

Chapter One

Oh fuck! I cursed as I looked at the time on my phone. I had forgotten the blind date that one of my friends had set up for me. I did some breathing exercises just to calm down my nerves. After calming down, I decided to call my friend, Sandi to apologize.

She immediately picked up and oh boy, she was breathing fire.

"How could you?"

She asked before I could even say "I'm sorry"

"I'm sorry Sandi"

"I'm Nyori Nyandi"

She imitated me and I couldn't help but laugh.

"Honestly I am sorry. I was just so busy and I didn't even bother to check the time and when I did, it was too late"

"Awa Awa Awa man! Honestly I'm trying here sis but you keep on doing this to me. Do you know how embarrassed Mpilo was? Hayi mina angisazi ukuthi mele ngenzenjani ngawe"

She clicked her tongue.

"Okay, why don't you give me his number so I can personally apologize to him? Please"

I begged and she kept quiet for a while.

"Okay, I'll send it but please be fucking nice to the man. His ego is already bruised"

"I promise, I'll be nice man"

She chuckled.

"Bye Awande"

She hung up and I sank on my chair. After a while her text came through.

" 076*, You better not text him. Call him and show him that you are

capable of being a human"

I laughed and stood up to look at the view outside my window. Another beautiful day in Durban!

"Boom"

A voice behind me shouted and I almost dropped down dead. I turned around quickly, ready to snap someone's neck.

"You are an idiot!"

I said as I held on to my chest.

He laughed.

"I was once your idiot"

He said proudly and I shook my head.

"What do you want Zolani?"

"You"

I looked at him with a straight face and he chuckled.

"Okay, bad joke. I need you to help me with something"

"Does that something have a name maybe?"

I asked.

"You know, I forget how impatient you are sometimes"

"And you know, I can't seem to forget how much of a cheater you are sometimes"

He clicked his tongue before slamming down papers on my desk.

He banged the door on his way out.

"Heeeey"

I screamed after him but he was long gone.

One of the disadvantages of working with your ex partner. Whoever said "Don't mix business with pleasure" was absolutely onto something.

...

I took off my heels before throwing myself to the bed. It had been a

long day and I still needed to call "Mpilo".

I sat up and took out my phone from my bag and dialed his number. It rang, rang and rang, and when I was about to give up, he answered.

"Hello"

Yhuu his voice was deep and powerful. Immediately I tried to picture his face but nothing came to mind.

"Hello, who am I speaking to?"

His voice brought me back to earth. I cleared my throat.

"Hi...hi you speaking to Awande. Awande your date"

Fuck, what was I saying. I smacked my forehead after realizing how stupid, I must've sounded.

"My date?"

He asked and I swallowed.

"Well, the one who was supposed to be your date today but didn't pitch up"

I swallowed again and he went quiet for a while.

"Oh! What can I do for you?"

He asked with so much confidence. Fuck! My palms started sweating.

"Well, I'd like to apologize for not pitching up on our date. I honestly lost track of time and..."

"Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to call and apologize. Appreciated and honestly, no harm done. Have a good evening and goodbye"

He said and hung up before I could even say anything further. I sat in the same position with the phone still placed against my ear for a while, trying to make sense of what had just occurred. My jaw was literally on the floor.

"So rude" I said to myself

...

I took off my clothes and got under the shower. As soon as I opened the water, it caressed my body gently. I felt myself relax more and more as it flowed down on my body.

I got out after a while and lotioned my body before dressing up. I went through my WhatsApp while eating some cereal.

An idea to save Mpilo's number came to mind and I didn't even hesitate. After refreshing my contacts, I went straight to his name and tapped on his profile picture.

Lord have mercy!

Thick eyebrows, full lips, beautiful eyes, the works. I found myself staring at his profile picture over and over again.

"Fuck, I sure missed out this time" I thought to myself.

The man was gorgeous, New York Fashion Week gorgeous. Everything about him screamed sophisticated, classy and absolutely know my worth. I just fell inlove.

Booya! Well how about that Awande Melokuhle Dlamini!

Chapter Two

A week later and I was still stalking the poor man and Sandi was not making things easier for me.

"No, I'm not going to ask him to go on a date with you again Awa.

Consequences mntase!

She said as she gulped down her wine.

"Ngiyakucela Sandi. You'll tell him that I just want to make up for the last time. I am even willing to buy you that bag that you saw at H&M the other day ke tana, but only if you agree to do this for me"

She looked me and a big smile immediately covered her face.

"Well, if you say so. Okay fine, I'll talk to him but if he declines, please don't blame him or me"

I jumped up and down while hugging her.

"Thank you sis and I swear angeke uzisole"

"Relax your clit mntase and tell me why do you want to go out with him so badly. I mean you've stood up a couple of my friends before but you've never been interested in going out with them again. Yini, what's special about this one?"

She asked and I bit my lower lip.

"Mans hot"

She laughed.

"True, mans definitely hot. Wait umbonephi?"

I let out a naughty smile.

"I kinda save his number but asikho lapho. Tell me more about him"

She shook her head and laughed.

"Wow, awumoshi sikhathi but if I tell you all about him, then what are you two going to talk about if he agrees to go on another date with you?"

"He will agree. He has to agree and you better be convincing sis"

"Relax lover, relax. I will work my magic plus he owe me. Just don't lead him on prizi"

I nodded.

"Hayike makube lit. Kanti vele where's Zoe and Noma?"

"I'd tell you if I knew, we've been waiting for those putas for over an hour now and mina ngiyaliqeda leli wine"

I laughed. Sandi was such a wine fanatic. It didn't matter what was the occasion, as long as there was wine, she was there.

"Haibo vele niphuza ngaphandle kwethu?"

Zoe asked as she opened the door and walked to us with Noma on her tail.

"Yoh! Kunini sinilindile kodwa? But wait, how did you get past uBab' Mdlalose?"

I asked and Zoe grinned.

"Let's just say, I'm gorgeous"

Zoe said and we laughed.

"Noma u-right mntase?"

I asked because I could see that she was out of it.

"Yey you don't want to know Wawa. So yesterday I went to Thabang's place and guess what?"

Cheating, cheating and cheating!

"What?"

I already knew the answer.

"He was on top of a bitch and she was screaming his name out loud.

Fuckers, didn't even realise that there was a third party in the room"

I knew it! Thabang was a serial cheater and Noma loved him too much and he knew it.

"Kodwa Noma, kuyoze kube inini?"

I asked.

"Ngicela umbuze because mina I'm tired of babysitting her everytime when Thabang decides to break her heart. Akafuni ukufunda lo"
Zoe said and Sandi chuckled. Trust Zoe to be blunt.

"Uzothula ke wena ngoba you know nothing about love or relationships"

Noma clapped back.

"Weeee bhatata, you call that a relationship? Kuyoze kube inini uthihla esika Nandi? Sisi awuzithande man, uyeke ukulandelana nendoda engakuhloniphi"

Noma clicked her tongue.

"You know what I'm leaving"

She attempted to stand up but I held her hand and looked at Zoe before comforting Noma.

"Woah woah we not here to throw stones at each other please. We are here to have fun and to catch up akere Zoe?"

Sandi asked and Zoe rolled her eyes.

"Askies ke Noma"

I giggled because her apology stinked. Fucking Geminis!

"Mina you know how I already feel about your man Noma and I will not repeat myself over and over again. You know what to do and I know that you will do it when you ready. Let's just hope that by that time, it won't be too late. You deserve so much better and you know it. Anyway asiphuzeni guys and eat. I need this too"

They looked at me.

"Hayi buzani uSandi"

We all laughed. We spent that entire day drinking, eating and talking.

We had a blast!

...

They left later on and Sandi's fiance was not happy with me.

"I don't like you Wande right now. You are bad!"

He said and I laughed so much till my stomach started to hurt. He was such a dramatic sweetheart. He had to chauffeur Noma and Zoe home too because they were also kak drunk. Fear wine!

I cleaned around and took a shower after. I immediately dozed off as soon as my head hit the pillow.

Saturday

The following day, I woke up with a banging headache. I checked the time and it was just after 8 O'clock. I sighed and dragged myself to the kitchen and drank water. I went back to bed and checked messages on that green app. A text from Sandi came through.

"He agreed to go on another date with you. Bathong I had to beg and begooo and thank God I was drunk or else he wouldn't have budged. I guess he just wanted me to keep quiet lol and oh he's going to pick you up, yes I gave him your address. Oops not sorry"

I rolled my eyes and smiled

"I love you and thank you"

I texted back and turned off my phone. I quickly made my bed and opened my wardrobe. It took me a while to decide on what to wear. Hey, I wanted to look classy and yet sexy. After a while, I settled for a yellow suit with a black t-shirt and white superga sneakers.

I showered for an entire hour. I was nervous and excited at the same time. I stepped out of the shower and lotioned my body before dressing up. I fixed my Afro and applied a little bit of makeup.

Damn, I looked good!

It was just after 11 O'clock when I heard a knock on my door and I paced around in my lounge before opening up.

There he was! In black pants, black t-shirt, black sneakers and a black jacket. The human version of the black card. Absolutely gorgeous!

"Hey"

That voice again and Oh bawo, he was gorgeous'ier in person.

"Hey"

I said and he revealed his million dollar smile. Hot flushes!

"These are for you. Umuhle nkosazane"

I blushed and he handed me the daffodils. My universe lightened up.

"How did you know?"

He smiled.

"I have my ways, will you ask me how I got past your security too?"

I laughed and shook my head.

"No and thank you. Please come in and make yourself comfortable, while I look for a vase to put these in"

He walked in and closed the door. I made my way to the kitchen and took out the vase that my mom had bought for me when I moved in.

"You have a beautiful place"

He said as he looked around. Thank God, I had cleaned up a bit after my friends had left.

"Thank you. Can I offer you anything to drink?"

"Water please"

I nodded and took out a bottle of water from the fridge and gave it to him.

"Thank you for the flowers. They have brightened up my dull kitchen"

He chuckled sending shivers down my clit"

"You are welcome and ready when you are"

I nodded.

"Let me go take my bag from my room. I'll be right back"

As soon as I got into my room. I quietly and gently jumped up and down. Damn, mans was definitely definitely hot. After calming down, I grabbed my bag.

"I'm ready"

I announced and he stood up.

"You look beautiful by the way" I blushed a little.

"Thank you and you look handsome"

"Hahaha I try thank you"

I chuckled. Bathong that was more than just trying, it was natúralé.

I locked my flat after we made our way out and he led me to a beautiful black Audi, 4 rings baba! He opened the door for me before getting in too. His car was clean and smelled like him, masculinity in the air.

"Where would you like to go?"

He asked as we both buckled up.

"Anywhere you can afford"

He laughed and shook his head before starting the car.

"I guess Honchos here we come"

"Ngafa I-hurtburn ke tana"

He laughed again and I joined in.

"Hayi, asambe ke sodla ama prawns ne sushi"

"Now you talking"

He shook his head while smiling.

"Is Gateway okay?"

"Perfect"

I said and smiled while looking outside the window. The drive was

quiet.

"We are here"

He said as he parked the car. He locked the car after we got out.

He extended his hand to me and I grabbed it. It was soft and manly. He led me inside this beautiful restaurant that screamed "expensive".

We were directed to our table and we sat down.

The waiter was all smiles and very nice. He handed us the menus and asked if we wanted anything to drink while we were deciding.

We both nodded and went on to order two orange juices. The waiter went away.

"So sushi?"

He asked and I giggled

"Yes"

I answered immediately.

"Yaphela imali yami ke namhlanje"

I laughed and shook my head.

"I'll pay for my food"

He raised his eyebrow and chuckled.

"No, you'll pay on the next date"

Hot flushes again.

"Oh there's going to be a second date?"

He leaned back on his chair.

"Yes but first things first, why did you stood me up the last time?"

Weee!

Chapter Three

The date!

He stared at me while waiting for an answer and I had none.

"I'm so..rry, I just got caught up in work. It was a hectic day and there were so many things to do, it absolutely slipped my mind and when I remembered, it was to..o late"

I stuttered and quit frankly, he didn't look convinced.

"I was hurt and mad you know. Although I was surprised when you called back to apologize. At least you have a heart unlike my...umh"

He stopped himself and smiled.

"Ofcourse I have a heart, just that my job is quite demanding sometimes"

He smiled again. He liked smiling and I wasn't complaining either.

"Why did you agree to go out with me again after I stood you up?"

He caressed his chin.

"Because you are cute and because Sandiswa wouldn't stop drunk talking with me on the phone yesterday"

I laughed.

"She's your friend alright"

We were drinking our juice while waiting for our sushi.

"So tell me more about yourself Awande Dlamini"

He asked while staring deep into my eyes. The windows to my thirst!

"Well, I am just a girl from next door asking for a boy to love her"

He laughed for a few minutes before shaking his head.

"I'm serious MaDlamini, so now tell me"

I giggled.

"Okay, I am Awande Melokuhle Dlamini. I am from Glenwood and I am 24 years old. I studied BCOM at the University of Kwazulu Natal and

currently works at KK.LTD. I have three siblings, which are all older than me and guess what?"

I smiled.

"What?"

He looked curious.

"Well they are all boys, well men"

I said and his eyes went to the back of his head.

"No, after dropping you off, I'm staying away from you. Ngiyayisaba induku mina"

He said and I laughed till some tears came out of my eyes. I looked at him and he looked serious.

"Kwaze kwakubi ke ukuzwa lokho"

I sulked and he smirked.

"But then how can one stay away from you? I don't think any sane man can do that"

I thanked God for melanin because I was blushing mess.

"Well that was pretty much about me. What about you?"

He shook his head

"Nope we are still talking about you here"

He said as the waiter served us our food.

"Well a conversation flows far more better when stomachs are full.

Afterall indlala ibanga ulaka"

I said carelessly and he spat out his drink and laughed like a maniac. I looked away and giggled.

"Fuck what are you doing to me?"

He asked as he continued to laugh. I just looked at him and the man was indeed beautiful, a beautiful black man. Modimo!

"Well mina besengisho nje"

I said before stuffing my mouth with food. He wiped tears that were coming out from his eyes and took out his phone from his pocket. He turned it on and looked at it before placing it back to his pocket.

"You have to be somewhere?"

I asked.

"No, I was just checking the time. I want us to go take a walk at the beach after this"

My eyes lit up. I loved long walks on the beach.

"Alright"

We kept quiet as we ate and when we were done, he paid and we left.

"So the beach?"

"Yes. So tell me, who is your favorite artist at the moment?"

He asked as he started the car.

"Well it has to be Giveon"

He chuckled.

"Kanti what's up with you ladies and Giveon?"

I laughed.

"Well he is cute"

He side eyed me.

"Well Beyonce is cute too"

I giggled.

"Wait you listen to Beyonce?"

"No but I thought we were talking about cute artists here"

I frowned and he laughed.

"You look so cute right now. Wish I could take a picture of you"

I paid him no attention, I was kinda jealous.

"Who else do you think is cute?"

I asked and he laughed.

"Definitely you"

I blushed like a retard. After a while we got to the beach and made our way to the sand. Again, he held my hand and I didn't mind. Yellow complements black akere?

He stood behind me and held both of my hands. We listened to the waves as they made a peaceful sound. I closed my eyes and thought about a beautiful and sophisticated life. He kissed my neck, bringing me back to earth.

"Do you want to sit down?"

"Sure"

He took off his jacket and laid it on the sand for us.

"You really didn't have to"

"I don't mind"

He smiled and we sat down.

"Kids?"

I asked.

"No, you?"

"Yes five"

He glanced at me and I laughed.

"Wow! Uthi isaphila nje?"

He asked and I laughed. Fuck, I couldn't even breathe.

"You are an idiot Mpilo"

He laughed and placed his head on my shoulder.

"Thank you for agreeing to go out with me"

I said

"I wanted to and you are definitely paying on the second date"

I chuckled.

"Look at me MaDlamini"

I did.

"Nice to meet you"

He smiled and I smiled back.

"Likewise"

He cupped my face into his hands and brought my face closer to his. He kissed me so passionately and his soft lips just took me to an adventure. I didn't want him to stop and he didn't. We kissed until we were both satisfied.

I crossed my legs and he laughed. He knew exactly what it meant.

"Laugh all you want but this is all your fault"

"Don't worry soon enough, I'll take care of your itch, well I hope"

I looked away and turned pink immediately. Again, I thanked God for Melanin.

"Ready when you are"

I said and he nodded.

"Asambe mama"

He stood up first and extended his hand out for me and helped me up.

"Ngiyabonga. I picked up his jacket and removed the sand on it and made our way back to his car.

"My place or yours?"

He smirked.

"Mine and yours. I am going to mine and you are going to yours after you drop me off at mine"

He laughed.

"You make me laugh and that's a good thing. At least I know that I won't get bored when we are dating" He said with a straight face as he focused on the road.

I was super wet!

Chapter Four

My mind dey for you
My heart beats for you
Everytime when I think of you
I don't know

I,I,I feel loved again
I don't want to wait for days
Let me have you in my arms again

I had been blasting that song to the tee. After he dropped me off, he kissed my forehead and wished me a goodnight. I felt like peeing my pants and a week later, I was still stuck on him but whooo shame, it ended in thiyezi. I was ghosted! Being the person that I was, I also decided to keep quiet.

"So how old are you?"

Zoe asked as she spinned on my chair after I told her everything.

"Old enough to know my worth."

She rolled her eyes and sighed.

"Don't you like this guy?"

"I do."

I replied without hesitating.

"So what's your problem? In this day and age, you still expect a man to be the one who does the chasing? What if he is a coward or is just waiting for you contact him like you are waiting for him?"

Come on!

"Or maybe he just realised that I wasn't his type. Ever thought about that?"

I asked

"Hayi wena, have you seen yourself, and please don't be so negative.

Call or text the guy and stop prioritizing your fucken ego over whatever this is. Childish games!"

I frowned. Didn't I say that she was just too blunt but as the same time she was right.

"Ebile do it now sis."

"Now? Come on!"

"I am not leaving until you do it ke tana."

I sighed and picked up my phone from my desk. I turned it on and called him.

"It is ringing."

I whispered and she smiled looking at me.

"Hey MaDlamini."

That was his hello and I felt an entire zoo inside my stomach.

"Hey, how are you?"

"I am okay thanks and how are you?"

"I'm okay, I was just checking up on you."

I said.

"I've been meaning to call you but I just.. decided against it."

He confessed and I frowned.

"What do you mean?"

I asked confused.

"I'm afraid Awande....umm can I see you tomorrow?"

"Sure, just text me the time and place alright"

"Thank you and I will talk to you later, my father just walked in."

"Okay bye"

I hung up and looked at Zoe who was looking at me with the "And then" face

"He want to see me tomorrow."

I said and she screamed.

"We are still at my workplace we sisi."

"Fuck that, did he tell you why? Oh my goodness, uzonxiba ntoni?"

"Andazi wethu but what I do know is that, something is up with that man. He didn't sound like the man I went on a date with."

I exhaled.

"Hehake, what if he has a wife?"

I looked at her.

"Do you think he'd do that to me?"

"Mntase amadoda ngamadoda, they do whatever they want, whenever they want to but let's not be negative. It could be work related or maybe he is stressed about something else. Men do go through a lot too."

"I do know that love. I have a brothers remember."

She laughed.

"Ende uNhlanhla seems to be gowishing every weeek. His WhatsApp statuses always leave me weak shuuu."

I laughed. She was spitting facts!

"Hayi wena yesterday he said he was done with women ngoba thina siyahlanya."

We giggled.

"Haibo wena athi sisi kanti why ningasile kanje nina, yazi uBelinda almost smashed my phone against the wall izolo ngenxa yokuthi nje I'm texting with her friend, uZama, just imagine but I guess, he just doesn't get it."

I said while laughing.

"Hehehe what he doesn't understand is that talking to your girlfriend's

friends is shitty."

"Exactly like no

it is a no no. You don't text your girlfriend's friends nor call them.

Nikhuluma ngani?"

"Yess sis unless y'all met through that friend then maybe but still."

"Exactly, anyway babe I need to go back to work before I am fired and wouldn't that make Zolani and his sluts happy."

I sarcastically said and she chuckled.

"That idiot with a big head, well let me love and leave you. Please dress nicely kusasa ngoba ngiyakwazi."

I giggled

"Ouch that stings."

She laughed.

"And my work here is done. Bye baby girl, I love you."

"I love you too mama and thank you for lunch."

We hugged and she left.

...

"Thank you for the ride"

I said as I paid the uber driver.

"You welcome, have a good evening."

He said and drove away. Some uber drivers were humans and some were just no, let's leave it at that. I made my way inside the building and greeted Mam' Mkhize before taking the stairs. I reached my door and unlocked it.

"Home sweet home!"

I said as I took off my heels and threw myself on the couch, fav. My brain was on fire and as I was about to dose off my phone rang. I cursed as I searched for it in my bag.

"Sawubona mzali."

I answered.

"Sawubona Awande sisi, unjani?"

"Ngiyaphila nina ninjani?"

"Siyaphila nathi, uyihlo ubefuna ukukhuluma nawe sisi."

"Ah kodwa mama, uyazi ukuthi angifuni ukushada no Mchunu mina."

She laughed hard and I just rolled my eyes

"Angizingeni ke mina. Nangu uyihlo."

There was a shuffle and after a while he greeted me.

"Yebo baba siyaphila nina ninjani?"

"Angiphili neze, anginabo abazukulu."

I gasped.

"Haibo baba yazi uzoboshwa."

We laughed.

"Besengisho phela abavele kuwe. Khohlwa ilomhlambi ozalwa uNkosinathi."

I held my mouth and laughed for the entire population to hear.

"Akuzwe nje usho njalo baba, kungaba manzi phansi."

"Weee uyogcina ukumanzisa la efeba khona."

He said and I was rolling on the floor. Nkosinathi was the second born, and the casanova of the family. I don't know how many girls had pulled through to my parent's home and reported that he had gotten them pregnant.

"Kodwa baba, mina angikabi ready for consequences."

"Ngiyakuzwa ndodakazi kodwa sengingaze ngife nje, awu kodwa."

I chuckled a little bit.

"You do know angithi ukuthi i-emotional blackmail doesn't work lakumina?"

He laughed.

"Yebo ngiyazi angithi phela wena wafunza unyoko ngenhliziyo embi."

He said and I heard my mom screaming his name in the background. I

laughed so hard till my stomach started to hurt.

"Yho ngicela ukuvalelisa baba ungaze ulale ungasenaye unkosikazi."

"Oho, kulungile usalekahle sisi, uqhubeke nokuziphatha kahle.

Iyakuthanda lendoda endala."

My heart did backflips like Simone.

"Nginyanithanda nami baba, uvalelise kumama. Asithembe ukuthi

angeke uze ulale phansi ke namhlanje."

"Imina indoda kulomuzi Awande. Angeke ngizwe ngomuntu

wesifazane."

And world war IV started!

"Angizwa Dlamini?"

Mom asked in the background and I heard him say "weee bengincokola

nkosikazi wami omuhle" before hanging up.

I was in stitches, whoever said "Happy wife, happy life" was indeed

correct. My parents were absolutely the best, especially my dad. If he

was not trying to get me married to his old friend Mchunu, he was

trying to get Nhlanhla married to Mchunu's daughter. He was just too

much but he loved us dearly and equally. He valued our opinions and

never compelled us to do anything we didn't like. He wasn't your typical

stubborn Zulu man, no...

I walked to my room and threw myself on the bed. A message came

through as I was getting under the covers.

"I'll see you tomorrow, at 5PM, your place. I hope you don't mind and

goodnight."

Mpilo

I read it and turned off my phone without replying and dozed off immediately.

Chapter Five

Friday

It was the big day where I'd see him and everything was just spinning and at the office, I was agitated a little bit. 3PM on the dot, I was out of the building and everyone was just amazed, because I was usually the last person to leave the office. Hell, I had one hour to bathe, choose something comfortable yet sexy to wear. I went straight to my uber and the ride was smooth and quick.

I paid and literally ran inside my flat and waited for the elevator. It didn't take long and I hopped in, and hopped out when it reached the 3rd floor. I opened my door and rushed to my bedroom. I took my clothes off and went straight to the shower. I got out and lotioned my body before settling for some track pant and a t-shirt.

I cleaned around a bit just to make sure everything was perfect and the daffodils still looked gorgeous.

After getting everything done, I sat down on my couch and relaxed.

"Damn food!"

I said as I smacked my forehead and before I could order, a soft bang bang on my door came through. I exhaled before dragging myself to go open up. I opened the door and there he was, in a fucking black suit with the tie let loose. I felt shivers down my spine and many other places.

"Hey."

He greeted me with a lazy smile.

"Hey, please come in."

He came in and I closed the door behind him.

"I brought food. I hope you eat lasagna."

He said as he handed me the paper bag.

"I love it, thank you. Let me warm it up, I'm kinda hungry."

He nodded and sat down. As I warmed up the food, my heart was beating roughly against my chest and my palms were sweaty as hell.

"There you go."

I said as I handed him his plate and sat down with mine.

"Thank you. Do you mind if I take off my jacket?"

I shook my head. He took it off as well as his tie. My mind was racing!

Dangerously sexy!

We ate in silent and after we were done

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he offered to wash the dishes and honestly, who'd refuse such a generous offer, not-t-t me.

I looked at his butt as he was washing the dishes and goddamn, it was perfect.

"You can touch it if you want to you know."

He said and I quickly came back to earth.

"What? No no I wasn't..."

He laughed and modelled his way back to the couch. He sat down with a bottle of water in his hand.

"How are you?"

He asked and I smiled.

"I'm okay and how are you? I'm so glad you remembered that conversations flows far more better when stomachs are full."

He laughed.

"How could I forget kodwa? I knew that if came here empty handed, I would be in so much trouble."

I giggled.

"Well aren't you a fast learner?"

We both smiled.

"I love you Awande."

He said and my head started spinning faster than the marry-go-round. I repositioned myself on the couch and looked at him. He looked serious as fuck.

"What?"

I asked gobsmacked. Not that I wasn't happy, just that it was too soon, don't you think?

"I truly do love you but unfortunately I can't be with you."

I immediately had heart palpitations.

"What? Why but you just said.."

I was confused, I didn't know what to grasp. The I love you part or the I can't be with you part.

"I'm not good for you Awande."

He said and I suddenly felt rage. What did he know about what was good for me? Fucking beautiful bastard.

"Then why are you here? To see me cry?"

I asked with tears threatening my eyes. I was beyond mad.

"If you knew that you were not ready for anything then why did you come here today? You could've just ignored me and went on with your fucking life."

I was spitting fire.

"Please calm down MaDlamini."

"No you need to go Mpilo. Please!"

"But we not done talking. I..."

Before he could even finish his sentence, I interrupted him.

"Well I am and if you don't mind, I want to sleep."

I stood up and went to stand next to the door. He stood up as well and

gathered his belongings before walking to me.

"For what it is worth, I'm sorry."

He said as he looked over me and I chuckled.

"Kulungile."

I pushed him out and closed the door.

"The fuck? This is why I don't do love."

I angrily said to myself.

...

"Calm down Wawa, tell me what happened, but slowly this time."

Sandi said as I screamed at her over the phone. I did some breathing exercises before continuing.

"He came here today and told me that he loves me and when I was about to say it back, he also confessed that he can't be with me."

"WHAT?"

"Are you two playing some kind of a sick prank on me or what? Or is this his way of getting back at me for ditching him on the first date? Well you can tell him that he can go fuck himself because well fuck him."

I said and hung up before she could say anything. I threw my phone on the bed and screamed my lungs out. After that, I felt a little calmer.

"Who need men anyway?"

I asked myself as I got under covers. Sandi called me back but I ignored her calls. I tried to sleep but ended up counting sheeps.

Chapter Six

After that whole saga, I was numb. I distanced myself from Sandi, and the rest of my friends. I spent most of my weekends at home and that's how I usually dealt with heartbreak. Even though my parents didn't ask a lot of questions, their energy around me was different. They were worried about me but I assured them everytime they asked that I was perfectly fine. At least I wasn't slacking off at work.

...

It was my day off and I was still in bed recuperating from God knows what. My phone rang and it was a call from an unsaved number. I debated on whether to answer it or not but I eventually I answered. "Hello"

"Wawa are you okay? Kodwa Wawa what's wrong with you? I have been trying to call you for an entire week now."

It was Noma.

"Ngi-right Noma. You know how I am when I'm not okay emotionally."

"Yeah I know what an asshole you are!"

I gasped for air. Sis had miraculously grown balls, but she was using them incorrectly but I wasn't about to tell her that. Imagine!

"You are selfish ke vele wena Awande. You always shut us out when you go through shit and expect us to pretend as if nothing ever happened when you okay again."

She was spitting facts like a Skr skr on lean.

"It is all for your own good. You know I don't like repeating the same thing over and over again. I deal with my shit well when I'm alone."

I justified my selfishness.

"Okay fine I get that but what about us? Ever thought about what we go through when you shut us out. Poor Sandi has been gowishing ever

since. You know how much that girl loves you and she even blames herself for introducing you to that guy. All I am saying is please talk to us and let us be there for you. We all miss you Wawa. What you are doing is not fair but I hope you really are okay. I'll call later and you better not reject my calls. Bye love you."

And she hung up after offloading on me and I didn't even get a chance to defend myself. I lost your honor!

In a way what she said made sense and honestly, I felt bad for shutting Sandi out like that. I knew that it wasn't her fault but at the time I needed someone to blame and she was just the easy target. Man, I felt like an ass.

I called her after Noma hung up and she quickly answered, I sighed. "I'm sorry Awande and I will never fix you up with someone else again. I know I'm the cause of your pain and I'm sorry."

I felt my heart breaking because Sandi was an empathic person who felt every emotions deeply.

"Firstly I would like to apologize for making it seem as if it was your fault because it was not. Secondly, I'm sorry for shutting you out and making you sad. Thirdly, nothing was your fault and I knew that from the beginning but I was just too stubborn and hurt to see that. I'm really sorry bestie and its just that he's the first guy I have liked a lot in a while and for him to break my heart before it even began, was shitty but still that's no excuse for me to act like a jerk towards you, uxolo."

I said and she giggled.

"Akuzwe nje uZoe ungibiza ngo bestie kungaqhuma inhlansi phansi."

I laughed. She knew her very well.

"Ewu ngoba uZoe ufuna kube uyena yedwa uBestie wethu. Anyway I'm really sorry MaNxumalo."

She sighed.

"Apology accepted and I really hate it when you shut us out Wande. Anyway let's put that aside. On Saturday

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it is Lunga's birthday and I am planning a surprise party for him. So please be there, please please."

She said excitedly.

"Of course I'll be there sis don't worry but angina gift shame. Lunga has rich parents so uzizibona."

She laughed so hard.

"Ave unjalo phela wena sometimes. Oh and sis, he might be there too since they friends soo..."

She said in a low tone and I chuckled.

"It's okay babes I'll still come. I will not put my life on hold or miss free food because of a guy, a hot guy at that but nywe nywe."

She just continued to laugh and I smiled. I had missed her low tone childlike laughter.

"I missed you."

She said and I felt tears threatening my eyes.

"I missed you too friend and I love you a lot"

She giggled

"I love you too, see you on Saturday ke and take care of yourself."

"Nawe futhi, bye lovie."

I said as I hung up\$ and my heart felt a little lighter. One more to go and I knew that Zoe was not going to make it easy for me like Noma And Sandi did. Yeses, she was the worst!

...

I spent the entire day bingeing on series on Netflix and eating junk. I

was much calmer and everything had color again. I was no longer stuck in the pits of heartbreak over a relationship that didn't even exist in the first place.

Before sleeping, I called Zoe and just like I had said, she made sure that I felt her wrath. I ended up promising her to buy a biker jacket at Zara. Hell, I didn't even buy my own damn clothes there but what could I have done? I was sucking up to her and she fell for it. My friend loved expensive things especially those that didn't come from her own pocket but I didn't mind.

After we made up, I retreated to bed and slept like a baby.

La la la, Ah!

Chapter Seven

Days went by fast and boom, it was Saturday, fast and quick in a hurry. The party was going to start at 3PM till midnight. In the morning I woke up and cleaned my place to the tee. Once I was satisfied, I decided to choose an outfit and I struggled.

"If only there was a theme or something then things would have been simple.2"

I shouted to myself.

Ah! I looked at my clothes for a while but in the end, I ended up choosing a long silky red dress and paired it with black stilettos.

I laid it out on the bed and closed the wardrobe before going to the kitchen to make food. Sandi called to remind me to be early than others so I can help her out with something and I couldn't say no, I was still sucking up to her. I absolutely hated the consequences of my actions. After eating, I took a shower and got dressed. I applied makeup and styled my afro, I looked absolutely gorgeous.

The devil wears Prada but well it was H&M on my case but nonetheless, I was smoking hoth.

...

The ride wasn't long and I got to Durban North in no time. While some of us were stuck in tiny flats at the South Beach, Sandi was living the life at Durban North. She had a gorgeous house that Lunga had bought for her when she agreed to marry him. So just imagine what he bought for her when she decided to pop out the consequences of their actions, well I'll tell you later.

Honestly Sandi deserved all the good things in life, infact all my loved ones did.

I paid the uber driver who couldn't keep his eyes off of me the entire

ride and I wasn't even interested. I was done with his gender!
I made my way into the house and nkosi yami, it was mesmerizing.
Sandi came running to me and hugged me for dear life.

"Okay you can let go now."

I said and she giggled.

"Waze wamuhle mngani wami, yini bekuthiwe eyakho yini leparty?"

She asked and I pinched her cheek playfully.

"Yebo yebo yimi uMiss party."

She laughed.

"Suka woza ngapha, I need your help with something."

She dragged me to the main bedroom and closed the door after we got in. There was a black strapless gown that had a slit on the left side layed on top of the bed. I looked at it in awe, it was beautiful.

"This is beautiful sis, so what do you need me to do?"

"I want you to help me with my zipper."

I laughed and rolled my eyes as I hoped that my ears weren't deceiving me.

"Really Sandiswa? Is this the reason why you wanted me to come before other people, ah mntwana ndini?"

She smiled and I laughed. Ngacobeka, ngabhocobala.

"Yes hawu and I also want you to help me with my makeup please. You know how horrible I am at it."

I laughed and yes she was.

"Okay fine, have you showered?"

She nodded.

"Then let's apply makeup first then we'll get you dressed after."

"Azishe!"

She said as she sat down and I got started. The rest of our friends and

her cousins came into the room while I was busy with her.

"Awusemhle mntase."

Zoe said and Noma agreed.

"Oh please, I've seen better."

Her cousin, Mandisa said and we all looked at each other. Mandisa was just the typical cousin from hell. Jealous, ugly and damn petty. We called her Godzilla.

"Ubuzwe ngubani ke wena with that nose that could feed all the hungry kids in Afrika."

Lolo said and we all gasped for air. Mandisa clucked her tongue and rushed out of the room with a tail between her legs.

"Khona ezogcina ukuphapha. Uyaphapha lo nobubi engathi she was drawn on the floor and was told to get up after they were done."

Zoe emphasized and we were on the floor. Zoe and Lolo high fived like they had saved the world from Thanos, snap snap.

"Yoh! Qeda nawe wawa, I want to go get drunk mina."

Noma complained and Lolo seconded her.

"Zidakwa ndini

I am done. Sekushoda ukuthi agqoke irokwe yakhe mese abe uTaaa Daaa."

We all giggled. She looked amazing and when she got into her dress, she looked super amazing.

"Qedani bo, they are on their way."

Lunga's mom said as she peeped through the door. She then looked at Sandi and smiled.

"Umuhle makoti wakwami."

She said and we all smiled.

"Ave umuhle nawe mama."

I answered her first.

"Ave uphapha ke wena Wawa"

We all giggled. Lunga's mom and Sandi got along like a house on fire. She was a very kind and warm hearted woman. Her aura was very welcoming.

"Ngiyabonga mama."

Sandi blushed and we all said "awww" in unison. We all hurried to the lounge which looked gorge as the decor was breathtaking. The lights were turned off as we all searched for hiding spots and hid. When the birthday boy walked through the door, the lights were turned on and we all shouted "Surprise".

From the look on his face, he was indeed surprised and happy. His smile reached his eyes.

"I thought you had forgotten my birthday babe."

He said as he hugged Sandi and they were just extra cute.

"How could I kodwa muntu wami, what kind of a wife would that make me? Asoze."

We all said awwww!

"Happy birthday boy."

His mom and dad said at the same time as he hugged them. He hugged the rest of us and thanked us for coming. We then sang for him and after that, my favorite part of the evening came, yes, you've guessed it right, don't doubt yourself.

The food looked appetising and my appetite was over a 100. We all dished out for ourselves as the music played. My plate was full, it looked like a mountain and my friends were not even shocked. I sat down and ate like there was no tomorrow.

"Haibo uphangelani kodwa?"

Zoe asked while shaking her head. I wasn't but she made it seem like I was. I swallowed my food and drank some juice before giving her my undivided attention.

"Ngijahe ukuza kokwakho."

I said and she laughed.

"Wena you are an idiot, I swear."

We all giggled and continued with eating. Lolo looked at me and I looked at her.

"What Lolo?"

I asked

"Yeses that guy has been staring at you the whole time and yhuu ngathi ufuna ukukuthi undress ukudlele khona la."

They all laughed and I frowned. I turned my attention to the guy that was supposedly staring at me and there he was, staring at me from across the room like he had not broke my heart.

"He's so handsome."

Noma said excitedly and I ignored her. I ate my food and they all went quiet.

"It's him akere."

Zoe said and I nodded.

"Weeee bengidlala, mubi."

Noma said and we all laughed hard.

"Don't worry guys, I'm fine.c"

They both nodded and we continued with having the time of our lives. Lunga's dad nicely asked for our attention and we all gave it to him. He was also a kind and gentle soul. Yet at the same time I feared him a little bit, he had what we call in my home language "isithunzi".

He made sleazy jokes and praised his son before asking Sandi to take

over. Sandi looked at Lunga like he was a delicious meal and Lunga returned the look.

"Sthandwa sami, firstly I would like to say you are the best. You have made me the happiest woman in the entire world and for that I will forever be grateful. You have shown me what love really is. Even on my darkest day, you remained consistent and always reminded me that I was the queen of your heart."

His mom cleared her throat and we all laughed. "Ngiyabonga Sotobe, ngiyabonga myeni wami. I know this is not a lot but I just wanted to show u how I love you. I am blessed to have you in my life and I can't wait to be yours forever. Ngiyakuthanda Sotobe."

She said and he blushed profusely. They were madly in love and I was just there for it. They kissed and hugged.

"Qedani phela bangani bami, sifuna ukudakwa thina"

I said and everyone laughed. The wine was going way over my head. I looked around and our eyes locked. He smiled, and I clucked my tongue and excused myself.

The roof looked like it was on fire but with God's grace, I made it to the bathroom. I wasn't that drunk but I also wasn't that sober. I got into the bathroom and just released everything, I was in heaven.

"You look beautiful."

A familiar voice said and I looked up. There he was in a black tuxedo and red bow tie.

"Helang, what happened to privacy?"

I asked while wiping the pee from my nirvana and he chuckled.

"There's nothing that you have that I don't know."

I rolled my eyes.

"Well mister, you don't know mine."

I said as I pulled up my panties up.

"And yet at the end I will."

He walked out and whistled all the way back to the lounge, leaving me with more questions than answers.

