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#1

The Narrator.

It is said that when we are born, our lives are already planned out. That our bad and good choices have already been seen by the Higher being. From the moment you pop out from your mother crying and wiggling your legs, that's when your life starts. Everything is recorded, everything you do is watched, every mistake is written down, every achievement is celebrated, and your future is set. You navigate through your life meanwhile it has already been planned and seen, you are more like a vessel, carrying out a certain mission. And when you are done with the world, you return to the ground, and eventually everyone will forget about you. They will forget that you ever existed, and you will be rotting away in the grave. Others believe in the after life, that there is a place you go to, to be with your maker. Others believe that you remain in your

grave forever, that there is no after life. What do you believe in? Who is watching these things as they happen? If there is, then where is she/he hiding?

Khumbulani Shongwe, a good-looking man, down to earth and very smart. This is partly his story.

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KHUMBULANI.

Nakia comes to me and brings the food. I smile and thank her. My wife is very good when it comes to the pots, I love it more when she cooks me her home food. She's from Kenya, and we don't have a child yet. We have been married for a year. I met Nakia when she was lost, she was new in South Africa and she wanted to find her apartment that she had rented beforehand. That's how I got close to her, and we started a relationship few months down the line. Of course, people weren't too supporting with the idea of us, you know people and that term that they use to other Africans. But I didn't care, they mocked her and I defended her. Nakia is dark, her skin is more like that of Okoye from Wakanda Forever. She may not be pleasing to them or fit their beauty standards, but I love my wife, and there is more to her than they are seeing.

Nakia:Baby your mother said she will be here tomorrow.

Khumbulani:What does she want?

Nakia:I don't know, we'll hear when she arrives.

I nodded and continued eating. My mother is not one of those monsters in law, but she has made it clear that she doesn't like Nakia, she is civil towards her. Although, I don't know why she doesn't like her. Nakia is everything a man needs.

Nakia:I have to run a few errands, I will be back.

Khumbulani:Okay....

She gave me a kiss on the cheek and went out. I finished eating and went to the kitchen to wash my plate. When I was done, I went back to the living room to my ringing phone. It was my older brother

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Mphathikhaya. I have two brothers, it's him and Qinisela. My parents do not have daughters, dad is no longer with us.

Khumbulani:Sure?

Mphathi:Khumbulani have you forgotten to meet me here? I have been waiting.

Damn it, I absolutely forgot.

Khumbulani:Shit okay, I'm on my way.

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NAKIA

After finishing my errands, I went to his hideout. I don't know why he has to hide like a fugitive.

Chege:I thought you weren't coming today.

Nakia:I had to cook for Lani first.

Chege:Okay.. Did you bring me food?

Nakia:Here...

I gave him the food I had brought. He ate so quickly; he must have been hungry. Chege is also from Kenya like me.

Nakia:Barasa is dead.

Chege:*Shocked* What!?

Nakia:Yesterday, they caught him.

Chege:He was our best one yet.

Nakia:They burnt his body like a dog.

I drop one tear.

Nakia:We won't even get to bury him.

Chege:I knew they would do this! We shouldn't have sent him there.

Nakia:We had not choice.

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KHUMBULANI

I found Mphathi looking so annoyed, I sat down and apologized.

Mphathi:What kept you?

Khumbulani:I seriously forgot.

Mphathi:Yeah yeah whatever. I wanted us to talk about something..

Khumbulani:I'm listening...

Mphathi:You know my situation... I can't have kids, and my house is at the blink of falling down. With you being the next in line, I am asking you to build my house.

I wasn't sure I was understanding what he was saying, but I had an idea.

Khumbulani:What are you saying exactly?

Mphathi:I'm asking you to have kids on my behalf with my wife, I know they won't be mine but at least they will have the DNA yo Shongwe.

Khumbulani:Bafo I don't think I can do that, I am married and I can't hurt Nakia like this. What you are asking me is not possible.

Mphathi:I am literally begging you Khumbulani, uyawa umuzi wami.

Khumbulani:But there are a lot of options that you can still try.

Mphathi:I have tried everything, you know that.

Khumbulani:I can't do it. I'm sorry.

I stood up with the attempt to walk away, but he held my hand firmly.

Mphathi:Don't forget I know what you did.

I looked at him and he kept a straight expression.

Mphathi:I did not want it to get this far, but you are not making things easy for me. Sit!

I slowly sat down.

Mphathi:Now this is what you have to do....

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MANDLENKOSI

He wears his clothes and spanks the maid's ass.

Mandla:That was great, next time come early. I won't wait like I did today.

The maid nodded and walked out. Mandla also walked out, and found his father standing by his door.

Mandla:Hey dad...

His father looked at him disgusted.

Mandla:Before you say anything, we are in a relationship.

"I want to talk to you about something. Come to my study"

He followed behind him. They reached his study and sat down.

Mandla:So what do you want to talk about?

"Son, I want to talk to you about your behaviour."

Mandla:What have I done?

"Where is your life headed? All you know is to have sex and fun"

Mandla:Life is too short.

“You’re not getting any younger, you’re almost reaching 30. I will not always be here to clean up after you.”

He reached for his drawer and gave him a picture.

“I want you to find that person for me”

Mandla:Who is she?

“That’s for me to know, no one has seen her. I was lucky to get her picture but I don’t remember where I saw her”

Mandla:I will try.

His father stood up and walked out of the room. He heard some movement and ignored it thinking it was one of the maids. He got alarmed when he heard someone crying. He moved to the direction of the noise and saw one of the housekeepers being mouth taped by what looked like a thief. How did they enter? His house is security heavy.

The thieves saw him and pointed at him with their guns.

“Boys... no one has to get hurt.. We will give you anything you want... just let her go...”, he pleaded with them.....

He tried to move towards them but one of them shot him on the head.

“What the fuck is wrong with you!? This was supposed to be a clean job!”

“I’m sorry, I don’t know what happened. The trigger just went off”

The shouted at each other.

Mandla came rushing to the room upon hearing gun shots.

Mandla:Nooo....

He screamed as he saw his father laying in a pool of blood.

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Hi, this is our new story. All I’m asking is your engagement, I’m not going to set targets of comments, no, I’ll appreciate whatever you do. Please allow the story to happen, do not rush me because I will end up getting distracted..

This is the group for interaction

<https://facebook.com/groups/480747167055298/>

It would be really nice if people posted and kept the group active, but it’s just quiet. that’s what it is for btw, to engage and discuss the story.

Like we always say, if at some point the story no longer does it for you, drink water and take a break, you will re-join on the next one.

2

NAKIA

After leaving Chege, I had to return home. But my Lani was gone. I wonder where he is. He never goes out without telling me, same way that I never go out without telling him. I text him asking where he is, and he replies by saying he's with his brother. Okay that's better.

I am not entirely happy with his mother coming here tomorrow, that woman doesn't like me. She always thinks I'm not the one for his son, but I love Khumbulani and he loves me. She will just have to be strong, and soldier on. I think what made it worse is when she discovered that I'm not from South Africa, but Kenya. She threw a fit and wanted to chase me out, but my husband stood up for me. His brothers have no problem with me, it's only his mother. I hope someday I will be able to soften her heart and she will love me.

I'm worried about Chege, I don't like that place he's living in. But he doesn't want to leave that place. You must be wondering, Chege is my brother, he recently came here from Kenya. He ran away actually, from very bad people. He's the

only family member I have remaining , our parents sadly passed away when we were young, car accident.

Let me clean up while Lani is not here.

I stop walking when I notice something, this room, it's always closed. I don't remember opening it. I bring my hand out to open it but I hear Khumbulani calling me..

"Nakiaaaa I am back..."

I leave the room and hurry to him. I hug him.

Nakia:Hi...

Khumbulani:I was with my brother.. Sorry for not telling you.

Nakia:Don't worry, I have gotten used to your forgetfulness.

Khumbulani:*Chuckles* What are you talking about?

Nakia:Babe don't act like you don't know. You forget almost everything, I'm surprised you don't have amnesia.

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MANDLENKOSI

My aunt just arrived, and she was crying like crazy. This was her brother. The thugs who shot him have been arrested, but it still doesn't take away the fact that dad is gone. He was just telling me yesterday that he won't be around for too long and I took that lightly. I should have known that something bad would happen.

Jumaima:Mandla we need to start preparing for the funeral. Where are your father's important documents?

Mandla:You mean IDs and stuff?

Jumaima:Yes, maybe they'll need it.. Did he have a will?

I looked at her.

Mandla:Why are you asking that?

Jumaima:I just want to know if he left something for me..

Mandla:It hasn't even been a week, and you are already looking for his will..

Jumaima:Sorry, okay let's forget about that... I will call the rest of the family to let them know what has happened.. Oh ngobhuti nkosi yami, Indoda elunge kanjena(My brother Lord, such a good man).

She walked away and I went to my dad's study. That picture was still in the table. Who is this woman? I don't recognize her.

Maybe I should try finding her, that way I will feel like I have honored dad.

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MPHATHIKHAYA

Back home and my wife is on her phone. I kiss her but she doesn't respond.

Mphathi: Sekwenzenjani ke manje? (What is wrong now?)

Kayise: Your mother called me today and insulted me, she told me that I am useless because I can't give you a child.

Mphathi: I'm sure she didn't mean it like that.

Kayise: Oh so you're saying I'm crazy? Vele uhlezi umkhulumela umamakho, awukuboni nje okuwrong akwenzayo (You always defend your mother, you never see anything wrong she's doing).

Mphathi: My mom is older than you Kayise!! Don't talk about her like she's a 5 year old!!

Kayise: Ungakhohlwa ukuthi akumina ongazali, ngizomtshela Mina kuphele konke ukqina nale entitlement anayo (Don't forget that I'm not the one with the problem, I will tell her and

she will be humbled, and the entitlement she has will die down).

Mphathi:Kayise!!

Kayise:You allow your mother to come in between us, and I always keep quiet. Uhlulwa u Khumbulani

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he defends Nakia. But you, you can watch your mother insulting me to the moon and back.

Mphathi:Kayise what is this all about!?

Kayise:Do not shout at me, because I'm also not shouting. We are married Mphathi, I'm not your child. I'm telling you things that make me unhappy. Isn't it entitlement that makes your mother think she can call me and tell me that nonsense she said!? But of course, you won't see anything wrong with it, because mommy is an angel to your eyes.

She stood up and walked away.. I took my phone and sent a text to Khumbulani..

'Time is ticking. We need to hurry' - Mphathi

'Isn't there something else we could do?'-Khumbulani

'No, this is it. Don't forget that I have leverage over you.'-
Mphathi

'I never thought my own brother would blackmail me. I came to you that day because I thought you were the only one who could help me but now you are using it against me' -

Khumbulani

I did not like doing this too, but I am desperate right now. Kayise can leave me anytime when she's tired of it all.

'Just be here Friday night.' - Mphathi.

I placed my phone away and sighed, I am stressed.

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MANDLENKOSI

People were starting to come in numbers and I was nowhere with finding that woman. If I didn't know any better, I would say she is a ghost. Nothing on the web comes up about her. I thought I was a computer genius, but I am failing at finding her. I wonder what deal she had with my father.

"Mandla woz'ovula la! (Mandla come and open here!), I hear aunt Jumaima calling.

