slide off him and he found Amelia ugly crying in the bedroom. He chuckled.

"Princess are you okay?" She looked up at him with red eyes. Was she okay?

He sat next to her on the bed and he pulled her body to his.

"Talk to me princess, what's wrong?"

"Y-you want to marry me?" She lifted her hand to his face and he took it and kissed her hand.

"I love you more than words can describe and if I was given an option to fall in love again I would choose you over and over again. Amelia would you do me the honours of teaching me how to love for the rest of our lives? Will you be Mrs Grey Carter and promise to love this broken man for eternity?" He asked softly and she felt like her heart was going to

burst. She nodded as she looked into his eyes.

"I would love that."

"To raise our babies in love and to hear more first words from our children. I want you when I wake up, mirror all that I dream of." More tears rolled down her cheeks. He rubbed them as he placed his forehead against hers as her lips quivered.

"I want that someday when I turn grey, I will be picturing your pretty face painting our vows." She nodded and licked her lips.

"You'll never leave? Love me in a pretty dress and hold me at my lowest, pink lips or tear stained cheeks will you still adore me?"

"For as long as I breath, I will princesa."

"So I'll get to wake up next to you and say hello Mr.perfectly mine. Because you have my heart till the end of time." He smiled and kissed her tear stained cheeks. Warona clapped her hands to get their attention and they laughed. Grey picked their little bundle of joy and placed her between them.

"Te amo princesa."

"I love you more." He kissed his delicate rose. He knew she had bled more than she let one but she was strong. She showed him that even roses bleed and even his feelings are valid. She taught him love and patience in it's purest forms.

They turned to look at the product of their love and both kissed Warona's cheeks as the baby squealed.

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\*\*\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\*

It's been an honour working with such an understanding audience.

## DELICATE

## EPILOGUE

At the book launch

Amelia rubbed her bulging tummy as Grey placed his hand on her tummy. He smiled as ring caught the light. She used her finger to trace his ring, she put it there and the fact that no one could have him but her brought a lot of satisfaction along with it.

"How is he? If you feel like you need to rest, we can go. You do know that right?" She nodded.

"I'm fine. I just want to attend this book launch, can't wait for Tshepi to take the podium."

He chuckled. He hasn't read the book yet but Amelia read it before it went to the printers and she enjoyed it as if it isn't documenting her own life.

"Can I read the sex scenes to you? I know I look like

a whale but I'm left with like four months till I give birth." He laughed and kissed her head.

"You don't look like a whale, you're absolutely gorgeous amor." She blushed and he ran his knuckles on her cheek.

"You are just saying that."

"I am not."

"Do you think Warona is behaving?" Grey chuckled.

"She talks a lot and I am sure the babysitter is being bombarded with a whole lot of Spanish."

Amelia covered her mouth as she laughed.

"Kana her teacher at pre-school always says she never understands a word she says, she switches languages every minute."

"It must be tough having to learn Setswana, English and Spanish."

"Really tough on a little four year old who is over active and feels like she can rule the world."

"That's your daughter."

"And yours..." Amelia's phone rang and the babysitter's number flashed on the screen.

"Speaking of your daughter, I bet something happened.."

She answered the phone and Kingsley scooted closer to hear what was being said on the phone.

"Hello Kutlo, what's up?"

"Hello Mrs. Warona wanted to talk to you, I think she will explain better."

"Here we go again." Grey said under his breath and Amelia held in her laugh as she nodded.

"Hand her the phone."

"Ola mama.."

"Hey princess, what happened?"

"Uhm mama, it was a mistake sí?" Kingsley looked down holding in his laughter. Okay his daughter was cute. You could never be angry at that toddler. Never.

"Mama?"

"Yes baby?"

"Te amo mama."

"I love you too..." Amelia waited for Warona to get to the point.

"Mama, lo siento." (Mama, I'm sorry.)

Amelia sighed.

"What happened princess?" Kingsley took Amelia's hand, she was going to remove those nails as soon as they got home. He knew her, she never kept on nails for longer. He looked at her engagement ring and wedding on her slim fingers. He removed the two rings and she glared at him.

"I'll put them back." She sighed and waited for Warona to speak.

"A vase broke mama.." Amelia breathed in and out.

"Okay, give aunty Kutlo the phone.."

"Not angry?"

"No princess." Seconds later Kutlo was on the phone.

"Hello?"

"Which vase did she break? It better not be the white

and blue one.." there was silence.

"She broke that one."