Chapter Eight

Lunga's birthday party was the littiest. I don't know when or how I got there, but I woke up in one of the guest bedrooms the next morning. Zoe, Noma and the rest of the girls were next to me. They were all snoring and farting all the way. I got up and looked around for my belongings before founding them neatly placed on the dressing table. I switched on my phone to check the time and it was just after 8am. I tip toed my way out of the bedroom before bumping into Lunga's younger brother, who was in his early twenties. He was a handsome fella and very down to earth.

"Ncese Wawa."

He said.

"It's fine Sanele."

I said as he picked up my sling bag from the floor.

"Need a lift?"

"Yass, that would be great."

He chuckled and told me to wait for him as he went to grab his car keys from his room.

"Asambe ke."2

He said and I followed him like a little girl. He opened the door for me and off we went. He knew the way to my flat because he had been there quite a few times, well to drop Sandi off since she feared driving. A story for another day.

The drive was full of jokes and laughter. He didn't mind that I was a hot mess.

"Ngiyabonga for driving me home. You're a life saver."

I said as he parked in front my place.

"No problem Wawa. Wanna hang out sometimes?"

He looked at me and I bit my lower lip. I agreed after he begged and begged. Thirsty I was but my pride was still intact.

"Cool anyway let me go and take a longer shower, God knows I need it."

"Sure, I'll join you some other time."

I giggled and looked away.

"Bye Sanele."

I said as I stepped out of the car.

"Bye Awande."

He said and smiled before driving off. I replayed our conversation in my head as I made my way to the elevator and avoided the security like a plague.

"What is this hot motherfucker trying to do to me?"

I asked myself. I was dripping wet and it had been a while since I got some so I was thirsty as hell. I got into the elevator and hopped off when it stopped on the 3rd floor. I unlocked the door as soon as I reached it and got inside my paradise. I threw my bag on the couch and went straight to the bathroom to take a shower.

I took off my dress and opened the water. Ah! I felt myself relax and after taking the shower, I went straight to bed, yes naked and all.

...

The time was 3 O'clock when I woke up, and I was famished. I got out of bed and got into a tee before heading to the kitchen. I opened my fridge and nothing caught my eye, I sighed and closed it. I searched for my phone on my bag and walaaa. I opened it and scrolled to the uber eat app, ordered something hot and meaty. I paid and sank on the couch. I was exhausted, dancing in heels all night was no child's play. I texted my friends, to check if they were okay and they were all crying

"bhabhalas." After a while, the uber eat guy called to inform me that he had arrived downstairs with my order and I hurried to him. I greeted the guy and he gave me what was due to me. As was about to walk back into the building someone grabbed my arm. The touch felt familiar and so did the scent in the air. I turned around and there he was. We looked at each other for a while before I broke the eye contact. He let go of my arm and still said nothing.

"Hey."

I said and he smiled.

"Hey."

He said and I smiled. It was honestly getting awkward.

"I'm here to see you."

He said after a while and I chuckled. I so wanted to say k.boy but I talked myself out of it before it was too late.

"Let's go inside."

He nodded.

" Bab' Mdlalose, can I please sign him in."

Bab' Mdlalose looked at me and smiled.

"Asikho isidingo ntombi, ningangena nje nikhululeke."

He said and they even shook hands. Well how about that!

"Y'all know each other?"

I asked as we climbed the stairs and he nodded.

"Please go in"

I said after opening the door and went in after him. I closed the door and walked to the kitchen and placed my food on the counter.

"This is really unexpected."

I said as we sat down and he pushed his back against the couch with his head over his hands.

"I know and I'm sorry for just coming here unexpectedly but I won't take long."

I just wondered.

"So what can I do for you?"

I asked using a harsh tone. He turned his head to me and sighed.

"I love you."

I frowned. I was really annoyed and hella confused.

"So you have said. Listen, I don't mean to be rude but I am hungry and tired so if you don't mind."

I said and he chuckled

"Idla phela, angikubambanga ndawo mina, unless you want me to."

I hissed.

"Yazi you are such a confusing being. Today, you don't want me, tomorrow you want me. Kanti which one is which?"

He smiled.

"I never said I don't want you, I just said I can't be with you and I still can't. I have my reasons but that doesn't mean I love you any less baby."

I chuckled. He was unfuckingbelievable and it was kind of creepy.

"Don't call me that

I am not your baby. I'm too old for games and I really don't have time for games."

He frowned.

"Who is playing games here Awande? Do I look like a 12 year old boy? Uma ungazi ukuthi uzothini please shut that beautiful mouth of yours."

Oh no, he didn't.

"Oh yes he did, whatchu gon do about it?"

A little devilish voice at the back of my mind asked.

"Nothing."

I answered.

"Bitch I don't even know why I bother with you."

It said fading away and I chuckled.

"Suite yourself."

I reheated my food and placed it on the plate. He was still seated in the same position with his face facing up. I sat down and prayed before eating. I stole a quick glance at him and he smiled, looking at me. I sighed!

"Would you like some?"

He smiled even more.

"I would love some."

He said and I laughed. It was enough for two people, hell even for three. I went back to the kitchen and dished up his.

"There you go."

I said as I handed him the plate. He grabbed it and smiled.

"Ngiyabonga, sekushoda ngokuthi ugunqe ngedolo."

I raised my eyebrow and he laughed. Oh, his laugh was magnificent. Deep and with a bit of ncaa.

"Please eat before I eat all my food."

He chuckled

"Yep, you'd do that."

I laughed. Our situation was hella confusing but there was something to it. Just something.

"So why can't you be with me and don't you dare say it is complicated?"

I asked and he sighed. We were lying on the bed and both facing up.

Hella confusing I know. He said he was tired and I was like, let's go sleep. Yes just like that, don't judge me. He turned his head around and looked at me.

"Because I'm married and going through a very nasty divorce."

He said and went back to staring into the ceiling.

"Oh!"

I said in a low tone. I didn't know what to say or how to react, I just went numb.

"I am dealing with it I promise and I swear when it is all said and done, I want to be yours."

He looked at me and I just laughed.

"No, why can't you just deal with it and leave me out of it or alone, I don't know."

I mini shouted and the hurt in his eyes, my lort was hard to ignore. He tried to say something but I to cut him off.

"I don't get it, you married yet you go on blind dates, that is really fucked up. What about your wife?"

I asked and he genuinely laughed at me. I felt like pinning him against the bed and strangle him to death.

"I only went on one with you and you don't know her soo..."

Yes I didn't know her but come on I was all for sistahood.

"I'm a woman and I know how it feels like to be heartbroken so please."

I said.

"And men don't? We also have hearts you know. We also feel pain and you have no idea about the amount of pain that woman has put me through and yet... you know what, I didn't come here to fight with you. I actually just wanted to see your beautiful face."

He said and I could spot the love, fear and doubt in eyes. His eyes were

a war zone and his soul was hiding behind the tiredness and everything less in his eyes. I couldn't help but feel some type of emotions for him. I didn't know if it was love or pity.

"Don't feel pity for me, I hate that."

I swallowed and moved closer to him. Something in me just told me to hug him, just hug him. I wrapped my arms around him and he let me. After a while I tried to let go but he refused to let me go. We stayed in that position until I fell asleep.

His arms were perfectly wrapped around my body when I opened my eyes. He looked so peaceful and beautiful. The scar on the left side of his eye complimented his dark skin. His full lips and bushy eyebrows were perfect. Let's not even get to his nose and his clean beard, man everything about his face was perfect. I wiggled myself out of his hold and he groaned.

"Uyaphi?"

He asked with his eyes still closed.

"To pee."

I said and he gently let go. I rushed to the bathroom and released everything. I felt at peace, literally. I did the girly things and washed my hands after. I went back to the bedroom and he was still sleeping. Mans was not thinking about leaving ke tana.

"I just wish you could tell me more about you."

I whispered under my breath while looking at him. I opened my camera and stole a picture of him. He looked good on my phone too, bravo.

Chapter Nine

Monday

Work on a Monday was always a drag for me, I truly hated Mondays and on that particular Monday, I just wanted to be at home and cuddle with Mpilo till Thanos snapped us back to reality.

When he refused to leave after he had made himself at home, I didn't utter a word because his cuddles were to die for, literally. Catch a grenade for you, typa vibes.

He was long gone when I woke up and I was kinda sad, why? I also don't know.

"Awande please work on these accounts and hand them to Zolani when you are done with them."

Kristy said and I sighed. I hated the fact that he was my senior. The man was trash.

"Yes ma'am."

I said and she smiled before walking out of my office. Knock off time came and I was happy. The uber man did the things and got me home in no time. When I got home, I dragged myself to my bedroom and got undercovers.

I was dead tired.

**

I was woken up by a loud bang on my door and I cursed under my breath. I looked at the time and cursed some more. Whoever it was, surely was testing my beautiful soul. I slowly walked to the door and opened it. I was about to go off when he greeted me and I melted like ice on a sunny day.

"Hey"

There he was. Looking like a hot mess on the other side of my door and I just couldn't help but bite my lower lip. He looked sexy as fuck and the lioness in me was horny.

"Can I come in, please?"

The desperation in his voice was not so hard to miss. I nodded and locked the door behind him. He sank on the couch and buried his head on his hands. I didn't know what to do, he looked so lost and I on the other hand was a bad comforter. I was fucked, raw!

I sat down next to him and placed my hand on his back and a soft sob escaped his mouth. To say I was shocked would be an understatement, I was perplexed.

"What's wrong Mpilo?"

I asked trying my best to sound sympathetic, of which I was, at what, was what I didn't know.

"Everything baby."

Even with tears in his eyes, and pain in his heart, he still managed to call me baby and if that wasn't love, then I don't know what it was.

"Talk to me Mpilo, I can't help you if you don't talk to me. So please."

"It's my wife, company, everything!"

He looked at me and wiped his tears. He looked at me like he had realised that he shouldn't have come to me for emotional support which stung a bit. Yes, I was a bad comforter but hey, I was a very good listener.

"I'm sorry but I shouldn't have come here."

He said and tried to stand up but I grabbed his arm. He wasn't going anywhere without talking first.

"Sit down Mpilo. Let me get you something to drink then we will talk."

He nodded. I stood up and got him some water from the fridge. He

drank it and placed the bottle on the table before leaning back on the couch.

"Ngiyabonga."

He smiled and boom, silence. The throbbing of our heartbeats was the only sound that could be heard. After a while he cleared his throat and sat up as he rubbed his hands together.

"So when I was 23, I met this beautiful lady and I was immediately drawn into her. When I asked for her number, she blatantly refused but that fueled the fire in me even more. I asked around about her and luckily one of my friends knew one of her friends and that's how I was able to get her number. I wanted to call immediately but I stopped myself, and called her the next day. She was impressed with the fact that I had managed to get number even though she had refused to give it to me herself."

He gulped down the remaining water and I didn't move a bit. My ears were all in.

"So after a year of dating, I asked her to marry me. Actually in that year of dating

all my friends started distancing themselves from me and I just figured out that they were jealous so I let it slide. Anyway, on her birthday, the 4th of July, I asked her to marry me and she agreed. I was the happiest but most of the people around me were not but I ignored it. Anyway, we got married and that's when she changed. She became abusive, aggressive and very selfish. At that time, my company was not successful as it is today but she still demanded more and more money. She became a narcissist over night but still, I stayed with her hoping that she would change but oh boy, wasn't I wrong. She started going on trips for weeks without telling me and like the good husband that I was,

I forgave her everytime when she came back. The entire 4 years of my marriage was pure hell. Our parents tried to be the mediators after I reached out but still, she didn't stop. She was hell bent on destroying me and the last straw was when I found out that she had aborted 2 of my children and said nothing to me. I didn't even know that she was pregnant in the first place and if her clinic card hadn't fallen off from her bag, I wouldn't have found out. I confronted her about it and guess what, she blamed it all on me. She said that I wasn't financially stable to take care of babies yet when it came to her trips, she didn't notice all of that. I was hurt, so hurt that I distanced myself from everything. My company almost fell apart but my marriage did. That's when she decided to pack up her bags and leave. I begged her till my mouth got dry but still she left. I curled myself into a ball and cried till I couldn't no more. I called my mother sobbing and it didn't even take her a minute to get to me. She ran to me and gave me the biggest hug."

He stopped talking and I swallowed a big lump that was stuck on my throat. I was beyond shocked and I wouldn't have guessed that he had gone through such a traumatic experience if he hadn't told me. The pain in his voice was raw and unfiltered like all of it had happened yesterday. Mans was broken and I was even more perplexed at the fact that he still allowed his heart to love even after everything he had gone through. How? Was that even humanly possible?

"Awande, are you okay? Awande."

He called out my name, bringing me back to earth. He had a concerned look on his face. I lazily smiled and hugged him.

"Yeah I'm okay, are you?"

He smiled at me.

"No but I know that I will be okay."

I just kept on hugging him.

"So why isn't your divorce finalized already?"

I'm sorry but I had to know why he was still married to that monster, fucking Maleficent.

"Well after I managed to pick up all the pieces, she came back and begged me to take her back. When I refused, she opened a case of rape against me and when the police dropped the case due to insufficient evidence, she tried to kill me."

I choked on my saliva. I knew that women were evil but not to that extent.

"And now, she doesn't want to sign the divorce papers."

She truly was the devil's incarnate and her own special fire was waiting for her in hell. "Made fiery specially for you bitch!"

"Wait, is that even legal? Can't you drag her to court for that? Can't they force her?"

I was bombarding him with so many questions. I was a lay man when it came to that side of the Law.

"My lawyer said that we can't force her to sign the papers so we'll just have to wait for her majesty to sign them when she finally feels like it."

He chuckled and so did I. The sarcasm in his tone was highly detectable.

"Have you healed?"

I ask and he shook his head.

"So how come you can love me?"

My question probably sounded dumb but I needed to know. I didn't want him to string me along.

"That's just who I am and as much as she hurt me, I refuse not to give love a second try. When Sandiswa said she wanted to set me up with someone, I was like fuck no, but when she showed me your picture. I-I

just found myself looking at it over and over again. Your eyes, your beauty, the pose, your smile. I just knew you were made for me."

He sighed and took my hands into his.

"I know I'm coming with a lot of baggage to you and you probably also questioning my intentions and I don't blame you. Just know that they are pure. Ngiyakuthanda."

Yeses!

Chapter Ten

I don't know if I was stupid or just stupider but after spending so much time with Mpilo. I agreed to give him a chance and we were still on the honeymoon phase. It was fabulous!

"Yhuuuu sana, I can't believe that you are finally dating again."

Noma screamed and we all laughed.

"The Lord is coming for his people."

Zoe said and I rolled my eyes. They said it was a phase but I knew that deep down inside those hoery hearts of theirs, also knew it wasn't. I was balls deep into him and when I fell for someone, I fell hard.

"Can we stop talking about my handsome boyfriend please. I'm sure his ears are aching now because of you guys."

They laughed and clapped their hands.

"You are so inlove with this guy and I just hope that he is not another occupational hazard "Aka Thabang" yhuuuu."

Zoe said and looked at Noma. Iyoh I wasn't in the mood to play referee.

"Voetsek wena Zoe, sundiqhela ikaka."

Her cheeks turned red in a second and those were the consequences of her being light skinned. Zoe shrugged her shoulders and ignored her.

"Guys come on, it is a fucking weekend and y'all are busy barking at each like bulldogs. I didn't come here at Joe Cools to watch you scream at each other like the Kardashians. Yho! Animeni."

They both shrugged and downed their drinks. I don't even know how they shared their space when they fought so much. Tiring!

"Anyway I almost forgot, Sbani is coming back tomorrow."

Zoe chocked on her drink and we looked at her amused. Sbanisezwe was my brother, my parent's first born. He was a successful economist who was reserved and totally the opposite of Nkosinathi and Nhlanhla.

Phela those were womanisers and loudmouths, bloody chatterboxes.
He was my bestie.

"Oh, why?"

Zoe asked.

"Athi he missed us and also has some business to care of this side."

"Oh!"

Oh my poor friend was going through all of it, why? Well because they were once an item. I actually met Zoe through Sbani and all. So according to them the distance got too much for them and that's why they broke up but I never bought that shit. Something was fishy!
As I was about to say something, my phone rang and I excused my self.

"Hey baby."

I answered excitedly.

"Hey, ukuphi?"

"Joe Cools. What's up?"

"With who Awande?"

I sighed.

"Zoe and Noma. Sandi couldn't join us, happy?"

I said with an attitude.

"Sure, uzobuya nini?"

"Probably at 5 or 6."

"Okay, text me when you home. I love you."

I felt shivers down my spine and the way he said it made me see stars in broad daylight.

"I love you too."

I hung up and went back to my friends while smiling like a retard. It just felt right you know.

"Yoh, if you continue smiling like that over there engathi uwu Chucky. I

will pull your hair out."

Noma said and I giggled.

"Yoh kunini uwu moyi moyi lapho, hayi sengi right mina. I want to go home."

"But but..."

"No but, asambeni."

I tried to refuse and put my foot down but it was two against one. So unfair!

"Okay okay!"

We finished our drinks and left. We hugged and went our separate ways. I was pissed that I went back to my place earlier than I had anticipated. I wanted to let loose and dance on top of the tables with a savanna on top of my head. Ah!

I poured myself a glass of wine and relaxed. I called my man, and told him that I was home, In no time he was knocking on my door.

"You look beautiful."

He sat down on the couch and bit his lower lip. I felt different waterfalls down there.

"Ngiyabonga

can I get you anything?"

"No just come and sit next to me."

I did as I was told and his cologne sent me over the edge. I wanted to lick him up like a lollipop.

"How was your day?"

I asked trying to get my brain out of the gutter and he just wrapped his arms around me. I inhaled his scent and took it all in.

"It was okay I guess. I thought you were going to come back a little bit later."

I chuckled because it was all his fault.

"It's a long story baby, just hold me."

He groaned and tightened his hold against me. His hot breath against my forehead awoken everything in me that had been sleeping.

"Only that?"

I looked at him and he smiled. The man was testing me.

"Maybe a little kiss here and there."

I whispered and he laughed. He gently grabbed my face and made me look at him. He went in for a kiss and I found myself dancing on the milky way. His kisses were smooth and fine like wine. He made me sit on top of him while kissing me like the world was coming to an end.

He pulled out and his eyes were bloodshot red, I on the other hand was wet, weter, and wetttest!

"Fuck baby."

He said and I bit my lower lip. He had a firm grip on my ass.

"Wanna go all the way?"

I didn't even hide the fact that I was horny, very horny at that. Dammit I wanted him inside me asap.

"Are you sure?"

I nodded repeatedly and he kissed my neck. His hands went under my t-shirt and locate my boobs under the bra. He unhooked it and took it off along with my t-shirt. He stared at my boobs and chuckled.

"Beautiful."

He groaned and I threw my head back. His hard dick rubbing against my oasis wasn't making things any better for me either. He stood up and carried me to the bedroom. He gently placed me on the bed before taking off his t-shirt. His physique was too die for!

I murmured a little prayer as he took off my jeans and panties.

"Do you have any wrapper?"

He asked and I pointed at the drawer, I was tongue tied. He nodded and took off his pants. His nicely shaped dick sprung out. Holy cow! If it was possible, I was going to wear it as a necklace around my neck everyday.

He got on top of me and sucked my lips while his fingers found their way to my other lips. When his fingers made first contact with my clit, I released a soft moan against his lips. He stopped kissing me and stared at me, still rubbing his fingers on my clit. He slid two fingers inside me and I bit my lips hard.

"I love you."

I nodded and he increased the pace of his fingers inside me and I screamed.

"I love you."

He repeated his words.

"I..I looove you too."

He smiled and pulled his fingers out. He put them in his mouth and licked them, nasty.

He pushed my legs against my chest and positioned himself on my entrance. He wrapped his beautiful dick and pushed in. My eyes rolled to the back of my head and I was tighter than virgin Madonna. He kept on pushing in till I felt him all the way to my asparagus.

He started moving, throbbing, pounding and going deeper. I was sweating, screaming, moaning and digging my nails on his back. He went deeper and deeper.

"Oh fuck."

He said in his deep voice and I felt my soul leaving my body. I wanted to cry!

"Yes right there baby yess."

That fueled him and his pace increased. He went in faster and deeper, faster and deeper. I started shaking like a possessed woman and released my juices and he fucked me through my orgasm. The pleasure!

"Daddy's cumming home fuck."

He said as he moaned against my ear, sexy enough for me to cum again. He pulled out and made me lie on my stomach. Chest down, ass up, fuuuuck.

He went in and pounded me till I begged for him to stop.

"Take it."

I couldn't take it anymore. I screamed, begged and he fucked.

"Fucccck baby."

He said as he released his juices on the condom. I layed flatly and he fell on top of me. We stayed in that position as we tried to catch our breath. He kissed my back and removed himself from me. He took the wrapper off and we got undercovers. He started caressing my thighs and the rest was history, in black and white.

Chapter Eleven

Life was good!

My birthday was approaching and for the first time in such a long time, I was excited.

Anyway, I was at home, eating dinner and conversing with my people. With Sbani in town, it felt right to take a few days off at work. So I went home at Montclair where my parents lived just to spend more time with them.

"Usuyajola wena Awande?"

Nkosinathi asked out of the blue and I choked on my food as I coughed and held on to my chest.

"Haibo Awande u-right?" mom asked.

I kept on coughing and the boys laughed. You see, being the youngest and the only girl in the family had its pros and cons.

Cons-

You'd be enjoying your food at the dinner table with you family and boom, your brother ruins it by calling you out.

Pros-

None!

"Ngi right ma, angazi ukuthi ngixhelwe yini."

She passed me the water and gave Nkosi an evil eye. He laughed, he was the spawn of Satan.

"So wena uzosho nini ukuthi uZoleka is pregnant again huh bhuti omdala?"

I asked and he gave me the deadliest look. If looks were able to kill, I swear I would've been six feet under. Yes I was wrong for telling on him after I promised that I wouldn't but he started it. Our parents stopped eating and looked at him.

"Ave uyislima wena mfana."

My dad blurted out and I laughed. He turned to look at me and I immediately took back my laughter in the air and shoved it back down to my stomach.

"As I was saying, uyislima wena mfana. When are you going to marry that girl Nkosinathi? The poor child has been pooping out your babies like a machine. Awuyeke ukuba islima Nkosinathi futhi ngikutshela okokugcina namhlanje."

Nkosinathi swallowed and pinched me hard under the table. I screamed and everyone looked at me.

"U-Nkosinathi."

"Thula! Vele usuyajola wena Awande?"

Mom asked and I cursed under my breath. Bathong, I was old enough.

"Haibo, amatafula ashintshe nini abheka phezulu?"

I asked and Nhlanhla laughed.

Mom and dad looked at him and that's when he asked to be excused but the rants were like

"Sit your black ass down boy."

I giggled.

"Wena Nkosinathi

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you better do right by that girl soon. You have the money so you better marry the damn girl. I am not forcing you but think carefully mfana wami. She is beautiful, has a good job, respectful and eventually she will get tired of waiting for you. Ufunze bani ngobufebe vele?"

He eyed mom and she said "Haibo" in such a funny way that I just couldn't myself back.

"Kodwa ke mtshela baba."

Egcizelela umama.

"Wena Nhlanhla stop wasting money on parties and useless things.

Start saving for your future family or invest. Uyeke ukuzenza ubhuti

madlisa obhedayo. Awube inhlanhla, uyeke ukuzibizela amabhadi."

Nhlanhla rolled his eyes and in no time, a flip flop landed on his face.

Fuck, I wanted to laugh so bad again but I held it in. He couldn't believe

it! My mom was faster than any other mom on planet earth when it

came to throwing flip flops on us.

"Wena Sbani, just come out of the closet already mfana. No one is

going to hold your sexuality against you. To us it doesn't matter

whether you like men or women, you will always be isibani sethu, our

light."

Dad said and we all looked at Sbani who looked down.

"What?"

I asked hoping for answers. My brother was gay and I didn't even know,

what?

"Nywat ini wena? You better invite that boyfriend of yours to dinner

soon. I want to meet the man that's dating my daughter. Kuyokusiza

ukuthi umelokuhle Awande"

He gently said and I internally rolled my eyes.

"Yebo baba."

He looked at all of us and chuckled.

"Mkami asambe siyocambalala."

He stood up.

"Yebo myeni wami and oh, you kids better clean up and wash the

dishes."

Mom said before they retreated to their bedroom. After they left, no

one even tried to move a finger, we were defeated.

"Wow!"

Nhlanhla said after a while and we all laughed.

"Yoh!"

Sbani said and we laughed again. I looked at Sbani who quickly got up and went to the kitchen.

"You can run but you can't hide."

I shouted.

"Bitch please!"

He shouted and we all chuckled. His gayness was slowly creeping out of the closet. After we had cleaned the Queen's palace, we all retreated to bed.

So much for a nice dinner with the fam!

Chapter Twelve

A week later, I returned to work and life was still good. My friendships were blossoming and my relationship with Mpilo was still intact. What I loved the most about him was the fact he didn't mind letting me in but I on the other hand, was the secrets holder. He wasn't pushy so that made me relax a little bit. As I was getting ready for work, I received a call from an unknown number and I picked it up.

"Awande Dlamini speaking hello."

I answered with so much confidence and the person on the other side just laughed.

"Aren't we too confidence this morning?"

It was a woman and her tone screamed "I'm bitchy and rude."

"Who is this?"

"Mrs Buthelezi honey."gf

I shook my head and hissed.

"What do you want and where did you get my number?"

She laughed and damn, she had the most annoying high pitched laugh ever.

"I'm a very resourceful woman sweetie but I didn't call you to tell you that. I..."

I cut her off

"So why did you call me?"

"I'll be straightforward bitch, stay away from my husband if you know whats good for you. Siyezwana?"

I laughed, like genuinely laughed at her. Athi "my husband" I don't know want she was smoking but it was too strong for her.

"What's funny?"

She was irritated, I could tell.

"You are, who the fuck do you think you are? Ordering me around? Soze! Angikusabi mina sisi, ngizokunyomfa ungakholwa. Stop calling me and go to Point Road where your kind is, tshini."

She tried to say something back but I dropped the call and blocked the number.

I called Mpilo immediately and told him what had just happened and he was shocked. He kept on saying sorry baby and that irritated me even further.

"I will fix this, I swear. I honestly don't know where she got your number from but I promise you, I will get to the bottom of this."
He sounded so genuine and that calmed down the storm that was brewing inside my heart.

"Its not your fault love and don't worry, I'll be okay."

"I'll come at your place later on. Ngiyakuthanda Sibalukhulu."

I blushed.

"Ngiyakuthanda nami bab' Buthelezi."

He laughed.

"Haibo Wande musa ukungigugisa."

We both laughed. I truly loved that man and wasn't about to let that woman spoil it, no no.

The devil was a big fat liar.

...

I go to work and did what I was paid to do. On my lunch break, Sandi invited her self over and brought me lunch.

"Ufunani?"

I asked and she giggled.

"Haibo nothing, I'm just spoiling my friend. Early birthday celebration vibezz you know."

I smiled but I wasn't buying it. I knew her too damn well.

"Sandiswa ufunani?"

"Okay okay, please be my maid of honor"

I arched my brow.

"Why me? What about Pearl, your childhood friend? You know."

"Pearl is in Cape Town and we no longer that close close. Please Wande you are my first and last choice, please tog."

She did that cute face of hers with sparkling eyes that she usually did when she wanted something from Lunga. I had always judged and called him weak but now that it was used on me, I understood why he agreed to whatever she wanted everytime. It was just too innocent and cute.

"Okay okay Sandi, I will be your maid of honor but just know that I will not be your slave mogirl."

She laughed.

"Oh please, everything has been taken care of. All that's left is for you to fit your dress along with my bridesmaids, who are Nomza

Zoe and Lolo"

"Perfect."

She was happy and I was there for it. She deserved all the nice tings in life. I told her about the call I received from 'Mrs Buthelezi' and she was also shocked.

"I personally don't know her sis but from what Lunga has told me about her, all I can say is be careful. That woman is walking snake."

I sighed.

"Don't think about it too much okay. She's probably all bark but no bite."

She said as she hugged me and I nodded. She left and I got back to

work.

...

I was jamming to Bussit by Ari Lenox while sipping on some chardonnay. After such a hectic day, I deserved a little TLC. I opened the green app to check what's up, and nothing exciting was up. I replied to my friend's messages and a text from Mpilo came through.

"Please open up, I'm outside."

I excitedly stood up and went to open the door. There he was, looking dangerously bad, sexy and gorgeous all the same damn time.

I pulled him in and hugged him for dear life. He closed the door with his foot.

"Sawubona sthandwa sami."

I melted.

"Sawubona."

He smiled and cupped my face. He stared at me like he was searching for something.

"Are you okay?"

He asked as he let go of me and locked the door.

"I am now."

I bit my lower lip and he groaned.

"Stop doing that Awande."

"Stop doing what?"

I asked innocently as he walked over to me and I stepped back till my back was against the cold wall. He gently pinned my hands against the wall and rubbed himself on me. His cologne was hypnotizing.

"Stop seducing me with those lips of yours."

I laughed and kissed his cheek. I was dickmitised!

He kissed me gently with my hands still pinned against the wall. I so wanted to touch him, stroke his dick and shit.

"Mpilo."

I said in between the kiss and he murmured a "mmh"

"I want you."

He pulled out of the kiss and looked at me. His face was glowing, and there was nothing but love in his eyes. For a man who had been through what he went through, he eyes still contained so much love. It was mesmerizing.

"I'm yours baby."

Modimo! I wanted to do double backflips like Angela Rice.

He picked me up and I wrapped my legs around his waist. He indulged on my neck, making me feel some tupa way. My cold hand went under his underwear and touched his bulge. He groaned like a wounded animal. I jerked it up and down and he started panting.

"I'm sorry about.."

I placed my finger on his lips and sealed it with a kiss. I wasn't about to let that woman ruin my night of pure pleasure.

"Couch or table counter?"

"Here baby here."

He rubbed my clit under the dress. Good thing, I wasn't wearing any panties or else, they would've been on the way. Fuck em panties! I moaned and unbuckled his belt and pulled down his pants with his help.

"Condom?"

He said and I sighed. Fuck, they were too far.

"Let's do it without it today."

I said and the look on his face went from "ah yes" to "fuck no!"

He put me down and pulled up his pants.

"What the fuck just happened?"

I thought to myself as I pulled down my dress. I followed him to the couch and he pulled me into his lap as he sat down. He sighed.

"There's something that I have to tell you."

He said with a straight face and my insides started turning.

"You are HIV+, aren't you?"

I blurted it out and regretted it as soon as the words left my mouth. He looked at me amused. Not that I would have loved him any less, I was just curious.

"No I'm clean but I don't do sex without a condom."

"Why?"

He rubbed his chin.

"Because my ex wife once gave me a nasty STI and ever since that, I have been skeptical about doing it without a condom not that I have been doing it with anyone."

I kind understood where he was coming from but come on, what happened to giving me the benefit of the doubt. I wasn't his damn narcissistic ex wife.

"You don't trust me Mpilo, is that it? You think I'll also cheat on you and give you an STI? Is that it?"

I was probably blowing things out of proportion but I was kinda hurt. I was nothing like his wife!

"No no baby, that's not what I meant. I just want us to be safe that's all."

Yho! Didn't he know that sex was nicer when it was done raw.

"Okay, how about mina nawe go and test for every possible STI that exist and all the works?"

He looked at me.

"You'd that for me?"

His face lightened up and I nodded.

"Yes but for now, we can use the condom. It is fine."

He gave me a big smile and thousand kisses.

"I'd love that, just say when and I'll be there."

I pulled him into my arms and hugged him.

"Now can we fuck each other like war."

I whispered in his ear and he laughed.

"You love sex too much baby yeses."

I blushed, it had been a while and sex with him was fabulous.

"Only with you."

He blushed but quickly covered it with a grin.

"Did you just blush Mpilo?"

He shook his head and I laughed. Wow! A whole likkle ngwana like me was making a grown man blush, I was proud.

Chapter Thirteen

Grow through what you go through!

Saturday- 25th of April

My phone rang and I answered it. I was in the mood to celebrate my birthday that year, it was long overdue.

"Wow you answered this year."

Mom said and I chuckled. Miracles bazalwane miracles.

"New year, new me sisi."

She laughed.

"Are you okay? Do you want us to come over?"

"No mama, I'm fine. Don't worry about me please."

"How can I not worry about you Melokuhle but I'll take your word for it. Happy birthday ke."

I giggled.

"Say that with more oomph mama yhoo."

She kept quiet for a second.

"Does this mean that you are ready to let go.. of you know?"

She asked and I cleared my throat. Yes, I was ready to let go of all the pain and hatred that I harboured in my heart. I was finally allowing myself to grow through what I went through.

"Yebo ma, I'm tired of not celebrating my special day because of those monsters. I'm a strong woman who went through a traumatic experience but still managed to come out at the top. If that isn't strong than hayi angazi."

I was done with feeling sorry for myself and I no longer saw myself as the victim but as the conqueror. I conquered!

"Yho I'm so happy sisi, and one step at a time neh. No need to rush anything, anyway you'll receive your gift later this week. Just don't rush

it sisi and please be safe please."

I sighed and assured her that I was going to take care of myself. I understood why she was worried, my pain was always going to be her pain.

"So how much?"

I asked and she laughed. Oh my mom's beautiful laugh always made my day.

"Wagcina kuqala sisakupha imali, weee uyasebenza phela manje haaaa, singashona."

I screamed gore!

"Yhuuu mama ave usu stingy but ke it is fine ngizocela ubaba wami."

"Goodluck ke lapho."

We both laughed because we knew that my dad was stinger than the word stingy.

"I love you sisi, have a good day and be safe."

She emphasized on the "safe" part.

"Will do mama, ukhonze, bye"

I said and hung up. My parents were the LOML, Imfao.

.....

I checked messages on that sometimes annoying green app just to pass time and people were posting me left, right and center. Even that big head Zolani!

"Happy birthday MaDlamini." he wrote.

I chuckled because he was testing me.

"Very funny."

I replied to his status.

"Why?"

He replied

"Because it just is!"

I replied

"Weird"

He replied and I laughed. I don't even know why we still had each other's numbers. Yena he was a good man shame, his problem was his whorey heart. Not my cup of tea!

My stomach started grumbling as I was still busy on my phone and I laughed.

"Oh you hungry aren't you? Aww mommy is about to feed you now now."

I brushed it and laughed at myself because I sounded dumb and crazy but that was just me. I dragged myself to the kitchen and made some omelettes. They sucked! I ended up eating Cheerios with a lot of milk, real nice.

A knock on my door disturbed me and I cursed the day door were invented.

"Happy birthday MaDlamini."

Mpilo said and kissed me on my forehead as he came in. I looked at him and behind him but dololo gift.

"Thank you baby but iphi I-gift?"

He laughed.

"Eish I knew that I was forgetting something."

He smacked his forehead and I scoffed.

"I'm sorry but I'll buy you some cornetto ice cream at the garage. It is your fav right?"

I couldn't believe him.

"Yekela!"

I was hella annoyed and he was busy staring me like I was the statue of

liberty with that million dollar smile of his plastered across his face.

"I hope you don't have any plans today. I want yo..."

He couldn't finish his sentence because my friends just budged into my place without knocking and started singing for me. He looked at me and I looked at them. They sure knew how to ruin the moment.

"Happy birthday bitch."

Noma said as she pulled me into her arms. She squeezed and kissed my cheeks repeatedly.

"Stoop it tog."

I giggled like a little baby. Their eyes finally landed on Mpilo who was leaning against the kitchen counter. My poor baby was just looking at us but he looked so cute though.

They cleared their throat and laughed. Oh my God, they were embarrassing me.

"You must be Mpilo, finally we meet."

Zoe said with a straight face and extended her hand to him. Her resting bitch face was on another level and I laughed internally! He didn't even look intimidated not even one bit. He smiled and shook her hand. He was killing her with kindness, no I meant to say killa smile.

"Well I'm Noma, awusemhle."

He smiled at her as he shook her hand too and I side eyed her. She was making my muntu blush and hey that was my job.

"Unjani Mpilo?"

Sandi asked and they hugged. Oh wow!

"Ngiyaphila sisi wena unjani?"

"Ngiyaphila nami. So everything sorted?"

He nodded. I looked at them and they both ignored me. Wow!

"What are you two talking about?"

"Nothing baby, anyway let me leave you ladies and it was really nice meeting you. Wanna walk me out babe?"

I nodded. We walked out of the building and got into his car.

"You really thought I'd come to you empty handed on your birthday nokwenza?"

I blushed and looked down. He laughed as he searched for something at the backseat.

"Here."

He said as he sat still and gave me a little box that was beautiful wrapped.

"What's this Mpilo?"

I was so curious.

"Well open it MaDlamini."

I wasted no time. There was a key inside and I looked at him confused.

"Whose key is this?"

He laughed and shook his head

"That is the key to my place and it is yours now."

I was so confused. A fucking key for my birthday.

"You gonna make me laugh baby, don't look so confused. See you when I see you."

He kissed me before I got out of his car. He waved his hand as he drove off. Oh my lort, I was so confused. I had a whole fucking key to his place, that was huge for me. The girls started screaming as I closed the door.

"Oh my lort, now that I've seen him in person ngithi waze wamuhle umfana wabantu."

Zoe said and they all agreed.

"Please don't break his heart."

That was Sandi and I looked at her. Hehaha I didn't know that I was famous for breaking hearts?

"Haibo what do I know about breaking hearts?"

They all looked at me and rolled their eyes.

"What?"

I laughed.

"Remember long legs?"

Noma asked and we all chortled. That guy had the longest legs ever and he thought he could kick it with me, asoze. I swear he would've fitted khaxa on Ripley's believe it or not.

"You shattered the poor guy's heart."

Sandi said and I laughed.

"Haibo he was so not my type."

He was kinda cute yena

I won't lie but my bed was just too short for him.

"Liar liar, pants on fire. It was definitely because of his long legs."

They laughed again. Okay okay maybe.

"Haibo did you not see them kodwa guys, yhoo? A whole Eiffel Tower."

They were on the floor.

"Hayi suka, anyway we are here to pamper you, take care of you, feed you..."

"But not dickically because only that fine man can do that."

Noma shouted and we laughed. The girl was so forward.

"Yhuu as I was saying before maqinas disturbed me, we are here to feed you, and be your slaves for the day."

Sandi said and wrapped her arms around my neck. I loved the fact that they loved me so much. Zoe looked at me and I knew that look very

well.

"I'm fine Zoe, you can stop looking at me like that now."

I said before she could even ask and they all kept quiet.

"We wanted to take you out but we can stay in if you don't feel like going out. We will understand."

She finally said and I sighed.

"Zoe I'm fine and I would love that. So can y'all make that happen? Yeah or nah?"

"Ofcourse we can and we will. Wait what's in that box. Oh shit, an engagement ring already??"

Noma asked and I chuckled. I didn't even want to answer her, I gave her the box and she opened it.

"A key, the fuck?"

"That's exactly what I said."

Sandi looked at me and grinned.

"And then wena? Why are you looking at me like a Nymphomania looks at dildos at an adult store?"

She giggled.

"My lips are sealed. Anyway, what are you going to wear ma'am since we going clubbbing?"

She changed the topic hehehe. Bitch knew something and she chose to leave me hanging.

"Wande isn't that your phone ringing?"

Noma asked.

"Eish, ayisekude."