I go to her, and she was trying to open a door..

Jumaima:I'm trying to open this door, but it is locked.

Mandla:I don't know what is in there. I also have tried opening it, but nothing. Maybe dad was the only one with a key..

Jumaima:Well we should find it and open this room, to see what's inside.

Mandla:No, if dad kept it locked, then he knows what he was doing. We should not invade his privacy.

Jumaima:He is dead, he is not coming back to open this door..

Wow! My aunt is giving me offish vibes, since she arrived she has been snooping and asking about things that don't concern her. I will have to keep an eye out for her, I don't trust her now. I don't trust anyone.

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KHUMBULANI

She sits between my legs and cover us with the throw blanket. We were watching a movie.

Khumbulani:Babe I was thinking...

Nakia:Yes?

Khumbulani:I think it's time we build our family..

Nakia:As in have children?

Khumbulani:Yes, only if you are willing.

Nakia:I have never thought of having children, but I think you are right. We are not getting any younger, so having our mini family wouldn't hurt.

I smiled, I thought she would say no.

Khumbulani:Thank you. I guess that means you are stopping the pill.

Nakia:Yes, I will.

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The following day

Mother arrived, and she didn't look too happy. Nakia brought her something to drink.

Mom:Thank you.. Please excuse us, I need to speak with my son alone...

She nodded and left.

Khumbulani:So what made you come all the way here?

Mom:Is it wrong to visit my son?

Khumbulani:No, but I know you...

Mom:*Sigh*It's about your father..

My heart skipped.

Khumbulani:What about him?

Mom:I'm not at peace, I need to find out how he died or who killed him. He always visits me in my dreams and he doesn't look happy. My husband didn't die a natural death, someone killed him and I want to find that person.

I started to sweat immediately, the topic of my father hits hard. He died just when I was about to graduate.

Mom:And I know someone who can help us. Anyway, your brother called me today and shouted at me, saying I spoke to his wife rudely yesterday. I was just stating facts, Kayise and Mphathi have been married for a long time and they still don't have a child.

Khumbulani:Maybe your son is the one with a problem.

Mom:Never, it can't be. Males are very fertile.

Which century is she living on?

#3

KHUMBULANI

My mother was around, and she was still adamant about finding out what happened to dad. I don't think that's necessary; we should let people rest in peace and not bother them. But knowing my mother, I know that she won't let this go.

Nakia: Babe your mother is calling you.

Khumbulani: Okay I'm coming.

I went to her.

Khumbulani: You called for me?

Mom: Yes, I want us to talk about this issue. Mphathi has agreed and we are planning to see the man who will help us tomorrow.

Khumbulani: Is this all necessary though?

Mom: Why does it sound like you don't want justice for your father?

Khumbulani: I do, but I don't think we have to do this. We are just opening a can of wounds.

I haven't healed over my dad's passing, and doing this would be grieving all over again.

Mom:Son I understand that you loved your father, and a part of you blames yourself that you weren't here in his last days. But it was not intentional, you were studying. We need to do this so that your father can find peace.

Khumbulani:*Sigh*Okay... I will go with you....

Dad was a good man, a good husband and a good father. He did everything for us, his family. He always put us first above everything, our happiness mattered to him. Even when I wanted to study something that has nothing to do with the family business, he supported me and encouraged me to pursue my dreams. So getting a call just a few days before my graduation, that he's gone made me lose a sense or two. I was so happy that I was graduating, I knew he would be so proud, because I often called him at nights crying, when school was getting too much for me. And he always knew what to say to make me feel better. He always saw the best in us, I was close to him than I was with my mother. Mother is a person who is constantly comparing your life to others. Dad understood us, he knew what being a father meant. I give that to him. Maybe knowing who actually killed him will give me closure and I can finally move on.

There is still the issue of Mphathi being on my neck. He doesn't want to change his mind; he wants me to make Kayise pregnant. This wouldn't be the first time this is happening in our family, it has happened before.

But it was different situations back then and people weren't educated as they are today.

Mphathi loves Kayise, he'd do anything to be with her . But it's at the cost of my existence, if I don't do what he wants, he will expose my secrets and I can't have that. I want to forget that night, I told him because I needed help and considered him as my brother, I didn't know that he would use it against me.

But then again, if I do it, it will help him have a child, but Nakia won't be too happy when she finds out. We are not people who keep secrets from each other.

I take my phone to call Qinisela, it's been a while and I miss him.

Qinisela:Hello Khumbulani.

Khumbulani:Qi you don't call anymore.

Qinisela:Honeymoon phase brother, I barely have time to even check my emails.

He recently got married to his girlfriend of three years, he looks and seems so happy and I love that for him. The first month of marriage is so exciting

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I know it.

Khumbulani:Ma is here. We have been trying to get through you but nothing.

Qinisela:Bhuti sent me a message, but I wasn't able to understand. What does ma want us to do?

Khumbulani:She wants to find dad's killer. She thinks he's not resting in peace.

Qinisela:Oh okay, I will try coming that side. When are you going?

Khumbulani:She said tomorrow.

Qinisela:It's an hour drive to get there, so I will see you....

Khumbulani:Okay, see you tomorrow then..

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NAKIA.

With Khumbulani's mother here, I need to always be moving and cleaning around. I don't want to give her more reason to not like me. I have finished cleaning and now I'm preparing lunch. One thing I know, I'm the best when it comes to the pots. Lani always licks his fingers when he eats my food.

She comes to the kitchen and touches the ingredients I had put in the table.

Mom:What are you making?

Nakia:Githeri, my home food.

Mom:What is that?

Nakia:It's a one pot meal, I'm going to add beans and corn, tomatoes, onions and any seasoning to make it more tasty.

Mom:I have never eaten Kenyan food before.

I swear I saw her smile a little.

Mom:Let me not disturb you. Kbumbulani is always boasting about your food, so I want to see.

Okay, that just put more pressure on me. But do not worry, you can do this. You are a chef for God's sake, you can do this!!

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KAYISE

Mphathi left to his brother's house, apparently his mother is around. She did good by not coming here. I wouldn't have been able to control myself around her. I don't get it how we could still be having mother in laws who hates their son's wives. In this day and time! It's not only boring, but disgusting. What ever happened to letting people do what they want?

My marriage is not the same anymore, the issue of not having kids is draining. But I'm not the one with the problem, Mphathi is, even though I don't understand how. Because we have went to different doctors and they all tell us different things.

I respect my husband's dignity, that's why I won't tell his mother he's the one with the problem. But he can't stand up for me to his mother. Khumbulani stands up for his wife, his mother won't dare insult Nakia in front of her.

Anyway, I'm at work right now. I'm working at a bakery shop, I know it's not an amazing job but it's the best I could find. I'm working on ways to find a job that pays more. I'm not a qualified person, iskole sangihlula nje(I failed at school). I dropped out at grade 11 because I couldn't do it anymore, I was failing dismally and I didn't hear the teachers when they were teaching. So it was useless to stay in school.

“Kayise, someone wants two loaves of white bread”, my colleague shouts.

I take the two loaves and hurry to the customer, it was a woman with two kids besides her. I wonder how it feels to be a mother, must be nice.

“How much is it?”

Kayise:R22 for two.

She took out the money and gave it to me.

“Thank you”, I gave her the bread and watched as she walked away with her children.

4

MANDLENKOSI

The day of the funeral

Today we were taking my father to his final resting place. I have dried out of tears. The week hasn't been easy, I kept thinking that he will wake up and that's it's all just a prank or something. But he's really gone, how could he be gone so soon? First I lost my mother, lost my brother, lost my sister, and now my father. What have I done to deserve this!? I'm all alone now!!


Jumaima comes to me and pats my shoulder softly.

Jumaima:Let's go Mandla. We are going to the cemetery now, to lay him to rest.

I had stormed out of the service because I couldn't take it, seeing his picture above his coffin just made me weak. He didn't deserve to die so soon. Curse those criminals who shot him.

I get inside the car and we drive to the cemetery. Arriving, and some people were already there.

There was a small gazebo put in front with chairs, dedicated to the family. Jumaima held my hand and we went to sit in front.

"U Mshengu ebesihamba naye, usele la, usele la, usele la, usele la" 

People start singing, and the pastor starts the ceremony. We are asked to stand up and throw soil over the grave. I do so, and drop along one tear.

"We therefore commit this body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life."

They lower him to the ground, and the men start covering his grave with soil.

I sniff holding on to my aunt.

Jumaima:He's at peace Mandla, I know it hurts but it will get better boy... Let's go home...

She helps me stand up and head to the car..

We return home and people were eating already, I was not in the mood to eat anytime soon.

I saw my dad's lawyer(Maqhinga) approaching us, he gave me a handshake and greeted Aunt Jumaima.

Maqhinga:Again, I'm sorry for your loss. Your father had put in his will that he wants it to be read on the day of his funeral so that there isn't any fraud that is done.

Jumaima:*Excited* Really? Today?

Maqhinga:Yes...

Mandla:We can go to his study, since it's quiet.

The three of us went there and I closed the door.

Maqhinga:In this will reading needs to be present, Mandlenkosi Mshengu and Jumaima Mshengu.

Mandla:Yes it's the two of us.

Maqhinga:Okay we can start...

He opened the papers and put on his glasses.

Maqhinga:This is the Last will and testament of Thandanani Albert Mshengu. I, Thandanani appoint Maqhinga Bhengu to be the executor and reader of this document, if it happens that he passes on or something happens, then I appoint Tracy Green to be the one to read this document.

First to my son, if you are reading this then it means I'm gone. I'm sorry for leaving you, I have tried my best raising you after we lost almost our entire family. The life you are living doesn't make me happy my son, I hope you put a stop to it. There is a

separate letter that Maqhinga will give you, I want you to read it when you are alone.

Now to the real business of my assets and who I leave them to.

My company, Mshengu IT services

I leave all of it to my son, Mandlenkosi Mshengu.

I leave my farm to my sister, Jumaima Mshengu.

I leave 90% of my money to my son, Mandlenkosi Mshengu.

The 10%, I am donating it to any charity organization that my son will see fit it deserves.

I leave a sum of R75 000 to my sister, Jumaima Mshengu.

The house is written in my son's name, Mandlenkosi Mshengu.

No family member of mine should think they have an upper hand over it and chase my son out. Anyone who tries that, will be arrested as per the order I had put with the police.

Everything else not mentioned here, I leave it all to my son, Mandlenkosi Mshengu.

He finishes and folds back the papers. He gives me the letter and it was sealed.

Jumaima stands up and starts ululating.

Jumaima:I knew my brother wouldn't leave me with nothing.

She dances and walks away.

Maqhinga:Come to my office by Monday so that we can process everything, and transfer it to your name. Your father trusted in you Mandla, do not disappoint him.

Mandla:I won't disappoint him, I promise.

Maqhinga:If you need anything, I'm here for you. Your father was like a brother to me.

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KHUMBULANI

Well today was a waste of time, we went to that man's house and he told us there's nothing he can help us with. We woke up early for nothing.

Mom:He must be a crook, how can he chase us out like that?

Khumbulani:It's a sign that we shouldn't have done this.

Mphathi looks at me and I shake my head.

Mom:I will ask MaSkhosana to direct me to someone.