"Warona Rosalia Carter did it again hey.."

"I'm sorry ma'am."

"It's okay love, it's not your fault. Make sure the glass is cleaned up. We don't want her cutting herself with the broken pieces. Thank you and if there is a problem please do call me."

"I will do so ma'am. Bye."

"Byee."

Amelia hung up.

"Your daughter broke the expensive vase I got as my wedding present."

"You're blaming me?"

"Of course. She is your daughter and I can't shout at her cute face but wena?"

"Calm those sexy tits down please." He slid the rings



back on her finger and kissed her hands.

"I will pay for it."

"It's rare and I want that exact one. These are the times when I really hate you and your existence."

"No you do not." He kissed her cheek as the MC started the launch.

Meanwhile on the other side, Yaya talked to the camera guy. He had a mesmerising smile and she has never been attracted to a guy with dreads before but well-

"Everything is set?" She asked as she tucked her hair behind her ear.

"Yes. Tshepi literally said she is going to kill me if everything is not perfect."

"I didn't know she could be a tyrant..." he chuckled.

"She is so bossy, especially if she is your sister."

Yaya paused. She had a crush on her boss's brother?

"Older or younger sister?"

"Younger. Just a year younger and she makes a big deal out of it, your boss is so exhausting." Just as he said that, Tshepi passed and she ran her hands into Bakang's loose dreads. Yaya hid her smile. She could now see the resemblance. They had similar eyes.

"I hope he isn't bothering you.."

"Not at all."

"We are about to start the real work, everything is fine akere?"

"120% fine.." Tshepi breathed in and out.

"The show must begin." The dj who was behind the scenes started playing Lady Zamar's Collide and Tshepi turned to face the crowd. She looked eyes with her husband who winked at her and she blushed, ignoring the urge to touch her hair. The stylist didn't take hours for her ruin it like that. She released a deep breath and as casual as she could be, she walked to the podium. The song slowed down as she smiled at the crowd. That child like smile of hers. Amelia blew kisses her way as her

heart pounded. This book was a big deal. It took two full years of perfecting it and they were here.

Amelia stole a kiss and faced forward as Grey smiled. They got their happy ending in the end and he was so grateful for everything that led them to this exact moment. Whether good or bad.

"Ladies and gentlemen welcome to the official book launch of DELICATE." A round of applause followed.

"Uhm it's Tshepi M here.."

"Mrs M." Someone in one of the tables shouted and she laughed.

"Mrs M, I'm pretty sure the guy who put a ring on it is looking so smug right now hey.." Her mother shook her head hiding a smile and Tshepi rolled her eyes playfully.

"Uhm the book DELICATE, how did we even get there? Well do you know those little names your loved ones use to call you? A delicate flower? That you are breakable? In a way that you are a rose and that you

bleed?"

The screen projected the book cover and she cursed under her breath. She has never been good with crowds and her anxiety was really threatening to get the best of her.

"This is going to look more like a power point presentation so don't mind me, to everyone who has already read the book before the launch, you already understand DELICATE. It follows a girl by the name Rose, from the end of highschool to her current life. The tragedies she and the ones she love went through. Challenges that affected the naive little delicate flower. We get to see that even roses bleed, guys it's a lot and I think I'll take questions."

One of the attendees raised their hands and they were picked.

"Hi Tshepi, such a pleasure to meet you and see the face behind those Facebook Stories and The Game. Well, from hearsay apparently DELICATE is based on real life events?"

"Hi, pleasure to meet you too. It's not. It's purely a figment of my imagination but it would be wonderful to be able to have someone who can share their life stories with me."

Amelia smiled wider. Her identity was very much protected and as promised, her name or her family's names weren't mentioned in any way. She will die with the little secret that a whole novel might as well be her autobiography and the world didn't even know it. Genius. She smiled. She was delicate and she did bleed but not physically. She bled emotionally and it's those emotional wounds that people never ever see.

She watched Tshepi talk and answer questions like a natural before food was served and she signed the books as well. She wanted her book signed but she knew Tshepi would do it for her any time of day.

"I love you okay?"

"I love you more Mrs Grey Carter." She grinned.

"I love it when you call me that. You deserve a pope

dance after I give birth." He laughed into her neck and she breathed in his cologne.

"I would love that very much Mrs Carter.

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This has been DELICATE. Amelia and Grey Carter's journey ends here. It has been a wonderful ride regardless of the obstacles we met on the way. Till we meet again. Ciao!