I ran to the bedroom and picked it up. It was my brothers video calling me.

"Presents guys."

That was my hello and they all shook their heads.

"Check your messages"

Sbani said and I didn't waste no time. Oh my God, they had deposited R15 000 to my account. I screamed so loud.

"Hawe ngaze nganithanda. Thank you so much bo bhuti bami."

"Suka, I could've used that on one of my parties, but here I am investing it on you. Mese ethi ubaba ngiwu bhuti madlisa obhedaya."

Nhlanhla sighed and we all laughed so hard. Nhlanhla was such a clown sometimes.

We talked for a while before saying our goodbyes. I went back to the girls with a huge smile on my face.

"Ngicela nithi hooray!"

I said and they said "Zozozo".

We all laughed.

...

Well after they pampered me, fed me, did my hair and all the works. We went out and guess who was the chauffeur, drum roll please, da da rich man Lunga. He picked us up in a whole Limousine and he also looked super dapper. He sent an E-wallet of R4000 with "Buy Wine" as a reference. My Lort, I was rolling in money. It was only fitting for me to wear izaza because wow, the sun was shining too bright and so were the Randelas on my bank account. Ncaaa yayithini I-richness emntaneni!

"Where to Ladies?"

He asked looking at us through the mirror.

"Ballito baby."

Sandi said and he nodded. The ride was fun, we were drinking champagne and dancing to amapiano the entire time. We were living

the life darling!

We got to Ballito and Sandi asked him to drop us at..... The place was packed but guess what, the VIP was reserved for me. I felt like royalty, a whole Queen Elizabeth but just more prettier.

It was decorated so nicely and I felt tears threatening my eyes. Oh my Lort, I was so happy.

"Wawa please don't you dare. You'll ruin your makeup."

Zoe said and I batted my eyelashes to stop myself from crying. A waiter came to us and asked what we'd like to drink.

"Bring us a bottle of Hennessy and chardonnay boo."

Noma said and the waiter nodded.

"Wow y'all want me to crawl back to my place today?"

I asked after the waiter left and they laughed. My favourite song came through and I lost my shit.

"Uzongikhumbula mase kwehla kwenyuka, uzosisola bazoku hurta usajola..."

We all sang along while dancing.

Chapter Fourteen

I was blindfolded and tipsy. I could hear the girls whispering and laughing behind me and Lunga, who was holding my hand tightly.... Okay a door was opened and we got in, and everyone said surprise. Lunga removed the blindfold from my eyes and I got the shock of my life. Mpilo was in a tuxedo and four more other people who looked like him were standing behind him. I didn't need my glasses to see that it was family. He saw that I was panicking and took me into his arms.

"Relax"

He whispered to my ear as he hugged me.

"What have you done?"

I whispered back and he laughed. He broke the hug and took my hand into his.

"Mama no baba, this is the woman that I have been telling you about, Awande Dlamini"

He said and his dad smiled. His aura was so calm.

"Sawubona"

His mom said coldy and I rolled my eyes internally. I was so not in the mood for drama.

"Sawubona ma, ninjani?"

I answered her and she scanned me, up and down, up and down. Yho, there was something about her eyes that made me want to pee myself.

"Siyaphila, what are you intentions with my son?"

Haibo, I was gobsmacked. I looked at him and he laughed nervously.

"Ma this is not the time or place please"

I looked at my friends who looked like they were ready for war and I chortled.

"Can we all sit down please, I'm hungry. Akuse tense apha"

Noma said and we all chuckled. She was drunker than the rest of us.

"Sure"

Mpilo said and led us to a nicely decorated long table. It was so beautiful! He pulled out a chair for me and I thanked him. Even when tipsy, I still had manners lmao.

His mom looked at me and I looked at Sandi who was too busy giggling at something that Lunga said. Noma and Zoe were also busy giggling at something too. I sighed, ah I was all alone.

"Say what you'd like to say Mrs Buthelezi. Let's hear it"

I said and everyone at the table went quiet. I was tired of her looking at me with those scary eyes.

"Well now that you've given me the opportunity, I'll ask again, what are your intentions with my son?"

Mpilo tried to say something but I hushed him. I really wanted us to have that conversation.

"Intentions? I don't even know the real meaning of intentions but what I can say is that I love your son very much. If I could put him in my bag and be with him every single minute of the day, trust me I would. That's how much I love him."

He squeezed my thigh under the table and I gently yanked his hand away. Me and him still needed to discuss his definition of surprise. It was toooo mush!

"Listen, I don't mean to be rude Awande but my son has been through a lot and he doesn't ne..."

I cut her off.

"But so have I Mrs B and that's part of life, we can't run away from it. Life give us pain but it also give us happiness. I strongly believe that we grow through what we go through. Our misfortunes molds, shape and

help us to become the best versions of ourselves. Would you believe me if I told you that I haven't had the energy to celebrate my birthday for the past 3 years because of what happened to me on my 20th birthday until today?"

I chuckled going down memory lane.

"Look Mrs B, today was very different for me. Today I chose to let go of something that had been stopping me from living my life to the fullest, something that had been stopping me from thanking God for adding another number on my life span. Yes your son went through a shitty thing but he is really trying to move forward. Oops excuse my language but he is. So please let him, I can't promise that I won't hurt him but please believe me when I tell you that it won't be done intentionally. Maybe I'll hurt him when I'm about to give birth to our babies, you know, hold his hand tighter than I should."

He chuckled but she kept a straight face. Oh come on!

"What I am trying to say is, I'm not his ex wife and I will never be. So please don't punish me for her sins. Oh believe me when I say that if I ever meet her in person I'll beat her on your behalf."

I said and she finally laughed.

"Your son has made me realise that I don't have to sink to the bottom of the ocean and watch the world as I fall. That I don't have to isolate myself because I'm hurt. People who love me will always be waiting near the shore and every once in a while, it's okay to come to the surface to breathe. We all need air to grow. We all need need an ocean to let go, but it's people that loves you who will always save you. He is the reason why I chose to let go of everything. He didn't even realise that he was healing me when he was speaking. I love the fact that he doesn't find shame in opening up about his past, something I find very

hard to do. I also get scared just like him you know but one thing I will not do, is burn myself just to impress you Mrs B. My parents taught me better than that and as much as I love your son, I will not cut down my branches just to help you grow yours Mrs B. All I want to do is hold the light and watch him shine. He deserves all the good things that this world has to offer."

I said looking at him. He was crying! My baby was crying but not like a "Yih Yih Mama Yhoo" cry but a more like "Ah baby staaap" cry you know.

"I love you baby."

He said and his mom got up from her seat. She walked to my side and I quickly prepared an RKO internally but she only pulled me up from my chair and hugged me. I was so disappointed but there was still Mrs Buthelezi junior in the picture and she was definitely going to be TKO'd. Her time was coming.

"Welcome to the family sisi."

She said and hugged me tighter. I was really happy to become a part of her 'family'

"Okay okay, can we get drunk or cut the cake now please."

Zoe said and we all laughed.

"Before we do that, baby meet my younger siblings, Snothando and Luvuyo."

"You surely took your time shame."

We all stood up and exchanged hugs. We didn't even warn each other, it just came naturally and it was such a beautiful scene. After it was all said and done, we sat down and began conversating again.

"You have no idea how much you have made me happy today and this feels too good to be true. I sometimes feel like I don't deserve you."

He said and looked down. He looked like he was about to cry again and that broke my heart.

"You know it is okay for a relationship to be too good to be true, it is called "Healthy". Just stick with me child, we about to go on an adventure of a lifetime."

He smiled and I smiled back.

"Awande if I may ask, what were you talking about?"

I sighed. It was about time I told him.

"I'll tell you everything later baby, you know during pillowtalk."

We laughed and kissed.

"Get a room you two."

Snothando said. Hayi she was too forward for my liking.

"Mind your business wena."

Mr B said and Snothando looked down. Eshé! Mr B was fixing the country.

"Okay may I have your attention please."

Sandi said as she stood up and we all gave her what she asked for, yes attention.

"As we all know, today is Wawa's birthday and the Lord knows that I have been waiting patiently for this day. Let me tell you all about my dear friend here. You see Awande is the sweetest person that I have ever met and she's the best thing that happened to me in Varsity besides Lunga over here."

I looked at her and chuckled. Even on my birthday!

"Ah even on my birthday, you steal my spotlight."

I sulked and he stucked out his tongue at me. Lmao!

"Sorry Wawa hawu. Anyway I remember the first time I met her, she was in her short and t-shirt listening to J Cole's love yours. I couldn't

believe that such a beautiful girl was going to be my roommate and at that time I was so insecure about myself. I just decided right there and then that we were not going to get along but didn't she prove me wrong guys. She literally killed me with kindness till I melted like ice on sunny day. I remember how she'd buy toiletries, food and clothes for me when my bursary was giving me problems. She'd take the little that she had and share it me. She used to say "Don't thank me hawu, I'm just doing what is best for the universe" and I'd be like what is this girl talking about. Ubani nje futhi u-Universe?"

She said and we laughed so hard. Yey, Sandi was a farm juliya shame when I met her but I wouldn't have changed her for anything. Her innocence and purity had a huge effect on me.

"Awande baby girl, I love you so much. You have been there for me through it all and I just want to wish you all the best in life. You deserve all the good things that this world has to offer. Don't ever let anyone change you. You are a rare diamond baby."

She said and blew me a kiss.

"So let's all eat, drink and celebrate Wande's day. Even though, it is almost 9 now but it is still her day."

"Haibo the night is still young shame."

Noma shouted and we all agreed. Food was served and we all digged in.

"To Awande."

Lunga raised his glass and we raised ours as well.

"Cheers to me and gifts are still welcomed."

They all laughed and I smiled. It was the best birthday ever and I wouldn't have had it any other way. Mpilo squeezed my hand under the table and I placed my head on his shoulder.

"Ngicela I-sexual healing."

I whispered and he chuckled softly.

"Anything you want my queen. Use me, I'm yours."

He whispered and I blushed.

Chapter Fifteen

Sunday

Pink Sweats's 17 played gently in the background as his perfected slow strokes dug deep into my heaven. Our souls were one!

"Ngiyakuthanda Ndlovukazi."

He stared into my eyes and I could see thousand years in his. Just like magnet, we were striking and his kisses were so sweet.

"Ngiyakuthanda nami."

He went in deeper and deeper all the way to my self esteem. I felt my soul leave my body and that's when I understood what Jhene Aiko meant when she said "That dick made my soul smile". I was holding on to him for dear life. Panting, sweating, moaning, groaning, I was a mess. With every stroke, my love for him doubled, I was into deep.

"Cum for me baby."

I screamed so loud and started shaking. He sexed me through my orgasm and came after.

We layed on our backs while panting, trying to catch our breath. He held my hand and I brought my body closer to his. His cuddles were the best.

"I can't wait for us to do those blood tests, I'm tired of using rubber."

He said and I agreed. Yes, we were still going through with the idea of having our bloods tested for any possible STIs. I knew that I was clean but I wanted him to have some peace of mind.

"I also can't wait but not using rubber will also bring us a tinny problem."

He looked at me with an "explain now" face.

"What I am trying to say is, I'm not on any contraceptive and I'm not a fan so your pull out game better be on another level mfethu."

He brushed my cheek and laughed.

"Pull out for what? I think I'm ready for a mini me that will have your beautiful eyes."

Oh come on! I partly closed my eyes and he chortled.

"And what if I'm not ready for some consequences? Plus my parents would kill me."

"Not if we get married first."

My jaw dropped to the floor. I was too young for marriage haibo but at the same time, I was ready for any type of commitment with him.

Confusing, I know.

"Aren't we too young for marriage kodwa and you still have a pending divorce babe."

He sighed and I could see the disappointment in his eyes.

"Konje."

I chuckled and got on top of him. Fuck his bed was so comfy.

"I was thinking and I'm sorry if you think I'll be meddling in your business but I was thinking of having a woman to woman conversation nesidala sakho. Maybe she'll listen to me, I don't know."

He shook his head.

"No Awande, I don't want you anywhere near that woman. She's poison and I'll take care of it okay."

Ouch! He indirectly told me to fuck off from his business.

"Okay, I was just trying to help."

I said and laid on top of him. He wrapped his arms around me and sighed.

"I know but let me take care of this. I promise you I will."

I wondered how because he was already at his ex wife's mercy.

"I appreciate the fact that you want to look out for me but I'll take of

this in my own way."

Agh and there I was thinking that we were a team. A-team nokwenza and I was even ready to get Mr T's haircut.

"Okay."

I said and kept my mouth shut after that.

I don't know when I fell asleep but I woke up alone in his bed. I stretched my arms and got out of bed. I wore his t-shirt before making my way to his kitchen, which was stunning. The white built in cupboards complimented the white tiles on the floor.

"Hey, where is your family?"

I asked as I sat down next to him on the couch in his huge beautiful lounge. He was watching football. Women's worst enemy!

"They left this morning, you were still asleep. I didn't want to wake you up."

Yhuuu the izinhloniz. His mom must've thought I was a lazy girl but come on, I was recuperating and Oh lort, her son woke me up in such a nice way.

"Okay."

I was still kinda mad that he told me to butt out of his business. I nodded and gulped down my water.

"What time is it and what would you like to eat for supper?"

I asked.

"It is just after 3PM and babe are you mad at me?"

He turned off the tv and gave me all his undivided attention. I shook my head and looked away.

"I know you are and I'm sorry."

He pulled me closer to him and kissed my neck. He was so turning me on. I removed his hands off of me and looked at him.

"Let me go take a shower so I can cook for you before I leave."

Yhuu, I feared the day my parents found out that I was cooking for a man that didn't even give them a chicken for a lobola. He pinned me on the couch and got on top of me.

"I'm sorry if it seemed like I wasn't appreciative but Awande I know my ex wife. She's too vile and selfish. She won't listen to anything you have to say."

He said.

"It's fine, you know your wife better than I do right."

He sighed.

"Trust me on this.."

"Okay, can I go take a shower now."

He nodded and I stood up. He buried his face in his hands and I felt bad for even bringing her up. I exhaled and wrapped my arms around his neck.

"I'm sorry sthandwa sami, I didn't mean to be pushy. I know that you can handle this, I'm sorry."

He pulled me to his lap and smiled.

"Ngiyabonga and it is fine. Asambe sogeza, we reek of sex."

I bit my lower lip and he laughed.

"No Awande, I'm tired. Ngikhathele!"

I laughed.

"But I didn't say anything nje sthandwa sami"

I said as I wiggled my ass to the bathroom.

...

I was waiting for Mpilo to finish dressing up so he could take me to my place when Nkosinathi called.

"Where the fuck are you. I just asked your Bab'Mdlalose here if you were in and he says you didn't come home last night. Our parents couldn't get ahold you and they are worried Wawa."

Bab'Mdlalose needed to be fired honestly. He was too honest for my liking. I could even imagine the headlines "They fired him for being too honest" lmao."

"The last time I checked I was 25, old enough to push out a whole human being out of my vagina. Can y'all relax?"

I asked and rolled my eyes.

"Eww fuck you Wande, what the fuck? Get here quickly before I tell mom and dad mxm."

He dropped the call and I laughed.

"What's funny?"

Mpilo asked as he appeared from the passage and he looked so yummy. Lust!

"Who told you can go outside looking as good as you looking all nice and sexy the way look going outside. The nerve, the audacity, the goal mmh!"

I asked and bit my lower lip. He blushed so hard making me cum.

"How dare you make me cum without any penetration. You should receive life with no chance of getting parole for looking this good damn."

He laughed and I walked up to him.

"Let me rip these clothes off of you with my teeth. I'll buy them after I'm done with you rha."

His smile reached his eyes and it warmed my heart.

"Baby."

That's all he managed to say. I threw my hands in the air.

"I surrender Lord. I surrender to this heavy handsomeness. Please don't ever let my eyes feast on anyone else."

He laughed taking my hand into his and kissed me deeply.

"Shit my brother is waiting for me."

I remembered and said in between the kiss and he stopped kissing me.

"What?"

I gave him an innocent look and nodded.

"Asambe ke."

Shame my poor baby suddenly looked constipated. His car was parked outside and not in garage so I was able too look at the outside view of his house and damn, it was perfect. I mean duh, it was in Ballito for goodness sake. The high walls, white picket fence, all the works. Yhoo! I texted my friends on our WhatsApp group and thanked them for everything they did for me as he focused on the road

Aw: Thank you guys for everything♥

Zoe: You are welcome baby. Yho ithini ibhabhalas emntaneni😬

Sandi: Haibo ngiyashauna guys. I'm never drinking alcohol again. Budala kunami😬?

Noma: Mina ngithi ngiyofela empini shame?? asoze ngabuyeka.

Awa:?? Guys stop it, y'all are killing me.

Sandi: How come you okay wena Wawa yhoo?

Awa: Nginendoda phela mina and in-laws that love me😬

All of them: Wow??????

Awa: Vele?😬

Noma: Gerare here. talking about your in-laws. Yhoo his mom is scary as fuck!

Zoe: Yamkhumbula lowamama waku Bizo. Ncamashi no mom in-law wakho. Scary shit!

Awa:👉👉👉👉👉👉👉👉 Yoh I givaphu. May Mpilo never see this because
wow.

San&Noma: 👉👉👉👉 Yoh Zoe, you'll burn in hell sisi.

Awa: Yoh it is a sunday for goodness sake, awube nice Zoe👉. I love her
ke kodwa, she reminds me of mom. Anyway I'll text you later guys. This
one over here is now looking at me like I'm crazy angaze angibuze. I
love you guys👉👉👉👉❤️

Zoe: We love you too Bizo Jr. 😊👉

Noma: lyoh animeni👉👉

Sandi: We love you too ngane enendoda nomamezala waku Bizo. Yhoo
Chile 👉❤️❤️

Awa: Y'all are rude. Fuck off👉👉👉👉

I laughed and turned off my phone. I looked at Mpilo who was looking
straight ahead.

"Lord let me keep this one."

I whispered and looked outside of the window. Durban looked beautiful
as always.

....

After a while, the car came to a halt. I glanced at him and he was
panicking.

"Are you you okay?"

I chuckled.

"Yeah I'm okay."

I nodded and we got out of his car. We made our way into the building
and there was Nkosi with his bestie talking and laughing!

We walked over to them and greeted. Bab'Mdlalose excused himself
and Nkosi looked at Mpilo. I snapped my fingers in front of his face like
Thanos for some attention.

"Yini wena, can't you see men are talking here?"

Nkosi said and clenched his jaws. Talking? Where? I was so confused because they were literally just staring at each other, probably waiting to see who will cave in first.

"You'll find me in my place when you are done with your little staring contest."

I said and climbed the stairs leaving them there. After a while, they laughed their way into my lounge. I was even more confused.

"And then?"

I asked and they both looked at me.

"I'm so hungry sis, why don't you make me that nice beef curry and rice of yours."

Nkosi said as he threw himself on my couch.

"Excuse me? Aren't you the chef?"

He rolled his eyes.

"Yekela vele upheka kabi. Mpilo over here tells me that you have met his mother already and also showed her ukuthi ubani imbozaaaa. I'm so proud."

I looked at Mpilo and wondered when and how did their conversation get so deep.

"Ufunani Nkosi kodwa?"

"Ususuthi u5k wami phela ingakho usukhohlwa nokukuthi ngimdala kunawe."

Wow! Mpilo and I just bursted out laughing. My brother was an idiot, I swear.

"Chabo bhuti. Okay I'm sorry, can I get you anything to drink or eat?"

"Bekumele ubuze lokho kuphela kwasekuqaleni."

I rolled my eyes and everything me internally. Even my heart rolled!

"Yebo nkosi yami."

I did a dramatic bow and waited for him to decided and Mpilo was just having the time of his life.

"Ubese decidile ubaba ukuthi uzodlani?"

I asked Nkosinathi with my head slightly bowed down.

"Ewu yebo, awungi ordele iNandos ntokazi, nalawa mazambane akhona azama ukuba mnandi."

He said.

"Yebo baba, ngingabe ngikulethela amanzi ungeze izandla?"

I faked a smile and Mpilo couldn't contain himself any more. He laughed so loud and we looked at him.

"I'm sorry but you two are killing me honestly. I've never seen such too dramatic and yet sarcastic people at the same time."

He said as he laughed ever harder.

"Mxm ukuthi uyathanda ukuzenza ubaba wami lobhuti."

"Mxm akusheshe ukudla ngilambile."

I chuckled.

"Ngabe yenziwa imi leyo Nandos."

"Ave usudelela wena Melokuhle njalo. Awu kodwa ngoNomusa unyoko ecula kahle kangaka esontweni."

Fuck, I laughed till tears started to come out of my eyes and Mpilo was also in stitches.

"Yoh please stop you two."

Mpilo said as he tried to contain himself. I stucked out my tongue at Nkosi and he clicked his tongue.

My phone beeped and I opened it.

"It seems like your order has arrived. You can go fetch it downstairs."

I said.

"No I'll go fetch it, I need to gather my thought."

Wasn't my man just sweet. He kissed my forehead and left.

"He's a cool guy."

Nathi said.

"I date cool guys mina bhuti."

He clicked his tongue.

"Let's see, there was Zolani with a humungous head, Sphe who was forever broke, Thami with rotten English, little sis should I go on?"

I was in stitches.

"Kodwa yini ne memory ye ndlovu suka. Leave me alone."

"All I am saying is that his energy is different. We vibe and you know that's very important to me."

My brother and I, we were hippies y'all. We believed in energies and the universe. What he said meant a lot to me.

"I love him bhuti, I really do."

"I know, I can see the way you look him but I can also see the way he looks at you. He loves you too or whatever mxm."

I laughed.

"Yoh awuna drama, you can call your parents now and tell them ukuthi I'm fine."

He chuckled.

"I will since you were being dicked down the whole night and you had them worried for nothing."

I gasped.

"Iyoh that's my cue to go brush my teeth or mop the floor."

I said and he laughed.

"Now we even mtase khaya."

...

Nathi left after a while and I was really sad to see him leave. As much as me and him were very sarcastic towards each other, we still loved each other very much.

"I don't think I can drive this late at night. I'm tired baby, so can I sleep over?"

He asked and I nodded.

"Sure love, let's just go ask Nathi's bestie for permission to park your car inside."

He laughed.

"Please don't start. Asambe"

We went downstairs and asked him, he didn't even give us a problem. We parked his car on the building's parking lot and went back to my place hand in hand.

"I'm exhausted baby."

He said as he got undercovers.

"Ah and here I was thinking that we could hit it."

He laughed and shook his head

"Asilale Ndlovukazi."

I clicked my tongue and got undercovers. He held me from behind.

Chapter Sixteen

Going to work after such an amazing weekend was a mood killer. I was exhausted! I looked at the view outside my window and gathered my thoughts.

My office phone rang and it was the boss. She had called to let me know about the last minute meeting she had called to discuss something important with everyone.

I sighed and went to boardroom where the meeting was going to be held. I sat down next to one of Zolani's floozies lol. He looked at me and I rolled my eyes. I kept myself distracted by texting Mpilo while we waited for the boss..

Awa: I can't believe you didn't even say goodbye this morning. You left me all alone in bed 😞😞

Mpil: I'm sorry MaDlamini but I had to. My day is really hectic today 🤔

Awa: Yho lapho bengizimisele kanjani nge morning glory 😞👊

Mpil: 😊😊 You know I sometime even think that you love isono ngaphezulu kwami.

Awa: What? Njani when you are the second love of my life baby boo. 😞

Mpil: Oh and who's the first?

Awa: Not who but what and you already know 😊😊😞

Mpil: 😊😊😊😊 Gerare here! Fine I'll come give it you later on. Would you love that baby?

Awa: Oh yes papi 😊😊❤️

Mpil: Lmao let me get to work, have a good day. I love you ❤️

Awa: Love you too baby ❤️

Mpil: Where's the "I" huh? 🤔

Awa: I'm sorry, I love you too and have a good day yourself.

Mpil: 😞 😞

I blushed profusely as I put my phone on silent. Locked eyes with Zolani who was looking at me with a questioning look. I chuckled and adjusted my the chair.

Life was good!

...

After a while the boss walked in with her father. Yes, it was a family company, Oh ndiya ndiya, indiya! Literally bantase!

"Firstly I would like to apologize for calling this meeting out of the blue but it had to be done. Without wasting anymore time, let's get into it.

After much deliberation, my father and I have come to a decision to sell this company. It was a last minute decision and since our family is relocating to the USA, it was only fitting. We apologize for any inconveniences caused."

She said and everyone went dead quiet. We were shocked to the core.

We never expererit

"What about our jobs?"

One lady asked.

"Please don't worry about that, your jobs are safe. I canguarantee you that."

Haibo I wondered to whom they were selling it to. I was on the verge of crying.

"Who is the buyer and do they know anything about what we do?"

Zolani asked.

"Yes she does and you'll meet her any minute now. Please treat her good, she is your new boss after all."

While everyone was whispering underneath their breath, a beautiful

lady with the longest weave and heels walked in. She had a Gucci bag on her hand. Sis screamed rich!

She looked at us under her Versace sunglasses and everyone kept quiet. She and the ex boss shook hands.

"I did say you were going to meet her soon, so everyone please welcome Mrs Buthelezi, the new owner of this company."

"Mrs Mpilo Buthelezi."

She added with a smile on her face and I opened my eyes wide. I cursed under my breath and held my chest.

"I hope you will all welcome her with the warmest of hands and give her the same respect that you gave my father and I. For now, that will be all, thank you. Meeting adjourned."

She said and the three of them walked out first. I immediately texted my friends and they couldn't believe it. They were as shocked as I was.

"Wow!"

Everyone said as they went their separate ways. I walked to my office and sank on the chair. I buried my head on my desk and did a little prayer, hoping that it was not the same Mrs Buthelezi that I had been told about.

Lmao, The devil wore Versace. Gianni Versace must've been turning on his grave rha!

"Oh poor Awande where's the confidence now?"

She laughed and I raised my head. I looked at her and she brushed the strands of her weave away from her face.

"Checkmate."

She said with a devilish smile and winked at me before walking out. I felt my chest closing in and I took out a brown paper bag on my drawer and breathed in on it till I calmed down.

I called Mpilo and told him about what had just happened and he couldn't believe it. He came to see me during lunch time.

"Are you okay?"

He asked as he walked into my office and I nodded. He pulled me up from my chair and gave me a big hug.

"She's beautiful though. Now I can see why you love her."

He pulled out of the hug and looked at me.

"Let's fix that, I loved her which is in the past and now I love you, way more than I've ever loved her futhi."

I honestly just wanted the ground to open up and swallow me whole.

"She must be rich if she can afford to buy this company."

He shrugged his shoulders.

"Well her dad is Sizwe Zulu so I guess."

My jaw dropped to the floor.

"Theeeee Sizwe Zulu, the scary business tycoon who is always on the news for all the wrong reasons. Damn

Mpilo how can you keep such a small yet important detail from me?"

If she was anything like her father than I was fucked, straight up with no condom or lube.

"I didn't think it was important baby. Yini are we fighting now?"

I shook my head.

"So if she has all the money in the world, how come she doesn't want to sign the divorce papers? What does she want from you?"

"I don't know baby, that's what I've been trying to wrap my mind around. Maybe she just likes torturing me, angazi because she certainly doesn't give a shit about me"

I sighed and closed my eyes.

"This is a mess, she's my new fucking boss and she can fire me anytime,

you know that right"

"Nothing will happen to you, I promise. Please calm down."

I nodded but deep down, I was screaming. I was six feet under, trying to climb out using a thin rope like Jaguar Paw's wife, but at least I was not pregnant. He hugged me once again and I felt myself relax. He made me sit on my desk and stood in between my legs.

"How about we hit it right?"

As much as I wanted to, I really didn't want do anything that will set her off. She was my boss after all and I really loved my job.

"Hehehe what if she walks in? She'll fire me."

He licked his lower lip and kissed my neck. Its like what I had just told him went in his ear and came out of the other ear. He gently sucked on my neck gently and I found myself moaning. I swear I didn't mean to.

"I'll hire you. I'm really horny now babe."

I laughed. He really was and his bulge against my navel wasn't making things easier for me.

"Let me slide baby."

His voice was husky and it drove me over the edge. He rolled my skirt up and went down on my thighs. Kissing, sucking, pulling, leaving hickeys all over them.

The way he was making me feel so good, I swear I went deaf.

The next thing I heard was a "Sies" coming from someone in front of us. I jumped up from my desk and fixed my skirt. It was her and when her eyes landed on Mpilo who was calmly breathing down my neck, she lost it.

"Is this a norm around here, having sex at work?"

She was screaming and as much as I wanted to punch her beautiful face. I tried my best to put out the fire.

"Baby we'll finish this later."

He said and kissed my forehead. She looked at him with some emotions that I couldn't phantom and he didn't even look at her.

He walked out and she gave me the ugliest look ever before walking out too.

"Wheeew modimo wase gomora."

I said as I sank on my chair. I was in deep shit!

Later On

As soon as I got home, I took a hot shower and Mpilo came to my place like he said he would. Oh my lort, he showed me fireworks and made me forgot all about my shitty day.

Later at night I woke up because I really couldn't sleep. I called my dad who cursed at me for calling so late at night and as much as I wanted to tell him that I wasn't okay and that it was all because of a man, I decided not to.

Chapter Seventeen

Fixate on you
I don't debate with you
I look a way for you
Team player
I lose a way for you
Look amazed for you
Celebrate with you
Team player

Learning to love
Is a story of us I tore it down
And I'm learning to love you over again
And again wish it never ends
If you love me why you put me through a test
Tell me why you leave me in a wreck
Know I only wanna do my best

Baby when I let you crash really wasn't in my plan
I'm a team player only wanna do my best
When you let them laugh still it never made me mad
I'm a team player

- Shekhinah

A month later later, things were kinda okay. I finally had a car, yes that was the surprise from the rents. A whole polo bafethu, I was driving I vrrrrr pha.

Anyway, Mpilo and I had done the blood tests and we were fucking raw now baby. Devil in Versace was making my life a living hell at work though. She was never satisfied with anything I did but yet our clients were happy. I hated her guts even more, she was very unprofessional. "Suck it up, I'm the boss now."

She said when I told her that I didn't appreciate her hostility towards me.

"Now that we are fucking raw, you'll have to start using some kind of contraceptive. You can't always take a morning after pill, that's not healthy and you know my pull out game sucks."

He smirked and yes, it really did suck.

"I'll think about it babe."

We both kept quiet.

"Babe what happened on your 20th birthday?"

He asked out of the blue and I kept quiet. I was so not in the mood.

"Tell me what's going on with the divorce proceedings. Have you got the court date yet?"

She was getting on my last nerves and I really wanted her out of our lives.

"Yep, we going to court on the 12th of May and now that I have answered your question, please answer mine."

"About damn time and I was even starting to think that your lawyer is incompetent. Can I go drink water first."

He sighed and shook his head.

"I'll get it for because I know you, you'll end up watching tv."

He really didn't think much of me lol. He went to the kitchen butt naked, not that I had a problem with it. He was a fine human being.

"Mina and start talking now."

He handed me a bottle of water and got undercovers again. I was running out of excuses to tell him.

"Ngiyabonga, okay let me catch my breath kuqala."

He chuckled.

"Woman if you don't start talking right now, I swear I'll fuck you till you can't walk for months."

I took my t-shirt from the floor and tied it around my mouth. He laughed and shook his head

"Stop it baby, I am serious. Buka

Advertisement

I am not forcing you but at some point you gonna have to let me in. I know it is hard for you but just try."

I nodded.

"I will tell you just not tonight please. Anyway since you know Devil in Versace better than I do, could you maybe know the reason why she bought the company that I personally work at?"

I asked.

"No but I guess she must've investigated and found out that you work there after you insulted her. I know her, she doesn't like losing."

"How though?"

"Her dad has contacts and she has him wrapped around her finger. Angazi babe, can we stop talking about that woman."

"I'm sorry but she's my boss now and I have to be the one who obeys her every rule. Honestly I am even thinking of quitting. Sbani says he can get me something in Joburg."

"Uyahlanya, you are not going anywhere. I am not about to be in a long distance relationship with you because of that wo...."

He took a deep breath. He was really mad, thank God he wasn't light

skinned or else, a whole hellboy would've been standing in front of me.
Talk about scary!

"Can you calm down baby, I didn't say I am going. It was just something that we discussed okay but I refuse to be disrespected. I didn't slave away in Varsity for those years only to go work for a rude bitch who only has accounting yaka grade 12, no."

He chuckled.

"From Devil that wears Versace to rude bitch, you are getting good at this naming thing."

He laughed and I clicked my tongue.

"Okay I'm sorry but we will figure this out. Now stop stressing, it is not cute. How about we go and cook, well I'll cook and you'll watch. Then tomorrow you can go a beauty spa with your girls, anything that will help you distress. It will be my treat."

I wasn't about to say no to that. Hey, I loved expensive things, especially when I wasn't the one paying for those expensive things. Zoe and I were cut from the same cloth. The cloth that Delilah wore when she cut Samson's hair.

"If you think that will help then okay. Let's go cook, I'm hungry."

"But you always are."

He smirked and I playfully hit his arm.

"Hey I have to maintain this thickness nje."

"Can't say no to that baby."

He kissed my forehead and we got out of bed. I wore his t-shirt.

"I can't get enough of this kitchen babe. Kanti nawe how rich are you?"

I asked and he laughed.

"Rich enough to pay lobola for you."

He winked at me and I blushed.

"Just know that my dad loves money. Can you believe that he still complains about the money he used to buy the car for me. Futhi lapho even his sons put in some money but yena, akuvumi athule."

He was in stitches.

"I think I'll enjoy having your family as my in-laws and I just hope your other brothers will be cool like Nkosinathi. Can you believe that he called me the other day and told me to come taste his food laphaya eProtea hotel. Athi "come taste some nice food because I know your girlfriend sucks at cooking" and I was like sure bro."

I laughed.

"Wow Nkosinathi! He really doesn't respect me nor see me that one. Akangiboni, akangithathi notice."

We laughed.

"At least you are good at chopping."

I gasped and threw the onion at him. He ducked and laughed.

"Clearly you don't need me here."

I sulked and he placed his elbows on the table counter and pulled my cheeks.

"I love you more when you sulk. You cute."

I yanked his hands away and continued with the chopping. I handed him the chopped onions and he did his thing. He looked even more sexy in that apron.

Chapter Eighteen

12th Of May

It was finally the day where the court would decide my man's fate. I watched him try to tie the knot on his tie but he was struggling. His hands were shaking.

"You better thank your ancestors that I know how to do this snowflake."

I said as I helped him with his tie. My poor baby was so stressed.

"Ngiyabonga."

He said as he placed his head on my shoulder and wrapped his arms around my waist. At least his heartbeat was steady.

"Calm down sthandwa sami. Everything will work out, and if it doesn't we will sought out a second opinion but just calm down okay."

I wrapped my hands around him and brushed his back gently.

"Your family will be there and I wish I was also there but you know who's boss."

I rolled my eyes and he chortled.

"I know and it's fine MaDlamini. I just hope the judge won't be biased or bought."

"Haibo can they do that? Bribing an official of the law is illegal."

He grunted.

"It is but do you think people care? Anyway, let me get going. I really don't want to be late."

"Okay I need to get to work too. I'm gonna come here instead of my place after work. Just let me know how it went, as soon as everything is all said and done."

I kissed his cheek and grabbed my stuff. He grabbed my arm and hugged me again.

"Whatever happens, just know that I love you."

He said.

"I know and I love you too. Asambe singaze sibe late and wouldn't Devil in Versace love that."

He laughed softly. We made our way out of the house and got into our cars. I hooted as I drove off and he waved his hand.

I got to work in time and greeted, Sazi the receptionist as I passed through her desk.

"Wande wait."

She shouted after me and I retraced my steps back to her desk.

"What's up beautiful lady?"

She smiled.

"Maleficent wants to see you in her office after 1, apparently she is going to court today and I just wonder what she'll be doing in court."

She gossiped and I chuckled. I was just so happy that I wasn't the only one with the habit of giving people new names. I flatly ignored the court part, I wasn't about to let myself become the topic of the day. I could even just imagine Celiwe the gossip guru buying face from others with my name.

"Thank you Sazi and have a good day."

I said and walked away. I got into my office and texted my loved ones on that green app.

Dlamini Group Chat

Nathi: Awe mense

Awa: Please tell us if you have relocated to the Cape Flats yho.

Sbani: 🤔 Too early for your nonsense guys.

Nhla: Please tell them bafo because before we know it, we also gonna be dragged into their shit.

Nathi: Yini bhuti, Belinda didn't dish out the cookie this morning, wamuncu nje?

Awa&Sbani: 😊👉👉👉👉👉👉

Nhla: Voetsek wena Nkosinathi. Don't you have pots to wash?

Nathi: Lmao and don't you have panties to wash, Mrs Belinda?

Sbani: Guys stop it🤔

Awa: Ave ni childish kodwa nani.

Sbani: Haibo what did I do mina?

Nathi: You didn't do anything wena bafo wami.

Sbani- Ufunani Nathi?

Awa&Nhla: 🤔🤔🤔🤔 Eshe.

Nathi: Ngithi ngikwenza umuntu. Mxm let me go wash my pots.

Nhla: Hamba🤔🤔🤔

Nathi: Voetsek.

Awa: Have a good one gents, I love you all♥♥♥

All of them:♥

I laughed and placed my phone on my desk. Those three were something else, especially Nathi. Sbani was reserved and Nhlanhla was just carefree. I loved them very much and they were gifts from my mom's womb, not let me rephrase that, from my dad's balls lmao.

After getting my work done, I dropped it at Zolani's desk in his office. As I was walking back to my mine, I heard some noise coming from the boardroom and I decided to eavesdrop. I know, I know, curiosity killed the pussycat. The door was slightly opened and whatever they were discussing, it was serious.

"What if she doesn't take me back?"

That was Zolani. I knew his voice very well but I couldn't see clearly who the other person but it was definitely a woman. Her hands were on top

of the table and I could also see the long red nails and boobies poking out of her work shirt.

"Don't make your problem ours. Seduce Awande and you'll get the position. Boss lady wants her out of his life asap."

She said and I almost blew my cover but I acted fast and covered my mouth. After I had heard enough, I tip toed to my office.

"Hehehe Devil in Versace is testing me nyani."

I said as I sat down on the chair. I checked my phone and there were missed calls from Mpilo. I called him back.

"Hey babe."

He said and didn't sound too happy.

"How did it go?"

He kept quiet. I guessed it was my turn to sweat and shake.

"Mpilo!"

I called out his name.

"We'll talk about it when you get home."

He said and hung up. I tried to call him again, but he ignored my calls.

"Fuck."

I cursed under my breath. I checked the time and it was five past one. I sighed and went to the queens office. I knocked but her lapdog was the one who answered. I recognized the nails and that's when I knew that it was her who was with Zolani. I chuckled.

"Sorry but Mrs Buthelezi didn't come back. So I guess she'll see you tomorrow."

She said with an attitude and I nodded. I wasn't in the mood for her or anyone else.

After work, I debated on whether to go to my place or his

but I ended up going to his house. I buzzed on the gate and he opened for me. I parked my car and tried to catch my breath for a minute. I knocked on the door and his mom opened for me. I greeted and she happily hugged me. At least she was happy to talk to me.

I walked to the lounge where the rest of his family was except for his younger brother. I greeted and they all greeted back, I looked around for Mpilo but he wasn't among them.