Qinisela:When you go again, please let me know. I need to go back to my wife.

Mom:Hau Qinisela, we haven't seen you in weeks and already you are leaving.

Qinisela:I will visit soon mama.

Mom:You didn't even bring makoti, I would have loved to see her.

Qinisela:I will come with her tomorrow, we have a doctor's appointment tomorrow this side anyway.

Mom:I can't wait to see my grandson.

Qinisela:It could be a girl.

Mom:Either way, at least one son of mine will give me a grandchild.

Mphathi walked out of the room, and I followed him.

Khumbulani:Hey.

Mphathi:We need to do this today.

Khumbulani:Okay...

Mphathi:Everything will be ready by 19h00pm.

Khumbulani:I will be there brother..

He walked out and I sighed. Where is Nakia?

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Narrated

Few hours later..

Khumbulani knocks on his brother's house and Kayise was the one to open for him.

Kayise:Come in...

He gets in and Mphathi was sitting on his favorite chair.

Mphathi:Mama we have discussed this, right?

Kayise:Yes, I understood.

Mphathi:Bafo I trust you, do not fall in love with my wife.

Khumbulani:I won't, I'm only doing this because you are blackmailing me.

Mphathi:You can do it in the spare bedroom.

Kayise and Khumbulani stood up going to the spare bedroom. They closed the door behind them and Kayise sat on the bed.

Khumbulani:In no way can Nakia find out about this, okay?

Kayise:Yes, I won't tell her.

Khumbulani:Okay... Let's do this...

They both took off their clothes and Kayise laid up on the bed. Khumbulani turned off the lights, it's better when he won't have to look at her. He got on top of her and tried to kiss her but images of Nakia smiling flashed in his mind. Instead, he cupped her breasts and inserted his finger inside her.

In the living room, Mphathi puts his wedding picture away and drinks his whiskey. He can hear Kayise screaming and moaning all the way from where he was. He walked to the bedroom and the sounds got louder as he approached. He stood by the door and listened as his wife enjoyed another man inside her. This was hurting, was it really the best thing to do? How could he ask his brother to sleep with his wife? What if they sneak around behind his back?

He pushes the door down and turns on the light. Khumbulani and Kayise jump out of bed. Mphathi looks at his brother's dick as it glistened with cum, and gulped his saliva. It looked so big, and he frowned at the fact that it entered his wife. He's the only one who is supposed to do that. He looks at Kayise and her body was red. This was a bad idea. What was he thinking?

5

KHUMBULANI

I wear my clothes and shoes, and walk out. My dic* was still hard, so I went to the bathroom to service myself. I went back to the room and Kayise was looking down, sitting on the bed.

Khumbulani:I am leaving.

I walked out, since they were both quiet.

I knew this was a bad idea. I arrived home and first thing I did was to take a shower. I need to remove all evidence of sleeping with someone else today.

I went back to the bedroom with only a towel only.

Nakia:Where were you?

She asked so calmly, reading a book.

Khumbulani:At my brother's house. Didn't I tell you?

Nakia:You didn't.

Khumbulani:I forgot. What are you reading?

Nakia:Just a book about how to be a better human.

Khumbulani:*Chuckles* Really? They make books like that now?

She laughs, her laugh is contagious.

I dropped my towel and her eyes stared at me.

Nakia:If you are seducing me, then it is working.

Khumbulani:What if I am? Come here.

She came to me and knelt in front of me. I pushed her head to me and she started sucking me good. I couldn't help myself, I was screaming and groaning here and there. I lifted her up and threw her on the bed, she giggled and I took off her night dress.

Khumbulani:We are making a baby today..

Nakia:Oh yes...

I didn't waste time and inserted myself inside of her..

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MPHATHI

I pour myself another glass and drink it all in one second. I pour another one but it gets snatched from my hands. It was Kayise.

Mphathi:What are you doing?

Kayise:We need to talk.

Mphathi:About what? About how you enjoyed my brother fuckin you!?

Kayise:You will not turn this on me. You came up with this stupid idea of your brother sleeping with me. So don't act like I cheated on you.

Mphathi:Did he cum inside?

Kayise:Babe...

Mphathi:I'm asking... Did he cum inside?

Kayise:He did..

I smashed the glass on the wall and felt my soul leaving my body. What was I thinking? Was I really desperate that much!? How will I have sex with her knowing very well that my brother has been in there?

Kayise:You wanted this, so you should be happy.

Mphathi:How could you also agree that easily? Maybe you have always wanted my brother.

Kayise:What!?

Mphathi:I'm just saying, you didn't even put up an argument when I told you. You just agreed. So maybe you have always crushed on him.

Kayise:Fuck you Mphathikhaya uyangizwa!!! I will not listen to you insulting me like this!!!

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MANDLENKOSI

I have been working all night, trying to find this woman but nothing. I am on the verge of giving up. It's either she's dead or she doesn't exist. I haven't read the letter yet, I am scared..

Almost everyone has left, Jumaima is still here. I don't think she's leaving anytime soon.

I put my laptop away and go to my dad's study. I lock the door and start ransacking. I'm looking for the key, I want to see what's inside that room. I don't remember it being opened, what if my father was involved in some cult thing!? Bingo, I find a key in one of the drawers. I hope it opens...

I go to that room, and insert the key on the keyhole. I turn it around but the door doesn't open. I push it in but still nothing, it ended up breaking apart. Shit! Now what will I do?

I have to break it down, my curiosity will not let me rest until I open here.

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NAKIA

I roll out of bed and wear a simple dress. I can't even walk naked around my house with the mother in law here. I need to see Chege

so we can move forward.

Khumbulani:Where are you going?

Nakia:To make breakfast, and head to work.

Khumbulani:Won't you be late?

Nakia:You want your mother to say I went to work without making breakfast for you?

Khumbulani:I am not crippled, I can make myself food. Bath and go to work. I'm sure you are tired from yesterday.

I laugh a little.

Nakia:umenifanyia kazi kupita kiasi(You overworked me).

Kbumbulani:I will learn Swahili one day and we can gossip about people.

Nakia:*Laughing* Do you even know how to gossip?

Khumbulani:I can surprise you.

Nakia:Let me go to work.

Khumbulani:nakupenda(I love you)

Nakia:nakupenda pia(I love you too).

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KAYISE

I was not speaking to Mphathi after what he said yesterday. That man will make me have anger issues!!! How dare he try to pin this on me!? Isn't he the one who came to me with this idea!? I also want a child, and if he can't give it to me then his brother will.

Speaking of his brother, Lord the things he did to me yesterday! He left me wanting for me. I don't know if I should even be having thoughts like this, but I was not satisfied. That man knows how to fuck, Mphathi is no match. It wouldn't hurt to do it again. I lick my lips imaginings how I felt yesterday as he went in and out of me. I was screaming at the top of my voice, feeling the pleasure.

The door opens and I compose myself thinking it's a customer, kanti it's Nakia.

Nakia is so beautiful, no wonder Khumbulani is head over hills in love with her. She's the true definition of dark beauty, you wouldn't say she's from Kenya. I'm not saying that people from Kenya aren't beautiful but wow! The few I've seen, they are the bomb!

She smiles and waves to me.

Nakia:Hi..

Kayise:Hi, we are visited by you today.

Nakia:I was just in the neighborhood and popped by to see you.

Kayise:It is my lunchtime anyway, let's go chill at that coffee place.

Nakia:Okay...

We lead each other to the coffee shop.

Nakia:So how are you? It's been a while since we spoke.

Kayise:I'm good. How have you been?

Nakia:Amazing, me and my husband are trying for a baby.

I don't know why, but that makes me jealous.

Kayise:Really?

Nakia:Yes. It's time we had our mini family.

Kayise:Lucky you.. Me and Mphathi are still trying but there's nothing happening. But due to recent events, I think we may finally be pregnant.

Nakia:Ohh that is good to hear..I'm happy for you..

Her phone beeps and she tends to it, I see her smiling and blushing.

Kayise:What is it?

Nakia:*Chuckling* Lani sent me a dick Pic.

Kayise:Let me see.

She stopped laughing and looked at me. Me and my mouth!

Kayise:Sorry.

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KHUMBULANI

Mom:Where is Nakia?

Khumbulani:She went to work.

Mom:Without even making something to eat?

Khumbulani:Ma my wife is not a maid here. If you are hungry, I will make something for you to eat.

Mom:A man in the kitchen!?! Your father never stepped foot in the pots. I did my duties as a wife.

Khumbulani:Ma we are not living in the ancient times, I don't know why you still have the mentality of the 1800s..

Mom:Oh so now you are insulting me because your wife doesn't cook?

Khumbulani:Yoo, are you hungry or not?

I was getting really annoyed.

Mom:I was just saying..

Khumbulani:Okay that's it.. Make your own food...

6

NAKIA

I left the coffee place in a bitter mood. Kayise turned me off when she said I should show her my Lani's dick Pic. Now I regret even telling her that Lani sent me a picture like that. Maybe it's just the excitement that got me, me and Lani are used to sending each other pictures like this.

I'm here to see Chege before I go home.

Chege:Sis how are you?

Nakia:sijambo ndugu yangu (I am fine my brother). How are you?

Chege:Getting there. I don't think this place is safe anymore.

Nakia:Why? What happened?

Chege:I think someone was spying on me last night, but I didn't see who it was.

I got scared immediately..

Nakia:I told you that you shouldn't stay here.

Chege:I'm used to street life, but you wouldn't know because you left me suffering back in Kenya.

Nakia:But Chege, I came here to look for a job and I have found it. I have money now, I can take you to school and clothe you.

Chege:What's the point? You will just abandon me again.

Nakia:Brother I won't. Let's go home.

Chege:Your husband doesn't know about me.

Nakia:I will explain to him. Let's go, I won't feel good knowing I left you here. It's too risky.

He stood up with his wounded leg, I helped him get to the car, and I drove us home. He needs a long bath.

Chege:Your house is beautiful.

Nakia:Thank you, let's go inside. Khumbulani's mother is here.

Chege:Is she nice?

Nakia:A little.

We went inside and I opened the door. I found the both of them on the living room, Lani was watching soccer. He stood on his feet when he saw me walking in with a strange man.

Nakia:Babe... This is my brother Chege. Chege, this is my husband Khumbulani....

Khumbulani:Your brother? You said you had no family members remaining....

Nakia:Can we talk? He is tired and wounded.

I side eyed his mother and she shook her head.

Mom:You hid a whole human being!

Nakia:I will show Chege to the spare bedroom.

I pulled Chege to one of the guest bedroom.

Nakia:You need to bath, so that I can clean your wound. It's probably infected by now.

Chege:It's been a while since I sat on such a comfy bed.

Nakia:I'm sorry... For leaving you. I was going to come back for you Chege I swear..

Chege:No you weren't. You ran away Nakia and left me all alone, you left me alone at the mercy of those men!! Do you know how much they tortured me asking for you!? How do you think I got this injury in my leg!?

Nakia:Chege...

Chege:Please let's stop talking about this. They are probably here by now. That's why they killed Barasa, they were showing us that they are not scared of us.. They won't rest until they find us.

Nakia:Let them come. We'll be waiting. Do you have the necklace with you?

He showed it to me. I opened out my hand for him to give it to me.