"Snothando, go get something to drink for Awande."

Mr B said and Snothando nodded. After a while, she came back with a Mpilo who was in a pair of jeans and a t-shirt.

"What's going on?"

I asked looking at everyone.

"My son is finally a free man."

His mom said and covered her mouth after.

"Ma kodwa."

He complained and she murmured a "sorry"

"What's going on Mpilo?"

I asked and he walked over to me. He took my hands into his and smiled.

"Like mom said, I'm a free man and guess what? I get to keep everything of mine."

I screamed so loud while jumping up and down. For a minute there, I even forgot that we weren't alone.

"Eish, I'm sorry for the noise."

Everyone just laughed and shook their heads.

"I am so happy Mpilo but why were you moody when I called you and you even ignored my calls."

"I'm sorry but I wanted to tell you kahle sesihleli phansi and relaxing plus I knew that if I kept talking to you, ubuzongenza ngizikhiphe zonke."

I laughed.

"If you say so."

He smiled.

"Well that's our cue to leave before it is too dark outside. Makoti, please take care of my son and ndodana, I'm proud of how you handled things. Please always know that we are here for you anytime you need us."

His dad said and they shook hands. He was a man of few words unlike my dad but I knew for sure that they'd be best of friends if they ever got a chance to meet. Yey I even imagined them hanging out and braaing meat on a chilly sunday. A whole bromance!

"I am so happy that finally that witch is out of your life. Enjoy your beautiful picnic with Awande."

He looked at his mom and she laughed.

"Hayi, sorry phela yoh. Nawe with these surprises, you forget ukuthi we can't keep secrets anymore, sibadala."

She laughed and squeezed him. After they said their final goodbyes, they left.

"Shall we?"

He asked and I nodded. He led me to his garden which was just gorgeous. The flowers, candles, the beautiful decorated table and the sun that was about to set. My lort eveything was just beautiful.

"Celebration?"

"Ofcourse, you should've seen her baby. She was so mad. I'm really happy that finally that chapter of my life is closed and locked away."

I beamed with joy.

"Does this mean that we will be able to do izinto zabantu abadala namhlanje?"

I asked and he laughed

"Anything you want my love anything."

"Trip to Ibiza maybe?"

He smirked.

"Now you pushing it but I'll think about it."

I laughed and he brought his chair closer to mine. He took my hands into his and a tear dropped. I kissed it away.

"Thank you Awande."

"Well it was about to mess up your beautiful face so."

He smiled.

"Ngi-serious Awande, thank you. Thank you for actually giving me a chance, for staying even after I told you everything. You could've left and told me that you weren't interested in my baggage but you didn't. When I was down, you were there for me. You didn't belittle me when I cried in front of you or tell me that I should grow a pair. You nurtured and took care of me. I know we haven't been dating for long but it feel this is it. It feels good, right and reciprocated. Ngiyakuthanda Sibalukhulu."

He shed a tear again and got me all in my feels.

"I wouldn't have it any other way. You are my partner and it is my duty to be there for you. You don't have to thank me, I'm happy when you are. Ngiyakuthanda nami Bab' Buthelezi Jr"

We shared a hug and passionate kiss. I felt my juices flowing underneath.

"Why don't we skip dinner and go straight to dessert?"

He asks in that sexy deep voice of his while biting his lower lip. He was seducing me, dammit.

"You took the words right out my mouth."

I said seductively and he groaned. We did it right there and then. Thank God, the flowers couldn't speak for themselves or else we would have been arrested for being too nasty the following day.

Chapter Nineteen

Things went from bad to worse at work. If Devil in Versace wasn't overworking me, she was shouting at me in front of my colleagues and I was quarter past from losing it. Zolani on the other hand was trying his best to seduce me shame. Flower, chocolate, lunch, the works everyday.

"You can't go on like this Wawa. Look at you, you are a mess."

Sandi said as I blew my nose on the tissue. Honestly I was tired of that woman.

"I still say, asimshayeni."

Noma said and Zoe agreed. Those two were what we called "Ophumasilwe" in my home language. Nothing but hooligans lmao.

"Hayi nina hawu. Let me pour us some wine okay and then we'll spend the day with you. Don't worry, we will take care of you."

I nodded.

"Guys umh I broke up with Thabang."

Noma said and we all looked at each other. No one dared to say a thing.

"I know what y'all are thinking but this time around I am really done with him."

I just sipped on my wine and it was fine like my man.

"Noma."

That's all I managed to say and Nomathamsanqa started laughing. Okay that was new.

"I know, I know we've been through this before but this is it. Like yesterday he called me and instead of wanting to hear his sorry ass excuses like I always did. I just blocked his number from my phone and deleted it. I didn't even feel bad or hurt after that."

I smiled.

"Your heart is now satisfied and at peace with the fact that you'll never be the one, isn't?"

She nodded and smiled. She really looked like she was at peace.

"Thank you lord."

Zoe and Sandi looked at us like we were from Planet Mars.

"What do you mean Wawa?"

Sandi asked. I smiled and Noma chuckled. She knew how much I loved playing Sis Dolly.

"Well while you two were telling Noma to leave him. I and her mother on the other hand, were telling her to go back to him if she still wanted to be with him."

I said and sipped my wine. Making that Sssss sound.

"What, why would two encourage her to do such a dumb thing?"

Zoe was fuming and Sandiswa was red already, yhuu a whole human version of ketchup.

"Come on guys, didn't y'all notice how stubborn she was? Umuntu osemathandweni unenkani guys and the more you tell them to leave

someone, weee kuvele kube sengathi ubaphephethela kubona but I'm sure you get the latter."

They clicked their tongue.

"That is true but how did that help because going back to him only broke her heart and not his."

Zoe said and Sandi agreed with her.

"Yes but the more he cheated on her was the more her love for him chirped away. She started falling out of love with him and even went to the extent of mourning for their relationship while in it. That's what happens when you give someone a chance over and over again, you eventually get tired, your heart eventually gives in and say "I have had enough now, time for the next dick lol" simple as that."

"That doesn't even make sense. How can you mourn for a relationship you still in?"

Zoe was adamant on making me feel or look the bad guy shame.

"I think every woman has that superpower, unless you two are aliens. One day it just comes to you that you not asking for too much but you just asking the wrong motherfucker. Listen, the more she fell out of love with him that's when she started to recognize the negative side of the relationship and what it was doing to to her. Slowly but surely when she took off the dark glasses that were hiding all his nasty deeds, she began to see light. What he didn't realise is that she was not longer in the relationship for love but her own healing. As soon as she finished the last stage of the mourning process, she was like "Bye felicia". Isn't

Noma? Tell me if I am wrong so I can apologize to you right now for actually pushing you to him."

I said and looked at her.

"No Wawa, you and mom helped me very much and for that thank you baby. If I had listened to Zoe or Sandi, I would still be asking myself why I didn't try hard enough or even be wondering how things would have worked out If I had given him another chance but since I did what you told me, I'm fully okay with letting him go. I am satisfied with the fact that I gave it my all and I honestly don't regret a single thing. He is the one who is insecure not me. "

"Yhooo!"

They said and I chuckled.

"And guess who is heartbroken now, yes him. The motherfucker had gotten used to having me as his pawn but not anymore, this girl is all for new dick now. Andisa happy guys."

We all raised our glasses in the air.

"Cheers!"

We all said.

"I'm happy for you Noma and Sandi how are the wedding preparations?"

I asked. Man, I was the worst maid of honor in the history of maid of honors.

"So far good, you know me, I like simple things. So we going to get married at the Umhlanga Beach and we will have the reception at our home. I mean our yard is big enough."

"That's really great babe, you really don't need me. You have all of this figured out."

I took a bite on my burger and they laughed.

"You are the worst shame."

They all said at the same time.

"Oh whateveeer!"

I chuckled.

"So wena Wawa, have you've been honest with Mpilo yet?"

Zoe asked and I started scratching my neck while looking away.

"Wow sisi wow. What the fuck are you waiting for?"

I so wanted to ask ukuthi "why are you hounding me?" But I kept it myself. She could be a volatile human being sometimes.

"I don't know, what if he doesn't see me the same way? That's what I am scared of the most. Remember what happened when I told Zolani? He started looking at me with eyes full of pity and not love. I'm not ready for such."

I said.

"But Awande, Mpilo is not Zolani and you really can't be sure of what you saying. Mpilo knows trauma and knows how being pitied makes one feel like."

Sandi fired back.

"I'm sorry mngani but I'll have to agree with Sandi and Zoe on this one. Sooner or sooner you'll have to tell him and it better be soon."

Noma said and I chuckled.

"I thought it was sooner or later but okay!"

"AWANDE!"

They all shouted at the same time.

"Okay okay I'll tell him tonight when he comes over haa! For now can we enjoy this beautiful sunny Saturday yho!"

I said.

"Kulungile but just..."

I cut her off.

"Okay Mamu Zoe, I heard you the first time. Futhi when you are getting a man?"

I asked and she threw a cushion at me. Allow me to exaggerate a little bit and say that my life was trembling down like the walls of Jericho.

"I don't need a man. I have 3 dildos. Black, white and pink"

We all laughed so hard.

"Okay TMI, but come on, don't you miss the cuddles, the kisses, the touch, the stares, the bank transactions."

Sandi asked and I laughed at the bank transactions part. I swear that girl loved money and we thanked God that Lunga had some.

"No I don't and I have my own money. I have a degree and a job that pays very damn well."

She rolled her eyes and Noma did a face that made me laugh so much.

"Honestly I just think you don't want to be in a relationship because you fear being hurt. I know my brother did a number on you but not all men are in a closet. He should've been honest with you from the get go and honestly sis, you deserve a black sweaty coco cola to cuddle with you all night. If you are not ready though, take your time and don't rush the process."

I said and her eyes became glassy.

"No no, no crying up in here. We are only drinking, eating and drinking."

Noma said as she refilled her glass. I held Zoe's hand as she sexily wiped the little tears from her eyes. I looked at all of them and smiled.

"Yini wena wasijonga nje. Sidayisa ngenyama yengulube yini?"

Noma asked and we all laughed. She just had her way of making you laugh wholeheartedly.

"Awukahle wena, ukuthi nje y'all are so pretty and I love you all equally. Y'all are my beautiful equals and don't tell Mpilo neh but I love you girls more than him."

I burped and they giggled. To say I was tipsy would be an understatement, I was drunker than the drunken master.

...

Lunga came to fetch the girls later on and as usual, he was mad at me.

"Mxm this is the last time my wife comes here."

He said and I giggled.

"Oh Lunga, you know how much your wife loves me so try again."

I playfully poked his nose and he gently yanked my hand away.

"Hayi amanikiniki, hayi I-cheese, hayi I-beef. Haibo Yebo. Lunga mfethu umeleni manje? .

Yhooo we know that it is your car but asambeni hawu."

Noma said and he shook his head.

"Wawa what have you done to these girls, look at them. Baphelile! Zoe can't stop giggling, Noma is dancing like a skeleton and my dear wife, awumbuke nje ngathi ugqashukelwe ulayini."

I did a face and giggled.

"Hayi hayi, Awa this, Awa that. Haibo these people are old enough mos. Futhi Mr Mandela went to jail so we can be free. It is just that you are, no man it is just that you gonna have to deal with the consequences my brother yah."

I said and he chuckled.

"Ngigeza izandla lakuwe. Ladies let's go and wena sala."

He took Sandi's hand and walked out. Zoe blew a kiss at me and dragged Noma out with her. I didn't even have the courage to stand up and go lock the door. I just slept!

I was woken up by noise coming from the bathroom. I slowly sat up and held my forehead, I had the mother of all headaches.

"It is Sunday already."

I asked out loud.

"No."

A voice answered me and I looked at the direction of the where the voice was coming from and there he was, in a white plain t-shirt and jeans.

"Who opened the door for you?"

I asked while trying to stand up and almost fell to the ground but luckily he caught me on time.

"The door wasn't locked. Why are you so careless Awande, what if someone came in and did something to you or stole something?"

He asked with so much fury in his voice.

"Well I guess it would be history repeating itself."

I bitterly chuckled and he looked at me with a straight face.

"Let me go, I want to go pee."

He grabbed my hand and helped me navigate my way to the bathroom. I was still drunk but not that drunk anymore. He helped me pull down my panties when he noticed that I was struggling.

"Awww look at you, so sweet."

I burped and he shook his head. After I was done, he helped me take off my clothes and gently pushed me under a very cold shower.

"What the fuck Mpilo?"

I jumped as the water made contact with my skin.

"After this you'll be fine trust me."

I didn't even want to hear it, I just started crying and he sighed. He took off his clothes and showered with me.

"Masiqeda lana siyahamba siyolala."

I shook my head.

"Angikuceli Awande ngiyakutshela!"

The authority in his voice was hard to miss.

"But I wanted to tell you something nje."

"You'll tell me tomorrow when you have sobered up. Asambe!"

He wrapped me with a towel, fuck I was shivering. He led me to the bedroom and made me sit on the bed. He took out some track pant and a long sleeved t-shirt out of the wardrobe and made me wear it.

"Ayingeni nje Mpilo, look isincane kunami."

I was on the verge of crying and he exhaled. He took the t-shirt from me and helped me wear it. He was naked the whole time and I just watched his dick go from left to right

side to side, it looked like it was dancing. I tried to poke it but he hit my hand away.

"Ouch!"

I cried out loud and he shook his head.

"Ngathi uzoba inkinga nje sthandwa sami uma udakiwe."

I pretended like I didn't hear a word he said.

"Ngiyazela Mpilo."

"Woza, sengiyivulile ingubo. Mina ngisayokhiya umnyango."

"Kanti nawe ubungakakhiye?"

I asked and he gave me a nasty look. I quickly pulled up the duvet over my head.

"Well someone is moody."

I said under the covers.

"Ngikuzwile."

"That was the whole point."

"I heard that too."

He said as he walked out of the bedroom. I sighed and removed the duvet over my face.

After a while, he got in behind me and held me.

"Can you see that alcohol isn't for you?"

I honestly felt insulted when he said that. No one was ever going to separate me from my wine. Asoze!

"Don't even think about it, I'm never going to stop drinking wine. I've already quit weed so."

I said and he turned me around, making me look at his deep brown eyes.

"You smoked weed too? I guess I really know nothing about you yazi."

He said and I chortled. Vele he didn't, I only told him what I thought was what he needed to know. I wasn't comfortable about talking about me like he was.

"I think you know me very well. You know where I work, how old I am, who are my brothers. Isn't that enough?"

I raised my voice a little bit and he frowned.

"Please don't raise your voice at me Awande."

He said and turned around looking the other way. I roughly bit my lower lip and got closer to him and wrapped my arms around him. He didn't react to my touch and that stung a little bit.

"Ngiyaxolisa Mpilo, I didn't mean to."

He kept quiet and I sighed. He was really making it hard for me and man, that was my job.

"On my 20th birthday I got sexually assaulted by someone I once called a friend and his buddy okay."

I blurted it out and he sat up. He looked at me and I looked at him. Guess who lost the staring contest? Haha!

"Baby."

That's all he managed to say.

"I was doing my 3rd year in Varsity and it was my birthday. There was this guy that had previously asked me out but since I didn't like him like that, we decided to be friends to the point that I grew to enjoy his presence because he really seemed genuine. I had already celebrated my birthday with my girls in the midday hours but he convinced me to go out clubbing at Florida with him and I agreed. I told my girls and they were keen too. We did our makeup and wore our best outfits. He drove us to Florida and we got there when the fireworks was just getting littier. So it was me, my girls, the three that you know and Sihle. You don't know her because she's abroad. We got there and started drinking, smoking weed and dancing. So while we were dancing, ngaphathwa umchamo and I asked one of the girls to accompany me, but he volunteered. I really didn't mind because he was my friend. When we got to the toilet, it was full and he was like, let's go outside and find a spot where you can pee at. Again, I didn't mind or think things through because I was like this is my friend, what can he do. We went outside and looked for a spot but we didn't find it . So he was like let's go near my car, no one will see you there and sharp. It was really

dark and when we got near his car, he grabbed me from behind and put his hand over my mouth. I screamed."

I exhaled and he just stared at me with no emotions.

"So that's when his other friend appeared from nowhere. He opened his car and shoved me to the backseat. His friend placed his hand over my mouth to keep me from screaming as he got into the driver's seat. I was so scared and I begged for them to let me go but they didn't budge. He drove a little bit far away from the club and when the car came to a halt, that's when I knew that, it was over for me."

I cried.

He roughly took off my clothes and started sexually assaulting me till he was satisfied. His friend was slapping me and telling me to keep quiet the entire ordeal. "Bafo ngena lesifebe" that's what he said when he was passing me to his friend. With all the strength that was left in me, I managed to ask him "why are you doing this to me?" and he said, "It is because you think you are better than me". After they were done, they roughly dragged me out of the car and sped away. The fact that I was half naked didn't bother them and I sat in the same position till the sun came out. I felt like dying right there and then. In the morning, a jogger saw me and rushed to my aid. He tried to ask me questions but It's like I had just gone deaf. I saw his lips moving but I couldn't hear what he was saying, that's how traumatized I was. I didn't even hear the sound of the ambulance coming our way. The paramedic strapped me in and that's when tears strolled down my face all over again. They took me to the Addington Hospital but still, I wasn't able to find my voice when the nurses asked me what happened. They gave a piece of paper to write my parents's contact details since I couldn't talk. It didn't take my

parents even an hour to get to me. I just remember my mom running to me and crying painfully when she saw me and my father looked so broken. Tears were the only thing doing the talking for me. They did all the necessary tests and put me on PreP. When they discharged me at Addington the following day, my parents decided that it would be for the best if I went back home with them. When we got home, I ran to my room and cried till I couldn't anymore. I was beyond broken and knowing that the person who behind my pain was someone whom I once called a friend made it much worse. After my parents begged and begged, I finally screamed it out for them. I think deep down they already knew but just wanted me to confirm it. My father couldn't hold back his tears when I narrated the story and that's when they begged me to get them arrested. I really didn't have the energy but they forced me."

I was crying but silently crying.

"Baby, I..."

He pulled me in for a hug and tightened his arms around me more and more.

"Haibo unghiphula amathambo phela manje."

He looked at me and he so wanted to chuckle but he held it in.

"You can chuckle, it is fine, I am fine."

He just looked at me.

"Where are they now?"

"Westville prison and they both got 35 years each. My family made sure that I had a very good lawyer and when he made me stand on the box to testify, I felt like dying. My so called friend and his buddy just stared at me with emotionless eyes and I think that is what drove me to drill the final nails on their coffins. I wanted them out of my sight asap. They disgusted me."

"How did your family handle it?"

"My parents were obviously devastated but it's my brothers who were beyond devastated. I just remember how Nkosinathi and Nhlanhla cried when I tried to throw myself in an on moving traffic. They both went down on their knees and pleaded with me. Do you think I listened to them?"

He shook his head slowly like he was scared of something.

"Of course I did not, I ran towards a car and it hit me so hard, I flew over to the other side. It is absolutely through God's grace that I am still alive today. One month later, I woke up in a hospital and that's when I realised that I life was precious. "Mama I just want to be okay again, will I?" that's all I could say or ask as my mom held me tightly, like you are right now. She cried with me and said "You'll be okay baby I promise" and we just cried. My entire family and friends were broken. My friends blamed themselves for making me leave with him but I was too tired and broken to tell them that it wasn't and my brothers felt like they hadn't done their job properly and again I just didn't have it in me to nurse their feelings you know. I was already drowning myself."

He exhaled so loud making me chortle.

"Therapy?"

He asked in a low tone.

"Well after I was discharged from the hospital and thank God, I was clean. So I started attending therapy sessions with either my parents or brothers. They were really great help, they drove me to the therapy sessions and back at home. I don't know if I would have made it out alive if they weren't there you know. I went back to varsity but stayed at home instead of res. I really tried my best to pass all my modules but I failed. I was so disappointed in myself but again, my family and friends came through for me."

I said as I tightened my arms around him and he kissed the top of my head. We stayed quiet for a minute, listening to each other's heartbeats.

"So I had to repeat 3 modules the following year and it was hard honestly. My friends were now graduates and I felt like the odd one out. So I began distancing myself from them and the more I did that, the more they got closer to me. I swear those sisters are my life and I just remember there was this one time when my roommate was at home and I had decided to switch off my phone completely. I don't know how but they managed to convince the security to open my door. I was like what happened to privacy?"

I bitterly chuckled to the memory.

"Noma was obviously the first one to respond and was like I privacy yokunuka yini. They literally packed up my bag and told me that I was going stay with Sandi for the time being and she was renting this flat that I am renting now."

I said.

"No way."

He replied and I laughed.

"Yes way, ucabanga ukuthi why do they come as they please lana engathi kwabo. We've been here for too long baby. Anyway therapy did help but it was the support from my parents, friends and everyone around me that pulled me out of the dark hole that I was stuck in. They were always there waiting to receive me with warm hands. They were part of my healing and for that, I'll forever be grateful to them. Yes I did let go but at the same time, the idea of celebrating my birthday gave me so much anxiety so it just became a norm for me not to celebrate it until you came along baby."

I said and looked up to him. He had a smile on his face and I giggled.

"Awusazibumbi."

I said and he laughed.

"I did say ukuthi engathi uzoba inkinga."

I laughed and looked at him.

"What happened had to happen for it was preparing me for this and for this life. I am much stronger than I've ever been before. So do you want to know what my Nnhlanhla and Sbani did?"

"Went to prison and got revenge for you?"

I giggled.

"You watch too much movies babe but actually they did thay but not directly. Anyway they booked some shooting lessons at some shooting range and it helped profusely shame, I won't lie."

"Wait what, does this mean that you own a licensed gun?"

"Yes I do, it is in my safe though and it won't be taken out unless you decide to get on my bad side then I'll be forced to shoot you in your balls."

I said carelessly and he coughed up a storm. I sat up and brushed his chest while laughing.

"Are you okay?"

He shook his head.

"How can one be okay after finding out that his girlfriend has a gun and is definitely not afraid to aim for the balls?"

I laughed.

"Kanti wena are you thinking of doing something that will piss me off yini?"

"No ma'am, I wouldn't even dare to dream about it. I love my balls too much. That's where our babies are."

He said and I giggled. I felt lighter and at peace after telling him. Maybe it was what I needed.

"Are you really okay?"

He asked.

"Yes I am okay and I am at peace. I've accepted that what happened happened and I have moved on. I no longer spend my time thinking about it and I will never let it have more power over me because I'm

the one who has the power to decide how I should live my life, not my past or trauma."

He hugged me.

"I am so proud of you and thank you trusting me enough to tell me. I love you and I promise you that I will never do anything that will leave me with one ball. Ngiyakuthanda Sibalukhulu."

I laughed and playfully punched him.

"You don't pity me angithi?"

"Pity you? Not I don't. I am proud of you and really lucky to be a part of your life. Nothing has changed, love is the only thing I feel for you baby, nothing but love for you."

"Okay SZA!"

I smiled.

"Ubani U-SZA manje?"

My eyes rolled to the back of my head. I was shocked!

"Yoh! I'll play her music for you tomorrow .. Yazi uyangi disappointer, shame on you!"

I clapped my hands and he laughed.

"Haibo I don't listen your shitty music phela mina. Ask me about Igcokama or Eminem and I'll tell you."

Weee 8 mile.

"Jizos, kuyanyukela."

He laughed and clicked his tongue.

"Ngicela silale ngoba usuqala ukuphapha ke manje."

I giggled and snuggled up close and personal to him.

"I hope what I am about to ask won't upset you but have you forgiven them?"

He asked and I kept quiet for a while.

"Well at first I was conflicted because everyone kept on telling me that forgiving the person who has done you wrong sets you free. I carefully scrutinised what they were saying to me and for sometime, it didn't make any sense to me and I really didn't want to accept it. I was like why would you forgive someone who didn't even apologize to you in the first place but after having a deep conversation with my late grandmother, bless her soul. She made me realise that if I wanted to fully heal and be free, I'd have to forgive them and so I did. So yes, I have forgiven them wholeheartedly."

I said.

"I'm glad, forgiveness is the most important part of healing."

I agreed.

"Wena Bab'Buthelezi have you forgiven her?"

"A long time ago. I guess that's why I am able to love you wholeheartedly and have such unconditional confidence in you. Therapy also helped me but the choice to accept what happened and make a change was up to me."

He said and I smiled.

"Unhug me phela manje yoh, sekubaba amathambo."

He laughed.

"Ake ababa nanini nje kodwa?"

I shrugged and he continued to laugh.

"Woza ngiqabule."

He said and I shook my head.

"Please baby, ngizothi mcwa kuphela and then we will sleep."

I giggled and nodded. The Lord knew that it didn't end on that mncwa like he had said it would but it ended on "ah" "grrrr" "Oh baby" "cum for me" if you know what I mean!

Chapter Twenty

Whoever made Monday hated me and vowed to watch me suffer for eternity. I always felt personally attacked on Mondays rha.

"Goodmorning gorgeous."

Zolani greeted with a bouquet of roses in his hand. The motherfucker didn't even remember that I hated roses. They were typical and overrated. Maybe if he had given me sunflowers or daffodils, he would've seen me melt faster than ice on a stove.

"Yebo Zolani, how can I help you?"

He chuckled revealing those dimples of his, they were my weakness once.

"I was thinking that maybe you and me could grab a bite later on, you know for old time sakes."

"Sure, just text me the time and place."

He smiled and placed the bouquet of roses on my table. He whistled his way out of my office and I shook my head. He really thought he had me wrapped around his pinkie.

Awa: So later on he want us to go grab a bite for old time sakes.

Maginani!

I texted my friends on our group.

Zoe: Good he is really making this easy for us 😊

Noma: I so wish I could turn myself into a fly so I can see his face when he realizes ukuthi no man.

Sandi: please take a picture for us Wande. Mxm that one has to learn that you are not his ladder to success.

Awa: Absolutely, ungiwayela kabi loyo nekhanda elikhulu 😊👉

Zoe&Sandi: 😊

Noma: I'm sure he left your pillows traumatized yhuu. He can knock over a whole bus with that head 😊😊👉

All of us: 🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔

Awa: Fuck, stop it please 😊👉 Let me text you later lovies, I need to call my parents. Ngaze bathi I no longer love them because I have a man now.

Them: ♥♥♥♥

I logged out of WhatsApp and went to my contacts. I scrolled to my dad's number and it rang unanswered for a while.

"Mntanami."

That was his hello and I melted.

"Baba wami, ninjan?"

"Siyaphila nina ninjani?"

"Siyaphila nathi baba. Bengithi anginithinte nje nginibuze impilo."

He laughed.

"Siyabonga because your mother has been complaining. Uthi wena you no longer love us."

I rolled my eyes

"Baba you know how dramatic your wife is though!"

We laughed.

"Hayi this time your mom is right sisi. We miss you and that is why we have decided that you'll have to come back home this upcoming weekend. Oh, you also going to invite that boy that has been keeping you away from us on Saturday for dinner."

I gasped.

"Kodwa bab.."

He cut me off before I could even finish what I wanted to say.

"Kodwa baba ini? Angikuceli Awande ngiyakutshela!"

"Yebo baba."

I sulked.

"Kulungile ke, ngizomtshela unyoko ukuthi ubufonile nokuthi uyeza on Saturday. Bye sisi."

He hung up as if he was the one who called. I sighed before calling my mother too.

"Awu ayisazani, seyaxabana yini?"

I laughed. My mom was too dramatic!

"Chabo ma, I've been busy."

A life lie was told.

"Too busy to call your parents?"

I sighed. She always knew how to make me feel bad and it always went straight to the heart.

"Ngiyaxolisa mama but I'll make it up to you this weekend since I'll be seeing you."

I sighed and she laughed.

"No Wawa, I won't try to convince your father to let this go."

I sighed again.

"Mama I don't mind coming home, you know I love you guys but Mpilo might not feel the same way."

"Haibo, if he loves you he'll come and that's it. Wena just tell that boy ukuthi he has been summoned by the royalty."

I laughed so much.

"Okay Queen Qondisiwe."

She laughed.

"Yoh ngicela ubaba angabi uShaka Zulu on Saturday please. Angabulali umuntu wamjust because uyamhlelekisa nje."

I said and she laughed hard. The legend says that Shaka Zulu would be like "Mbulaleni uyangihlekisa lo" lol. That was just scary and so funny at the same time.

"You do know ukuthi that is not true anyway, you know your father man. He is a gently big teddy bear hawu."

I gasped and shoved my lungs back to their designated place, they were also quite surprised. Dad? A gentle big teddy bear, where?

"Are we talking about the person who wanted me to marry Mchunu for stability hehehe kodwa sizothini, isoka lakho phela."

I chortled.

"You not old enough for ukushawa we sisi."

She said and I chuckled.

"Yoh! Angifuni ukuzwa ngophanqa usukhala ebusweni bami. Okay mama, I will tell him. See you on Saturday."

"Friday Wawa!"

I sighed because I was just taking my chances and oops, I flopped.

"Yes Queen, all hail to the queen."

She laughed and hung up. I wondered where did my parents get the nerve to hang up when I was the one who called.

After talking to her, I called Mpilo and invited him for lunch. Deets were yet to be confirmed as I waited for Zolani to text me the time and place and when he did, I was like checkmate.

Lunchtime came and I drove to Butcher Boys at Florida since it was closer to my work place. Zolani was already there waiting for me and I rolled my eyes internally. I greeted him and sat down, he didn't even

open the chair for me like he used to. Motherfucker was only in it for that position they promised him shame. He wanted to butter me up till I became soft so he could run and tell devil in Versace that I was part of the statistic for promiscuous people. No it wasn't about to happen on my watch. I valued my relationship and respected Mpilo very much.

"Thank you for coming babe."

Erh! I felt like throwing up, that's how much I didn't give two fucks about him. I was only there to show him who is boss.

"Sure. Have you ordered yet?"

He shook his head with a smile on his face and I laughed internally thinking about how I was about to wipe off in a minute.

"I was waiting for you love. Just order what you and I'll pay."

"If you say so."

I said in my nicest voice that I could pick out of my intestines. My phone beeped and it was a text from Mpilo telling me that he was outside. I texted him back and told him to get in.

"You'll see me seated with a man who has a humungous head."

I texted back and before I knew it

he walking towardsour table and Lord he was serving them looks. He was hotter than some Indian's curry and I just had the urge to have him right there and then. He had on black formal pants and a white shirt that was neatly tucked in. The sleeves of his shirt were rolled up revealing a watch around his wrist that screamed "I'm expensive" and

those shoes Lord. I watched as he paraded his way to us and I didn't even give a fuck that I was with Zolani. I was admiring my man, the one who made my boobs come alive at night and day.

"Sanibona."

He said bringing me back to earth and I swallowed my saliva. He was making me feel very hot.

"Sawubona mfethu. How can we help you?"

Zolani asked with a nasty attitude and Mpilo looked at me.

"Oh Zolani this is my boyfriend Mpilo and Mpilo this is Zolani who is trying to seduce me so he can climb up the business ladder at the office. He was sent by your ex to yours truly."

I said and Zolani coughed up a storm. Eshe!

I looked at Mpilo who looked mad but calm at the same time, that was his superpower. He sat down next to me and placed his arm around my shoulder. Oh his touch was enough to make me see stars in broad daylight.

"So ndoda wena you've been using my woman to get ahead?"

He asked and looked at Zolani who was busy massaging his chest. Awww he needed Benylin.

"No that's not true and Wawa must be mistaken. This is just me hoping to rekindle our relationship that's all. There's really no sinister reason behind this."

He said and Mpilo chuckled.

"Listen and listen to me carefully, Awande is off limits. If she ever tells me that you have been texting her or giving her looks, I will slit your throat, watch you bleed out and shower in your blood."

He said in such a calm manner and I won't lie, that had my clit throbbing. I knew he had it in him but just needed the right person to channel his inner beast to and voila, I gave him Zolani.

"Ummh, let me go before they get me fired. I'm sorry if I overstepped on your toes Awande. Ummh you have nothing to worry about my man."

He said as he stood up and ran away. I was about to break down and laugh when Mpilo pinched me.

"Ouch what was that for?"

I asked as I gently rubbed the painful place.

"Why haven't you told me that the woman was scheming and even invited your stupid ex to be a part of her little games?"

I strached my neck. I did that a lot when I was caught off guard.

"Oops, it must've slipped my mind. Why do you think I've been gulping down wine like water these days? Yeses your ex has been making my life a living hell at work and honestly, I didn't want you to worry. You already had enough going on."

He chuckled.

"Asambe."

I looked at him confused.

"Asisadli ne muffin nje?"

I asked and he gave me a nasty look. He stood up and pulled me up too.

We drove to my workplace and I thanked him as he dropped me off but surprisingly he got out of the car too. I was like okay, my man want us to get nasty in my office oh la la. I got excited and thought yess, he's about to scratch my itch.

"Is your boss in?"

He asked Sazi and Sazi just looked at him. His voice was deeper than usual.

"Yes, do you have an appointment with Mrs Buthelezi."

I internally said "eww".

"No but call and tell her that Mpilo Buthelezi is here to see her."

He said and she did as told.

"She says you can go in. Wawa can you please show him her office for me?"

I nodded and we made our way to her office. I so wanted to ask him why he was there but I kept my mouth shut instead. After I showed it to him, I tried to walked back to mine but he grabbed my arm.

"You need to hear this too!"

He said as he knocked. She said come in too quickly for my liking. Anyway, she stood up as he walked in and I just stood behind him.

"Mpilo."

She said softly.

"Listen this one is off limits."

He said as he pulled me to stand in front of him and her face expression changed drastically. From "Oh Mpilo take me" to "witch". The spotlight was weighing heavily on me.

"What does this b..."

He raised his hand and cut her off. She literally gasped and was internally like "that's my man y'all". I guess she never thought he had it in him.

"I'm not done talking and like I said, she is off limits. I have been quiet and very patient with you woman but this is where I draw the fucking line. You will not treat my girlfriend like trash here and you will absolutely not hire some idiots to seduce her. Get it through that thick skull of yours that you and I are done for good and we have been for a while. Don't you have blessers that you can fuck maybe or your father's security guards?"

I gasped and so did Devil in Versace. It seemed as if she never had expected those words to come out of Mpilo's mouth. They also took me by a surprise, I didn't know it was possible for him to vomit verbal diarrhea too. That was all me lmao!

"Mpilo, I...."

"Vele what is your problem woman? Listen, I don't want to repeat this ever again, if you have something against me than face me but leave my partner out of it. She's not some pawn to your little chess game and actually, you've always sucked in chess. Do anything to her and I'll put

you six feet under and your father's money won't even be able to resurrect you. Baby let's go."

I looked at her and she really looked butt hurt shame. It was like her world came crushing down all at once.

"Haibo Mpilo was that necessary?"

I asked him as he we got into my office and oh boy, he was mad.

"She had it coming and don't you dare feel sorry for her. I've been trying to be the bigger person all this time but it ends now. Ungijwayela kabi lowamfazi."

I sighed and hugged him. He caved in under my touch and it felt so good to know that I had such an effect on him.

"Calm down okay, I'll be fine. I'm fine."

I assured him and he just held me.

"I'm calm baby I'm calm. I love you."

"I love you too sthandwa sami and thank you for fighting my battles for me."

He kissed my neck.

"No don't do that babe, uzovusa izinto eziilele."

I said and he laughed.

"Are you going to be okay because I can stay till you knockoff."

He said and I giggled.

"I'm a big girl, I can take care of myself."

He nodded and pulled out of the hug.

"I'll see you later then. If she troubles you in any way, call me"

He kissed my forehead and left. I sighed and waited for the devil to come and embarrass me but she never did. Everyone was talking about it at the office and thank God, no one knew that it was all because of me.

Chapter Twenty One

The week went by pretty fast and in no time, I was driving from South Beach to Montclair. As happy as I was about seeing my family, I was kinda nervous about the dinner on Saturday though. When I told Mpilo about it he was like "I'll definitely be there babe."

I was home in no time and my parents were so happy to see me.

"Where are your kids?"

They chuckled.

"Haibo you forget ukuthi they also don't live here. Nhlanhla is at that girlfriend of his and Nkosinathi is at work but they'll both be here tomorrow. As for Sbani you know where he is."

Argh! The only reason why Nhlanhla was going to be there is because he wanted to haunt my man.

"I hope he is coming."

My dad said and I internally screamed.

"Nkare nka screama gore."

I said and my mom laughed

"Screma ausi mara aribuleyi morawu"

Lmao she had no shame, how could she Zulufy Sotho like that?

"Baba abeg, don't scare my manoo, I begooo."

I begged.

"Look arts you now wit your abeg abeg, see man will de talk on Saturday so sssh okay before you cause wahala for noting now."

He answered and we both laughed. Forgive me, my father and I loved Nigerian movies. Their accent always left me mesmerized but he was more interested in their witchcraft.

"Hayi seniqalile bo Chineke."

"Mama, you wicked. Do you know that Chineke means God. So you literally calling us Gods. Well if that's the case, then can you please run a very hot bath for me and throw in some lavender oil and Oh, don't forget a nice cocktail. This Messiah will be waiting."

I said and in no time, a flip flop landed on my face and I felt like crying out loud.

"Yabona ke baba isona isizathu esingenza ngingasathandi ukuza layikhaya."

I sulked and walked to my room.

"Bye bye."

They laughed as I closed my bedroom door. My room still looked the same and I just found myself reminiscing back to the times when I'd lock myself in after my parents scolded me for running after my high school boyfriend. I wouldn't say I was a rebel during my teenage years but I was no saint either. I did escape through the window here and there but it wasn't that bad.

I took out my phone from my bag and called my brother Sbani. For some reason, I really wanted him back in Durban.

"I miss you bhuti."

I said and he sighed.

"I miss you too sisi wami but you can visit me anytime this side. We have a lot to talk about sis, a lot."

I giggled.

"Yini usuthole indoda njalo?"

As weird as it sounded when I asked, I was glad that my brother was living his life.

"Well singasho njalo but we'll talk about it tomorrow when I come down."

I gasped

"Haibo nawe uyeza?"

I was really gobsmacked.

"Did you really think I'd miss the opportunity of seeing our father drilling your man? Oh hell no. My flight is at 8 and I'll be earlier than him."

"Ngathi your gay side is going to dina me nyani"

I said and he laughed.

"Well you gonna have to deal with it sis because it is for life."

I chukled.

"Suka, anyway I love you like that bhuti wami. I wouldn't change nor trade you for anything. I love you."

"I love you too mntase byeeeeee."

He said before hanging up. Not him too! My family were really testing me. They always complained about how I never called but always hung up when I did smh.

"Woza uzodla sisi."

My mom shouted and I smiled. She always knew that not matter how mad I'd be at her, I wouldn't dare say no to food but she had another thing coming.

"Ngiyabonga kodwa ngisuthi."

I peeped through the door and answered her. You should've seen her face, she was beyond shocked.

"Uzodinwa kuze kube ini? It's your favorite."

I swallowed.

"Till our Lord and savior return to take his people back to paradise with him"

I said sarcastically and she clicked her tongue.

"Awuze uzodla wena."

My father ordered and I melted.

"Yebo baba wami."

I said and they both laughed. Okay, they had me where they wanted me. After we finished eating, my mom and I did the dishes.

"I'm not sorry about earlier but I promise I won't embarrass you in front of your boyfriend tomorrow."

She said as rinsed the dishes and I sighed.

"You could never embarrass me mama, you are the greatest mom ever. Noma ungangishaya ngabo belandelana, I wouldn't mind."

She giggled.

"Ukuthi nje nonke seem to forget us sometimes."

Her words went straight to my heart. I never knew how they really felt about us leaving home.

"Ngiyazi ukuthi sibandala manje mama but believe me when I tell you that you two are the last people we would want to forget in this entire world. You two are our lives and always know that we love you guys very much. We wouldn't be where we are if it wasn't for your love and warm hands that nurtured us. Don't ever think that mama and yes we may fail to call every now and then but you are always in our hearts. I never go to bed without thinking about your beautiful smile or dad's deep laugh. You are my world woman."

I said as I side hugged her and she smiled.

"Futhi go to bed and relax. I'll do these dishes."

"Okay baby, just don't forget to turn off the lights when you are done"

I nodded and she hugged me. I had really missed the warmth of her hugs.

"Ngiyakuthanda Melokuhle."

I melted.

"Ngiyakuthanda nami mama gore"

She giggled and left me alone in the kitchen. I finished what I doing before retreating to my bedroom. I texted with my man for a while before calling it a night. I prayed for a smooth day on Saturday and slept like a baby after.

Saturday!

My mom woke me up after 10 and asked me to accompany her to the mall so she can buy groceries. I so wanted to refuse but come on, those groceries were going to be used to prepare a delicious meal for my man so I had no choice. Thank God, my mom was better at cooking. So I drove us to the mall and wow, sis shopped till she dropped.

"Hayi intaba yase Dubai ke le."

I said looking at the trolley and she laughed.

"I want Mpilo to eat nice food, something that he doesn't get often."

Ishuu! The shade!

"Savage!"

I said and we laughed. Her phone beeped and she did her thing.

"Oh Sbani just arrived at home."

I rolled my eyes.

"Wow! Can the ground open up and swallow me already."

I sighed.

"Sorry but this is happening whether you like it or not. I can't wait to see him though and I hope he is cute. I want cute grandbabies mina."

I chuckled.

"Cute is for boys mom, he is a handsome man."

I blushed and she chortled.

"Yoh! Stop daydreaming and let us go pay for lantaba yase Dubai."

"Yebo Ndlovukazi "

"Mxm"

We made our way to the tills. We paid and made our way out to the parking lot.

"Ma what if dad doesn't like him?"

I asked as we offloaded the groceries inside the boot.

"Look baby, we can't decide who to date for you but do understand that we are your parents and we will always try to look out for you. Don't be negative okay, I'm sure him and your dad will get along."

I scoffed.

"Kodwa uyamazi ubaba mama, he has one of the meanest faces on earth."

She giggled.

"And you take after him shame."

We closed the boot and got inside the car.

"Haibo mom I don't have a mean face. I have the most welcoming face ever."

I said as I drove off.

"Weee remember how Zodwa's kid used to run everytime when she saw you?"

"But mama, that kid was a spoilt brat that didn't have any manners. I hate kids who can't say please and thank you."

She chuckled.

"But Wawa, she was just a kid and it was. certainly not her fault that she lacked manners. You should've been mad at Zodwa."

I sighed.

"I guess you right but ma, I can't just be mad at someone just because I don't agree with how they raising their kids."

She nodded.

"True but why were you mad at the child because she certainly didn't raise herself. Umntwana uyizimfundiso zabazali bakhe and that's it. If the parent doesn't know what's right or wrong, do you think the child will know?"

I shook my head.

"Exactly, so it was unfair of you to be mean at the poor child. Anyway, can't you drive a little faster. I need to see my gorgeous sons"

I laughed.

"Okay I am not Vin Diesel and jonga mna

ndi gojasi nami."

She chuckled.

As soon as we walked through the door, Sbani jumped on us. At least he helped us carry the groceries unlike dad who was like "I can't pay for them and then carry them too". I shook my head at that statement. My dad had drama for days and I guess that's where Nkosi got it from. Nhlanhla, Sbani and I took after mom. We were all about love and peace.

"How are you Awa?"

I smiled.

"I am good thanks and how are you bhuti?"

"I'm good too sis."

He smiled.

"Mina?"

My mom sulked.

"I was about to ask you mama."

They went on to greet each other nicely. She made us some snacks while we talked. After a while, Nhlanhla and Nkosinathi came through and just like that our family was complete. They greeted and then sulked at the fact that mom didn't save some food for them.

"Nkosi please help me prepare the food."

Mom said and Nkosi chuckled.

"Basincisha ukudla kodwa babuye badinge usizo lwethu."

He whispered under his breath but we all heard him loud and clear.

"Be careful, the flip flop is not too far."

My mom warned and we all chuckled. He quickly got up from his seat and helped her.

"How is Belinda?"

I asked Nhlanhla as he helped me set up the table.

"Uyahlanya loyo, so I did what you told me and deleted her friend's number but still, she's never happy so I broke up with her the other day. You know as much as I love her sis, I cannot deal with her drama anymore. Sesiya kwi toxicity phela manje and I ain't all about that."

"How did she take it?"

"She cursed at me and accused me of cheating on her of which is not even the case. I'm just tired of her tantrums and trust issues."

He looked really hurt but it was probably for the best. Listen, don't get me wrong, Belinda was an amazing girl but she had a lot of issues that she had to deal on her own before she got into a relationship with

another person. She really needed to have a relationship with herself first.

"It's probably for the best bhuti and you know that I like her but she can be toxic for you and you know it. I want you both to be happy and before y'all reach that stage, she need to sort out herself and nawe, you need to make some changes."

I sighed and gave him a big hug and kissed both of his cheeks. He laughed and I smiled.

"That's what I wanted to hear, your beautiful laugh. You not alone bro and whenever you need us, we are here okay. Take all your time and if she gives you trouble, send her to me. I'll sort her out."

And the legend says that I couldn't even sort out my own shit.

"Ngiyabonga mntase, I really needed that."

"You welcome bhuti."

We finished setting up the table and it wasn't so bad.

"Manje sigqoka u-formal or?"

Nathi asked and we all chuckled.

"Noma ungagqoka ibheshu bhuti ayikho inkinga."

Nhlanhla said and he laughed.

"Need help in the kitchen guys?"

I asked.

"NO!"

They both said at the same time and then looked at each other.
Everyone kept quiet.

"Wow! I'm gonna go get ready."

As soon as I closed the door, they laughed making me click my tongue.
I checked my phone and called my man after seeing his missed calls.

"Hey."

I said and he chuckled.

"What happened baby, talk to daddy."

He was really getting better at reading my tone.

"It's nothing baby, anyway are you good?"

I asked.

"Yes I'm good and I'm just finishing up dressing. Please send me the location so I can pull up."

"I'll send it now now baby. What are you wearing? You can even come naked though, I wouldn't mind."

He laughed but I was curious like really curious.

"Remember that picture of Sun-el that you once posted on your status, yep just like"

I chuckled

"Was that jealousy I sensed baby, futhi we weren't even dating at that time hawu."

I chortled.

"Hayi suka and I'm glad you have stopped posting some random men. Anyway is it appropriate babe? Tell me now so I can change please."

He was panicking and it wasn't even funny.

"No it is fine. I just sent you the location and please drive carefully."

"Thank you and I will. I love you Awande."

"I love you too muntu wami."

We talked for a while before I hung up and it felt so good. I took a long shower and wore a long body hugging black dress with long sleeves and topped it off with nude stilettos. I did my makeup and fixed my hair. Viola, I looked like a million dollar.

"How I do I look?"

I asked them and they whistled.

"Hawu suka nini madoda, wena Dlamini, Sibalukhulu, Mdlovu, Magaduzela. Wena ntombi enhle engathi izihlabathi zolwandle, ngicela ube ngowami ntombi."

Dad said as he danced around and I melted, like really melted.

"Ngiyavuma baba."

I said and we all laughed happily.

"Awusemuhle sisi wami."

Sbani said and they all agreed.

"Asithembe ukuthi he's treating you good because if he messes up, I swear I will break his bones."

Nhlanhla said and I chortled.

"Relax bro yehlisa amaphaphu. Anyways, I'm sure he is on his way by now and guys, abeg please be nice and go look nice tog."

I said and they rolled their eyes but at least they listened to me. Mom and Nkosie placed the different dishes of food on the table and cleaned the kitchen before going to get ready.

"Uyamthanda?"

My dad asked as I snuggled up close and personal to him.

"Yebo ngiyamthanda baba, kakhulu futhi."

He nodded.

"Hawu baba when are you gonna go and get ready?"

The man was watching football and wearing shorts.

"Haibo isemzini wami la, I can wear whatever I want whenever I want."

I sulked

"Okay okay kodwa umuntu uyahlukunyezwa nje emzini wakhe."

He said as he stood up from the couch.

"Thank you daddy."

I said as he walked away. I sighed and looked at the time. After a while they all came out looking dashing. Hayi, we were a bunch of beautiful people.

My phone rang and I answered it.

"Guys he is outside and for the last time ngiyacela, please be nice."

I said after hanging up and they shrugged their shoulders. I opened the gate for him and went to him.

"Hey."

He said as he got out of the car and walked to me.

"Is it safe to kiss you because I want to kiss you so bad, I miss you baby."

He cupped my face and I smiled

"When y'all are done please grace us with your important presence inside as we your peasants wait for you."

Nhlanhla said and looked at us before heading back to the house again. He didn't even greet.

"Well that's Nhlanhla babe. The rudest one and a sarcastic asshole."

I chuckled and he laughed. He took out a bouquet of pink roses and a bottle of Hennessy from his car.

"Hehehe hayi uzama ukuthenga abazali bami yini?"

He laughed.

"Ready?"

I asked and he nodded. We made our way into the house and all eyes were on us. He greeted and my family greeted back.

"Bafo."

Nkosi said and they fist bumped.

"Awume kancane wena."

Dad ordered and I chuckled. After giving them the flowers and bottle, mom led us to the table where I sat down next to him. My dad's face was enough to make one have nightmares even in broad daylight.

Yoh!

Chapter Twenty Two

Dinner-Second Part

He squeezed my thigh under the table and I placed my hand on top of his hand. My dad was really making him nervous.

"So awusho ndoda, usuke washada ngampambilini?"

I looked at dad who looked at Mpilo without blinking.

"Yebo baba"

"Then what happened?"

Oh my Lort, I felt like packing my bags and elope to Afghanistan.

"Dad don..."

He squeezed my thigh more and looked at me with a smile before looking at my father with a straight face too.

"Let's just say that much ex wife was very abusive. Emotionally and psychologically and it got to a point where I decided that enough was enough. That's why I decided to let her go"

My dad shook his head.

"So you didn't fight for your marriage?"

I clenched my fists.

"Baba I think that is enough!"

"No its fine bab.. I mean Awande. Mr Dlamini, the Lord knows that I did everything I could to be the best husband to that woman but still it was

just never enough for her. I spent 4 years trying to be the best but she still chose to leave me anyway"

I so wanted my dad to stop asking him about his failed marriage.

"So Mpilo how old are you?"

My mom asked and I thanked the heavens.

"I am 27 mama"

"Indoda endala kangaka ifunani kumntwana?"

Nhlanhla asked and I looked at him. I whispered a "Really" but he completely ignored me.

"I believe that age really doesn't matter in love or life"

Booyah! He said and Nnhlanhla chortled.

"Aren't you older than Belinda too Nhlanhla?"

Mom asked and my heart did a little vosho. At least someone was on my side. Nhlanhla chuckled bitterly.

"So why do you do?"

Sbani asked and I sighed. They're weren't even letting him chew his food and it was a miracle that he hadn't chocked on his food already.

"I'm business man"

"Legal or illegal?"

Sbani asked and I gasped. I had expected that to come out of Nhlanhla or Nkosi's mouth but not his. I was shocked!

"Legal bafo, I respect the law very much"

"Can we just eat in peace please"

I begged and they all chuckled. It seemed like they had listen to me until my father started with his 21 questions all over again.

"So what are you intentions with my daughter?"

Ah that question!

"Ngiyayithanda indodakazi yakho baba and there's nothing I wouldn't do for her. I would really love to have her hand in marriage and start a little family with her. Ofcourse with your blessings sir."

He looked at me and I blushed.

"Are you ready to pay 17 cows?"

I opened my eyes widely and looked at mom. I so hoped for her to read between the lines and ask her husband to slow down on my behalf.

"Anything for your daughter baba, anything"

Mpilo answered and again, I blushed. He was marinating me with his sweet words yhuu.

"Awa please help me clear the table"

Mom said and I slowly shook my head. I was so afraid to leave him with those vultures except for Nathi, who was a sweetheart that day.

"Leave us so men can talk"

Or maybe I spoke too soon. Nathi!

"Weeee bhatata"

I said and in no time, a flip flop landed on my face. It took Mpilo by surprise because he looked at me then looked at mom who was looking rather calm on her chair then at everyone. Everyone was just calm and that confused him even more.

He rubbed my cheek as he tried to hold in his laughter.

"Are you okay?"

He asked and I sulked. He held it in till he couldn't no more. He laughed and we all looked at him.

"I'm sorry I didn't mean to"

He said as he tried to hold it in again and after a while, we all laughed.

"Welcome to the family"

Sbani said and we were all in stitches. My mom and I cleared the table and left the 'men' to talk.

"Thank you mama, we needed that but aw it hurts"

We laughed.

"I swear I would've kicked him out if he didn't laugh"

"Nami futhi and it caught him by a surprise shame. Knowing him, I know he's never letting this go ke kodwa"

I said.

"Who in their right mind would kodwa, did you see how it flew to you though. Pssh phaa"

We laughed and dished out the dessert.

"So Mpilo, siblings?"

Mom asked.

"Yes, I have two and they both younger than me. Snothando is 22 and Luvuyo is 18"

Mom nodded and winked at me.

"What did your parents say about your separation with your wife?"

Dad! I so wanted to scream from the bottom of my kidneys.

"They were really supportive sir, and I don't think I would've made it out alive if it wasn't for them. They were my rocks when I was down and out. They never complained nor made me feel bad about anything. They took care of me after my wife left me in pieces. They nurtured me back to this person I am right now."

He said and I could tell he was becoming emotional. I squeezed his hand and he bit his upper lip. What he said just resonated with all of us and everyone just kept their faces glued to their desserts.

"Good to know that me and your parents share the same values. So if you ever make my daughter cry or hurt her in any way, I will kill you. Since it is May, I'll give you June and July and if you two haven't broken up by then, I will then give you my blessings."

My dad said and I smiled. At least he was trying and that was the only thing that mattered to me.

"Siyabonga baba"

Mpilo said and everyone smiled.

"So with that out of that way

asiphuzeni uHenny bakwethu"

Nathi said and we all agreed. He poured some Hennessy for all of us and we drank happily.

"Yhuuu hayi ngeke, umuntu uzosha isibindi la"

My mom said and we all laughed.

"Don't worry I'll buy you your cheap stuff tomorrow"

Sbani said and we all giggled

"Ngizokuthi phaaa ngophaqa wena kuphele ukuphapha"

He scratched his neck and looked away.

"Oh so that's where you get the neck scratching thing from"

Mpilo whispered in my ear and I giggled.

"How sure are you that he didn't get it from me?"

I whispered back.

"Well he is older than you so.."

"Lol we all actually do that, let me prove it for you"

He nodded.

"So Nathi when I am seeing my niece and nephews?"

I asked and he quickly scratched the side of his neck and looked at me.

"Awume kancane wena Wawa"

Nathi said and focused on his drink again.

"See, I told you. We usually do that when we asked questions that we don't want to be asked"

He laughed and shook his head.

"Y'all are weird but I love you and I really want to kiss you right now"

I giggled

"I love you too and stop"

He brushed my thigh under the table and I crossed my legs. He looked at the time and sighed.

"I need to go babe, you know I hate driving in the dark"

I sulked.

"What time is it?"

My dad asked. I guess he heard us.

"It is just after 6 baba"

Nhlanhla answered him.

"Well Mpilo it is late for you to travel now and the roads are not safe at all, so you can use our guest bedroom and wena Awande, don't you dare"

I chortled and thanked him.

"Trust me dad, I'll behave. Asiphuzeni"

They all laughed and yes, I was trying to get them drunk so I would be able to fuck my man later on under my dad's roof.

We had a jol and later on, everyone called it a night. We all took pictures together and we looked happy as fuck. We were glowing bethunana and I was there for it. As for me and Mpilo, we definitely looked a like a power couple, a force to be reckoned with.

After retreating to my bedroom, I posted a few of the pictures and WhatsApp contacts went crazy. The ladies wanted the guy's numbers and I just laughed.

Mpil: We look cute

Mpilo replied on my status.

Awa: Cute is for kids, we look gorgeous. New York Fashion Week gorge!

Mpil: Yess ma'am. Baby?

Awa: Hmm

Mpil: Can't you tip toe and come to me. I swear we won't do anything, we'll just cuddle.🤔

Awa: Please stop seducing me😁😹 No babe, please let's rest. Not under my father's roof okay.

Mpil: 😊 Okay you right at least meet in the kitchen for a goodnight kiss.

Awa: You are so hell bent on getting us in trouble yazi but fine, let me change this dress and then wash my face first.

"Mpilo: You looked very beautiful my love and I'm sorry that I'm only telling you this now.

Awa: Thank you love and you looked good too♥

I logged out of WhatsApp and changed the dress to a comfy t-shirt before going to the bathroom to wash my face.

"Hey"

I said as I stood beside him in the kitchen and thank God the lights were off.

"Woza la."

He smashed his lips on mine wasting no time.

"Mpilo"

"Just kiss me baby"

We kissed each other till I pulled out and he groaned. I led him to my bedroom and locked the door.

He sat on the bed and made me sit on top of him. I wrapped my arms around his neck and he grabbed my ass.

"You do know that this is so wrong right?"

I asked

"Then why does it feel so good?"

His voice was deep and he looked sexy as fuck. I so wanted to devour him like a beast but but, sighed.

"No baby you'll have to go, I respect my father and this will seem like we spitting his kindness back to his face."

He sighed and hugged me.

"Okay let me go."

I got off of him and stood up. Oh my Lort, he was hard like a rock and I just laughed looking at it.

"Mxm"

He said as he made his was out of my room and gently closed the door.

I said a little prayer and drifted away.

Chapter Twenty Three

Sunday

I found everyone already seated on the table and munching on food. I was ashamed and embarrassed that I was the last one to wake up.

"Ndodana are you sure you still want to take this one as a wife? Mbuke nje ukuthi uvuka nini!"

My dad shook his head and Mpilo chuckled. He already knew that I was the last one to wake up even on work days.

"Yebo baba."

"Oho! Don't coming running to me when she burns your house while trying to make an egg."

Savage!

"Wow baba futhi what does waking up late have to do with making food?"

Everyone laughed and I sulked.

"What is it that you can cook vele Wande?"

Sbani asked. You see, he was becoming too much for me to handle. The motherfucker definitely found his voice after coming out of the closet.

"I don't know think out of the box."

I said sarcastically.

"Wow, firstly I had to think out of the closet and now I have to think outside of the box. It is a lot hey."

He said carelessly and we were all in stitches.

"Yho bafo, ungenzani kodwa ekuseni kangaka."

Nhlanhla asked as he wiped his tears.

"Can you go back into it please so I can have my quiet brother back, yabo manje usufuna nalaba"

I said pointing at them and they clicked their tongues.

"Kodwa ngoyihlo uMelusi, eyinhlinza kahle kangaka inkomo emcimbini waze wamuphoxa."

Nathi said and we were all rolling on the floor. Dad slapped Nathi on the back of his head and he groaned.

I washed the dishes after we were done eating and my handsome man was having a jol with the 'men' and queen of the family. We literally spent the entire afternoon talking, eating and laughing as Mom told Mpilo all about my shenanigans.

"So there was this one time, we asked her to stay away from that boy Andile who was her high school boyfriend and guess what she did?"

My mom was on a mission to embarrass me.

"Please tell me already ma."

Mpilo begged as he laughed.

"Well she packed her bags and told us that she was leaving because we were apparently restricting her. We said okay child, go wherever your heart desires and she looked at us like we were crazy. She took the bag

and slowly made her way to the door and then turned around and asked "Won't you even beg me to stay?" and we shook our heads."

I wished for the ground to open up and swallow me whole. The way she was spilling all my dirty beans to him was embarrassing. I even wished for that whale that swallowed Jonah, to swallow me too.

"Baba do something, please talk to your wife."

I begged and he just poured more petrol to the already burning fire.

"I'm so gonna go and get ready so Mpilo and I can leave already."

"But Awande, I'm still enjoying myself here."

I gasped and clapped my hands. I went to my room and they laughed. That was becoming a norm, me leaving and them laughing behind my back. Abo Judas!

After a while, Mama knocked on my door and I ignored her.

"Noma ungangiziba but kuba late so get ready and come here child"

She said and I rolled my eyes. I looked at my room and sighed, it was really nice being at home.

"Here I am now bow down to your queen my mortal peasants or suffer great consequences."

I said as I walked over to them and my brothers went down on their knees and bowed. I touched their shoulders and told them they can get up. My parents and Mpilo were laughing the entire time.

"Wow, just like that."

Mpilo asked and we all laughed.

"Mxm, your girlfriend was really bossy when she was young. There was this one time when mom and dad were out of town and left her with us. They told us no partying but come on wouldn't you have done it? we were still young nathi. So after the party we asked her not to tell on us and she promised that she wouldn't tell. So when they come back, she started bossing us around and telling us to bow diwn before her because if we didn't, she will tell them. Our parents were so confused and it got the point where we couldn't take it anymore so we told them. Imagine being woken up from a nice nap just to make her a sandwich, she really had us good."

Nhlanhla said and everyone laughed. Ah those were the days when one was a queen and ruled the Dlamini household.

"Okay enough guys, save some stories for my kids abegoooo. Anyway, we really need go leave before kubamnyama."

I said and they all agreed. We all stood up and exchanged hugs.

"Siyabonga ndodana for gracing with your presence. Please take care of my daughter or else!"

Dad said as they shook hands.

"Ngiyabonga nami baba for welcoming me with warm hands and please don't worry, I will take good care of her"

I smiled and hugged my parents once more.

"I love you guys"

I so wanted to cry, that's how much I loved my family. I hugged my brothers again and told them to send me some money.

"Kwagogo ezola."

Nhlanhla said it first and I laughed. Sbani didn't even waste no time, he sent me R6000 and I jumped up and down.

"Remember all the things I said? Well I take them back. I love you more than these two idiots"

He laughed and gave me some little love on top of the Randela baby.

"But you don't even know if I was going to send it or not"

Nathi said and we all laughed.

"Please!"

We all said and he chuckled. Nathi was stingy just like his father.

"Nihambe kahle sisi"

Mom! She hugged us once again and kissed our cheeks.

"Siyabonga mama and thank you for the food. It was delicious. Please send me the recipes"

I said and they all made faces that were very hard to comprehend.

"Wow! Othi ngizihambele ngiye kwami"

I walked away and they all laughed.

"Call us when you arrive please.

Mom said as she peeped through the window of my car and I squeezed her hands.

"If I don't get too distracted, I will. If you know what I mean"

I raised my eyebrows as she processed what I said.

"Ah sies Awande Melokuhle Dlamini. I am still your mother for goodness sake"

She pinched my cheek and I laughed.

"Love you too mommy"

I drove out first and Mpilo followed me. We hooted as they waved their hands. He called and I answered.

"My place or yours?"

"Mine"

"Okay

drive safely"

He hung up.

The distance from Montclair to South Beach wasn't that far so we got to my place in no time.

We parked our cars inside the building's parking lot and made our way to my paradise.

"Home sweet home"

I said as I threw myself on my bed and he opened the windows before throwing himself on the bed too.

"Your family is amazing bab and I really had fun. I'm really going to enjoy having them as my In-laws. Asishade already baby"

I smiled.

"Bathong babe and they like you too. I mean Nhlanhla even gave you his favorite t-shirt"

He chuckled and placed his head on my chest.

"He was like you can't be seen with my sister wearing yesterday's clothes so take this and I was like thanks bro"

I giggled because that was definitely something that Nhlanhla would say.

"I'm sorry about my dad's questions. I know they were a bit personal"

"No babe, don't be sorry and I really didn't mind. I'm not ashamed of anything"

I nodded.

He removed his head and stood up. He took off his pants and looked at me.

"Wenzani?"

I smirked.

"Just taking off my pants sisi, nothing more. I want to rest a little bit before I go back to my house."

"Okay"

I said and got under the covers.

"Take off your clothes"

He commanded and I shook my head.

"And if I dont want to?"

He smirked.

"Please"

I did as told and he bit his lower lip while looking at me. I got undercovers and so did he.

When his bare skin made contact with mine, I groaned a little bit. He parted my legs with his leg as he stared deep into the windows of my soul.

"I want to make love to you till sunrise"

His voice was husky and I got wet. He kissed me while rubbing my clit and I moaned. He slowly went down to my neck, breasts, navel and all the way down to my pussy. His hands were holding my thighs in place and his face between my heaven. He kissed my pussy and licked it, kissing and licking.

Without any warning he slid in his tounge and I swayed my hips but he tightened the grip on them.

He tongue fucked me, licked my clit, ate my clit and back to tongue fucking me. He went on and on till I couldn't take it anymore.

"Ah baby"

I said as I released all my juices on his face and I was a panting, shaking and sweating mess. Finally I pulled myself together and looked at him.

"It is my turn now baby"

I said and he grinned. I got on top of him and kissed him like I had never kissed him before while stroking his dick. I moved my kisses down to his neck, stomach and all the way down to his groin. I started kissing his dick while keeping our eyes locked. He tried to grab my hair but I yanked his hand away. It was my show and my rules.

My kisses became wet and sloppy and that sent him over the edge.

"Baby please"

I stopped and chuckled.

"But I haven't even done anything baby"

I said and he looked like he was about to cry.

I softly grabbed and squeezed his dick and balls and then released the pressure and went back to kissing his lips.

"Please".

"Please what my love?"

I asked as I stroked his dick.

"Please suck my dick"

I kissed him all the way down and gently massaged his balls with my tongue when I reached the.. I stopped and applied my saliva on his dick while looking at him.

"You like that?"

I asked as I stroked his wet dick and he nodded

"Use your words baby"

"Ye-ss I I do baby I do"

The lust in his eyes was making me wetter. I kissed him again and tightened my hand around his dick.

"Fuck babe"

I ignored him and kissed my way down to his groin again and he looked frustrated as hell.

I started licking and flicking his glans and he groaned. Applied more saliva and slowly took him in and took him out again. I took him in again while looking at him and he lost it. I went in and out, in and out while massaging his balls gently.

I deep throated him and he groaned out loud. He roughly grabbed my hair and I let him. I went deeper and deeper with my hand still working his balls. He cried out loud as his semen filled my mouth. I swallowed every last inch.

"Come here"

He said in a hoarse voice and I shook my head.

"Lay still please"

I massaged his dick till he got rock hard again.

"Are you comfortable?"

I asked and he nodded. I positioned myself on his dick before going in nice and slowly. I lay flat on top him and kissed him.

"Baby please"

He cried out loud as my pussy walls devoured his dick. I slowly went In and out, in and out.

"Don't you love it?"

I increased my pace and bit his lower lip roughly.

"I love it baby I do I do"

I went faster and faster and he literally screamed for the whole world to hear as his semen filled my pussy. I rode him through his orgasm and he begged but I ignored him.

"Take it"

I said and he winced just like a wounded puppy. He gently removed me from him and I giggled.

"Fuck baby, are you trying to kill me?"

He asked as he tried to catch his breath.

"A little ngwana like me, no"

He chuckled and pulled to him.

"Please call your mom before we continue with our little rendezvous"

I laughed.

"But my phone is so far"

He looked at me so intensely and reminded me of that song by Kelly Khumalo and Mondli Ngcobo.

"Don't look at me like that, ngaze bathi ngathwala ngawe"

He chuckled.

"Please do yazi, I really wouldn't mind"

I laughed.

"Heyi let me look for my phone so I can call my mom"

"Mina I'm hungry so I'll go make food"

He smirked and I clicked my tongue. He wore his boxers as I searched for my phone in my bag.

"Found it"

He smiled and walked out. I switched it on and called my my mother. We spoke for almost an hour and the entire time she was just praising Mpilo yhuu. I literally had to say "Bye ma" and she laughed.

After talking to her, I found Mpilo sitting on the couch and watching football on my tv, the disrespect.

"The nerve, the audacity!"

He laughed.

"Come watch it with me, you'll enjoy it"

"I'd rather die and be buried next to Ted Bundy"

"Funny but I'm sure usewumlotha manje"

I chuckled.

"I'm hungry sthandwa sami"

"I ordered, angithi you have no food here unless you want to eat cheerios for dinner"

I shook my head

"Fine let me go take a shower ke"

I said and he was like "huh". I just huffed and walked away. He shouted after me but I ignored him. I got under the shower and had the time of my life. There was something about hot showers that got me so high and relaxed. You know that feeling you get after smoking some Sativa or Durban poison? That's how I always felt. Hot shower, clean sheet and oversized t-shirt were my therapy.

"The food is here"

He said as he leaned against the bathroom door.

"Okay thanks"

I said and he laughed.

"Qeda phela, I'm waiting"

I turned off the water and dried my body before stepping out of the shower. He grabbed my arm as I walked past him.

"Umuhle"

I smiled.

"Ngiyabonga"

He stared at me and I stared at him.

"Stop"

I blushed looking away.

"Ngoba? Wande you are my beautiful girlfriend and I have the all rights to look at you. So you just gonna have to deal with it because I'm still gonna look at you. Futhi give me a kiss"

I blushed even more. He wrapped his hands around my naked body and kissed me.

"I don't think I'd ever get enough of you"

"Ngicela siyodla"

He smirked

"Yes Queen"

I laughed and walked to the bedroom. I wore a baggy t-shirt and joined him in the living room. I sat on top of the cushion next to him.

"Yeeeee Pizza"

"I hope it's okay, but if you want something else else we can order it"

He was so sweet and caring. I just hoped and prayed that it would be like that forever but life!

"Babe"

His mouth was moving but I couldn't hear him.

"Awande"

He said as he touched my shoulder and I said "Hm"

"Are you okay? What are you thinking about?"

I sighed.

"It won't always be always roses and kisses you know"

"I know and that's how a relationship should be. Are you having doubts?"

I shook my head.

"No I don't have them honestly but I... no forget it"

"Cha Khuluma baby"

"I'm scared that maybe someday we will fight and break up"

"But babe why would you think that? You thinking about our breakup while we dating?"

I shook my head.

"Then what Wande? I know you get scared Wande but so do I. I want to live in the now and not think nor worry about what could happen in the future. I don't have any doubts about us and I have unconditional confidence in you. Yes, we'll have arguments here and there but that's what make a relationship great. Let's just live in the now. Let's focus on our love now"

I was into deep!

Chapter Twenty Four

If I had been asked to explain my work situation after that beautiful weekend by using a song, I swear Ngafa Ngifela Ubala by Shwii Nomuntu Ekhala would've fitted all the holes. That woman made me her Spanish guitar and she was happy with pulling any string she wanted.

When I go to work on Monday, I was summoned to her office and when I got there, she started shouting at me for something that our intern did. Apparently, I was supposed to babysit her and then she served me with a written warning. I didn't even want to argue with her so I signed it. The woman didn't even know anything about what we were doing. "He'll get tired of you know and come back to me"

She said and I smiled.

"Sure boss. Are we done?"

I said and she clicked her tongue. I was not about to get myself in a power struggle.

"Hamba and you better make sure that this does not happen again or I'll fire you"

I smiled and stood up.

"Have a nice day ma'am"

As I walked back to my office, I bumped into Zolani. He looked at me like he wanted to say something but just didn't have the courage, no let me rephrase that, but didn't have the balls to say it. I chortled and left him standing there like the dimwit he was. I got to my office and roughly scratched my neck before texting my friends.

Awa: I'm quitting my job because I'm tired of that bitch 😞

Sandi: Sawubona nawe Wande 😊

Awa: This is not the time Sandi!

Zoe: Okay calm down Wawa and tell us what happened.

Noma: What happened Wawa?

Awa: So when I got here this morning, boss lady summoned me to her office and when I got to her office, she started talking to me like she was falling off from a mountain or something. She blamed me for a mistake that an intern did and made me sign a written warning after.

Sandi: Manje what's the problem?

Awa: Haibo I didn't do anything nje mina.

Sandi: How would we know because you love playing the victim, always. Isn't part of your job to help interns? Kahle nje 😊

Zoe: Haibo Sandi 😬😬 What is wrong with you?

Nom: The fuck Sandi?

Sandi: What? I'm just telling it like it is hawu. Nathi sinenkinga zethu bakwethu. We've been telling to her quit but no. Awande is always right!

I just logged out of WhatsApp without even replying to her text on the group. To say I was hurt would be an understatement, I was rather shocked. Noma called but I didn't pick up.

I tried to bury myself in my work but I just couldn't forget what Sandi about me. Her words went straight to my heart and pierced it into million pieces. I had never thought that she'd ever say things like that to me.

I packed up my things and found myself driving to Ballito. I rang his intercom and luckily he was home. He opened the gate and I drove in. I knocked on the door and an old women opened for me. Oh he was at work!

"Sawubona sisi"

She said and smiled. She was gorgeous and her skin was clearer than my future.

"Sawubona mama, ngiyaxolisa ukukuphazamisa kodwa kodwa ngicela ukubuza ukuthi ngingamthola yini ubaba walayikhaya"

She shook her head.

"U-Mpilo usemsebenzini, ngabe ungabani wena?"

Ofcourse he was, I didn't even check the time when I left the office.

"Mina ngingu Awande Dlamini mama"

She smiled even more after learning who I was.

"Haibo ngena sisi, so uwe lo Awande uMpilo ahlezi akhuluma ngaye, athi uyamthanda. Heeee! Awusemuhle"

I smiled and thanked her for the compliment. I was so not in the mood for a little chit chat but I didn't want be rude to I entertained her bubbly nosy self.

"Kazi uthini ngami uMpilo ebantwini"

I chuckled and she giggled.

"Well ungamutsheli ukuthi ngikutshelile but he has been saying ukuthi uzokushada maduzane kodwa before that happens, kuzomele akufundise ukupheka kuqala"

I gasped for air.

"Yoh! Kodwa uMpilo ungenzani?"

She laughed happily.

"Dont worry about it sisi, that boy loves you very much. I haven't seen him happy like that in along time and today he was even happier.

Whatever you doing keep it up"

That was really comforting so I just smiled.

"Do you need any help Ma?"

"Haibo sisi, you are the guest here and this is my job so don't worry"

"Please ma, I need to do something or my thoughts will send me six feet under sooner than I expected"

I said and sunk more on the couch.

"Kwenzenjani ntombi yami?"

She asked with so much concern and I immediately thought of my mother.

"Ewu ma, kanti even your friends can break your heart like this? I thought we were close ma but now, hayi mina angazi"

She chortled

"What happened?"

I told her everything and she shook her head.

"It sounds like she has found a new friend yazi and that friend is whispering not so sweet things to her ear about you but I could be wrong. Maybe she's just going through a lot like she said and doesn't know how handle it."

I was confused

"Ucabanga kanjalo ma, but Sandi has known me for years. How can she suddenly listen to someone else over me just like that and if she is going through something, why not talk to me like she always do. I would've understood and tried to help in any way possible. Why did she have to hurt me like that?"

I cried and she came closer to me and gave me a big hug. I was really hurt!

"Ungakhali sisi but what is happening to you once happened to me. Let me tell you a little story, so I had this friend whom I loved very much when I was young and we were very close. We did everything together and even our families were good friends. So when I began dating this handsome fellow my friend just changed esithubeni nje. Kusenjalo nje, I

found out that she was hanging out with a girl that we both said we didn't like and when I asked her about it, she said it is because I didn't have time for her anymore since I was busy with my new boyfriend. I apologised but she forced me to choose between her and my boyfriend, guess who I chose? Yes I chose her. After the whole saga our relationship went back to normal but I could see that something was still different about her. I asked her about it and she said I was imagining things and I was like oh okay. Sihambe isikhathi, aqhubeke umngani nokuba nemfihlo until one day, I went through her things and found a letter. Hayi I opened this letter and read it. The shock sisi! Umngani wami wayesethandana nendoda that she made me break up with and they were busy sending each other letters. I asked her about it and she didn't even deny it, wathi watshelwa ileyantombazane ayesezwana nayo ukuthi mina ngathi ngingcono kunaye futhi ngihlakaniphe kakhulu kunaye, so she wanted to show me that she was the smartest. I cried and asked how could she do that to me. She just clicked her tongue and kicked me out of her house and just like that our friendship was over. I don't know what happened but I heard that the same girl who told her to hurt me hurt her too"

I clapped my hands and looked at her. I was gobsmacked and wondered if someone was really using Sandi to get to me.

"So what I am trying to sisi is that maybe one of your enemies is using your friend to get to you. So look into that and if I am wrong, I will buy you KFC"

I giggled because that sounded nice.

"So mama if your friend were to come back now and ask for forgiveness, would you forgive her?"

I asked and she kept quiet for a while.

"Kade ngamxolela sisi and thanks to her, I met the love of my life, ubaba wezingane zami. We were both young and didn't know best so yes, ngingamxolela. Anyway let me do my work before Mpilo comes back from work. Wena just go and take a nap"

I nodded and thanked her for lending me an ear.

"Ngiyabonga kakhulu mama"

I hugged her. I walked to Mpilo's bedroom and threw myself on his bed and slowly drifted away.

I woke up later on and it was dark dark outside. I switched on my phone and there were missed calls from my loved ones. I decided to call my parents first and even though I so wanted to tell them about Sandi, I didn't. I talked to them for a while before they hung up. I then called my brothers and I was in stitches after talking to them. I felt a little bit after talking to my family.

"Hey hayi cha uyalala sthandwa sami. Anyway MaDlomo said ufike ungekho right la, what's wrong?"

He said as he walked in and sat on the bed. I looked at him confused.

"MaDlomo?"

"Yebo, the one you talked to earlier on?"

He arched his eyebrow.

"Oh I'm sorry I didn't even get her surname, ngivele ngamutshela ngezinkinga zami nje. What kind of a person I am eish"

He smiled.

"It's okay baby, don't beat up yourself about it. I could tell that she likes you"

I blushed.

"Uphi usehambile?"

He nodded.

"Hayi MaDlomo can talk babe but she is very loveable"

"Haaa! Ngizomtshela"

I playfully hit his shoulder and he laughed.

"Ngiyadlala hawu and eziphi lenkinga okhuluma ngazo?"

I sighed and told him what happened and when I was done talking, he looked pissed and very pissed.

"They did what?"

He mini shouted and I held his hand.

"Well I don't care about what Devil in Versace did but Sandi, that hurts"

He pulled me into his arms and brushed my back.

"Maybe Sandi was right, maybe I do complain a lot"

He clicked his tongue and made me look at him.

"You the last person who complains about shit and she had no right to say all those things to you. I will talk to her"

I shook my head.

"I appreciate the fact that you want to fight my battles for me but le ifuna mina uqobo so don't worry, as for Devil in Versace, I am quitting tomorrow. I have been very patient with her and clearly she doesn't know me. Sengimyeke wangigibela ekhanda for too long. That blood sanamabitch!"

He laughed and smiled after.