Nakia:They can cross all oceans, but they will never find it.

Chege:Does your husband know about all of this?

Nakia:My husband only knows what I tell him. There is the bathroom, help yourself. I will bring you fresh towels.

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MANDLENKOSI

Jumaima:I'm already thinking of ways to improve the farm.

Mandla:It's fine the way it is.

Jumaima:I want it to have Jumaima's taste.

I chuckled and left her. We went to Maqhing's office today and everything was finalized. I guess now I am the owner of a multi million rand company. I so hope I don't mess this up. I'm trying to change, no more sleeping around with girls and being reckless. I want to make my dad proud.

Aunt Jumaima was too happy, way too happy for someone who just lost her brother.

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KHUMBULANI

Nakia told me that she had no one, that everyone from her family had died. So now I'm surprised to see that she has a brother, and there's no denying, because that guy looked exactly like her.

Nakia:I was going to tell you..

Khumbulani:When Nakia?

Nakia:There wasn't any time. Things were too complicated Lani they still are.

Khumbulani:What are you talking about?

Nakia:You wouldn't understand even if I were to explain. All you need to know is, if something happens to me; know that someone had a hand in it.

Khumbulani:Someone had a hand in what? What exactly is going on Nakia?

Nakia:I'm protecting you.... I love you Lani. Probably more than I love myself.

She touched my cheek and cried.

Nakia:I got myself in a big mess, and got involved with dangerous people. I don't know how to get out of it.

Khumbulani:Talk to me sthandwa sami what's going on?

Nakia:There isn't time to explain.. I need to check on Chege.

She left wiping her tears. What the hell is going on!?

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KAYISE

I throw the plate to him and he clicks his tongue.

Mphathi:Umuntu mayengafuni akasho! (If you don't want to do something, say so).

Kayise:If you are talking to me, talk to me directly and not through the corners.

Mphathi:Is this how things are going to be from now on?

Kayise:You're the one who wants to act like a child, so I'm following your ways.

Mphathi:How did you expect me to feel when my wife was being fucked by my own brother?

Kayise: You came up with that idea, no one forced you. You came up with it all on your own. I have long told you that we should try other western options but no, angithi uyindoda yomzulu wena! (You are a proud Zulu man).

Mphathi: I want to have a child naturally and not have doctors poke all sorts of needles to me.

Kayise: Then suck it up ke bhuti. You made your bed, now lie on it.

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MPHATHIKHAYA

Kayise doesn't see how this is hurting me. She thinks I'm being dramatic. I listened as my wife moaned for another man, how can I accept that? I saw my brother's size, and just the thought of him going in and out of her makes me want to hit everything in my way.

I shouldn't have come up with this idea, maybe I should have waited. We would have had a child eventually.

My phone rings and it's my mother, another cause of stress.

Mphathi: Hello.

Mom:Ndodana, I have found another person. We are going to him tomorrow. 6am, be here.

Mphathi:Okay I will let Qinisela know.

Mom:Okay son, I hope this person doesn't chase us out too.

Mphathi:I hope so too, if dad isn't resting in peace because his killer was never found then we need to do this.

Mom:At least you understand me, Khumbulani thinks I'm bringing up his pain again.

Mphathi:You know dad loved him more than us.

Mom:That's not true.

Mphathi:It's true, I'm telling you. Dad loved Khumbulani, he even agreed for him to study something he wants. Meanwhile, he forced us to study what he wants. But I'm over that now.

Mom:He needed people to look after the family business. And Khumbulani was the last born, so it makes sense that he would love him more.

I chortle in disbelief.

Mphathi:If only he knew the things his precious last born has done.

7

The next morning.

KHUMBULANI

It is around 6am and we are driving to this place where my mother directed us. We were all in one car, it's the four of us so we fit. We arrived and this place looked legit, unlike that one we went to the first time.. We get out of the car and walk towards the gate, it was opened a bit, and there were people walking around the yard so we let ourselves in. One of them, who looked like an initiate came to us.

"Nize ku Gogo?(Are you here to see Gogo?)"

Mom:No we are here to see Bab'Gende.

"Ugogo u Gende, ayy u baba(It's Gog'Gende not Baba)"

Mom:The person who directed me here gave me an impression that it was a male.

"Ningeza ngapha(You may come this side)", he showed us the way to a hut. He instructed us to take off our shoes, and we did so. We sat on the mat and there was a woman in front of us, she looked like mom's agemate.

We did not know what to do, so I just clapped hands. I usually see them doing this in soapies. She laughed a little.

Gende:Ngiyazi nize ngani(I know what you came here for).

Mom:Yebo Gogo, ngifuna ukwazi umbulali womenyeni wami. Uyangivakashela emaphushweni, ubukeka engathokozile neze.(I want to find my husband's killer. He usually visits me in my dreams and he doesn't seem happy).

She sneezed and shook her head.

Gende:Ogogo bangikhombisile, uwumuntu ongakaweleli ngaphesheya. Wahamba ngendlela ebhlungu(My ancestors showed me, he has not crossed over. He died in a painful way).

Gende:Umoya wakhe awukutholi ukuphumula, ziningi nezinto azenza kwindodana yokqala(His soul is not resting, there are a lot of things he did to his first born).

I shifted uncomfortably on the mat. What does she mean?

Mom:Makhosi angiqondi(I don't understand).

Gende:Indodana yokuqala ayibatholi abantwana, vumani bo!! (The first born isn't getting children!)

Mphathi:Siyavuma! *Clapping hands*

Gende:Ukuncola nokukhohlakala bokuthola umcebo(The evilness of wanting wealth)

Qinisela:Ubaba wayethwele?(Dad was involved in cults?)

Gende:Uyazisola, uyafisa ukushintsha izinto (He regrets it, and wants to change things).

The whole room became full of Impepho and it was giving chills, like she was no longer alone. She screamed and hit her shoulders, it went on for a couple of minutes and she stopped. She burped and stood up.

Gende:Asiyeni phandle, umoya wakhe ufuna ukungena layndlini(Let's go outside, his spirit wants to enter this room).

We stood up and followed her. How could dad have been involved in cults? So all this money was the blood of Mphathi's children!? I trusted him, I never thought I would hear that he did something like this.

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KAYISE

I know it hasn't even been a week since I slept with Khumbulani, but I wish I was pregnant already. I can't wait to hold my baby in my hands. I want a girl, so I can doll her up like a princess. It's my day off today, so that gave me time to spring clean this house before it gets webbed. Mphathi left in the

early hours of morning, for a family matter. He did good, because all we do is fight nowadays.

I rejoiced too soon because I hear his car driving in. Couldn't he have drove straight to work before coming here? I wait for him to enter the door, and when he does my heart melt. He doesn't look good, I know that facial expression

he has it when he heard heartbreaking news.

I rush to him and he melts in my arms.

Kayise: Sthandwa sami what's wrong?

Mphathi: My father.. He...

He was on the verge of crying, his voice was breaking so bad.

Mphathi: He's the one behind us not having children.. Wathwala ngeyngane zami...

Whaaaat??? The shock in my face...

Kayise: Babe what are you talking about? Calm down and talk to me.

I pulled him to the kitchen and gave him a glass of water.

After a while, he calmed down..

Mphathi:As you know that we had went to find out about my father's death. When we got there, I heard disturbing news. That sangoma told us that Ubaba wayethwele, he used my children, that's why you don't fall pregnant, he used my manhood. All that money he had, was the blood of our unborn children.

Kayise:But I have never fallen pregnant, how could he have used our children?

Mphathi:The ways of evil have no limits sthandwa sami. I'm so torn, all this time I thought I was the problem. That I wasn't man enough.

I can't believe this, this changes everything. Mphathi's father seemed like an honorabke man, I knew him from when he was alive.

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NAKIA

Chege was settling in nicely, even though he's mad at me..

My husband was also mad at me, he feels betrayed because I didn't tell him about Chege. Chege was in hiding, so I couldn't risk telling anyone about him.

I see him and his mother coming through the door and they don't look happy. I wonder what's up.

Khumbulani:Hi.

I nod and he pulls me to the bedroom.

He locks it and immediately pins me against the wall, kissing me so deep..

I pull out of the kiss and look at him..

Nakia:What's wrong?

Khumbulani:Shhh....

He kissed me again, while removing my clothes. I decided to follow his lead, because he didn't look okay.. He took off all my clothes and threw me gently on the bed. He also took off his clothes. He pulled my legs apart and I was exposed like that... He brushed my thighs and continued kissing me. He kissed me all the way down until he reached my p*ssy. Lani is the bomb when it comes to the muff game, that's why I will never cheat on this man. Sexually, I'm always satisfied.

I'm brought back by his tongue invading my space. I hiss softly, and push his head in.

I moan and gibberish nonsense as he's busy inside me. When I try to move up, he tightly holds my legs and continues satisfying me.

"Ahhh baby...", I cry to him...

He fastens his pace and I can't hold it any longer, so I just cum all over him. He brings up his head and takes a towel. He wipes his face and comes back to me, he kisses me again. Men are nasty! This person was deep in my pussy now he's kissing me with that mouth! Kidding! *Wink*

I wrap my arms around his neck and feel him entering me. I gasp loudly. He pushes it all in.

Khumbulani:I love you....

Nakia:I love you t..

I couldn't finish my sentence as he starts thrusting into me hard and deep.

Deep, slow strokes. He lifted me up and pulled me towards him for comfortable penetration. I was screaming and moaning all the way, I couldn't help myself.

He goes faster and that drives me crazy. I try to push him away because I was feeling too much pleasure...

Khumbulani:We are almost done baby...

He continues pounding into me deep. He stops and turns me around, doggystyle. I have mastered this position now, I used to be such an amateur. I lay flat with my chest and bring my ass up, waiting for him to enter me. I feel him sliding it in, and it

was so slippery. He held my waist and started thrusting into me..

"Fucck babe..", I heard him groaning. I was grabbing the sheets here and there..

"I love you so much Nakia"

He continues pounding into me deep, to a point where I can't even feel my lower body. He lifts me up and pins me against the wall. He lifts my one leg up and slides in his dick again.

Mmmhh God!!!

My head is against the wall with my hands as he penetrates me. We are not stopping anytime soon.

8

KHUMBULANI

I kiss her forehead and she lays on my chest. I check the time and it was almost 2pm. That was the best sex ever! I needed to release the stress and she was there. She looks so tired shame.

My mind is still wrapped around the fact that dad was involved in cults, and he used Mphathi. How could he!? Mphathi was so broken yesterday, he left early and didn't stay to hear more..

Gende told us that she can't exactly tell us who the killer is, but she said we should go back to the incident scene maybe we'll find clues. I don't know how these things of ancestors work, but I knew they wouldn't tell us exactly who his killer was. At this point, I don't even know if I still want to know his killer. He wasn't honest with us, he died and left his mess here. Now we are the ones who have to do fix things. I carefully remove Nakia from me and go to the bathroom. I take a quick shower, and wear comfortable clothes with the sandals that Nakia bought for me. They are comfy.. I get out of the room to find my mother, I knock on her room and I could hear her sniffing. She opens for me and indeed she was crying.

I sit on the bed next to her.

Mom:I can't believe it. My husband wayethwele? I never saw anything suspicious. Who knows how many people he has killed for all this wealth? He came back home smiling everyday meanwhile he knew he was rotten to the core.

Khumbulani:Maybe the sangoma was mistaken, I don't want to believe that dad did something like this..

Mom:She wouldn't lie to us, what would she gain? She didn't know us. Your father was evil, yaze yangenza Indoda. He even died without coming clean, and what of my son, Mphathi? I didn't know that he was the one with the problem, I have insulted Kayise and called her all sorts of name..

Khumbulani:Mother sometimes your tongue says hurtful words, you should control yourself. Kayise never revealed that it was Mphathi who can't have children because she was protecting his dignity.

Mom:I will apologize to her, I am sorry.

Khumbulani:So what about his killer?

Mom:We will have to go to the police and ask the detective to reopen the case.

Khumbulani:Okay...

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MPHATHIKHAYA

After what I heard yesterday I haven't been okay, I slept here on the couch yesterday because I couldn't move to bed. My heart is torn in between. The person I trusted, did this to me. Why didn't he do it to his precious last born? All these years he watched, and said nothing. He watched me suffer and rejoiced over my tears. No wonder Qinisela didn't like the old man, he wasn't a good person. He was evil and dirty.

Kayise brings me a cup of coffee, and I take it.

Kayise:Regarding the new revelation, so what do we need to do to remove whatever your father did to you?

Mphathi:Gende said I should come to her when I want help.

Kayise:So does that mean we will finally have children?

Mphathi:Maybe.

Kayise:So I slept with your brother for nothing!?

Did she have to bring that up? I'm trying to forget it. Hurtful as it was, but I have to accept that it happened and move on. And I was the one who came up with this stupid idea anyway, so I have to deal with it.

Mphathi:I'm sure you are not pregnant.

Kayise:But what if I am? Have you thought about that? I will be carrying your brother's child. We ruined his marriage Mphathi
oh God

Advertisement

Nakia loves her husband. She will feel betrayed when she finds out about this.

Mphathi:No one will find out about this, Khumbulani won't tell her. And you won't tell her.

Kayise:How did you get him to agree to do this?

Mphathi:Let's just say, I know his darkest secrets.

Kayise:You blackmailed him?

Mphathi:I did what I had to do.

Kayise:You are so selfish Mphathi!!

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MANDLENKOSI

I eavesdrop on her conversation.

Jumaima:Yes he left me the farm with some money. But he left most of his things to that spoilt brat of his. The house is even

written in his name, so we can't chase him out. Ngiyakutshela sisi, he left him his company, all his money, cars, everything. And he just gave me a change of R75K. I looked after him when he was younger because our parents were working in the city, and this is how he thanks me!?

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Jumaima: I will stay here for a while, I have to fix my farm so it will have Jumaima's taste. Mandla is a reckless child vele, he won't spend this money wisely. I curse him, may he never make fruitful decisions. I want him to lose everything, ubhuti was so selfish and only thought about himself. He didn't help us at home when we were suffering, you should see his house. It's the ones you see on magazines.

I tiptoe to my room and lock the door. I take the holy water and sprinkled it on me making a cross.

Mandla: I take back the curse, may it never happen as she wishes. In the name of the father, the Holy Spirit and the Son. Amen.

I knew I shouldn't trust aunt Jumaima. I saw it from day one that she has a hidden agenda. I call Maqhingga.

Maqhinga:Mandla.

Mandkenkosi:Baba kunjani(How are you?)

Maqhinga:I am well son, how are you?

Mandlenkosi:I am fine too. I am calling because I want advice.

Maqhinga:I'm listening.

Mandlenkosi:My aunt was talking to someone over the phone and I didn't like her conversation. She sounds like someone who doesn't have good intentions and I don't trust her around me anymore. She may just kill me.

Maqhinga:Chase her out of your house. Her and your brother weren't in good terms, but he put her in the will because he knew she would cause chaos. Be careful son, people can kill each other for inheritance.

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NAKIA

My body was still painful a bit after yesterday's session. Lani does not have mercy sometimes though, the man loves sex. He told me the time he was still asking me out that he loves sex, he can even wake me up at midnight for it. He left with his mother

today, to the police station. I'm at work but my mind is not here. I work at one of the top restaurants in Durban, I'm the head chef. It's my wish to open my own restaurant some day.

KAYISE

I stare at the pregnancy test and shove it inside my clothes. I will do it when two weeks has passed, maybe then I will be showing symptoms. It will be nice to carry Khumbulani's first child. I bite my inner mouth and press call on his number. It rings for a while and he answers

Khumbulani:Kayise?

Kayise:Hey... How are you?

Khumbulani:I'm fine. Is everything okay?

Kayise:Yes, I was just calling to check on you.

Khumbulani:Kayise what is this now? You have never called me before so why are you starting now?

Kayise:I just... I thought we had a moment that day...

He laughed at me, and I mean seriously laughed. I ended up feeling embarrassed and I hung up. I blocked and deleted his number.

9

Two weeks later.

Narrated

Kayise stands at the door as she sees Mphathi driving in. She is anxious and waiting to hear whether it worked or not.

He gets out of the car and she runs to him, hugging him.

Kayise:Did it work?

He laughs, this was the welcome he hoped he will get.

Mphathi:It did. She removed everything my father did.

Kayise:Oh thank God, I'm not even going to ask how. I'm just glad it's finally gone.

Mphathi:Things were easier because dad's spirit was also helping.

Kayise:Let's go inside, I cooked for you.

She pulled him inside and he was welcomed by the aroma coming from the kitchen. He hadn't had a Cooked meal in two weeks.

Mphathi:I will take a bath and join you okay..

Kayise:Okay I will finish setting up the table..

He disappears to their room, and she continues setting the table.

Minutes later, he comes back and sits down. She serves him.

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NAKIA

Chege:Thank you.

He says as I give him his food.

Nakia:I am going there tonight.

Chege:Going where?

Nakia:To that place.

Chege:Are you crazy!?

Nakia:Do you want us to wait for them!?

Chege:They will kill you the moment they see you..

Nakia:Brother you seem to underestimate me. Don't forget that I was once a specialist in Kenya, I know how to infiltrate an organization .

Chege:I'm coming with you.

Nakia:No... I will be in and out. I don't need a nanny.

Chege:I still think you need to tell your husband what is happening though.

I breathed out loudly and looked at him. Does Chege not understand that there isn't time to explain everything?

Nakia:I will tell him when I come back tonight.

Chege:Okay... Please close the door on your way out...

Nakia:Are you chasing me out?

Chege:I'm not chasing you out.. I just want to nap. I'm tired..

I nodded and left his room. I went to our bedroom, Lani is at work and his mother left yesterday. He won't be back until 6pm, and I will long be gone.

I took the necklace and closed my eyes. I dropped it inside my mouth and swallowed it. I choked on it and hit my chest repeatedly and pushed it down. I drank water and opened my suitcase. I checked if my gun was still intact. Lani doesn't know I have a gun, but I will tell him everything when I return. For now, I need to deal with some pests.

I check the time and it was almost 5pm. Time to go.

I strap my gun under the dress I was wearing.. I grab my keys and head to the garage. I hop inside the car and start it, I drive

out. Heading to where I think they are, this is where we sent Barasa and he never came back. They killed him, and I know who's behind it all. He killed my parents, and he won't rest until he finds this necklace that I swallowed. If I die, I'd rather be buried with it then give it to him. I arrive at the club and park along with other cars. I take my bag and sway towards the main door. The guards look at me for a while and let me in. I go to the bar area and order a drink while I analyze the place. I look at the camera and I know they can see me. Seconds later, two men come to me and stand so close to me.

"We need you to come with us", they demanded.

Nakia:And if I say no?

They show me their guns. I chuckle and follow them to the boss's office. They push me inside and I maintain my cool. There he was, sitting on the big chair like a kingpin. The guards forcefully take my bag and search for it, they find nothing and move on to searching me. They find my gun on my thigh and put it on the table.

"A girl with a mission" he opens his dirty mouth.

"You can leave us boys", he tells his lap dogs.

"You. Sit"

I sit down.

Nakia:We meet again Aasir.

Aasir:Indeed Nakia. I believe you know what I want.

Nakia:Oh I know what you want. The necklace, the necklace you killed my parents for, and made their deaths seem like a car accident. We lost parents at a young age all because of a stupid necklace.

Aasir:Your father stole it from me!! That necklace is worth millions and it has important things inside it!!

He banged the table with his fist.

Nakia:I don't have it. I know you kidnapped my brother in Kenya and tortured him because you thought I had the necklace. It's not with me, I've never seen it. So you killed our friend for nothing.

Aasir:You were the ones who sent him here to kill me, so I did you a favor and killed him first.

I stood up and waltzed towards him. I sat on the table in front of him and played with his tie.

Nakia:You know Aasir, taking my gun made things worse for you.

Aasir:And what do you mean by that princess?

He asked smiling..

I wrapped my arms around his neck and quickly took off the bracelet I was wearing. I strangled him with it, it was stretchy. He put up a fight and tried to hold me, but I had the upper hand. I tightened the bracelet around his neck and made sure to kill him. He stopped moving and I let him go. I felt a hand choking me and it was him, he stood up with me and raised me to the air. I reached for the knife that was carefully wrapped in my underwear, I stabbed him on his eye and he let me go screaming. I took his gun and opened multiple shots to him. I dropped the gun and ran out of his office.

MANDLENKOSI

I managed to get Aunt Jumaima out of the house. I hope she won't be bothering me again. She can kill me, all for my father's money! Akasemdala ke! My friend is back from vacation, he was in Spain. He came back this morning and we are just catching up.

Nqaba:I'm sorry I missed the funeral man. I tired getting here as soon as possible, but there was trouble with the flights.

Mandla:It's all cool, I know you wouldn't have intentionally missed it.

Nqaba:So how are South African girls?

Mandla:Still the same as you left them. Let's hit the club.

Nqaba:I thought you said you were trying to change.

Mandla:I am, but my buddy is back. One night won't hurt.
There's this place that always turns up everyday.

Nqaba:Well what are we waiting for? Let's go.

He stood up excited and I went to my room to change into more appropriate clothes for clubbing.

We got into one car and hit the road. We arrived, and they let us in. The music was blasting in all corners.

Nqaba:This place is nice.

Mandla:Don't get drunk, I know you.

Nqaba:I won't...

In the middle of us turning up, we saw a woman running barefoot to the door. She kept looking back, while I was still amazed by that, one of what looks like bodyguards just shot her and she fell down. I rushed to her and she was bleeding. I tried to stop the bleeding.

Nqaba came to us and I told him to call the ambulance. How can someone just shoot a woman in front of people like this!?

Mandla:Help is coming... Don't close your eyes.. What's your name.??

"N..akia.."

10

Unedited

MANDLENKOSI

The ambulance took its own time but it finally arrived and we rushed Nakia to the hospital. My whole shirt is blooded. I don't even know how I will contact her family. I noticed a ring on her finger so I'm assuming she's married.

They pushed her away to the surgery rooms and I remained on the waiting area. Nqaba was also here with me.

Nqaba:I'm finding multiple Nakias here.

Mandla:Look at pictures...

Nqaba:Here is one.. Nakia Shongwe..