"Do what you have to do sthandwa sami and I told you that I will hire you"

I giggled

"Oh la la, imagine the office sex we'd have"

He bit his lip and looked at me.

"How about we have bedroom sex right now?"

He caressed my thigh and in no time

we were all over each other.

After our beautiful love making, we went to kitchen and made food. We ate while watching The umbrella Academy on Netflix.

"Babe"

"Hmm"

"I know I said do what you have to do but are you sure about quitting, I mean you love your job"

He asked.

"I have been thinking about it and now I am sure. I am tired of being treated like an incurable disease by that woman"

"If you say so but just be sure. Like I said, I will hire you. I could use a smarty pants like you in my business"

I chuckled. Mpilo was into logistics and I don't know how I was going to be any help to him.

"To work as your what? Your PA?"

"Yep a PA that would probably earn R30k a month"

My jaw was on the floor.

"Don't tempt me like that"

He laughed and shook his head.

"If you want it, it is yours"

"As much as I love money but I love what I do and being a PA would only bore me. I love numbers, business and using my brain"

He chuckled.

"I am sure I can get you something that has to do with numbers babe"

"Well I really wouldn't mind being the one who handles your finances"

you know"

He chuckled.

"Right, I really don't like losing money babe especially losing it to expensive things"

I giggled

"Don't you trust me? But anyway, I don't want to work with you. Mixing business and pleasure is never a good idea, ask me I know"

He looked at me and I scratched my neck while looking away.

"Hmm I'm listening"

I laughed nervously.

"Well you know since me and Zolani dated while working together. That's what I meant"

He only said "Hm" and turned his direction to the tv. I smacked my forehead. His attention was entirely on the tv and mine was entirely on him.

He looked so sexy.

"Awufuni siyolala?"

I asked and he shook his head. I so wanted to scream!

"Okay, you'll find me in bed then"

He nodded and I sighed. I was suddenly so frustrated. I looked at him with a puppy face but he didn't budge. I huffed and left him be.

I threw myself in his bed and thought about my day. My phone rang and it was Sandi, I looked at it for a minute before declining the call. I opened my WhatsApp and replied to some texts. Zoe sent an angry face and I chuckled.

Awa: "Sawubona nawe Zoe 😊"

Zoe: 🙄😏 Mxm you are such an idiot yazi. Noma and I have been worried about you. We even went to your place after work but we were told

that you never returned. Are you okay?

Awa: I don't know, I'm numb. Do I really complain Zoe? I thought I was just talking to my friends as usual you know.

Zoe: No baby, look I don't know what's going on with her but it is not your fault and she had no right to take it out on you.

Awa: I guess but it is whatever 😞

Zoe: Asikhohlwe uye, she'll come around when she want to. Anyway, I am going on a date on Thursday 🤔

Awa: Whaaaaat? 🙌🙌🙌 Ngicela nithi hooray! Lmao Ubani, owakabani and unemali yini?

Zoe: 😊🙌 Imali ehlezi ihamba phambili. Anyway u-Samuel Stone and yes umlungu 😊

Awa: Yassss 🙌 Awu sangena shiqi thina e-England 🤔😊🤔

Zoe: Mxm 😊 He is so cute friend. He has long hair, sky blue eyes and beautiful hands.

Awa: 🤔 If he has a brother please hook me up.

Zoe: 🤔😊 Please don't do Mpilo like that.

Awa: 😊😊😊 Suka but on a serious note, I am happy for you baby. You've been salty for too long.

Zoe: Hayi wena 😊 Mxm let me sleep ngoba ngathi uNoma akazimisele ngokubuya.

Awa: I don't even want to know ukuthi ukuphi 🤔😊 Goodnight love.

Zoe: ♥♥♥

After talking to Zoe, I decided to read Sandi's texts and then blueticked the rudeness out of her. She was apologizing for being rude but it didn't sound like she was really sorry. Something was definitely going on with

her.

"Hlehla"

He said as he got into bed and I wasn't even in his space. In a minute, I was miles away and I didn't even hear him as he spoke to me. His touch brought me back to earth and he looked worried.

"Are you okay?"

I nodded and went back to my demons. I woke up panting and sweating and he turned on the lights.

"Baby what's wrong, if this is about me being cold toward you earlier on, I'm sorry. I was just mad at the fact that you work with your ex. I was jealous and I became a jerk, I'm sorry"

He said and I just looked at him.

"Something was strangling me in my sleep Mpilo and it felt like I was going to die. It was so big and scary"

I was shaking and crying. He hugged me.

"Ssh babe, I'm here and nothing is going to happen to you okay"

I nodded as he held me.

"Please don't turn off the lights"

"I won't. I love you Wande"

"I love you too"

I said as I drifted away again.

Friday

I was a mess and I didn't even know what was going on with me. I had the same nightmare every night and it was straining my relationship with Mpilo. I was easily agitated and he was really trying hard to be patient. I hadn't been to work since Wednesday and it seemed like my boss didn't even care or so I thought.

As I was trying to sleep, my phone rang and it was her.

"If you don't get to work in an hour, you are fired!"

She screamed before dropping the call. I sighed and looked at the time, it was just after 9.

I took a quick shower and wore some jeans and a shirt. I looked at myself on the mirror and damn, I looked like a ghost. The eye bags under my eyes were visible and I was a little pale.

I sighed and grabbed my things before making my way to my car.

Thank God I got there in time and as I was relaxing she barged into my office and looked at me. I was so sure that she was going to fire me right on the spot.

"You look pale, are you okay? It looks like you've been battling with demons"

She smirked and I felt my blood boiling.

"I'm fine"

That's all I managed to say.

"If you say so, and let's forget about the days where you were absent okay. Take a day off and go to a doctor. Wouldn't want one of my best employees to drop dead"

She said as she walked away and I was shocked by her sudden kindness. After she left, I suddenly felt very hot and dizzy, and that's all I remember after that.

I woke up in an unfamiliar place and when I looked around, I realised that I was in hospital bed. I was all alone in the room and I felt tears threatening my eyes.

"Oh you are awake"

A nurse said as she walked in.

"What happened to me?"

I asked.

"You fainted at work and you were brought in by the paramedics. Your friend just left"

"Fainted? I've never fainted before and what friend?"

"Hm she didn't tell me her name but she said she was your friend.

Ubefake lenwele zenu zama kula ezide kanye ne two peice"

I so wanted to laugh at the two piece part but worry overshadowed the humor in me.

"What is wrong with me?"

"We also don't know sisi because all your vitals are normal. We'll see after the blood test results come out. For now just relax or maybe call a family member. Your phone is in the top drawer"

I sighed and thanked her. I called my mom and told her what happened and she started crying. Her cries broke my heart but I assured that I was fine even though I didn't even know what was wrong with me. I then called Mpilo who didn't take long to arrive at the City Hospital.

"Are you okay?"

He asked as he ran to me and touched me all over.

"No, something is really wrong with me Mpilo and I don't think the western medicine will be able to help me"

He sighed.

"My mom also thought so when I told her about your sudden nightmare. Ucabanga ukuthi bakushaye ngesilwane"

I gasped.

"W-hat? But who would want to do that to me and why?"

He sighed again and sat down on the bed.

"Angazi sthandwa sami but the only way to find out is to go see a

traditional healer"

I shook my head looking at him.

"I'm gonna die, I'm gonna die"

I was panicking and tears were flowing like a waterfall on my face. He held my hands and bit his upper lip.

"Baby calm down please. We need to get you discharged today so that we can go to the traditional healer tomorrow. My mom has organized everything and all that's left is for us to go there"

He wiped the tears of my face and kissed my forehead.

"Sawubona Ndodana"

It was the same nurse. He greeted back and looked at her.

"Sisi the doctor will have your result after 3 and if everything is fine with you, we will then discharge you okay?"

I nodded and thanked her before she left.

"What time is it?"

He looked at his watch and sighed

"Kuyoshaya u-half past ten"

"You can go back to work before they ask you to leave, I'll be fine"

"No babe, I'm staying. I'm staying here with you"

"You know they won't allow that and it is fine, just be here after 2 though"

He sighed.

"Okay fine but I am not going back to work. I'll be around here and if you need anything call me. Can I get you some food before I go"

I shook my head, I really didn't have an appetite. He kissed my forehead and left.

Later On

A young white male doctor who had long hair and blue eyes walked in with a nurse. He greeted Mpilo and I.

"Hi Miss Hlamini, I'm Dr Stone. So miss Hlamini we really can't figure out what is wrong with you because everything is normal. Your blood test results came out clean so we will have no choice but to discharge you but if you feel like you not okay, don't hesitate to come back. We will be here to assist you. Have a good day"

"It is Dlamini and thank you Dr Stone. See how easy that easy that is?" He apologised and walked out. His surname name sounded familiar like I had heard it somewhere but I shrugged it off.

"Ready miss Hlamini?"

Mpilo asked and I side eyed him. He laughed and helped me get dressed. After we were done, he signed the discharge papers and we left.

"My car at work Mpilo"

"Hmmm will you be able to drive baby if we fetch it now?"

I nodded.

"Okay let's go fetch it first"

"Okay"

I said and looked out of the window. He squeezed my thigh and I cried. As soon as we reached my place of work, I got out of his car and made my way in. I found my bag and keys.

"Haibo Wande, shouldn't you be at the hospital?"

Devil in Verace asked and I really had no energy for her so I ignored her. I left her standing there like the dimwit she was. Yena no Zolani were cut from the same cloth.

I got inside my car and drove off. Mpilo followed me closely till we

reached my place.

"So does your mom trust him?"

"She does, he has been the family traditional healer ever since I was young. I trust him too"

I nodded. We packed a few of my clothes and left. When we got to his house, he called his mom and told her that we were coming. I helped him pack his clothes and off we went.

Mpilo was from Manzimtoti and it wasn't quite far from Ballito but we got there after a while.

His parents welcomed us with warm hands.

"Can I please go call my family, they have been calling nonstop"

"Of course sisi, mina ngizokwenzela ukudla. You need to eat"

I nodded and Mpilo showed me the room that I'll be using.

"We will be waiting for you when you are done"

He kissed my forehead and closed the door.

I called my parents and told them everything, they were really pissed but thank God they didn't blame Mpilo. They agreed with Mpilo's mom and said the sooner I get cleansed the better.

Chapter Twenty Five

Thee day

Mpilo's mom woke me up at 5 and asked me to get ready. She made me wear a doek on my head and also a dress. Mpilo was already dressed up and waiting for me with his father.

"Sanibonani"

I greeted and they both greeted back.

"Are you okay sisi?"

His dad asked.

"Ngiyancenga baba even though umzimba wami ubuhlungu nje"

Mpilo looked at me like he was about to cry.

"Bantu abadala kuzomele sihambe"

He said and they agreed. He took my hand and led me to the car.

"Ready"

I nodded and he drove off. He drove for a while before we reached a big house with one rondovel. The gate was already open so he drove in. The car came to a halt and we made our way to door. We knocked and an old lady opened for us.

"Mpilo!"

She said happily and they hugged.

"Mam'Zola ninjani?"

"Siyaphila baba, ninjani nina?"

She asked and looked at me. Hayi, she was quite intimidating.

"Siyaphila nathi mama"

"Kungcono ke mkhulu, asiyeni ngale. U-Gogo mkhoto usenilindele"

She led us to the rondavel.

"Ningakhumula izichathulo mese niyangena"

We did as told and as soon as I set my foot inside the rondavel, Gogo

Mkhoto started chanting and groaning. We sat down on the mat and looked at him. Mpilo held my hand and I looked at him nervously. He went on and on until he stopped and looked at me.

"Kunomuntu okuhlaselayo, ofuna ukukubona uwuthwele ngesifuba umhlabathi. Lomuntu ukhohlakele futhi ufuna lo kube ngowakhe kuphela"

He said and I looked at Mpilo. It became clearer who he was talking about and I quietly chuckled.

"Umuthi akushaye ngawo unzima kakhulu sisi! Uvele uzizwe engathi uphelelwa amandla, kube khona into ekuncisha umoya ebusuku, ungafuni ngisho nokukhuluma nabantu, heeeeyi, vumani bo"

"Siyavuma"

We both said in unison.

"Lomuntu usesebenzisa ngisho oyedwa wabangani bakho, kodwa ungakhathazeki konke lokhu akwenzayo kuzophindela kuye uma sengiqedile ngawe heeyi"

I looked at Mpilo who looked deep in thoughts and I didn't like that look on his face.

"Kuzomele nigeze nobabili ngoba ufuna ukuqeda ngani nobabili"

Hehehe she was the type of woman who'd be like "If I can't have you, no one else can"

"Why esenza kanje gogo?"

I just asked out of the blue and he groaned.

"Unomona ngothando lwenu, unomona ngalo wesilisa kodwa ngingakhathazeki ngizoyilungisa yonke lento. Ngizocela ukuthi niphuze lelikhambi engizolenza njengamanje bese kusasa ekuseni niyabuya ukuze nizoya kogeza mese niyaphalza emfuleni. Lalelani ke, ngicela ningalali mese kusasa ekuseni ningakuthinti ukudla futhi ningagezi

niphinde ningakhulumisi muntu nivele nishaye imoto nize kimi"

"Kulungile baba, sizokwenza njengoba usho"

Mpilo said and he grunted again. He gave us a small dose of something that tasted bitter like bile. I almost threw up but Mpilo held my hand and helped me gulp all of it down.

"Khanyisani umsamu"

He chanted and Mpilo placed a hundred bills on the small saucer. He chanted and we made our way out of the rondavel. Mam'Zola was crushing some herbs while sitted on the stoep. She looked at me for a long time before smiling at us.

"Nihambe kahle"

She said and we thanked her. We got into his car and drove away.

"So Devil in Versace a witch too? Wow"

I chuckled and he kept a straight face.

"I am sick and tired of that woman, I swear when I am done with her!"

He tightened his grip around the steering wheel. I had never seen him that mad, the veins on his arms just made my bean dance.

"I so can't wait for this to be over. I am tired like really tired and I'm sure my loved ones are worried as fuck"

"I'm sorry baby, this is all my fault. You suffering because of me and for that I'm really sorry. I'll make this right somehow. You'll have to call your family"

I put my hand on his neck and smiled at him.

"You don't have to apologize, and don't worry about me. I'll be okay.

Babe I wanted to ask why is Mam'Zola so scary"

He laughed.

"Maybe it's the mkhulu in her that is scary. I promise, she is a loving and kind woman once you get to know her"

I shook my head.

"Yoh! The way she looked at me though, ngathi nje uzibonela uDevil in Versace with a head wrap ke tana"

He laughed so hard.

"Stop babe yho! Nah don't worry about her, she's harmless"

"Okay, if you say so"

I looked out of the window and the breeze against my face was refreshing. We arrived at his house and his mom had prepared a very delicious meal for us.

"Nihambe kanjani?"

His mom asked and we told her a little.

"Yho! Yabona loyamfazi uwusathane uqobo lwakhe. She has all the money in the world but still nje, akaneliseki"

She clicked her tongue.

"I'm sorry but la engizombona khona, ngizomshaya"

They laughed.

"Uze ungibize nami sisi ngizokulekelela"

His mom said and we were in stitches.

"I am so not ready to visit my girlfriend at Westville Prison sengiphethe isinkwa esi brown"

Mpilo said and I was rolling on the floor.

"Uqinisile uMpilo sisi, God and your ancestors will deal with her"

Mr B said and I smiled. He was really a man of few words and I just wondered how he made it work with Mpilo's mom, she was a fucking chatterbox.

"Mama, don't you want me to help you before ngiyocambalala, ngizizwa ngikhathele"

She shook her head and smiled.

"Cha sisi ungakhathazeki, ungahamba uyocambalala"

I nodded and walked away. I got to the room I was using and threw myself on the bed.

"Sthandwa sami"

He said as he got behind me.

"Hm, is this allowed?"

"But we not having sex nje"

I chuckled.

"Oh that's what he meant"

"Hahaha you can be an idiot sometimes baby"

I yanked his arm away and he chuckled.

"Ngicela ungibuke"

I looked at him and he looked so good. Thick eyebrows, beautiful nose, full lips and clean beard. I fell for him even harder. I was in the deep end of the Kimberly Hole.

"You didn't do anything, stop apologizing"

I said and he smiled.

"Okay if you say so, we will deal with her and once we've dealt with her, can we get married please"

I smiled.

"Sizoshada but after you go down on one knee and ask me with a diamond ring on your hand"

He laughed and nodded.

"Anything you want baby, anything"

He tried to kiss me but I stopped him. He groaned and frowned.

"Fuck, I can't even kiss you. Mxm uzonya loyamfazi"

He said and I chortled. Being in his arms felt like magic. I felt safe and loved.

"Ngiyakuthanda Awande"

He always said it first.

"Ngiyakuthanda nami bhuti"

He chuckled.

"Udakiwe"

I laughed.

"Okay ngiyadlala baby. Ngiyazela".

I said and drifted away immediately.

Later on I woke up and he wasn't in bed. I put on my slippers and walked to the lounge. Mpilo was busy talking and laughing with his younger brother, who looked nothing like their mother.

"Sanibonani"

I greeted as I sat down.

"Sawubona sis Awande

unjani?"

I smiled.

"Ngiyaphila wena unjani Vuyo"

He smiled.

"Ngiyaphila nami, wangibiza kamnandi ngavele ngakhumbula umama"

He said and sighed. I looked at Mpilo and he nodded.

"What happened to your mother?"

The words just came out of my mouth, I swear they had a life of their own. Mpilo shook his head and looked at me before asking his brother to excuse us but Luvuyo refused.

"No I want to tell antie Awande what happened to her, she asked"

Mpilo scratched his chin and sighed. I sat down next to Luvuyo.

"So you asked what happened to my mom right, well my mom was involved in a car accident on my 16th birthday and died on the scene"

Shit! I immediately regretted why I had even asked and Mpilo had a "Don't even involve me in your business mabuzana" look on his face.

"Oh I'm sorry to hear that Luvuyo and I'm sorry I even asked"

He shrugged.

"Don't stress Antie Wande, it is part of life and the sooner we all accept it, the sooner the better"

I gasped. I was expecting a "please hug me Aunti Wande" but yhuu, he really surprised me.

"You are right, it is part of life but does that make the pain disappear?"

Mpilo shook his head, not because he was answering me, but unconsciously telling me to stop.

"No it doesn't but that's what memories are for. I had the best time with my mom and those memories are what I'm holding onto. I appreciated and loved my mom so much when she was here and the fact that I did, gives me joy and peace. Wherever she is, she knows that I love and miss her but her being gone doesn't mean, I must wallow in self pity. I still have the chance to make our dreams come true. She always said to me that "Vuyo when I'm gone, I want you to live like you dancing" and that's exactly what I am doing, living like I am dancing. Anyway, let me go check up on mom, I'm hungry. See, life works out the way it is supposed. Blessed with two mom and even though one was taken away, I gained another one. What isn't there to be grateful for?"

He stood up and shouted "Mama ngilambile" and his mom shouted back and said "Woza uzodla mkhulu".

"Wow!"

I said.

"That's Luvuyo forever positive. He just came here and completed the

puzzle. He is the missing piece that we've always searched for. My mom adores him, no they adore each other and we also love him"

"Your family is beautiful baby"

He smile reached his eyes. He came over to my side and held me.

"Ours will be too"

I nodded.

"Wozani nizodla"

His mom shouted from the dining room. We stood up and went to join them. We sat down and his mom said a prayer.

We all ate quietly and after dinner, Sno and I washed the dishes.

"Sis Awa"

"Hmm"

She kept quiet like she was thinking if it was okay to talk to me or not.

I looked at her and smiled

"Who is he?"

She giggled

"How did you know?"

I chuckled.

"Girl, I was once your age and I know that I'm not that old but I am old.

So who is he?

"Okay his name is Sphiwosenkosi and he is so cute sis Wandé. So he had been asking me out for a month now and I've been giving him a run around. My problem is that well, ummh I'm a virgin and if I do get into this relationship with him, he'll expect me to be intimate with him"

She said and I was just amazed at the fact she was still a virgin. As a Zulu queen, I was really proud of her and yes, ngiyazibeka kulesihlalo.

"Listen, if that boy really loves you, he'll wait and if he doesn't want to wait after you tell him that you are not ready, leave him chile. We

wouldn't want you to do something you'd regret later on just to impress a boy right?"

She nodded.

"But I really like him sisi"

She sulked.

"Why did you want to remain a virgin till now?"

She shrugged.

"I don't know really, I guess it is because my parent warned me about boy plus ngihamba umhlanga, uyabona nje"

"Sewenzelwa umemulo?"

She nodded.

"Hayi isn't that what matters though kodwa ke buka, if you don't want to do it then don't, but if you want to then just do it. This is your life and one should live for one, not for their parents or anyone else. You are not living to fulfill other people's expectations, your parents included. Just make sure it is something you want. Sex is powerful sisi and once you break the Gordon's Knot, there's no going back"

I said and suddenly felt sharp pain on my abdomen. I winced and cried out loud

"Haibo sis Wande are you okay?"

I couldn't even breathe, I just had a urge to pee. I cried out again and Snothando shouted for everyone in the house.

"Umsindo ongaka kwenzakalani Snothando?"

Mpilo asked

"Mpilooooo"

I screamed and suddenly felt the urge to push. I pushed while screaming and a dark scary thing came out of my vagina. Mpilo caught me before I hit the ground. I felt so weak and before I knew it, I was out.

Chapter Twenty Six

When I woke up, I coughed up a storm because of the smoke that was in the air. The room was lighted with candles and a person was seated on a stool but I couldn't see who it was. Incense and different herbs were in the air.

"Ngikuphi?"

I asked while trying to sit up. My defenses were suddenly up.

"Khululeka sisi, uphephile. Konke kufeziwe!"

It was Gog' Mkhonto and my heart felt at ease for a reason.

"Ngifike kanjani lana gogo?"

He groaned.

"Ulethwe umndeni wakwa Buthelezi, ngibakhombe indlela emuva kokuthi bakulethe"

I nodded. I was scared to ask but I was like fuck it, I almost died.

"Gogo ngicela ukubuza ukuthi bekuyini le ephume kwisizansi sami?"

He sighed

"Bekuyiswalane ebesibekwe esibelethweni sakho ukuze ningazitholi ingame nino mkhwenyana wakho"

I chuckled. I wasn't married though.

"Gogo, mina no Mpilo asikashadi"

"Sekuseduze phambile, ungakhathazeki ndodakazi. Emva kokuthi nigeze kusasa, uzovuka ube umqemane. Akekho noyedwa oyophinde akuthinte. Uyakuthanda ugogo wakhe mntanami futhi uhlezi ekubhekile ngaso sonke isikhathi"

He said and I felt tears threatening my eyes. Gogo had left us suddenly but the fact that she died while surrounded by her family brought me some kind of tranquility. I hoped and prayed that our presence and love made her journey to the other side easier.

"Gogo mawuthi sekuze duze phambili ngabe uchaze ukuthini?"

"Imibuzo engaka ndodakazi, wena themba abakini, bakubhekile ngaso sonke isikhathi"

I nodded.

"Nginesiqiniseko sokuthi abazali nami bakhathazekile la bekhona"

"Konke lokho umkhwenyana wakho ukulungisile"

I wanted to scream gore but then, wasn't it just a blessing to be told that you were going to marry the person you loved and who loved you by a special being.

"Lala sisi, sekuzeduze phambili!"

He kept on saying that leaving me confused everytime. I just nodded and went back to sleep.

Following Morning

I was woken up at dawn and damn, it was cold. I was given a towel to wrap my body with before Mpilo arrived. When he got to us, he nodded at me and I nodded at him. I wanted to be under him so bad but the situation wasn't favoring us.

"Asambeni kungaze kukhanye"

Gog' Mkhonto said and we nodded. He led us to a nearby flowing river and made us strip naked. He gave us an anointment to rub our bodies with and smelly mixture to drink. After we were done, he told us get into the water and wash away everything. The herb made me throw up on the river and he grunted.

"Kufeziwe!"

He said and told us to get out. I was shivering, cold and the damn towel wasn't helping me in anyway. He led us back to the rondavel and made us sit down.

"Ngizoninika ihlahla elizonishisa uma nifika la enihlala khona kanye nomuthi enizogeza niphinde niphalaze ngawo. Nenze sure ukuthi niyawuqeda wonke"

I so wanted to hug and thank him but that wasn't allowed. We were given back our clothes before making umsamu brighter and brightest. We made our way out of the rondavel and walked to the car.

Mam'Zola was sitting in the same position as the other day, doing the same thing. Wasn't her life just simple, I SBWLed it for a moment.

"Nihambe kahle bantwana bami, niphinde niphathane kahle.

Ungakhathazeki sisi konke sekulungile. Ningakhohlwa ukusimema bo"
Mam'Zola said and we chuckled.

"Siyabonga mama, senizosala kahle"

We said and left.

"How do you feel?"

He asked.

"Like a brand new person, wena?"

"I feel good"

"Are you sure? I really couldn't sleep last night?"

"Haibo about last night, what happened to that thing, I forgot to ask Gog'Mkhonto about it"

He sighed.

"We took it to him and he said he is going to take care of it"

I nodded.

"I want to go back to my place Mpilo and my parents must be bloody worried about me"

"I called them last night and told them that you were okay. I know that I lied but I really didn't want to worry them. I just said you were tired and asked me to call them."

"Ngiyabonga and it is fine, I'll call them when I get home"

In no time, we got to his parent's house and they were really happy to see me. His mom gave me thousand hugs and kisses on the lips. I so wanted to hold her back and say "I wouldn't do that if I were you, if you know what I mean". It was dirty thoughts.

"Oh sisi, u-right? I was scared"

Snothando asked as she threw herself to me.

"Ngi right sisi, I just need a longer shower and some ice cream"

"Well that can be arranged. I'll bring it as soon as you done showering"

She said as removed herself from my arms and Mr B hugged me too and that was a first.

"Siyabonga ukuthi konke kuhambe kahle. Sibonga uthixo nezinyanya zethu"

Mpilo's mom said and we all agreed.

Later On

Being with his family was good in a way but I had missed my place and life badly. I couldn't wait anymore so we drove back to Durban later that day.

"Home sweet home"

I said as threw myself on my couch, yes my couch. Mpilo chuckled and reminded about the herb I was supposed to burn. I burnt it while praying that my neighbours wouldn't report me lol.

"Are you sleeping over or?"

I asked.

"I'm too tired to drive plus I have so many things I want to do to you"

He bit his lower lip and I giggled.

"Awume sthandwa sami, let me call my parents kuqala"

He laughed.

"Ubalekela ipipi Awande?"

I gasped and quickly ran away to my bedroom. He laughed. I sat down on the bed and dialed my mom's number.

"Wande sisi nkosi yami u-right? U-Mpilo yena? Kuthiweni? I've been going crazy here"

I giggled.

"Mama ngicela wehlise umoya. Breathe in and out"

"Okay okay, tell what happened. Yabona these past few days, I've been fasting and praying hard for you mntanami. If something happens to you, I'll never forgive Mpilo."

I sighed.

"Ngiyabonga mama and don't worry, ngi right and none of this is Mpilo's fault ma"

I told her everything and the whole time she was on some "Yho",

"Jesu", "Sathane". I literally held in my laughter the whole time

"Asibonge nje ukuthi konke kuhambe kahle futhi nani ni-right. No bhuti bakho bazothi ukuphefumula kancane. We have all been worried, especially Sbani. He even wanted to come down to KZN"

I smiled.

"I'll call them after I have assured you that I'm fine. Where's my handsome stingy dad"

She laughed.

"Haibo njalo, usaphumile no Nhlanhla, sizokufonela uma sebuyile"

"Kulungile mama, ngiyanithanda"

"Siyakuthanda nathi sisi

sizokubona soon. Ngiyakutshela, angikuncengi!"

I giggled.

She hung up and my heart felt at peace.

I took off my clothes and took a dish from the top of the wardrobe, who had known that one day it would come in handy. I went to the bathroom and filled it with water. I dropped a little amount of the muti that I was given and took a long bath. After I was done, Mpilo also did the same thing. We were literally doing "Igoba mfana" and thank God we were not in jail.

"I'm hungry and there's no food here"

I said as I sat down next to him on the couch.

He chuckled.

"I have that sorted out though. You see in that huge Tupperware, there's food. Do you think I'd carry an empty Tupperware all the way from there to here for nothing?"

I laughed.

"No, I didn't know baby hawu. Wait your mom allowed you take her Tupperware nje just like that"

He laughed

"If only you knew, athi she wants it back next week and that I better not wash it with a steel wool because I'm going to ruin it. Babe once we married, please don't be fixated with Tupperwares too. Ngiyazicelela mina mfoka Buthelezi"

He begged and I chortled.

"I'll think about it but I can't promise you anything"

He chuckled. I stood up and went to the kitchen to dish up for us. We ate and retreated to bed after washing the dishes. Are gonna go to work on Monday?"

I sighed.

"You bet I am"

"Angikho ready for I-Westville njalo!"

"Don't worry I'm not going there and even if I do go there, ngino connections"

He chuckled and caressed my thigh. He got his arm under my head and pulled me closer to him. I took in his scent and and grabbed his neck.

"I love you baby"

I said and he smiled

"I love you too my beautiful woman "

I giggled and he kissed my neck, making me giggle even more.

"Let's get it on sthandwa sami"

He said as he slid his hand inside my panties and groaned.

"I've missed this"

He whispered as he nibbled my ear.

"Take me I'm yours, I whispered in his too"

He did as told and it ended in "aaaaaaaaah fuck baby"

That dick made my soul smile.

Sunday

We woke up around 10 and chilled while watching series on Netflix.

"I really need to do some grocery shopping"

"Go and get ready so we can go to Musgrave then"

"But nawe you not ready nje"

"But you the one who takes an entire hour to get ready nje"

I chuckled and pulled out my tongue on him.

"You'll pay for that kabuhlungu futhi"

He smirked and I groaned.

"No, ngi right yho!"

I said as I hurried to my bedroom and he laughed. I wore a simple dress

with flip flops. I looked at myself on the mirror and my braids looked they had been through the electric chair.

"I also need to do my hair, look at me ngathi ngiyahlanya ekhanda"

He shook his head.

"Women!"

I chuckled.

"I'm done so can we go?"

He was already dressed and I didn't know how that happened. We locked the door and made our way downstairs.

"You look cute"

He said as he buckled up and I blushed.

"Ngiyabonga"

He drove off and we got to Musgrave after some time. He held my hand and I let him even though I was not a fan of PDA but him on the other hand, it was too much. It was not bad as the kinda groping and touching that white people display but it was quater past to getting there.

We talked to Woolworths and got everything that I needed. He offered to pay for my groceries and I let him be, food was expensive y'all. I saw some nice t-shirts and pants that were just made for him as we were about to walk out. I told him that he can wait for me outside as I buy them and he was so not in the mood anymore.

"Done"

I said as I got to him and he half closed his eyes while shaking his head

"Next time, I am going to wait for you in the car"

I giggled.

"It was for a good cause, they just screamed "I was made for Mpilo, please buy me" kodwa askies ke"

He smiled and pulled me to his arms.

"I don't deserve you"

He said and I shook my head

"You deserve all of me"

I pulled out of the hug first and held his hand.

"Asambe, I so want to eat that tin roof ice cream already yhuu"

He laughed and pushed the trolley. We offloaded the groceries to the boot and got inside the car once we were done.

"I can drive if you tired"

"Please, can you?"

I nodded and we switched seats.

"We should really try some car sex soon baby"

He winked and I chortled.

"Andizi! My parents once warned me that having sex on the car is not right, because you'll either get in an accident or something bad will happen"

He chuckled.

"Come on baby, that is just a myth. I have done it before"

I side eyed him and he laughed.

"Oh, with who?"

He shook his head.

"That question is a trap, anyway I love you"

I frowned and focused on the road. I suddenly had a bad idea on my head and I let out a quiet evil laugh. I increased the speed to 120km and he cursed. I was fucking driving like a maniac and the whole time, he was shouting at me while doing a prayer here and I there. I stopped as the robot went red and he loudly exhaled.

"Are you trying to get us killed?"

He shouted gently.

"Me? A whole likkle ngwana, I could never"

I chuckled and I stepped on the accelerator as the robot went green. In to time, I drove to inside my flat and parked.

"Were you trying to kill us?"

He asked as I unlocked the door.

"No hawu baby, why would I do that?"

He went if first and I followed him.

"Mxm"

He said as he placed the plastics on the kitchen counter.

"Are you mad? I'm sorry hawu baby"

"Futhi when did you learn to drive like that?"

I smiled.

"Blame that on Nhlanhla. We used to steal dad's car and race it on the streets. We thank the Lord that we still alive because those were the days"

"What else don't I know about you?"

I thought and thought. And the legend said that I was still thinking!

"Hm nothing beside the fact that I give a mean blowjob"

He chuckled.

"That I already know baby hmm, no,no you will not make me change the subject"

He said and I laughed.

"Help me unpack these please, there's nothing else, I promise beside the fact that I know sign language, know how to play piano and the bass guitar. Hmm what else, I mean come on, I'm a talented person"

I said and he stared at me.

"Wow baby, you'll teach me some Sign Language right and the bass

guitar please"

I chuckled.

"Only if you give to me good sthandwa sami"

I said and he came closer to me.

"I'm horny already baby, let's get to it"

He breathed down on my neck and I cleared my throat and looked up to him.

"Let's gerrrr it"

I raised my hands and he chuckled as he took off my dress. He pinned me on my stomach against the counter and roughly grabbed my boobs.

"Aaah"

I moaned and he raised my leg up. Yes, I was flexible like that. He pulled my panty to the other side and shoved his manhood into me. I moaned and arched my back. He groaned on my ear, sending shivers down to my clit.

"Fuckkkk ah baby yes"

Pounding, throbbing, going deeper and deeper. I was screaming and shouting for the whole world to hear. He went on and on till I couldn't take it anymore. I tried to push him away but he tightened his grip and I cried out loud.

"Aah"

He said as he fell on top of me.

"Kanti ngiyabulawa yini?"

I said as I tried to catch my breath.

"Drive like that again and I'll kill you next time"

He said as he wrapped his arms around me.

Chapter Twenty Seven

Monday.

My alarm went off at 5am and I turned it off before dosing off again.

"Hayi Awande vuka!"

He said as he shook me gently and I felt like crying. I yawned, yawned, yawned and.....

"If you don't stop yawning right now, I swear I'll drag you out of this bed myself"

I frowned.

"Why are you so mean?"

I asked as he removed the duvet from me.

"Okusalayo vuka"

I clicked my tongue as I got out of bed and dragged my feet to the bathroom. I did the daily routine for humans and got dressed after.

I made us food as he bathed and after he was done, we ate.

"You sure you'll be okay"

He said and I nodded.

"Okay Asambe ke"

He took his things and we made our way to the parking lot. We kissed before getting into our cars. Her drove off first and I followed him.

I got to work after the a while. I greeted Sazi with a smile as I passed through her desk and she ran around her desk to hug me.

"Are you okay?"

She asked and I nodded.

"I'm fabulous"

I said and she smiled.

"Thank God, I've been worried about you. Good to have you back sis"

She said and I smiled. She went back to her desk and I made my way to

the office. Everyone was happy to see me but they were still nosy as fuck. I got into my office and found a load of files waiting for me on my desk.

I sat down on my chair and chuckled. As I was trying to relax, Sazi called and told me to go to the boss's office as she had requested for my presence. I didn't even waste time, I cat walked to her office. I knocked and knocked before letting myself in.

"Morning ma'am"

I said and smiled.

"You really here?"

It was more like "How are you still alive Awande?".

"What is that supposed to mean?"

I asked.

"Nothing, ummh where have you've been? Do you know the money that you've cost me while your were busy gallivanting around?"

I kept quiet and looked at her. She was really testing me.

"Are you deaf now? Listen here you b.."

She kept quiet and I chuckled. She was losing it and I was just sitting there watching her go mad all on her own.

"Are you done?"

She gasped and looked me.

"Listen here you stupid bitch, you will not get rid of me that easily and if you think you going to get me out of Mpilo's life, well you have another thing coming. You can use all the witchcraft you want but you will not succeed you fucking cunt"

She gasped even more and her facial expression was of a teenager who had been caught playing humpty dumpty with the neighbors boy.

"I'm not your child nor your friend so don't you ever speak to me like

that ever again or I will knock those teeth off and shove them down your throat"

She swallowed and kept quiet. I stood up and walked around and sat on the edge of the desk next to her.

"You know I knew that you were delusional but I never thought that you'd be a witch too. Bewitching another for the sake of dick! Dick that you used and threw away once you were done with it so you could have more dicks. Isn't that being a dick though?"

She tried to say something but I placed my finger on her tiny mouth.

"So if I had died, do you think that would've made him want you back? If you were to ask me, I'd say no motherfucker. You really didn't know what you had till it was gone shame and now you like a dog that has lost its bone. I also know that you played with Sandi emotions and used her insecurities against her so she could dance to your tune. Hm as much as I want to turn you into my punching bag right now, I won't, do you want to know why? Well I'll tell you anyway. See I've got class, respect and self love, something that even your dad's money will never help you to attain. Isn't that sad?"

I said and I saw tears coming out of her eyes.

"Wipe those damn tears of your face and smile like the devil that you are. It is kinda sad that you think you are the center of the world nc nc. Uwusemuhle nokuba nenhliziyo ebolile mntana bantu. We sisi, I want you to listen and listen to me carefully, whoever your name is. I want you to stay away from my loved ones or else, I will not hesitate to kill you with my bare hands"

I said and her chest was just going up and down.

"Anyway I quit bitch!"

I said and stood on my feet. I fixed my skirt before winking at her and

walked out. I walked to my office and packed up all of my things. After I was done, I cat walked out of it and everyone were on their feet. I ignored them and walkes to my car before driving back to my place. I reached my place and threw myself on my bed before dosing off. I was woken up by a loud bang bang on my door and I cursed out loud. I dragged myself to the door and opened up.

"Well you took your time!"

Noma said as she budged in and I chuckled.

"Uhamba wedwa?"

"Ufuna ngihambe nobani?"

She raised her brow.

"I don't know, uphi uZoe?"

We sat down.

"Heeee! Phela loyo usejola nomlungu"

I got up and did a happy dance.

"Yasssss, hayi ulwile untombo. So she was really into that guy. Phela she told me before everything that she was going to go on a date with this white guy, eish konje what is his name?"

She laughed

"Eish I also forgot his name but his surname is Stone"

I stopped dancing and looked at her.

"Oh my God, does he have blue eyes, long hair and a strong jaw?"

She nodded.

"Holy son of Zues! Wait so he is the idiot that pronounced Dlamini as Hlamini wow. It's a small world we living in."

We both laughed.

"No ways, you were that patient? Apparently he said that you ruined his day when you corrected him with your rude tone, well says Zoe

anyway"

I laughed.

"Singadlala omatshe la, besibiza engathi baqathaka esihlahlani. If you can't pronounce my name then nami, I won't even bother getting yours right. You call me Hlamini and I'll call you Sto instead if Stone"

She laughed so hard.

"Stop making me laugh, I came here for serious issues. What happened Awande, we've been worried about you and as for Sandi, she's miserable"

I sighed and told her everything.

"Haibo Wande and you only telling me now? What is wrong with you chile?"

"But that's not all"

She looked at me.

"I also quit my job this morning and told her to shove it where the sun doesn't shine"

She shook her and exhaled.