Mandla:Thanks.

I went to the receptionist and told her the name, I hope this is the hospital they use. If not, then that means we will never find her family.

"I will call the next of kin written here as Khumbulani Shongwe"

Mandla:Okay, thank you.

I went back to Nqaba and told him that we can go.

Nqaba:I wonder what happened..

Mandla:Looks like she got herself involved in shady things.
Those guys looked like gangsters..

I drove us back home.

Nqaba:Well night ruined.

Mandla:We can work, I have something that I think you may be able to assist me with.

I went to my room and took the picture of the unknowns woman. I gave it to him.

Mandla:Dad wanted me to find that person for him, I have tried but nothing.

Nqaba:Did you run facial recognition?

Mandla:I did, I can't find anywhere..

Nqaba:Let me take out my laptop. It's been a while since I searched for a ghost.

Mandla:Let me leave you to work, I need to wash away this blood.

I went back to my ro and took off my clothes, I don't think I'll ever wear them again so I might as well as burn them. I toss them on a black plastic bag and leave them by the laundry

room, I will deal with them later. I got inside the shower and let the water hit my body, there's something relaxing about cold showers.

I'm thinking about that letter I haven't read, I don't even remember where I put it. Dad's passing is still new, so reading anything written by him will awaken the sorrow.

I wonder how that Nakia woman is doing, I hope she makes it.

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KHUMBULANI

I open doors roughly with Chege looking for Nakia. I received a call from someone telling me that my wife is at the hospital, she was shot. Who could shoot her? And why? We are told to wait as she's still under surgery.

I looked at Chege and he had regret written all over him.

Khumbulani: You know what's happening, don't you?

Chege: Me?? I don't know anything...

Khumbulani: My wife is fighting for her life in there, so if you know something then you will tell me!!

Chege: Okay okay... Let's sit down....

He looked around and we sat on the benches.

Chege: Nakia hasn't been honest with you. Back home in Kenya, she was working with the government, and she was the best in taking down big shots criminal. While she was out on her missions one day, she found out something about our parents. Our parents died when we were young, and we knew that they were involved in a car accident but it was just a lie. Nakia found out that they were killed, by someone called Aasir. Dad had stole something from him, something valuable, it was a necklace. Worth millions of rands. Dad had given that necklace to me when we were young, and I didn't know what it was. I used to wear it under my shirt, so no one ever saw it. We had accidents of break ins at home when our parents died, they were looking for this necklace but they never found it. We eventually had to leave our home and relocate somewhere because we feared for our lives. Nakia told me about what she found, and we hid the necklace. She was angry and wanted revenge. Biggest mistake we made, we tried taking down Aasir all by ourselves. He caught us and held us hostage

Advertisement

we managed to run away. By now, we had no place to live at. We lived on the streets, Nakia came here to South Africa because Aasir had moved here. She left me in Kenya. It had been two years without seeing her, until Aasir and his men

came for me. They tortured me, asking for Nakia, they thought the necklace was with her, but we had hidden it in a place where they would never think of. That's how I got this injury in my leg, they finally let me go when they realized that I didn't know anything. I found ways to try and contact Nakia, that's when we made plans for me to come this side. I have been here for five months, I came with my cousin, Barasa. We lived under the bridge, Nakia tried to take me to her house but I said no. I was used to the street life. We sent Barasa to Aasir's lair and he didn't come back, they killed him and burnt his body. So today, Nakia took the necklace and told me that she was going to Aasir. She said she would end it all. I asked to go with her, but she dismissed me. I'm really sorry, she wanted to tell you. But she feared she had no time.

KHUMBULANI:What is in that necklace? Besides it being worth millions.

Chege:I'm afraid I can't tell you that. Only Nakia knows what's inside.

I rubbed my face frustrated. Why so many secrets? Why can't people just be honest? She should have told me this. Maybe I would have helped her, I don't know anything about guns but I am smart. There are ways to make a person suffer without resorting to violence. I feel like I don't even know who Nakia is.

How can she lie about something this big? What else is she hiding from me?

I stood up from the benches and walked out, Chege called out for me but I ignored him.

My phone rang as I was about to get inside my car. It was Mphathi.

Khumbulani:Hello.

Mphathi:Khumbulani, I want to extend my apologies for making you sleep with my wife. And also to apologize for blackmailing you, I was wrong. I shouldn't have used your secret against you. I'm sorry Bro, I allowed my desperation to make me cross limits I shouldn't cross.

Khumbulani:It's fine I understand.. So what if Kayise is already pregnant with my child?

Mphathi:*Sigh* I hope she isn't, because I'm not sure whether I can raise another man's child.

Khumbulani:So you will ask her to abort?

Mphathi:I won't do that. The child will still have your blood, and I have your blood.

Khumbulani:In no way can Nakia find out about this...

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CHEGE

I have been sitting here for two hours. I'm scared, I know me and my sister aren't in good terms but I don't want to lose her. Her husband hasn't returned after I told him what's happening. I long told Nakia to be honest with him but she didn't listen.

I stand up when I see the doctor coming out of the room.

He comes towards me and I meet him halfway.

Doc:Nakia Shongwe?

I nod.

Chege:Is she alive?

Doc:She's alive, the bullet almost damaged her spine but we successfully removed it. It was a long surgery because we almost had power cuts. But everything is fine. She should be awake in three to four hours.

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MANDLENKOSI

Nqaba has been working on that project for hours. I wonder how Nakia is doing.

Nqaba:Mandla.

I stop what I was doing and look at him, hoping for some good news.

Nqaba:Angimtholi lomuntu mfethu(I can't find this person).

Mandla:What?

Nqaba:I've done every trick in the book. She's a ghost. A person who looks a bit like her was alive in the 1600s and she was rumored to be a ghost or something, you know those folktale.

Mandla:Then where could have dad found this picture?

Nqaba:I don't know, you can even see her hairstyle that she's definitely not from this time.

Mandla:I'll be back.

I rush to my room to look for that letter, maybe it will give me clear answers. I can't find it, I don't remember where I put it. I sigh and sit on the bed defeated.

11

KAYISE

I check the time and five minutes has passed already. I'm so nervous, I'm scared of the results. I gather courage and reach for the stick. I look with my one eye closed. Oh God that's two lines!! I'm pregnant!

Mphathi has been a good husband lately, hearing that I'm pregnant with Khumbulani, he will be shattered.

"Kayiseee", he shouts for me. I hide the pregnancy test and go to him.

Kayise: Babe?

He gave me the phone and I looked at him confused.

Mphathi: It's my mother, she wants to talk to you.

I hesitantly put the phone in my ear.

Kayise: Hello.

"Kayise my daughter how are you?"

My daughter? This is the first time I'm hearing her being so humble.

Kayise:I am fine ma, how are you?

"I am also fine, I wanted to talk to you."

Kayise:Yebo ma I am listening.

"I want to say I'm sorry for all the years I have been treating you horrible and called you names, saying that you were the problem. Meanwhile it was my son. I am really sorry, I hope it's not too late to start over"

I forced a smile.

Kayise:I understand, you were just looking out for your son like any mother would.

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The following day

At the hospital

Narrated

Chege goes inside his sister's ward room and he finds the nurse inside.

"We found this inside her when we were operating"

She gave him the necklace. He shoved it into his pocket.

Chege:Thank you.

They were reliable, if it was another person, they would have kept it for themselves.

The nurse walks out and Chege drags a chair and sits down, holding Nakia's hand. He sees her move a little, and he stands up.

Chege:Are you waking up?

Nakia winces in pain and tries to open her eyes, but they have been closed for too long. Chege turns off the lights and she opens them again. She looks around her surroundings and remembers that she was shot. She starts panicking, thinking she's dead.

Chege:Relax. You are okay.

He says as he saw the fear and panic in her eyes.

Her throat was dry and she needed water. He went to get it for her. She slowly sipped.

Nakia:Thank you.

Chege:I was so worried.

Nakia:I'm sorry... I thought I had everything figured out.

Chege:It's okay... Aasir is dead so it means our problems are gone.

Nakia:His men will still come for us...

Chege:They won't. What do they know? And besides, the person who shot you is arrested.

Nakia:The gun I shot him with, it has my fingerprints Chege. They will arrest me.

Chege:Do not worry yourself about that, it's all sorted.

Nakia:Where is Lani?

Chege:He uhm... He was here and recently left because he was needed at work..

Nakia:Chege mimi ni dada yako (I am your sister). I know when you are lying. Where is Lani?

Chege:I told him yesterday everything that is happening and he left. He hasn't returned since.

Nakia:Why would you tell him that? It was my secret to tell, not yours.

Chege:He wanted to know sis. How was I going to explain you getting shot at a shady club?

Nakia:I need to call him.

He gave her his phone and she dialed his numbers. It sent her to voice mail. She sighed and gave it back. Surely her husband was disappointed in her wherever he was.

Nakia:He will never forgive me..

Chege:It's not like you cheated... You just withheld information from him. He will forgive you.

Nakia:You don't understand, Lani takes a really long time to get over something.

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MPHATHIKHAYA

What Khumbulani asked me yesterday hasn't left my mind. I have been thinking about it ever since. What if really Kayise gets pregnant with his child? How will I look at that child knowing that she/he is of my brother?

She comes and wraps her arms around me. She kisses my neck and tries to get me in the mood.

Kayise:We should try now making a baby...

Mphathi:Not today...

Kayise:Come on... You have never said no to me.

She touches my dick and continues kissing my neck.

Mphathi:I'm just not in the mood babe..

Kayise:I am starving Mphathi.. Please...

Hearing her beg moved me. I turned to her and took control, I kissed her and lifted up her shirt. Her boobs out in the open. I grabbed her by the waist and continued to kiss her. My mind just took me back to hearing her scream her that day, the way her pussy was red and pumping, the length of my brother's dick and the cum that was all over them... I can't do this... I back away and run out of the room.

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Narrated

In the laundry room.

The house help, Nandi, throws Mandla's clothes in the washing machine and goes back to the kitchen and continue cleaning around. She was still glad she had her job, Mr Mshengu passing away scared her, especially because he died trying to save her life. She thought Mandla would fire her, but he has been extremely nice. She doesn't know whether it's because they slept together or not. She looks at the time and thirty minutes had passed. She goes back to the laundry room and the washing machine was done. She opened the door and took out

the clothes.. She put them on the dryer and walked out again, waiting for approximately an hour.

An hour later, she came to check on the dryer and the clothes were dry. It was raining outside so it was best to dry them inside. She takes them out and throws them on the basket. She goes to Mandla's room and takes them out, folding them. In the middle of the folding, she noticed some pieces of papers. She took them and they were inside one of the trousers. They were unrecognizable, but she was able to read a few words

"To my son Mandlenkosi.."

She remembered that Mandla had asked her to help look for a letter that his father had written for him.

Nandi:Oh no... What have I done?

She took all the papers and teared them more, she went outside and did a little fire burning them... She went back to the trouser and washed the pockets, to remove all evidence. She was panicking and scared, she can't lose this job. Her entire family depends on the salary she receives here. And she would surely be fired if Mandla finds out she washed the letter. She went to her chambers and took out a pen and paper. Luckily she had seen Mr Mshengu's writing, so it won't be hard to

make up something. She quickly writes it and folds it with a white envelope.

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MANDLENKOSI

I am here at the hospital to see Nakia. I just need to know if she is okay. I'm sure she won't even remember me. They tell me her ward room and I head there. I knock and I hear a come in. I open the door and get in. She was on the bed. She sat up when she saw me..

Mandla:Hi.

Nakia:Hi.. I remember you.

Mandla:Yes, I'm the one who called the ambulance. I just wanted to check if you were okay.

Nakia:What's your name?

Mandla:Mandlenkosi.

Nakia:Thank you Mandlenkosi, you really helped me.

Mandla:It's my pleasure. I'm glad you made it hey.

I pulled the chair and sat down.

Mandla:So what did you get yourself into exactly?

Nakia:Messed with wrong people, but it's over now.

Mandla:Don't do it again. I was traumatized at seeing a person getting shot like that.

She laughs.

Nakia:Sorry for traumatizing you..

The door opens while she was still laughing and a man entered. She stopped laughing and her eyes got filled with tears. The man looked at me frowning.

"And you are?"

Mandla:My name is Mandla, I just came to check on her because I called an ambulance for her yesterday.

"Oh okay. Thank you for helping my wife. I'm Khumbulani"

The husband.

Mandla:I did what anyone could do. Anyway it's time for me to leave. Be well Nakia.

I left the room, they look like they need to talk. I also have my own problems. I asked Nandi to help me find that letter. I am giving up at finding that woman, it's clear she doesn't exist.

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NAKIA

He doesn't say anything but kisses my hand.

Nakia:Lani... I am sorry.. I should have told you what was going on.

Kbumbulani:But you didn't..

Nakia:Keeping you in the dark was not my intention. I thought I was protecting you. Aasir was a dangerous man, and the more people knew about this, the more they would come for them.

He ignores me and kiss my hand again.

Nakia:Lani... Baby please talk to me..

He was ignoring me and it hurt. I'm not used to him being mad at me. I cry and wipe my tears, I feel like there is a huge lump stuck in my cervical spine. I swallow and look at him.

Khumbulani:Why are you crying Nakia?

He doesn't even seem moved by my crying. I turn the other way and silently sob. Seconds later I feel his hand touching me and the bed gets heavier. Oh my! He got in the bed. He pulls me close to him.

Khumbulani:I know you by now, crying won't get you out of this.

I turn to him and wrap my hands around him, holding him tightly.

Nakia:Just don't leave me.

Khumbulani:I'm not going anywhere. I'm just disappointed in you. Lies destroy relationships and I don't want that happening to us.

I was laying in his chest and his breathing pattern was sketchy.

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KHUMBULANI

She just laid down after crying for an hour. She is hurt, I am too. Having a baby is something that I have grown fond into and wanted it, so hearing that our baby is gone before he/she could even develop boils my intestines. I know Nakia would have made a good mother, she is a naturally good person so it wouldn't have been too hard for her.

I kiss her forehead and update Mphathi about what's happening.. Qinisela is like a distant relative, we are not that close yet we are brothers. Maybe he's close with Mphathi I don't know. I have to go back home and get a change of clothes for Nakai, for when they discharge her. I arrived and Chege was cooking. Does he know how to cook?

Chege:I'm sorry, I was just hungry..

Khumbulani:No its okay.... You can help yourself..

I smiled and went to the bedroom. I will tell him later what happened.

I sat down and sighed. Life seems to be moving at a fast pace lately and we barely have time to catch up. If I didn't know any better, I would say someone is busy messing around with us!

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KAYISE

I look around if Mphathi is around and he isn't. I sprinkle the eyedrop on his whiskey, I read on the internet that it can make you drowsy if spiked with alcohol. I stirred the drink and went out to find him.

Mphathi:Babe can you believe that Nakia was shot and she's at the hospital?

Kayise:Really? Why didn't they tell us sooner?

I gave him the glass and he took it and thanked me.

I sat down next to him and watched as he took the first sip.

Mphathi:Khumbulani must have forgotten, you know he easily forgets. But he said she is okay, the bullet didn't cause damage.

Kayise:Where did she get shot?

Mphathi:At some club.

Kayise:Nakia has always been dodgy, what was she doing at a club?

Mphathi:That's what I always say... She... She...

Kayise:What's wrong?

He was sweating and his head was dangling sideways.

Mphathi:I....don't kn.. ow.....

He touched his forehead... I touched him nervously and laughed...

Kayise:Babe a glass made you drunk....

Mphathi:I'm.. Not dru... Nk.... I.....

I stood up and laid him on the couch, taking off his clothes... He was losing consciousness and I needed to do this while he was still conscious.

"What... Are you doing Kayise...?", he asked with a faint tired voice.

"It will be fine babe don't worry...", I said as I got on top of him. My clothes were already off. His dick was sleeping, I stroked it with my hands waking it up. I heard him groaning through the tiredness. It stood up and pointed to the ceiling. I bit my tongue and blinked my eyes,I took it and directed it to my entrance..

He was opening and closing his eyes..

Mphathi:Kay... I... It's... Not...

Kayise:Shhhh... I'm almost done....

I moved up and down on top of him, taking him in full length.

It's definitely not even close to what Khumbulani did to me but it will do.. Mphathi has to believe that this child is his. I see him grabbing my waist and pulling me towards him.

"Oh yes baby...", I cry in pleasure...

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MANDLENKOSI

I stand outside after knocking. She finally opens and frowns when she sees me.

Jumaima:Mandla what are you doing here!? Didn't you chase me out of your house?

Mandla:Can we talk?

Jumaima:Talk about what!? You chased me out like I was nothing. After being there for you when your father died and you discarded me like trash!!

Mandla:Aunt Jumaima don't pretend like you wanted to do that. I heard you speaking over the phone. I didn't come here to laugh with you. Dad left a letter for me. Did you or did you not take it?

I asked looking directly to her eyes, the eyes never lie.

Jumaima: So now you are calling me a thief!? I did not steal your letter. What was in it?

Mandla: I don't know.. Thank you for your time.

I left and went to my car. I sat inside for a while without driving...

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NAKIA

I just woke up and took a shower. I'm fine with being at a hospital now, I need to go back home. I don't see why they are still keeping me here.

Khumbulani said he will be back in the evening with my clothes. I hear footsteps approaching and I hope it is my doctor so he can discharge me.

My mouth widens into a big smile when I see who it is. He comes to me and gives me a tight hug.. I haven't seen him in like forever.

Nakia: Look at you, man I have missed you. Where have you been?

"Vacation, I am back now. And heard that you got yourself in trouble. So I came to check on you"

Nakia:Aasir is dead that's one thing I'm glad for. His guard shot me, I thought I was doomed but a guardian angel helped me get to the hospital.

"I am glad you are okay, but don't go alone again to places like that."

Nakia:Aasir was giving me sleepless nights, one way or another I had to take care of him. But.. I lost something else..

"What?"

Nakia:I found out I was pregnant but the baby didn't make it...
He looked at me with sympathy.

"Ohh Nakiaaaa I'm so sorry."

Nakia:It's fine

there's nothing I can do to bring him/her back. I will heal someday.

I said smiling and assuring myself..

Argh, where are my manners? This is Thabani Ncobela, a friend of mine through this work we do, or we once did .

Nakia:Where's that crazy wife of yours?

Thabani:My wife is not crazy, and she is still around... And pregnant..

Nakia:Really??

Thabani:Yes...

Nakia:*Smiling* Happy for you man.. I still can't believe y'all exposed The Developers out to the public like that and made a movie.

Thabani:People think it was just a movie, very few know it was based on a true story. Even those who know, will never find The Developers HQ.

Nakia:Sit down... I want you to tell me everything I missed...

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KAYISE

I touched my boobs getting more turned on. This was fun, Mphathi doesn't want me to get on top of him when we are being intimate. He says it's his job to fuck not mine. I look down when I realize that he wasn't groaning anymore. I got alarmed and slapped his cheek. He didn't respond and I hit him again, still no response. I was starting to panic, because he was not

breathing nor moving. I shook him vigorously but still nothing.
What have I done!? Could it have been the eye drop?

I got off of him and he was just laying there, without any response.

I took my phone and called the ambulance with my hands shaking... I wore my clothes and made him wear his clothes, as heavy as he was. Please, I can't lose my husband over something so silly!!!

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KHUMBULANI

I enter Nakia's room with her clothes. I give her a kiss.

Khumbulani:Are they letting you go?

Nakia:No, they say I need to be monitored for two more days.

Khumbulani:Okay, that's understandable.

I sat on the chair and held her hands.

Khumbulani:How are you feeling today?

Nakia:Better than yesterday...my friend came to visit me today.

Khumbulani:Which friend?

I asked with my one eyebrow raised at her.

Nakia:Thabani...

Khumbulani:You have a male friend?

Nakia:Yes... It's not those "male bestie" scenarios. We met in Kenya when he was doing some job.

Khumbulani:I see...

I was not too sure how to feel about this. Having friends of the opposite gender always comes with drama.

Nakia:Hay babe you don't have to worry about him. He's married, and he loves his wife. We are just friends.. I love you only...

Khumbulani:I hope it won't get to the point where I have to warn you about him..

Nakia:It won't, don't worry...

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MANDLENKOSI

The guy was here with his work stuff.

Mandla:Okay so I need you to break this door down for me...

"The whole door?"

Mandla:Yes, I have tried opening it but failed.

"Okay I will try"

I left him to do his job...

I browsed through my phone, chatting and replying to some messages. Life gets really lonely sometimes. Having no one to talk to, no girlfriend, no family. Nqaba also went to see his family KwaNongoma and he won't be back anytime soon. I'm just lonely, and trying to pass time with finding out what my father was up to. That will keep my mind off things. I hear the guy screaming in agony and I rush to him.

Mandla:What's wrong??

He was bleeding and holding a saw.

He had cut himself accidentally. What was he doing with a saw?

Mandla:I am taking you to the doctor, that bleeding looks bad.

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NAKIA

Nakia:Babe can I ask?

Khumbulani:Yes..

Nakia:Did you know Mandla? The guy who brought me here with the ambulance?

I saw him shifting uncomfortably.

Khumbulani:Uhh no I don't know him, I only saw him here..

Nakia:I know....

Khumbulani:Yes I only saw him here.

Nakia:No.. I mean I know what you did....

Khumbulani:You know what I did? What are you talking about??

I was observing his reaction and that's definitely a guilty person.

Nakia:Let's leave it, I hope we are not keeping any more secrets from each other. I am sorry for lying to you, and not telling you what was happening. I hope someday you forgive me. I love you Lani.

To be continued...

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KAYISE

I wait in anticipation to find out what has happened with Mphathi. When the ambulance arrived, he wasn't breathing and I am so scared. What was I thinking? I was so sure that it would not be harmful. I just needed to make him believe that this child was his, I didn't mean to kill him or harm him.

"Mrs Shongwe", The doctor calls my name and I rush to her.

Kayise:Please tell me my husband is okay.

I pleaded with him biting my nails. I tried to read his facial expression.

Doc:What happened exactly?

I looked down, I couldn't tell her that I spiked my husband's drink with eyedrop.