"Yho! We'll get to her amd the job part later. Mina I'm worried about you. Are you physically and emotionally okay?"

She asked as she touched me all over.

"Yho stop we sisi, as you can see I'm okay"

She exhaled and gave me a big hug.

"Yoh! The things we put each other through as women, it is too much. Remember Zazu, well last week she almost died when her boyfriend's baby mama poured battery acid on her. I don't even know how she'll survive the emotional scars. Shit like this make me so mad. When will we ever love each other as women. I'm tired of this tension and hate. It really sucks!"

She was crying and I just held her.

"Ngo Zazu kodwa nkosi yami

asithembe ukuthi she'll pull through. Just say the word and we'll go visit her. Mina I'm fine don't worry and the hate part, it will never end and that's why men will always belittle us. Anyway I'm sorry for not telling you guys but it just happened so suddenly and I was just so weak"

She nodded and held my hand.

"As long as you okay baby and as for that bitch. I still say, asimshaye"

She said and I laughed. Noma was my number one cheerleader.

"Ave kusabisa eWestville prison ngikutshela. Anyway what's going on with you? Any new man or new money?"

I asked and she giggled.

"Well there is someone and you know him very well"

"Zolani?"

I asked.

"Ewww no, how can you even think that. That is just super wrong. He is your ex for goodness sake and he has a big head. Anyway, it is well, your brother Nhlanhla"

My jaw was literally on the floor.

"WHAT?"

She bit her nails and looked at me.

"I'm no longer your friend anymore, I'm also your skoni"

I laughed so hard before going back to serious mode again.

"When did that happen and how? The last time I checked it was only Zoe who had my brothers numbers. Njani? You and Nhlanhla haibo?"

She told me everything and the whole time, my eyeballs were rotating in disbelief.

"Wait so now you are officially a couple? What about Belinda. Nhlanhla

need some time off sisi"

I said and she sighed.

"They broke up for good"

"I hope you know what you doing Nomathamsanqa because Nhlanhla and that girl always get together after each break up. I hope he is not making you his rebound but then, it is none of my business. If you happy then I'm happy, even if it is with my brother eww"

She sighed and smiled.

"Don't worry about me, I'm a big girl"

I was really worried about that girl and I made a mental note to talk to my brother before their NEWlationship got out of hand. I don't even know why my friends were into my brothers.

"Anyway, how did she react when you went off on her?"

She asked and I looked at her puzzled.

"Yazi she was rather quiet and even cried"

"What? That doesn't sound like the typical narcissistic you've painted for us. What if she is up to something?"

I bit my lower lip and thought hard.

"But something like what?"

She shrugged.

"I don't know but she's definitely up to something or else ubezokwenza sure ukuthi ukubukisa nama colleagues akho. I know bitches like her"

I exhaled and thought about what she was saying for a minute. I was blank!

"Hayi asazi, sobona ngendlela"

"Cool so friend, uzomxholela nini uSandi?"

She asked and I chortled. She was asking a lot of questions and I just wanted to chill and cuddle with her.

"I don't know, not anytime soon though"

She sighed.

"I know she did you dirty but she was being manipulated Wande. We both know that she can be a bit insecure sometimes"

"Being insecure doesn't mean you have right to treat your friend like rubbish. The way she hurt me will never be undone. She made the pots that made the things to be done. Kodwa I'll talk to her once I'm okay. Sandi is old enough man but I will"

"Promise?"

I sighed and crossed my fingers behind my back.

"I promise"

She nodded and hugged me once more. We chilled together the entire day and watched comedy movies that had us rolling on the floor. As soon as she left I called Nhlanhla. He had a lot to answer for.

"Sis"

He answered and I clicked my tongue.

"Usuyahlanya yini Nhlanhla, what are you doing with my friend?"

He clicked his tongue.

"Okokuqala, ngimdala kunawe so ungazokhuluma nami engathi ukhuluma nabangani bakho. Okwesibili, ukuthi ngenzeni nobani ngasikhathisini akufuni wena lokho. Okukugcina, I like your friend"

I chuckled.

"Yabo lokhu okwesibili kuyangidinga impela because Noma is my friend and she just came out of a very toxic relationship, so she doesn't need any stress. Nawe, you should be dealing with your shit. Leave my friend out of your shit Nhlanhla!"

I shouted and he cursed.

"Haibo Awande, ngiyakukhuza njalo. Ngizofika lapho ngikuthathe"

ngempama ezokufikisa olwandle ngiyakutshela. I'll talk to you when you calm. I hope you okay, love you bye"

He hung up and I screamed gore. I was really mad at him for once.

To calm myself down, I decided to cook and Oh boy! When Mpilo arrived later on, he was with Nathi and I was over the moon. They chilled and talk about football while I just stared at them. I guess they had sorted out their differences.

"I cooked, can I dish up for you my people?"

They stopped talking and looked at each other before looking at me.

"Hm hayi mina ngisuthi sisi, I ate at work"

Nathi answered first and I chuckled.

"And you baby?"

I looked at him.

"Ummh nami ngi right sthandwa sami, I ate too much emini"

He said and one of their stomachs grumbled. They chuckled at the same time and I sighed.

"Kulungile, ngisayolala"

I looked down and they exhaled.

"Okay okay, ngicela ungiphakele kodwa kancane baby kancane!"

Mpilo said as he emphasized on the "Kancane" part lmao.

"Okay nami yho!"

Nathi said as he frowned.

I excitedly went to the kitchen and dished up for them. I had cooked pap, roasted some meats with potatoes and also cooked chakalaka. It looked better than my usual cooked food.

"Well there you go!"

I said and they hesitated. They looked at each before digging and I laughed.

"Wow"

I said as I ate mine.

"This is actually nice yazi, maybe you not good at cooking but raosting"

Nathi commented as he bit his meat and I rolled my eyes.

"This is really good baby"

Buthelezi jr. said and I kept quiet. I finished eating and placed my plate on the sink before retreating to bed. I went to my bedroom without saying the word and I could feel their guilt on my shoulders.

"Baby"

He shook me gently and I kept quiet.

"I know that you not sleeping"

I didn't budge.

"Siyaxolisa sthandwa sami and your food was delicious, siyabonga"

I still said nothing and he sighed loudly.

"Anyway, Nathi is going to use the couch. Uthi he is tired too drive to his place"

"Okay, please get him some blankets, they on the left side of the wardrobe"

He chuckled. I was not about to let my brother freeze to death just because I was mad, nope.

"Also take this pillow and make sure he is comfortable"

"Yebo ndlovukazi"

He said before taking the blankets and pillow. He came back after a while and got behind me.

"I love you baby"

He said as he wrapped his arms around me and I held them.

"I love you too"

I said and drifted away in no time.

Chapter Twenty Eight

A month later

Things on my side were good and I had spoken to Sandi who really seemed remorseful. I asked for us to take things slowly and that meant that I would no longer be her maid of honour. Yes, Petty LaBelle was on her feet y'all. She begged me but I didn't budge until she gave up. The nightmares and sickness were totally gone and my relationship with the rest of my loved ones was superb. Yes, I was still unemployed bethunana and sitting all day at home wasn't for me. I spent most of my days at Mpilo's house with Mam' who had stories for days yhuu. Her stories about her husband were the best, he sounded like a really good man and they were definitely invited to my wedding.

Yes, you heard right, Mpilo had finally pooped the question in a proper way. When I say proper way I mean, he had written a letter and sent it to my family. When my father finally gave us his blessing, we were over the moon. My heart did backflips till it got tired like Fat Albert.

"How do I look?"

Noma asked as she stared at herself on the mirror. I was at their place for once.

"You look good friend yhoo, kunini. Can the visitor have food please"

She laughed and shook her head.

"You know your way to the kitchen babes"

"Okay I'll cook"

She turned around and looked at me.

"You know what, asambe. I'll make something for you"

Gotcha!

"So how are things with my brother?"

I rolled my eyes as I asked and she laughed.

"I'll poke them out with this knife ngiyakutshela. Anyway, things are good and wow you brother knows how to..."

I put up my hand in the air and told her to stop. She laughed.

"I wasn't about to say what you were thinking, you dirty child. I was going to say your brother know how to treat a lady right"

I smiled.

"I mean come on, he has me so and honestly, I didn't even think that you two would last this long"

I said and she screamed gore.

"You devil you!"

I laughed.

"Don't get me wrong hawu, your relationship started in a very unconventional time and I was like, I'll give them a week and she'll be on my doorstep telling me that he went back to Belinda"

She sighed.

"I also had my doubts but I just decided to put my unconditional confidence in him. I'm sorry babe that I'm dating your brother but it just happened. I didn't plan it but we just clicked"

"It is fine, it is a good thing that he is dating someone I know and don't fear because once wamunyela nje, I'll knock off your teeth and send you to Cape Town where you'll fit in perfectly"

We laughed gore.

"Anyway, what are you going to wear to Sandi's wedding next weekend?"

Even though things between her and I were quite not there, I was really happy for her. She still deserved all the good things in life and I'm glad she was seeing a psychologist and dealing with her issues. Yes she made a mistake but our friendship was something I valued more and I

wasn't about to let anyone break that. She had been my ride or die since our varsity days. She'd cook for me, when I was tired because of studying too much the previous night. We were like sisters and I wasn't about to let that bitch change that. I loved Sandi and I loved her wholeheartedly.

"I don't know but I'll figure something out"

She laughed

"Please don't show up in a suit, only sbari is allowed to do that.

Ngiyakwazi phela wena"

I giggled.

"Eish I really need to practice wearing skirts more now that I am going to be wife"

I looked at my shiny "160" carat diamond ring and smiled. Yes, that 160 well, totally made up but it was shiny and expensive.

"Oh my God all my friends are getting married"

She said excitedly.

"He.e don't even think of pressuring my brother to marry you. Iss too soon"

She threw the dish cloth on me.

"I'd never do that hawu and plus, our relationship is still new. I still want to enjoy our time together"

I giggled and nodded. She finally gave me my sandwich and we ate. As we were eating, Zoe and her Stone came through the door. She half ran to me and hugged me for dear life.

"I am so eating and you disturbing"

She poked my forehead.

"Ouch"

She smiled and hugged me once more before pulling out.

"Dude, I've been missing you"

I chuckled.

"Zoe you saw me last week for fucking three days in a row"

She kept quiet and was like "oh yes". She was dickmitised that one. All she thought about was pink dink.

"Anyway I'd like you to officially meet my boyfriend, Dr Stone. Baby this is my friend Wande, my bestie"

She said and Noma giggled. I looked at him and he looked at me.

"I hope you have learnt how to pronounce my surname correctly"

I said and Zoe gasped. He chuckled before shaking my hand.

"Yes, I have Miss Dlamini"

As much as he mutilated the "Dla" at least he was trying. I had to give him that.

"Hahaha, nice to see you again. I'd never thought I'd see you again especially as my girl's boyfriend"

I chuckled.

"It's a small world isn't?"

He said in his English accent and I nodded.

"So Dr Stone, what is it that you want from my friend?"

I asked and Zoe frowned. I ignored her frown and looked at the gorgeous man that was in front me. He had good hair, strong jaw and dreamy eyes. I was drooling over him shame, infact even Noma was. I had to pinch her twice just to get her attention.

"I just want her and all of her"

He said and Zoe blushed.

"Wee bhatata awuzibheke nje, usudla i'russian eli phi phi nki"

I said and Zoe shook her head. Her poor boyfriend looked confused. He asked her what I had just said and Zoe lied obviously.

"Nothing babe, can we stick to English please"

Noma and I laughed.

"Asoze wethu, lo kuzomele asifunde IsiZulu ngoba sizohleba ngaye very strong"

We laughed and Zoe clicked her tongue.

"You know what babe, let's go to my room because these idiots are clearly too full"

We giggled as she pulled him by his hand and made their way to her bedroom. As I was busy laughing my ass out, my phone rang and I cursed when I saw who was calling.

"Zolani ufunani?"

I asked and he chuckled.

"I have something important to tell you, I'll be at your place after work"

I laughed.

"You really unbelievable, who the hell do you think you are?"

He sighed.

"Stop being stubborn for once, this is for your own good. I'll leave as soon as I have told what I wanted to tell you"

I thought hard and agreed.

"Fine, see you then"

I dropped the call and looked at Noma.

"Hayi ke sis, Zolani want to see me ukuthi for what? Nami andazi"

She chuckled and clapped her hands.

"Yabona that hoe, I swear la engizombona khona ngizomushaya.

Ngimubhanqe ne boss yakhe"

She said and I laughed.

"Awukahle wena phuma silwe

yazini let me go you idiot. As much I don't like that hoe, he sounded so sincere"

She rolled her eyes and folded her hands.

"Mxm, sincere sihlama sika Juju"

I gasped and laughed after.

"Haibo Noma, yazini let me go before you corrupt my innocence.

Byeeeeeee"

I hugged and kissed her cheek. I drove off as soon as I got inside my car and before I knew it, I was back at "Home sweet home"

I got into my comfy clothes and watched How to get away with murder. Anneliese was my spirit animal. I was so going to hire her and Olivia Pope when I was done murdering that bitch.

"Zolani"

I said as I opened the door and he looked drained.

"Can I come in please?"

I ushered him in and closed the door behind him. He had his briefcase with him and was wearing dodgy clothes.

"Didn't you say you were coming from work?"

I asked looking at his clothes.

"I am but I had to change my clothes so that they won't... hayi let my just get to the point"

I shrugged.

"I have something that you might like to see"

I looked at him.

"We bhuti awusho into oyizele lana, uyeke ukungihemela engathi ingane encane"

He chuckled.

"Fine! Boss lady is planning to send you to jail. She's going to fake her death and use your words against you and imply that everything was planned beforehand"

My jaw was on the floor. I sat down and held my chest.

"Uthini kimina Zolani, how is she going to do that and how do you know this?"

He sighed and sat down next to me.

"Well apparently she recorded your every threat when you offloaded at her that day in her office and now she is going to use that against you. She is going to fake her an accident and her lapdog that I've been smashing with is going to provide all the necessary evidence against you. I mean even our colleagues know that you two didn't get long, so that would probably make you the number one suspec and when they find that, a man is involved, it will be a case closed."

I was gobsmacked and everything he was saying just made me dizzy. She was becoming a fixated narcissistic woman, not that she wasn't a conniving bitch already.

"Can she do that?"

He nodded.

"She will and here's the proof"

He took out his phone and played a recording where her assistant was spilling all beans after they he had located her bean, lmao. Damn, his dick game must've gotten better for her to betray her boss like that. He sure had improved because when he was with me, he layed it down like he was plastering cement on a wall.

"Wow!"

That's all I could say. I was perplexed!

"That's not all, here's a USB that contains a video of them planning

everything in her office. Don't ask me how I got it because I might have to kill you"

He handed it to me and I hesitated. After all, he was the same man who broke my heart and slept with another woman on my bed after I had went home. Ate my ice cream and used my netflix.

"And you? Why are you doing this? What do you have to gain from this?"

He shrugged.

"This is just my way of apologizing for everything. You were good to me Wande and took that for granted. From the bottom of my, I am sorry"

He held my hand and looked at me and before we knew it Mpilo was charging like a soldier towards us. I immediately stood up and blocked his way. I looked at him and he looked at me with pleading eyes. I shook my head and took his hand to mine.

"Calm down babe"

I said and he just looked at me. I turned around and looked at Zolani, who looked rather constipated and I smirked.

"Thank you Zolani, ngiyabonga kakhulu"

I said and he got up. He nodded and gathered his things before walking out.

I locked the door after him and said a little prayer before looking at Mpilo who was looking at me with an "Explain now motherfucker" face.

"It's not what you think babe and I think you need to hear something but first, let's sit down"

He didn't budge and I had to push his handsome ass down before sitting next to him. I played it to him and he looked flabbergasted.

Anger was written all over his face. As soon as I turned off, I sent it to him and my brother for safe keeping.

He stood up and went to the kitchen. My flat was an open space y'all. If you were in the living room, you could see the what person in the kitchen was doing okay. He opened the fridge and took out a bottle of water and gulped all of it down.

"Baby"

He leaned against the sink and I stood in front of him.

"I'm going to kill her!"

He said and there were no emotions in his voice or face.

"No you not and that's not going to help me or you. We need to do something that will make her leave us alone for good"

He arched his eyebrows.

"And what's better than I what I have just said Awande?"

I huffed.

"Something that won't land us in jail obviously Mpilo. Let's calm down and talk about this when we calm okay. I know what can calm us down right now baby"

I bit my lip and he smirked.

"Baby this is not the time"

I shook my head.

"This is the time!"

I stood on my toes and kissed his lips. They were so cold and sweet. I wrapped my arms around his neck and he returned the kiss. He lifted me up and put me on top of the counter before making me lie down. It ended in nastiness!

We were both in bed and facing up after some steamy rounds that started in the kitchen and ended on my very comfortable bed. Lort have mercy, if only my furniture was able to talk!

"You calm now?"

I asked and he laughed.

"Just a little bit"

He said in the most sexiest deep voice. I felt butterflies flying all the way to my clit and tickling it.

"I told you didn't I?"

He smiled and pulled me closer to him. He stared at me before kissing my forehead.

"I'm still gonna kill her!"

"Ahh"

I said and wiggled myself out of his hold.

"Are you a killer now huh? Are you ready to be someone's wife in jail. I mean you are a handsome man and yho! Ha.a sugeza!"

He smiled like a retard.

"Manje wamoyizela nje sthandwa sami?"

I asked and he laughed.

"You sure know to ruin it, anyway so do you think I'm handsome?"

I chuckled. Handsome wasn't even the right word to describe him. He was gorgeous and it sounded even sexier if you said it with a French accent.

"Babu you are not just handsome, you are gorgeous, magnificent, beautiful and sexy. I could lick you up all day. If you were a whiskey, I wouldn't even dash you with anything, I'd take you raw. Man, you make me wanna go up in space and come back with the moon as your gift. You make me cum without even talking. My juices just flow when you smile at me and when you touch me, ngivele ngithambe ngibe u'jolley. Your smile make me wanna get on top of the roof and shout "Wathwala ngami". Baby you are like perfected sculpture that was made to amaze

me everytime I look at it, well in this case, you!"

He blushed like a maniac and hid it with a smile.

"I love you sthandwa sami"

He said. I wrapped my arm around him with and placed my head on his chest.

"I could tell you more ke kanti. I mean I could go on and on"

He laughed.

"Ngiyabonga ndlovukazi"

I kissed his chest and brushed his face. One of his love language was definitely words of affirmation. He just glowed everytime I complimented him and that made me so happy.

"Eish baby, sizoshada kanjani kule nyovademu kodwa and when my brothers listen to that recording, they gonna want to kill her too"

I sighed as he made circles with his finger on my bare back.

"Angazi ndlovukazi but I won't let that woman take this away from me, ngiyafunga ngiyagomela angeke akubone lokho"

I sighed and listened to his fast heartbeat.

"Hayi hayi the sound of your heartbeat is making me sleepy"

He laughed

"Wow! Now that's a first. Baby before you sleep, we are going to Lunga and Sandi's wedding next week right?"

I chortled.

"Uma ngithi angiyi uzothini?"

I asked while looking up at him.

"Well ngizothi nami angiyi"

I laughed.

"Don't be like that hawu, mese uLunga ayithathephi enye I-Best man?"

He chuckled

"Angazi but my father warned me, wathi son if you want to live for a long and healthy life, always make sure that your woman is happy. Happy wife, happy life"

I laughed.

"Well when you put it like that, can I please have money to buy a cute dress for Saturday"

He chuckled.

"I ain't saying she a gold digger but she ain't messing with no broke broke..."

He sang and I held my chest.

"Ouch you breaking it!"

I said dramatically and he laughed.

"I'll give it you but on one condition"

I closed my eyes and sighed.

"Fine, thetha"

"Promise me that you'll attend some cooking classes at least"

He laughed after saying this and I pinched his arm.

"Keep it, I don't want it anymore."

I sulked as I turned my back on him and looked the other way.

"Okay, I'm sorry babe but I was just joking okay. I love you"

I ignored him and faked a snore. He laughed and wrapped his arm around. He kissed my shoulder before intertwining his leg with mine.

Chapter Twenty Nine

Friday

I was chilling on my couch and watching a movie when a knock on the door made me want throw myself out of the window. As always, I dragged myself to the door and boom!

"Mama? Baba?"

I said before rubbing my eyes and looked at them again.

"Mxm ngishilo ngathi sizomufinca esalele!"

My father said as he forced his way in and I chuckled.

"At least this place is clean"

He smirked. I hated untidy places and they knew that. My mom looked at me before attacking me with a big hug as she shed a tear.

"Usukhalelani ke kodwa manje Ndlovukazi?"

I asked as I wiped her tears away.

"Ngijabulela ukubona indodakazi yami hawu"

She said and I giggled. Now that was the woman I know and loved. I sat in between them on the couch and thanked God I had showered before they had arrived.

"What are the rents doing in place like this, at a time like this?"

I said and wrapped my arms around their necks. They chuckled and I looked at mom first before looking at dad. They were such a beautiful couple, no wonder I was dead drop gorgeous. I had mom's beautiful big eyes and dad's full lips.

"Usukhohliwe yini ukuthi nathi we were invited to Sandiswa's wedding"

Mom said and I chortled. Knowing my parent, I knew that if I had told them about what went down between Sandi and I, they wouldn't have even bothered. That's how much they loved us, no matter what the story was, they were always on our sides. Which had its disadvantages

and advantages of course but I loved the advantages more.

"But the distance is really not that great. Yazink ishoni nje ukuthi benifuna ukubona indodakazi yenu enhle kuqala. I won't hold it against you"

They laughed.

"Awusazibumbi nobubi!"

My dad said and I laughed.

"And guess who I should use?"

I looked at him and he pulled my ear. I winced and touched it after he let it go.

"Ouch baba, mina angisadlali nawe"

They looked at me happily.

"I'm fine my rents, as you can see this shiny ring on my finger is making me glow"

My mom pulled my hand over her thighs and looked at it.

"Ayiseyinhle mntanami and it looks expensive"

She complimented and my dad smirked.

"Angithi uyazi ukuthi kuza ilobolo kuqala mese kugcina indandatho.

Mina leyo ring ngiyoyithatha serious mhla Buthelezi ethumela abakhongi ekhaya kanye nezinkomo eziyishumi nanye eziphilayo"

I gasped and looked at him. Firstly he wasn't a farmer and secondly, cows were expensive ha. Thirdly, there was a date and all the details of when the lobola negotiations would take place and even though, it was quite far but that was something and he knew that.

"Kodwa baba wami omkhulu, ubungeke nje uthi "cha yinhle impela ndodakazi" ungakhathazeki baba sekuseduze phambili"

I said and thought of Gog'Mkhoto. They were definitely invited to my wedding.

"Uyazi nawe mntanami, angilokhu ngigudla amagula mina. Ngiyishaya eskhonkosini, Iqonde ithi thwiiii!"

We all laughed and I pulled them closer to me. Seeing them just made me so happy and my heart was doing 100 backflips.

"Anilambile?"

I asked and they both cleared their throats at the same time.

"Yho! Don't worry I won't cook, I'll order"

They laughed.

"Kulungile, as long as you won't order I-pizza. Angiyifuni into enyadulukayo namhlanje"

I mumbled a "wow" before looking at mom.

"Your husband needs some deliverance"

I said I reached for my phone on the table and ordered. My dad excused himself and went to the bathroom. I placed my phone back on the table before looking at mom who was looking at me with glassy eyes.

"I'm so happy that you okay mntanami"

She said and I took her hands into mine.

"Angiyi ndawo MaNdlovu, ngizinze ngizinzile"

She laughed and hugged me once more.

"So nizolalaphi?"

I asked

"Asinamali yini thina?"

My dad asked as he appeared on the passage and we laughed.

"I know you daddy, awuzwani nokukhipha imali. Kumnandi nje ukuyibuka ihleli lapho ku-wallet wakho"

Washo wayikhipha madoda. He looked at it and smiled.

"Wazi mina ke wena"

He looked at it once more and we laughed. If I really were a gold than my father was the cause. My phone beeped and it was the guy from uber eats.

"Sekufikile ukudla downstairs, kushoda ngomuntu ozokulanda nje"

I looked at them and they looked at me.

"Uzokhala!"

My dad said and I laughed. I knew what that meant so I went downstairs to fetch the order.

"There you go bazali"

I said as I placed the Steers paper bag on the counter and took out the plates. I rinsed them and wiped them before dishing for us. Mom said a little prayer and we all digged in.

After we were done, I washed the plates and packed them to their respective places. We chilled for a while before we decided to go to Gateway. I literally shopped till I dropped and guess who was paying?

"Ngaze ngaqolwa eThekwini"

I did a puppy face and he chuckled.

"I am your one and only princess daddy so please"

My puppy face was working and I smiled internally.

"Ungalinge uqede imali yami Melokuhle"

I smiled and hugged him.

"Relax baba, mom is here. Uzongigada"

"Weeeee!"

He said and we laughed like we weren't in public. We went to H&M and I picked out a beautiful dress that was just designed for expensive occasions like Sandi's wedding. It was gorgeous and I definitely had my name on it. When I showed my dad the price tag, he wiped his forehead with a hand and I chuckled. My mom saw a dress too and

that's when we finished him.

"Anisheshe"

He said and we laughed. The old man was gowishing bethunana.

"Relax pops and keep calm. Kusazo lit"

He clicked his tongue and made his way way out. We picked out more stuffs and paid before joining him outside.

"Mxm seniqedile"

We both giggled and nodded at the same time.

We also had bought him something but we were like nah, we'll give it to him later. We were still enjoying his grumpy ass. You'd swear that had been separated with one of his balls lmao.

We got to his car and packed the stuff on the boot before driving off.

The drive was chilled and I had just forgotten about everything else that was going on. I was at my happiest place!

They dropped me off first before going to Garden Court where they booked for the night.

"I love you guys"

I said before getting out of the car and my dad got out of the car too.

He hugged me out of the blue and kissed my forehead.

"Siyakuthanda nathi sisi"

He said and I wrapped my arms around his belly and it felt so comfortable.

"Okay okay before you make me cry and please tomorrow baba, ngicela ungqgqoki isikhindi or else"

He laughed and slapped me on the back of my head.

"Usuyaphapha!"

He said as zi laughed and I took my bags from the boot. After I was done, he closed it and walked back into the car. I kissed my mom on the

lips through the window and waved them goodbye as they drove away. I greeted Mam'Khize before making my way to the lift. Hop in and hope out, in no time. I was at my doorstep and voila, it was already open.

"Honey I'm home"

I said and no one answered. I put my bag on the couch before locking the door. I heard the shower running and I took off my clothes before making my way to the bathroom. I opened the shower door and got in. I walked in and wrapped my arms around him.

"Baby"

I said and he slowly turned around. His eyes were blood shot red. Even with the water running over his face, I could tell that he was crying.

"Mpilo, what's wrong?"

My heart!

"I wanted to kill her today baby. I waited for her at your work and was about to run her over but I just imagined your face and I couldn't"
He sobbed and his sobs broke my heart. Fuck, that witch was going to pay for everything.

"I'm sorry, I know what I was about to do was stupid and I realise that now. I'm not killer but she's been pushing me. I'm sorry"

I just held him for dear life.

"Sssh it is okay baby and soon, all of this will be over"

He pulled out of the hug and looked at me

"Yintoni?"

I giggled

"What are you planning to do sthandwa sami?"

He asked and I chuckled.

"I can't because I might have to kill you, remember dead men tell no tales"

He laughed softly.

"Ngiyadlala but I'm about to do something that I should've done a long time ago and don't worry, I won't kill her physically but emotionally spiritually if she any of that ngoba wow, she didn't attend a fly by night school of witches. The one she went to was legit to the tee"

He chuckled and just went back to holding me. After washing him up and myself, we chilled on the bed.

"You don't hate me?"

He asked.

"For what baby, for wanting to protect me? No I could never hate yoy. From today onwards, I want you to stop stressing yourself about this. I will end it soon"

I said and he layed his head on my thighs. I covered him up with a throw and in no time, his light snores filled the room and I sighed. When he was deep in his sleep, I placed his head of the pillow and went to the kitchen with my phone. I called Nhlanhla and the idiot picked up after the third time.

"Sawubona sisi"

He said and I sighed.

"Any leads bhuti, I want this shit over and done with!"

He sighed

"Yeah I have something and damn, her father is nasty so I guess it runs in the family and yazini, they should literally just change their surname to Baloyi."

I chuckled.

"Awume bhuti, yabona when I'm busy with her, even satan will be on his feet taking notes. Ain't no fury like a woman scorned and I've been quiet but I am about to get even now"

He cheered me on making me laugh.

"I swear I almost pissed my pants. Hamba sisi!"

I laughed and thanked him. I went back to the bedroom and found him still sleeping peacefully. I cuddled with him and dozed off too.

Wedding Day 🕎

Umakoti ungowethu, siyavuma

Ungowethu ngempela bo, siyavuma

Uzosiwashela, asiphekele

Siyavuma, sithi helele iyelele

Siyavuma!

I sang out loud while making breakfast and Mpilo came to the kitchen while chuckling.

"You'd swear that it was you get married today"

I laughed.

"Yazi mina ngingavele ngithi stop doing this food and make you eat

Cheerios ngoba ngathi usumile impiko sthandwa sami"

He laughed and wrapped his hands around my waist.

"Ngiyaxolisa Ndlovukazi"

I giggled and continued with my singing. After eating, I took a shower and thithivated myself after. Man, I looked drop dead gorgeous. He got into the bedroom with water dripping down his body and I drooled.

"Want some?"

He whispered in my ear and I swallowed a lump on my throat.

"Hm baby yes but now I'm all dressed up and my make up will be ruined"

He chuckled and grabbed my ass under the dress.

"No please do what you have to do, I'll wait for in the lounge"

I said and literally ran away. He laughed and shouted "Ngizokuthola!"

I chuckled and sat down on the couch before taking a couple of selfies.

"How do I look?"

His voice filled the room and I looked at him. The heavens were smiling on me.

"Holy son of Zues! All of you is all mine?"

He nodded and smiled. When he smiled, my heart did a little tango.

"Well let me take a picture so everyone can know that you are mine boy"

He chuckled and came closer to me. He was wearing a black suit with a white shirt and black bow tie. He looked so sexy. We took a couple of pictures and I was so going to post all of them on insta, later in the evening.

"Kiss me"

I said and he shook his head.

"Nope, it is about time I did you dirty too. Asambe baby, remember I'm the best man"

He said as he grabbed his keys and I felt like dying. We got to his car shortly and I was still mad. I buckled up and looked the other way.

"Baby ngibuke"

He said and I ignored him. He turned my face to him using his fingers and kissed me passionately. I returned the kiss and smiled after.

"Happy?"

He asked and I nodded happily. He smiled too before driving off.

After a while we got to the Pearls of Umhlanga where everything was happening. He parked the car and looked at me. He looked so good!

"I'll see you at the wedding I guess baby or you coming up with me?"

I thought for a second and nodded after. We got out the car and walked inside the hotel hand in hand. He went to speak to beautiful lady at the receptionist while I admired the place and after a while he came back to me. Held my hand again and led me to the elevator.

"This place is really beautiful and looks expensive"

I eyed him and he laughed.

"No baby, angeke!"

I laughed.

"Oho, suka!"

I was so lowkey asking for us to maybe spend a night or two there and just like that, he knew. After hoping in and hoping out, we knocked on the groom's door which was on the 5th floor. A man also in the black and white opened for us.

"Mpilo njayami"

He said and they fist bumped before hugging.

"Usamubi namanje?"

Mpilo said and the other guy laughed.

"Wena usaphapha namanje?"

They both laughed making me feel like the spare wheel. I didn't even want to clear my throat, I just let them have their moment. After a while the other guy looked at me and Mpilo chuckled.

"Meet my beautiful lady, Awande Dlamini and baby, this is Mthokozisi"

Hayi wayethokozisa yena. He wasn't ugly at all but hayi, he wasn't that handsome like my boyfriend either. We shook hands before walking inside the room.

"Lungaaaaa"

I said as I went to hug him, totally ignoring the other two guys that

were with him. He smiled and hugged me back.

"Gold digger yami"

I punched his shoulder playfully and pulled his cheeks. The other guys chuckled. You see Lunga and I were actually friends before I met Sandi. I was the one who introduced them to each other and thank God

they hit it off. I don't know how much I made him buy us nice goodies after they started dating on our second year. It was bliss!

"Ave uphapha njalo but hayi dude you look handsome kodwa phela awumudluli ke uMpilo. Eww wakhula Lunga"

The guys laughed out loud.

"Don't even start and thank you for coming, I know that..."

I put my hand on his lip and smiled.

"Sorry baby I had to do that"

I looked at Mpilo who looked just happy.

"This is not the time nor place. Anyway I wouldn't have missed this for the world. Umuphathe kahle umngani wami Lunga or else I won't hesitate to kill you. My gun has been tucked away in my safe for too long now, I'm pretty sure it is hungry for some blood. I love you dude"

I said and looked at the guys and they all look kinda scared. Phela I had my scary face on and I wasn't laughing or giggling when I said that to him. Mpilo on the other hand was all smiles, that idiot of mine.

"Anyway, which room is my girls in?"

I asked and he told me. I hugged him once more before saying goodbye to the gents.

"Bye baby"

Mpilo said before going back to conversing with his friends. I chuckled and walked out.

I walked to the elevator and hoped in when it stopped before me. I

hoped out on the 7th floor and walked to the door. I knocked and Zoe opened for me, she jumped to my arms and placed her smooches on my cheek.

"You'll ruin my makeup sisi haa"

We laughed as she dragged me in.

"Sanibonani"

I said everyone and looked at me. Noma and Lolo ran to me and hugged me for dear life.

"Y'all are suffocating me haibo"

They laughed and let me go. Sandi looked at me with glassy eyes.

"Waze Wamuhle makoti"

I said and she stood up and walked to me. She was hesitating to hug me but I put her out of her misery and hugged her. She cried softly and I hushed her.

"Sssh, don't cry Sandiswa. You'll ruin your beautiful makeup"

She giggled and let me go.

"I'm so happy that you here Wande, I know I haven't been.."

I did the same thing that I did to Lunga and hushed her.

"Let's not talk about that okay, it is all in the past. Today it is all about you and your happiness. Awusemhle!"

I carefully wiped her tears so I wouldn't ruin her makeup. The girls came closer and we all group hugged.

"I love you guys"

Sandi said.

"We love you too"

Well all said and giggled. We stayed in that position before Noma asked for the time and I looked at my watch, it wasn't that late but I decided to say it was.

"U-10 o'clock"

I said and they all scattered around like headless chickens. I laughed so loud and they all looked at me.

"Ave uyisihlama wena Wande"

Lolo said and we all laughed.

"Relax guys hawu, I just wanted to see something and wow, y'all are idiots. It is only half past nine and we still have time to lecture you shame"

Noma said and we all chuckled before we all sat down.

"Yes yes, let's get into it. Mina all I can say is just be happy and always be there for your husband. If he irritates you or whatever, drink wine and calm down first before you confront him"

Lolo said and we all agreed. She was making a valid point there, calm down and shoot his ass later while calm as a motherfucker.

"Well all I can say is buy lingerie shame, a lot of it and don't forget the sex toys. Explore, explore and explore. The rest will follow"

Noma said proudly and we all laughed.

"Yhuu, Noma hayi suka. Noma amount of good sex can keep a man wena. Anyway, be there for him sisi, love him and cherish him always"

Zoe said and we all agreed. The eyes were all on me.

"Haibo, don't look at me like that hawu. Well all I can say mina is respect him. Men would rather choose respect over love because to them respect equate to love. Even when you mad at him, calm down first and then confront him after. Never raise your voice nor shout at him. Just respect him sis and appreciate him everyday. Listen I'm no Dr Phil but just love each other but don't you dare forget to fuck each other like war. We all love you here"

I looked at everyone and they all nodded in agreement with me.

"Asambeni asambeni"

Sandi's mother-in-law said as she got into the room and we all stood up.

"Can we pray first?"

Noma said and we all chuckled. That was a first coming from her honestly. We all held hands and closed our eyes.

"Heavenly father we thank you for another day and for blessing us abundantly. We continue to ask for your guidance and protection. Please protect us from the evil eye wondering around and lead us not to temptation. We pray for peace and love amongst us today. May today's ceremony go smoothly and peacefully. Bless everyone in this room and all our loved ones. Thank you Lord, amen"

Lunga's mom prayed and we all said amen after she was done. The photographer was just capturing every moment without saying a word. Well that's what he was paid for, lol. We all hurried out of the room and hopped into the elevator. It didn't take us much time to reach the beach where they were going to wed. The set up was beautiful honestly and the men were already standing next to Lunga who was all smiles. The waves behind us were making such a peaceful sound while the birds were chirping all the way. The calm and soft wind against our skins was everything.

I sat down in one of the seat and locked eyes with Mpilo who smiled at me. I pouted while looking at him and he blushed.

In a short while, the bridesmaids made their way down the aisle and stood on the side of the bride.



When the rain is blowing in your face,
And the whole world is on your case,

I could offer you a warm embrace to make you feel my love.
When the evening shadows and the stars appear and when there's no
one there to dry your tears,
I could hold you for a million years,
To make you feel my love.
I know you haven't made up your mind up yet
But I would never do you wrong,
I've known it from the moment that we met,
No doubt in my mind where you belong.
I'd go hungry, I'd go black and blue,
I'd go crawling down the Avenue,
No there's nothing that I wouldn't do,
To make you feel my love.
The storms are raging on the rolling sea,
And on the highway of regrets,
The winds of change are blowing wild and free,
You ain't see nothing like me yet,
I could make you happy, make your dreams come true,
Nothing that I wouldn't do,
Go to the ends of the earth for you,
To make you feel my love,
To make you feel my love.

Make you feel my love by Adele played softly in the background as Sandi walked down the aisle hand in hand in with her mother who looked as equally beautiful. She took Lunga's hand and placed it in top of Sandi's hand before hugging them at the same time. They looked so happy and so in love.

The priest prayed before starting. He did everything that happens in the wedding, and wedded them off. They were officially Mr And Mrs Lunga

....

We all clapped hands as they sealed it off with a kiss. It was such a beautiful scene and I was just genuinely happy for them.

As they took pictures, I became quite sad at the fact that I wasn't going to be in the pictures so I just went over to Mpilo and asked for the car keys. He saw that I wasn't okay but was forced to stay behind because of the pictures, he was the best man after all.

I walked quite a distance to the car but that didn't matter, I had nothing better to do. I unlocked the car and got inside. I texted my brothers on our group and asked them about their whereabouts.

Nathi: Obviously in the kitchen, you idiot.

Awa: Okay bro.

Sban: Are you okay sis?

Awa: I guess, you know I just realised that I'm not going to be in my friend's wedding pictures 😞😞

Nhla: Eish I'm sorry dadewethu, but you do know that you can always just ask to be included.

Nathi: But that would be like ruining the pictures. 😊😊

Sbani: Helang Nathi! Awume kancane tuu, sis don't sweat it okay, shit happens and don't be sad over shit.

Awa: 😄😄😄😄 Are you saying being in my friend's wedding pictures is shit?

Sbani: Exactly shame, shitty!

Nhla: Yes I agree with Sbani, don't be sad over shit!

Nathi: Vele it is shit!

Awa 😄😄😄😄👏 Wow you three! Anyway, I'll see you Nathi and

Nhlanhla at the reception angithi?

Them: Sure

Sbani: Suka, let me go back to bed, a hangover ain't a child's playing.

Us: Suka 😊😊😊♥

I laughed as I laid back on the seat and tried to calm down. After a while Mpilo got inside the car and kissed my cheek.

"U-right?"

He asked and I nodded. I buckled up and looked away as he drove off. Suddenly everything that I had gone through just started to come back and my chest started to feel heavy. I held it and opened the window so the air could get in. The tears were running down my face uncontrollably and I suddenly felt so sad. I was at the point where I had just reached my breaking point. Not being in her pictures after years of planning with her made me sad but it wasn't just that. I was just tired of being strong and being expected to be in control all the time and for the first time that in that car, I acknowledged the anger I have develop over the past few weeks. The more I cried, the more my chest muscletightened. I don't know what happened but all I remember is that I suddenly felt so dizzy and Mpilo's voice echoing in the background but I wasn't able to respond and that was it.

My eyelids felt heavy as I tried to open my eyes but the pain in my chest had subsided. I scanned the room and there was no one by my side. I sighed.

"Baby you awake"

He said as he walked in through the door with my parents who looked

so sad. I hated seeing them like that. My mom came to my side and held my hand.

"Oh mntanami"

She said as she squeezed my hand.

"What happned?"

I asked as I tried to sit up.

"Sssh don't talk sisi, just relax and let me take care of you"

Mom said and they all looked at me. Before I knew it, my brothers and friends were in the room making all type of noise. I was so not in the mood.

"Can I be alone?"

I said and the room went silent.

"Baby"

Mpilo said in a low tone and I stood my ground.

"Please get out but Nhlanhla stay"

They all looked at each other before they made their way out. I exhaled and looked at Nhlanhla.

"Do it, send everything that you have about her dad to the press. Use your I.T skills and make sure that it won't implicate us."

I said and he nodded before walking out. After Nhlanhla walked out, the dr walked in and greeted me before telling me that I had suffered from a panic attack. He asked me if I would like to see a psychiatrist and I shook my head.

"No I'll be fine doc, I don't need one"

He nodded.

"Uma usho njalo MaDlamini but please just take it easy so you won't come back here again, not that I mind seeing your pretty face"

He said and I chuckled.

"Ungakhathazeki, I'll be okay but can I please be given anxiety pills you know"

"Kulungile and take it easy"

"Thank you doc"

He nodded and squeezed my shoulder before walking out. I faced up and thought about everything, I was mad and devil in Versace was going to feel it the most.

Chapter Thirty

A week later.

The social media was buzzing over the Sizwe Zulu's Scandal.

"A famous business tycoon involved in a ring of prostitution and human trafficking"

The headlines wrote and I smiled as I read the different articles on my phone. People on the socials were bashing him and his entire family, was dragged along with him.

Yes, he hadn't done anything to me but sadly but I had to start with the king before taking the down the rest of the pieces. He would've bailed her out as usual if I had taken her down first but with him down that meant that taking her down was going to be a walk in a park full of sunflowers. My brother and I made sure that everything was waterproof and I was just on the sidelines watching. I was feeling myself shame, I didn't know if I should call myself Cruella or Maleficent but Cruella won in the end.

"Baby you should be resting, not doing this"

That was Mpilo who had been worrying and taking care of me ever since I got discharged. When I tried to kick him out, he refused and stayed against my will.

"You do know that I'm not twelve Mpilo nor handicapped!"

He sighed and looked at me.

"I know and I'm sorry"

He said and I felt bad because he was only trying to make me feel good but I was just so made at his ex wife that I indirectly took out my anger on him which was wrong and I recognized that.

"No baby, I'm the one who should apologize. I know I've been an ass for the past couple of days and you only trying to help so I'm sorry sthandwa sami. Ngicela ungixolele baby"

I hugged him and he held me too. It felt so good to be in his arms again. I had to realize that he wasn't my enemy.

"It's fine baby, I made you some cheerios and poured a lot of milk"

I giggled.

"You just know yazi, you just know"

He took the bowl from the side table and gave it to me. After eating, I asked him to muff me and the poor child did, my Lort.

"I love you Awande"

He said as he gently went in and out.

"I love you more baby"

I said and made him go deeper while digging into his flesh with my nails. Sexual

healing was still my number remedy...

After the lit sexual healings, we decided to Netflix and chill. As we were chilling, his phone rang and he asked me to pass it to him since I was on my side table. It was from an unsaved number and I chuckled.

"Mpilo speaking, hello"

He answered and I pretended not to eavesdrop but come on, indlebe does whatever it wants whenever it wants. I don't know what the person he was speaking to said but his facial expression changed from "can we do it again baby" to "Breathe my way and I'll fuck you up" typa reaction. He looked super mad and they didn't even talk for a while before he hung up. He clicked his tongue before giving me his phone.

"Are you okay?"

I asked.

"Mxm that was my ex wife"

I chuckled and chuckled. I kept on chuckling till I couldn't stop chuckling.

"What did she want?"

I asked after chuckling for the 100 time and he sighed.

"She wasn't clear but it was something about someone going after her family. She was shouting at me and accusing me.. ewu that woman is crazy"

I smirked. She was so going to pay for threatening my man. Only I was allowed to do that.

"Let's forget her, I'm sure she's stressed about what's going on. Anyway hold me baby"

He side eyed me and I smiled.

"Awande!"

"Mpilo!"

"Wenzeni?"

"Lutho"

"Hm"

He said and pulled me closer to him. We cuddled and continued with watching The Witcher. The Irony was on another level!

Later On

He was taking a nap and I was in the lounge chilling while cooking. Yes, he was probably going to sleep at the toilet after eating my food but it was the thought that counted hawu. I texted my friends on our WhatsApp group and it was lit.

Noma: Wow kodwa ke that Sizwe Zulu is hot shame🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔

Zoe: Hayi cha yena yi bad boy enhle shame ☐ 😊

Awa: Wow you two, that's the father of the bitch that has been on my case for too long and y'all hoe are busy thirsting over him. I can't believe this shame.

Sandi: Mina ngithi habashwe 😊 whether he is hot or not

doesn't change the fact that he is evil. Human trafficking guys, our poor sisters. He'll sure make the prison cells look good though.

Awa: Thank you Sandi, at least someone is not letting that man's hotness cloud their judgment.

Zoe: Oh so you also agree that he is hot? 😊👁👁

Awa: Yoh haibo 😊😊😊😊

Noma: It's okay Mpilo won't see this so just agree with us here 😊

"Awe jesu ibhodwe lami"

I said to myself as I threw my phone on the couch and ran to the stove. There was smoke everywhere and the smell lort. I turned it off and tried to remove the pot away from the stove but it burnt me so badly, I screamed out loud.

"Kwenzenjani?"

Mpilo asked as he came rushing to me and I showed him my hands while crying. The pain was excruciating.

"Eish let me see"

He looked at them and sighed. The only thing I was doing was crying. He pulled me to the couch and made me sit down.

"Wait here, I'll be back with the first aid kit"

He opened the kitchen cupboards and looked for it.

"Letha izandla"

I handed them to him lmao. Handed, get it handed? Okay yhoo! Anyway, he did his thing before putting on plasters which was useless but I wasn't about to tell him that.

"Ngiyabonga"

I said and he kissed my cheek. The pain was a little bit better.

"Don't ever cook again!"

"Oho but I wanted to do something nice for you nje"

He chuckled.

"You what you can do for me when you want to do something nice for me nje"

He smirked and I chuckled. I closed my ears with my burnt hands and pretended not to hear him.

"I will not listen to you since I want to go to heaven, thank you very much"

He laughed and kissed my forehead. He sat down next to me and put his arm around my neck.

"Well, sizodlani ke manje ngoba mina I'm hungry as fuck"

"I'm sure it is not that burnt"

I said and he laughed out loud.

"Have you seen it though? Come on now, I refuse to eat that shit"

He said and laughed.

"Oh my food is shit? Oh okay"

I sulked and he looked away while laughing.

"I saw that njalo"

He laughed even more and got up before walking to the kitchen.

"I can make us noodles"

He said.

"Okay baby and I'll be over here chilling like the madamé of the house"

"Suka"

He said and I smiled. I picked up my phone and went back to the group chat.

Awa: Sorry guys, but ngicishe ngashelwa indlu lana 😊

Noma: Let me guess, you were cooking?

Zoe&Sandi: □□□□□

Awa: Voetsek wena 😊😊😊😊 and yes 😊😊

Noma: I knew it 😊😊😊😊😊 Even the food pray when you about to cook.

Sandi: Iyoh □□□□□□

Awa: 😊😊😊😊😊😊 🍴

Zoe: □□ Yeses!

Awa: Mxm suka! Wena Noma uyakhohlwa ukuthi I could make your life a living hell. 😊

Noma: Weeee bengidlala skwizaa, don't let these two hoes come between the good thing we have.

Awa: Yazi Noma I thought of you today, it reminded me to take out the garbage.

Zoe: Savage! 🙌😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊

Sandi: 🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊 Eshe! Animeni guys.

Noma: 😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊 Ngizomtshela uma yezwa.

Awa: Umtshele nokuthi she was wrong when she told you to be yourself, because it was bad advice in your case.

Sandi: □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

Chapter Thirty One

A week later

I was relaxing at home since I was still an unemployed graduate lmao and Mpilo was at work. My father had called and reminded me that my lobola negotiations were happening the following week and I had totally forgotten about it. Not that I wasn't happy that Mpilo was finally going to pay dowry for me but the timing was a little off. I was still busy teaching miss high and mighty a lesson.

Her father was arrested and all of his accounts were frozen. The state prosecutor also added more charges against him, which was music to my ears and when they refused him bail, my happy heart twerked till midnight. Oh, you should've seen the daughter running away from the journalists on national television. It was embarrassing!

"Unjani sthandwa sami?"

I asked Mpilo as he sat on the couch next to me. He absolutely looked exhausted.

"Ngiyaphila MaDlamini wena unjani?"

I smiled.

"Ngiyaphila nami Buthelezi, so dad called. It seems like we getting married next week?"

He smirked.

"It seems like? We Awande did you forget or?"

I hid my shame with a huge smile.

"Nope, how could I even forget that asoze. I can't wait to be your wife Mpilo"

He smiled and that smile made me want to get on top of a table and dance all night with my shades on.

"I'm happy baby and I'm sorry that I chose August but I just thought that by this now, everything would've been sorted"

He sighed and I looked at him.

"Everything will be fine baby, you have me and when you have me, awu konke kuba right and relevant"

I smiled and hugged him. There was nothing that I wouldn't have done for that man.

"Let me go shower sthandwa sami, I am so exhausted"

"I'll join you in a sec so I can scrub your back"

He smiled before disappearing to the bedroom. I took my phone and dialed Nhlanhla's number.

"Sis"

He answered.

"Bro it time for the last step. Leak the damn video"

"With pleasure sisi and I can't wait to see how all of this will unfold, just as long as that woman is out of your live then I'm good"

"That witch thinks I'm soft like my baby, ngizombonisa the real satan with horns mina. She'll pay for every bad thing that she has ever done to my Mpilo and honestly

speaking bro, I really need to thank Zolani again"

I said and he laughed

"I can't believe that I am about to say this, but it seems as if his humongous head works after all"

I cracked into a laughter.

"Idiot"

"Suka"

He said before hanging up and Mpilo cleared his throat. My throat went dry in a second and I bit the insides of my mouth.

"Baby, how long have you've been standing?"

"Long enough Awande, wenzeni?"

His hands were buried deep in his pockets.

"Okay fine, I'll tell you baby but promise me that you won't be mad at me"

He shrugged before sitting on the edge of the couch.

"Ngilalele"

I swallowed before telling him everything. He face suddenly beamed with joy and I looked at him in confusion.

"You not mad?"

I asked and he laughed.

"Mad? Woza la"

He pulled me up and hugged me.

"Ngiyabonga sthandwa sami for loving and fighting my battles for me"

He said and I smiled.

"Well that went well"

I said and he chuckled.

"Mxm, I couldn't care less about that bitch and for what's worth, I hope she dies alone"

I covered my mouth and laughed.

"Mpilo Buthelezi, sukohlakala wethu"

He laughed before kissing me. He led me to the bathroom and it ended with water raining down on us and moans filling up the place.

It was magic.

The Following Day

I woke up feeling like a brand new person and Mpilo was still softly snoring by my side since he wasn't going to work that day. I switched on my phone and went straight to Twitter. It was lit! Devil in Versace was being dragged left, right and center. She and her father were called the modern version of Cruella which was hella funny. The journalists were having a field day and my heart beamed with joy.

"Mpilo"

I shook him gently and he sneezed. He looked so cute with his yes closed. I snapped a

few pictures of him and posted them on my WhatsApp status and wrote "Indoda maybe umzulu♡" as a caption. My WhatsApp was immediately flooded with messages from my colleagues and varsity mates. They were thirsty as fuck and I just chuckled. He was mine and mine alone.

"Awande"

He said with a husky voice and I gave him my undivided attention.

"Sawubona"

I smiled at him and he smiled more revealing his crooked teeth, making me hot.

"Unjani?"

He asked as he sat up and stretched his arms.

"Ngiyaphila I wena unjani? Baby look at this"

I handed him my phone and he took it before giving it his undivided attention. A sinister smile crept out on his face.

"My little Maleficent you!"

I laughed and covered my face.

"This Maleficent was provoked and you know what, I'm thinking of visiting my former colleagues just to check up on them. It has been a minute"

I smirk and he chuckled.

"I'll join you baby you know for support"

He said and we laughed. Oh it was a beautiful morning.

"Yazini, let me go make you gojasi some delicious breakfast while you relax and elevate"

He said.

"And who'd say no to that? I'll be here"

He smiled and got out of bed before walking out of the room. I decided to call my dad as I was waiting for breakfast in bed, oh la la.

"Ntombi yami"

He answered his phone and I melted.

"Sawubona baba, ninjani?"

"Siyaphila nina ntombi ninjani?"

"Siyaphila nathi baba. Ngabe konke kusahamba kahle lapho ekhaya?"

He kept quiet for a minute.

"Kakhulu ntombi, sekushoda abazukulu nje sisi. Haibo ngaphambi kokuthi ngikhohlwe, ubesekutshelile uNathi ukuthi usebhalele umndeni ka Maka Mbali incwadi"

He asked and I was shocked.

"Ithi uyadlala baba, wow! Nathi never cease to amaze me. What happened?"

He laughed.

"Angazi nami sisi kodwa mina ngibuliswa ukuthi useyabona ukuthi that girl is priceless"

We both chuckled.

"Ngempela futhi sesiside isikhathi. Baba?"

"Ufunani Awande?"

I laughed so hard.

"Haibo baba, you don't even know what I am going to say. Anyway please don't hassle Mpilo's uncle's next week tuu, abegooo"

He laughed.

"Angeke nje ngikhulume indaba zamadoda nawe Awande. Awuvuke wenzele umkhwenyana ukudla futhi ngoba ngiyakwazi"

"Weeeeeeee bhabhayi baba"

I said and he laughed. I loved that man three much.

"Bye ntombi"

He hung up and I smiled

"Ubani lo osemamathekisa intombi yami kangaka ekuseni ngoba that's my job?"

He asked as he walked to bed with a tray that had food and coffee in his hands and I smiled even more.

"Yini bhuti

are you jealous?"

He laughed.

"Vele I am jealous. You are mine and mine alone"

I blushed to the tee and he smirked.

"There you go"

He handed me a plate full of scrumptious food and I immediately dug in. He just looked at me while I stuffed my mouth with food. I swallowed and looked at him.

"What's wrong?"

He smiled.

"Nothing is wrong, I'm just looking at my gorgeous girlfriend eats her breakfast, is that a crime?"

I shook my head and continued with eating.

After eating, I offered to wash the dishes while he showered. He walked into the lounge while I was watching tv. He was wearing some sweatpants and a white t-shirt.

He looked absolutely beautiful.

"So when are you going home Sibalikhulu?"

"Since it is a Monday today, I'll probably go there on Wednesday"

He sulked.

"Can't you go there on Thursday or Friday?"

I shook my head.

"No I can't babe, I still need to find something to wear since we don't even have some cute matching traditional attires for Saturday"

He laughed.

"I don't give a fuck about that. I just can't wait for you to be officially mine. I also can't wait to start a family with you. So fuck traditional attires, I just want you mina"

I blushed like a maniac and he pulled me up. He wrapped his arms around me and buried his face on my neck.

"Ngiyakuthanda MaDlamini futhi ngikuthanda ngenhliziyo yami yonke. Konke okufunayo uzokuthola kimi. If you tell me to jump, I'll just ask how high. Uyikho konke kimina and I wouldn't trade you for anything. Inhliziyo yami eyakho yonke koze kube inguna phakade"

He said and I felt tears threatening my face.

"Ngiyakuthanda nami sthandwa sami and I promise you, no one will ever hurt you while I'm still alive. Every battle you face, I'll be by your side to assist you. Akekho noyedwa oyophinda akuphathise okwadoti ngisaphila ngoba yey, ngiyobacitha ubuchopho"

He laughed and looked at me. He kissed me gently and slowly. My knees started to become wobbly and he tightened his arms around me. As we were still in our own world, a knock disturbed us and he cursed.

"Fuck, ubani lo ungena timing kodwa?"

He asked as he made his way to the door and opened it. Well well, wasn't it she devil herself!

Mpilo looked at me and I shrugged.

"Ufunani wena lana?"

He asked and she kept quiet for a minute before looking at me with pleading eyes.

"Can I come in please, I promise I won't take much of your time"

"Ngena"

I said and she came in. Mpilo closed the door behind her and came to my side. I asked her to sit down and Mpilo leaned against the wall with his hands deep in his pockets.

"What can we do for you?"

I asked and she took off her shades. Erh, she looked horrible.

"I know I am probably the last person you guys expected to walk through your door but I had to. I came here because I wanted to ask for your forgiveness"

She said and I looked at Mpilo who looked unfazed.

"Forgiveness for?"

I ask and she looked at Mpilo.

"For everything! Ngicela ukuqala ngawe Mpilo and say that I am deeply sorry for everything that I have put you through in the past up and until now. You are a wonderful man and it took me a long time to realise what I lost. You loved and cared for me like no other but I messed it all up like I always do. I played with your heart, life and for that please forgive me Mpilo. I know my apology won't make you forget nor heal your wounds but please I beg, forgive me please"

She sobbed and she sounded genuine. I studied her body language and sighed.

"Usuqedile?"

Mpilo asked and my heart sank.

"Cha, Awande I'm sorry. I'm sorry for everything I've also put you through. I'm sorry

for bewitching you and being nasty towards you. I was jealous of what you have with him. You make him happy and each day I saw you, you reminded me how much of a failure I am. I'm sorry for everything"

I looked at her as she wiped her tears. I don't know if I was being foolish or what, but I believed her.

"You have some nerve woman! So tell me what made you so remorseful all of a sudden? Why wait till you down to see your mistakes huh? Yabona this little apology of yours is bullshit, uyangizwa bullshit! Anyway I forgave you a long time ago when you still didn't see the need to apologize. Angazi ukuthi udlala muphi umdlala we sisi but I want you to stand up and get the fuck out of here. I don't ever want to see your face ever again and if you dare come near me or my fiance, I will not hesitate to kill you with my bare hands"

He said and all this time, I was just looking at him. He sounded and looked dangerous. I felt butterflies in my stomach.

"I think it would be for the best if you left Miss Versace and I forgive you"

I said and she smiled through the tears. Even though, she was a devil with horns, she was still a human being.

"For what's worth, I'm leaving the country for good and I'll be handing over my company to you Awande"

She said and I looked at her puzzled.

"What?"

Mpilo and I said at the same time.

"Take it as my token of appreciation for loving that one and plus you so good at what you do. My lawyer will contact you once I'm gone and please be happy, you two. Once again I'm sorry, for showing up unannounced and no, I didn't stalk you. I got your address from your stuff. I wish you two nothing but the best in life and once again, I'm sorry for everything"

She said and stood up before making her way out of the door.

"Well that was erh!"

I said.

"Bullshit!"

Mpilo said and walked to the bedroom. I followed him and found him staring into space.

I sighed and layed next to him. I took my phone and played Fall Part by Shekhinah ft Luke Goliath. It was out of context but I wanted him to relax and know that he did everything he could. When it ended, Right now by Elaine came through and that's when I saw tears rolling down his face. He started singing and I joined him.

"I love you baby and I'm here for you"

I said as I wiped his tears with my thumb before placing my head on his chest.

Chapter Thirty Two

Saturday- Lobola

The week went by pretty fast and in no time, it was Saturday. For some reason, I was nervous as hell and I kept asking myself questions that I had no answers to. Miss Versace was spotted boarding the plane the following day after she paid us a visit and that made me even happier. I didn't need to fuck up her life anymore and that was a relief. It wasn't who I am but you know what happens when someone creates a monster out of you, you give them what they want. On Thursday her lawyer called me and since I was already at home, I asked if we could reschedule the meeting and luckily he agreed.

"Vuka vuka makoti"

My mom said as she pulled the covers off of me and I groaned. I picked up my phone from the side table and looked at the time. Bathong, it was just after 4am.

"Haibo mzali, sijahephi kanti? Kusa early nje"

I sulked and she laughed as she sat down on the bed.

"Ngaze ngamuzwela uMpilo we jesu. Waze wavelelwa ivila voco!"

She said and I laughed. The whole time she was just looking at me with a smile.

"I'm so proud of the woman you have become sisi and I have no doubt that you'll be the best mother ever. You have been through a lot but still, you didn't give up nor lost yourself along the way. You didn't give in to your demons and for that, I am very proud of you. Today, you going to become someone's wife and that alone makes my heart beam with joy. Promise me that you will not change even after marriage and don't you ever, I mean ever think that we are no longer your family. We love Mpilo but we love you more and if he ever does something that will take you back to that dark place please don't hesitate to come back home, the door is always opened. This is your home and we will always be here for you. Ngiyakuthanda mntanami and you'll always be my little princess"

She said and I began sobbing. Her words meant a lot to me.

"Oh mama, this wouldn't have been possible if you and ubaba weren't here. I owe you both a lot and thank you for always loving me. Ngiyanithanda kakhulu"

I sat up and hugged her.

"Cha mntanami, you don't owe us a damn thing. We were doing what parents do and one day you'll understand when you have you own kids. Ngibonga inkosi ukuthi ngisaphila and I can witness this"

We held on to each other for the longest time before letting go. She wiped my tears and kissed my forehead.

"Can I help you in the kitchen?"

She chuckled nervously and shook her head.

"Cha cha mntanami, wena just relax here. Your friends have been a great help and Wande, why didn't you tell me that Nhlanhla and Noma are dating?"

"Erh, it wasn't my place to tell mama and how did you find out?"

She smiled.

"She confessed and truthfully speaking, I prefer her over that Belinda"

I laughed. Damn my mom was a phixiphixi of ixoki.

"Hayi angizingeni mzali wami"

She laughed and made her way out of my room. I dialed Mpilo's number and he answered immediately.

"Sthandwa sami"

He answered with a husky voice and I felt all my organs shifting.

"Myeni wami"

He groaned.

"Waze wangibiza kamnandi MaDlamini. I can't wait to see you and hold you"

I giggled.

"I can't wait to see you too baby. What will you be wearing?"

He chuckled

"Ngizoza nginqunu"

I laughed.

"I won't mind shame"

I said and we continued talking till I had to hang up because my friends came in the room and stared at me.

"Yini nina, nangihlahlela amehlo nje?"

I asked and they clicked their tongue.

"Ave uphapha phela wena nobubi"

Noma said as she got undercovers with me and so did they.

"Thank you Lolo for coming"

"Whooo shame, I wouldn't have missed this for shit. Futhi nje uyangazi, I never say no to free booze and food"

She said and we high fived. She was my kinda girl shame.

"I can't believe that you about to become a wife sis. Angazi ukuthi ngihleke noma ngikhale yini"

Zoe said as she wiped her tears and I wondered what happened to "angazi" lmao.

"Nami sis, yazi I never thought I'd ever be someone's wife honestly and truly speaking, I also don't know if I should laugh or cry. For so long, I had been fixated on my past and forgot to put myself out there. All of this wouldn't be happening if Sandi hadn't pushed me back to dating scene by organising all of those blind dates and for that I am truly grateful mngani. You always encouraged me to give love a try even after they dribbled me so many times and I thank God

I did"

She took my hand and squeezed it.

"I wasn't about to let you be a single lady for ever shame. You deserve love and love is what you got. You and Mpilo deserve everything that is beautiful in this world. I

love you with all of my heart and I wish you nothing but the best. Marriage life is good shame"

We all laughed because she was really glowing which really meant that it was indeed good. After we talked and laughed while eating some nice food, they helped me dress up after I took a shower.

We heard some noise outside and I immediately peeped through the window. I saw Mpilo's uncles on the other side of the gate wiping their sweats and the sun was scorching hot.

"Haibo why are they ignoring the poor men, look at them ngathi bazoquleka"

I asked and the girls laughed.

"Haibo that's tradition though. Kuzomele bakhiphe imvula mlomo if they want to get inside"

Lolo said and I sighed.

"I know that but come on, mele baze bakhiphe malini kanti ukuze bavulelwe"

I sat on the bed and the girls shook their heads.

"Okay okay, I'll try to relax hawu"

I said and they sat down next to me while Noma remained looking outside of the window.

"Sebengenile Wawa"

Noma said and I got a little excited.

"Can someone go eavesdrop bandla"

I begged as I paced up and down. I was really agitated and no one was telling me a damn thing.

"Relax Wawa, your dad knows what he is doing"

Zoe said and I sighed. I wished and prayed that my dad was not ruining things for me.

"Ngiyabona ukuthi y'all don't know my dad shame, that one is a professional ruin'er"

I said and they giggled.

"Wande, Zoe and you Noma take these scarfs and cover yourselves now. The uncles wants to see you"

We did as told and followed my mom to the dining room. We walked to the room and kneeled down before everyone while looking down. They were told to choose their flower and thank God they chose the right one.

"Seningahamba siyabonga"

We got up and walked back to my room. We found Sandi and Lolo laughing their titties out.

"What's funny?"

I asked as we got in and removed the scarfs.

"Yho! Lolo was showing me some guy's dick that she met on Tinder. Hayi bangcwele come and see"

Sandi answered and Lolo showed us the picture. I took one look at it and rolled on the floor. We absolutely couldn't contain ourselves.

"Kodwa Lolo, yini lena? Yaziz even my pinkie is bigger than this"

Noma said and we were rolling on the floor.

"Kazi yini le enihlekisa kangaka?"

Mom asked as she walked in and we all tried to suppress our laughter.

"Mama, please tell me that they are done"

She looked at me and nodded with a huge smile on her face.

"You are officially Mrs Buthelezi mntanami"

She said and the girls lululated.

"Ngicela ukubona umyeni wami mama"

She giggled.

"Weee, come and serve him then. Uhleli edining room with your brothers and other men"

I excitedly nodded and followed mom to the kitchen.

He smiled at me as I knelt in front of him with a bowl full of water. The men whistled as he washed his hands and I blushed profusely. After washing his hands, he dried them with a cloth and thanked me. I got up and went back to the kitchen and went back to the dining room again with his food on the tray. Man, it was hard work but it was worth it. I was serving my husband and it felt so good to finally call him my husband. After eating, we all gathered outside and started eating some meat that was braai'ed while the drunkards drank.

He came to where I was standing with the ladies and greeted.

"Can I steal my wife for a second?"

He asked and they all nodded.

"She is all yours"

Sandi said as he took my hand into his. He pulled me inside the house and as soon as we got inside my room, he attacked me with a kiss.

"Nkosikazi yami enhle"

He said as he held my waist and looked deep into my eyes.

"Yebo myeni wami o very gojasi"

He smiled

"Ngiyakuthanda Mrs Buthelezi"

I blushed and hugged him. As I was about to say it back, my brothers invited themselves.

"Erh! Anina timing guys and thank you for not ruining my negotiations Nathi"

He laughed and shook his head.

"Yeah yeah whatever but at least I made myself some moola through you"

I gasped and they all laughed.

"Congrats guys and Mpilo welcome to the family. If you ever break my sister's heart, I will murder you"

Sbani said as he hugged the both of us.

"Bese mina ngiyakungcwaba"

Nhlanhla said as he joined the hug.

"Bese mina ngidla imali ayikho"

Nathi said and we all laughed. We grouped hugged and the girls came in and joined the hug. The support and love was overwhelming.

"How dare you forget me zinja?"

Lunga asked and we all laughed.

"Hayi suka woza"

I said and he joined the group hug. We pulled out after a while and embraced each other. My heart was at peace.

"I love you baby"

I said.

"I love you Wande"

We hugged and everyone was like "awww"

"Fuck off"

I said and they all laughed.

"Come come, let's take some pictures for the gram"

Noma said and Nhlanhla smiled. He was definitely head over hills with her.

"No yazini let's go outside so we can take clear pictures and we taking them with my iPhone shame"

Lolo said and we all laughed happily. Zoe recieved a call and asked to be excused. We walked outside and took those pictures. I saw my parents looking at me from a distance with smiles on their faces.

I excused myself and walked to them.

"My beautiful rents, come and join us"

I said and they nodded.

"Ngiyabonga baba, ngiyabonga Sibalukhulu, ngiyabonga mdlovu, magaduzela. Thank you everything, for raising me and for loving me. Dad you are the best father a child could ever ask for and mom, ngiyabonga MaVico. You guys are the best"

I said as tears threatened my eyes and they hugged me.

"Siyaziqhenya ngawe ndodakazi futhi siyohlezi siziqhenya ngawe. Wena uyinkosazane yethu ekhaliphile futhi enomusa. Ngiyazi ukuthi konke okuhle kuzokulandela kuze kube ingunaphakade. There's nothing that we wouldn't do for you and your brothers"

My dad said and I sobbed. We hugged it out and went to join the rest of the peeps.

The hired photographer took dozens of pictures and the entire time, Mpilo was just looking at me with eyes full of nothing but love.

It was magical and my heart was at peace.

Chapter Thirty Three

A Year Later

I was huge as a whale and looked like Marjin boo from the dragon ballz. Later in August that previous year, we found out that we were expecting and to say I was mad, would be an understatement. I so wanted to write a letter directed to the Minister of Health and ask him about his damn contraceptives.

Mpilo was like "My sperm must be the shit" when I told him. Well, we had our white wedding on the 16th of December and umabo on the 17th of December. It was such a beautiful and intimate wedding and thank God my stomach wasn't that big at that time. The hardest thing was saying goodbye to my flat and to Bab'Mdlalose. That place was my life but like the Zulu idiom says "Okungapheli kuyahlola". I moved in with Mpilo in our house and the rest is history. Oh, the company was finally mine and I was rolling in Randelas baby.

"I'm tired Mpilo, I want him out of my stomach right now"

I cried and he pulled me closer to him.

"I know baby but few more weeks to go okay. Let's hold on"

He said and I clicked my tongue.

"Hold on? Mxm I'm the one who looks like a whale Mpilo and I'm the one who walks like a duck, not you. So don't you dare tell me to hold because this is fucking shit.

Take out your baby now Mpilo"

I shouted and he sighed.

"Okay I'm sorry sthandwa sami. Can I get you some strawberries just to calm you down?"

I nodded.

"Bring peanut butter too"

He nodded

"Help me Lord please, I can't!"

He said softly as he walked out of the bedroom.

"I heard that"

I shouted and he lughed. After a while his mom walked in with the food. She and my mom were around and thank God that they got along like a house on fire or else, it would've been a disaster.

"U-right sisi?"

Mom-in-law asked and I cried out loud while shaking my head. My mom walked in too and looked at me.

"Your son doesn't want to take out his baby and I'm tired mina"

They looked at each other and tried so hard to suppress their laughter.

"Oh niyangihleka, kulungile. Nawe mama pho?"

I cried even more and they shook their heads.

"Cha baby asikuhleki. We just mad at Mpilo for doing this to you"

My mom said before laughing. I looked her with an evil eye and she ran out of the room while laughing. I looked at mom-in-law who looked away.

"Mxm"

I said before getting out bed

"Haibo ma, uchamile?"

I asked and she looked at me.

"Mpilo woza woza"

She shouted and Mpilo came in running like Caster Semenya.

"Her water just broke, it is time"

As soon as she said that, my back started to become very hot and I cried out loud.

"Hawe jesu, ngisizeni"

I shouted and Mpilo picked me up and rushed with me to the car. He got on the driver's seat while the our mothers held my hands at the back seat.

"Breathe in and out baby"

I tried but the cramps became too much. I screamed once more and my mom shouted at Mpilo and told him to driver faster.

"Mama, trust me I am"

I screamed once again.

"Oh Maria, I promise baba that I will never have sex again if you only take him out of me. Hawu jesu, hawu mdali. Wena Mpilo uzonya"

I screamed and after a while the car stopped. Mpilo rushed out of the car and came back with a wheelchair and a nurse.

They rushed me to the emergency room while I was screaming from the bottom of my lungs.

The nurses took off my leggings and panties before the Dr inserted his two fingers on my vagina and shook his head.

"Her cervix hasn't opened up yet so she's not ready to give birth"

The doctor said and I screamed even more.

"HAWU NGAFA MINA NAMHLANJE"

Mpilo looked so lost and hurt.

"I'll comeback after three hours to check up on her again. Hang in there ma'am"

The doctor said before walked out. I got out of bed and tried walking around but the pain was just too much. I held on to the bed and cried.

The trauma went on until 6pm in the evening and by then, I was exhausted.

"Push baby please"

Mpilo begged me as I squeezed his hand for dear life.

"Just the fuck up, this is all your fault. Aaaaaaaah mama yoh"

I pushed and the nurse told me to push harder. I was exhausted but I pushed.

"Aaaaaaaaah, I hate you Mpilo Buthelezi for doing this to me. I hate you, aaah we jesu. Help me Lord"

I pushed even harder and suddenly my baby's cries filled the room. I let out a faint

smile and looked at Mpilo who was sobbing. I so wanted to smack the tears from his face but I was weak. The nurse gave him to me and I cried as we looked at his cute face. He was beyond the word perfection. He was out of this world.

"What is his name?"

The nurse asked and I looked at Mpilo who looked at me with tears of joy.

"Lubanzi"

He said while looking at him without blinking.

"Lubanzi Sambulo Buthelezi"

I said and my baby smiled with his eyes closed.

"Beautiful names"

The nurse said as she jotted them down.

"Can I hold him?"

I nodded and gave him to him. In no time, I was far away.

The next day!

I woke up and found my loved ones surrounding my bed

"My baby"

I panicked and they all smiled.

"Nangu nje uduze kwakho"

Noma said and they all laughed. I looked at him sleeping peacefully and smiled.

"Ngiyabonga for this giving me this beautiful gift MaDlamini"

Mpilo said and I smiled. He kissed my forehead and held my hand. Everyone in the room was like awwww.

"I can't believe that I am an uncle finally"

Nhlanhla said and I chuckled.

"Udakiwe wena, what about my kids?"

Nathi asked

"Oh konje!"

He said carelessly and we all laughed.

"When are we getting out of here?"

I asked.

"Tomorrow if I am satisfied"

A cute dr walked in and Lolo blushed.

"Sanibonani"

He greeted and we all greeted back.

"How is my patient?"

"I'm exhausted and never going to have sex again. Sorry my rents"

I said and everyone in the room chuckled.

"Well I'm happy with you so tomorrow

you definitely going home"

He said and smiled before saying goodbye.

"Hayi cha shame Lolo, awusambuki omunye umntwana"

Sandi said and we all alughed.

"Shut up"

Lolo replied.

M bundle of joy's baby voice filled the room and I took him to my arms.

"Are you hungry sana lwami, awusemuhle nje baby ka mama"

I said while pulling out my boob and he gently sucked on it.

I looked at everyone who looked rather amused.

"Yini anilazi ibele?"

They laughed.

"Yhoo Makoti!"

Mother-in-law said and I chuckled.

"Thank you guys, thank you for being here"

I said and they all smiled.

"We wouldn't want to be anywhere else right now"

"Speak for yourself mamezala, mina and your son could be making our own baby"

Noma said and Nhlanhla blushed.

"Ewu bakhulumile"

Mom said and we all laughed happily.

The following day!

Mpilo came to fetch us after eleven o'clock and oh boy, wasn't I happy to go back home with my likkle cute ngwana. He was all smiles the entire ride which made me smile too.

We got home after some time and I carried my baby as he carried the bag. As soon as I opened my door, they all shouted "Surprise"

The lounge was beautifully decorated and "Welcome home Lubanzi" was written on a board next to the blue and white ballons. It was beautiful.

"Why didn't you warn me baby?"

I asked Mpilo and he shrugged.

"And have your mom kill me? No thank you baby but I love you still"

He said as he placed his arm around me and kissed Lubanzi's forehead. My mom took Lubanzi and made me sit down on the chair next to Mpilo's chair. Even our dads were there and that made me very happy. We sat down and began conversing over a lot of shit.

After a while, Mpilo stood up and cleared his throat and we all looked at him.

"Thank you for the spotlight"

He said and we chuckled.

"Well life hasn't always been kind to me but I was lucky enough to be blessed with good parents. They've been there for me through thick and thin, and for that I'd like to say thank you guys. When Sandi told me that she wanted to fix a blind date for me

and her friend, I laughed because it absolutely sounded ridiculous. I refused until she showed me her picture and I was immediately taken away by her big beautiful eyes. I agreed and told her that I'll do it. It was gamble but I was excited and hopeful. When she didn't pitch up, my ego was a little bruised and I won't lie, I was really disappointed. I was also little sad but when she called the next day to apologize, I knew right there and then that she was the one for me. To cut the long story short, here we are and I just want to say thank you Awande. I thank God everyday for giving me you baby. Thank you for loving me and putting up with my shit even when you didn't have to. You've never made me feel less of a man even when I told you things that made me feel worthless. You stood by my side and helped me sort out my issues. You know there's a long list of things that I wish life had or hadn't given me but now that I am here have lived with or without. I now know that life was preparing me for you and it was worth it. You are one hell of a woman sthandwa sami and I couldn't have asked for a better partner. With you by my side, I know that I'd always be loved and cared for. I love the way you respect me as a human being and as your husband. I love you and our son so much"

He said and I teared up. I stood up and hugged him for dear life. He wiped my tears and kissed me.

"I'd also like to thank each and everyone of you in this table. You have all become my family and I couldn't have asked for anyone but you guys. Ngiyabonga kakhulu, izandla zidlula ikhanda"

"We love you too boy"

My mom said and they all agreed with her.

"That was very sweet baby and thank you. I love you so much"

I whispered in his ear and he kissed my neck. We pulled out of the hug and sat down. I honestly felt like a queen.

"Asidleni people and don't worry I cooked"

Nathi said and we all laughed. What I was seeing made me so happy. My family and friends were everything to me.

"He's so cute"

Sbani said and I smiled.

My people were happy and so was I.

"To family, peace, love and happiness, oh imali"

Zoe said as she raised her glass in the air and we all followed her lead.

"Cheers"

We all said happily.



"All that is gold does not glitter,
Not all those wander are lost;

The old that is strong does not wither,
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.
From the ashes a fire shall be woken,
A light from the shadows shall spring;
Renewed shall be blade that was broken,
The crownless again shall be KING"

THE END