Doc:We found a chemical in his body, Tetrahydrozoline; it is found in eyedrops and it seemed to have been consumed in a not large quantity. He is alive, but his heartbeat is slow and there is a possibility that he could slip into a coma.

I balanced with the walls feeling the walls closing in on me. My heartbeat sure missed a pace.

Kayise:If he slips into a coma, will he live?

Doc:For now it's hard to tell, but we will monitor him.

She nodded and told me that I can go see him.

I dragged my feet to his ward room, and he was sleeping peacefully. He will be so disappointed when he learns what I did. I move towards him and there was an oxygen mask, to help him with breathing I assume.

"I'm sorry", that's all I could say. I wipe my tears and sit on the chair.

I hold his hands and look at him.

"Please wake up. I'm sorry, I didn't think about what I was doing. I love you, and I can't lose you over this."

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KHUMBULANI

Two days later, Mphathi is still at the hospital, and have not waken up. I was surprised to receive a call from Kayise telling me that Mphathi is admitted. She says he accidentally drank eyedrops. How could he do that? Because Mphathi is a full adult, something is offish here.

Mother could not come, but said she's keeping him on her prayers. There's no progress with finding my father's killer, the detective handling the case says every lead is a dead end, and the captain is ordering him to close the investigation because he's just wasting the state's resources. Which means we will never get to know what happened to my father or who killed him.

I am outside Mandla's house, hiding actually, I don't even know why I'm here. But seeing him again that day just took me back to that fateful day! I'm sure he doesn't even remember me. I see him carrying a tool box going outside. He throws it outside and kicks the dust. He looks pretty upset. I decide to go to him. He frowns when he sees me, probably wondering where I came from.

Khumbulani:Hi...

Mandla:Uhhh hi....what are you doing here and how did you know where I live?

Khumbulani:It's not that hard to find Mshengu's son. Are you okay?

Mandla:Yes I'm fine, how are you?

Khumbulani:I'm fine too. I just came here to thank you about what you did for my wife, I appreciate it.

Mandla:It's okay, I just helped a woman in need. Do you want anything to drink?

Khumbulani:Yes, a glass of water wouldn't hurt.

Mandla:Come in.

I followed behind him. His home is beautiful, and big.

He directs me to the living room, and there was a framed picture plastered on the wall. He was there, and his whole family. I sighed and gulped down my saliva. I tap my foot repeatedly on the floor waiting for him. He came back seconds later with a glass, but it was not water.

Mandla:Clase Azul ultra. Fine stuff, my dad kept it in his office.

He gave me the glass and I accepted it. I took one sip and looked at him. He also drank his. I decided to test the waters.

Khumbulani:What were you doing with that toolbox?

Mandla:There's a door I'm trying to open here but I'm failing. I hired someone to open it for me and he accidentally cut himself with a saw.

An unopened door? That sounds so familiar. Where have I heard it from before?

Khumbulani: Why don't you cut it down?

Mandla: I have tried

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it's completely impenetrable. My dad was hiding something from me. I want to see what's in that room, my curiosity won't let me rest.

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Years ago.

I run to my dad with his phone.

"Thank you son. Please call your mother for me", he asks.

I run back to the house and tell my mother that dad is asking for her.

She tells me that she's coming, I go back to my room to continue with my school work but I stop on my tracks when I hear someone talking, sounds like a woman. We have no other female in this house except for mom, and she is outside with dad. I place my ear on the door thinking my brother sneaked in his girlfriend or something. But that person stops talking,

instead I hear loud typing. Whoever it is must be fighting with the computer. I turn the doorknob trying to open the door but it was locked.

"Khumbulani your friends are here", Qinisela tells me. I leave the room and go outside to my friends.

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PRESENT TIME.

I blink my eyes rapidly and Mandla was standing right in front of me.

Mandla:Bro what happened to you? You just zoned out!!

Khumbulani:I need to make a phone call.

I went outside and called my mother.

Mom:Khumbulani is everything okay? Is Mphathi okay?

Khumbulani:Yes, I'm calling about something else. Are you home?

Mom:Yes.

Khumbulani:Can you open all the doors?

Mom:What!?

Khumbulani:Mom please just do as I am asking.

Mom:Okay....

I heard her moving for a few minutes.

Mom:Well I have opened all of them.

Khumbulani:Are you sure?

Mom:Yes.

Khumbulani:There isn't a closed door?

Mom:No, I have opened all of them.

Khumbulani:Okay thank you..

Mom:What is this all about?

Khumbulani:Nothing important. Goodbye.

I hung up and went back inside.

Mandla:Dude what's going on?

Khumbulani:Can I see the room?

Mandla:Not to sound rude, but I don't know you like that to trust you with my family's affairs.

Khumbulani:I understand, I just want to see it. I promise, I'm not here on bad intentions.

He looked at me for a moment and stood up.

Mandla:Okay follow me.

I followed him.

Mandla:This is it.

I touched it and twisted the door knob, it was really unopenable.

Mandla:See? I have tried everything.

Khumbulani:What do you think is behind the door?

Mandla:I don't know, but dad left a letter for me which I lost. And he had given me a picture of a woman that I must find her for him, he said no one ever seen her. When I did my research, instead information from the olden age popped up, some talking about the ghost behind the closed door. It's all very confusing.

Khumbulani:Very.... I... I would like to help you, if you don't mind.

Mandla:Why? I mean you don't even know me.

Khumbulani:I just want to help. It will ease up the guilt I'm feeling.

Mandla:What?

Khumbulani:Huh...

Mandla:You said it will ease up the guilt you are feeling.

Khumbulani:I'm pretty sure I didn't say that.

Mandla:But you did.. I just heard you...

I touched his forehead.

Khumbulani:You need to rest...

NAKIA

I pat Kayise's back softly and she continues crying. Mphathi was still sleeping, it has been two days and he hasn't woken up.

Kayise: This is all my fault...

Nakia:It's not your fault.. You didn't know he would drink the eyedrop.

Kayise:No I mean I did it. I'm the one who spiked his whiskey with the eyedrop.

I let her go and turned her around to face me.

Nakia:Why would you do that Kayise!? You almost killed your husband.

Kayise:You won't understand Nakia, I needed to sleep with him and he was still stuck on the fact that I slept with his b...

She stopped talking.

Nakia:You cheated on your husband!?

Kayise:I didn't cheat. Mphathi was unable to make me pregnant so he asked someone else to sleep with me so we would have that child as our own. I am pregnant now with that man's child, and the curse on Mphathi has been removed. He would be so

disappointed when he finds out that he is not the father. So I drugged him with the eyedrop to sleep with him, so he could believe the child was his.

Nakia:Kayise I don't know what to say. Why didn't you and Mphathi try other options other than sleeping with someone else!?

Kayise:Mphathi is a proud man, he said he doesn't trust the western methods.

Nakia:But you see the mess the two of you have caused? What will you do when he dies? Will you live happily knowing that you killed your husband because you just couldn't be honest with him?

Kayise:Don't make it worse Nakia, I already feel bad enough.

Nakia:Mphathi was also in the wrong, he shouldn't have shoved the idea of sleeping with someone down your throat. Who even is that man?

Kayise:You don't know him.

Nakia:Let us pray that he wakes up. And when he does, be honest with him. Also tell the father of the baby, he deserves to know that he is a father.

Kayise:That would ruin his marriage.

I get defeated every minute. I clap my hands.

Nakia:He's a married man!?

Kayise:Yes....

Nakia:The only person I'm feeling sorry for is the clueless wife who doesn't know anything. This is the same as like her husband cheated on her!

Kayise:I'm sorry....

Nakia:Don't apologize to me... You did nothing to me. You should apologize to that poor woman. All three of you.. Mphathi will wake up don't worry.

KHUMBULANI

Me and Mandla exchanged numbers. He seems like a good guy, just that he has suffered so much loss in his life. He is all alone in that big house. I hope we become friends, so he doesn't think much about the people he has lost. I know the pain of losing a parent, it doesn't go away. There's no closure you get, it will always be within your heart that you lost someone. I miss my dad every day, not a day goes by that I don't think about him.

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A week later.

NAKIA

I was accompanying Chege to the airport. He says there's nothing for him here in South Africa.

Nakia:Are you sure about this Chege?

Chege:I am sure. Aasir is dead, so I have no reason to hide anymore.

Nakia:But where will you live? What about food?

Chege:I will make a plan, and you sent me money.

Nakia:Okay... But I don't like this Chege. I will miss you.

Chege:You can always visit. You haven't been home for two years.

Nakia:I will visit.

I hugged him again shedding a few tears.

Chege:kuwa makini dada(Be careful Sister). Don't get yourself into another mess while I'm gone.

Nakia:I won't, I promise.

Chege:The necklace is still with you right?

Nakia:Yes, it's in a safe place.

Chege:Don't lose it again. That would be the end of the world as we know it. Does your husband know what's inside it?

I looked away.

Nakia:He will probably think I'm crazy even if I tell him. Some secrets are not meant to be told Chege.

Chege:If you say so... Oh my flight is almost departing.

Nakia:I can't believe you are leaving... I love you Bro.

Chege:I love you too Nakia. I hope to see you soon...

He dragged his suitcase and walked away. I stood by waving goodbye at him like an idiot. He disappeared out of sight and I turned back, walking away.

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KHUMBULANI

I was with Mandla, working with him to find his mystery woman.

Mandla:I'm tired now. Let's take a break.

Khumbulani:Okay, I am tired too.

We went to the kitchen for refreshments.

Mandla:You know it's at times like this when I miss my dad, he told me that he won't be here forever and I took that for granted . I just wish I had more time with him.

Khumbulani:I'm sorry that you lost him. I know exactly how you feel. But you still have time to make him proud, I don't know much about what happens to a person when he dies, but I heard that the people who leave us are always looking down on us and smiling proudly to our achievements.

I saw him smile a little..

Mandla:Yeah maybe you are right....

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KAYISE

I lift up my panty after wiping myself and flush the toilet. I wash my hands and head out of the bathroom, going back to the bedroom. He was awake and laying up right.

Kayise:Hey...

He kept quiet and stared into space. He woke up days ago and was discharged from the hospital, the doctor said it was luck that he had not consumed large amounts of eyedrops.

He is slowly gaining back his strength, but he is angry at me. He remembers what I did, and when the doctors told him about the eyedrop he put two and two together..

Kayise:Out of all the things that I had imagined would happen to me, having my wife drug me and force herself onto me was the last thing I had in mind. Why did you do it?

Kayise:I am sorry...

Mphathi:I just want to know why did you do it.. Is it because I was scared to have sex with you??? I am sorry Kayise, but I was scared. When I walked in on you and my brother my heart shattered, I saw cum all over him, and the way you were screaming showed that you were enjoying what he was doing to you. So how could I have pretended like everything was normal and have sex with you? How could I even get on top of you knowing that my brother has gotten on top of you??

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NAKIA

I'm back at home and Khumbulani sent me a message that he is with Mandla, I thought he was at work. Him and Mandla are pretty close these days, their friendship worries me a lot. There's nothing wrong with Mandla, and it's good to make friends but in this case.... I'm so not on board.

Khumbulani is hiding more secrets than I am hiding from him. Our marriage is full of secrecy, and I don't like that. But the truth is not something easy to tell, some secrets are better taken to the grave

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that's what they say.

I look at the necklace and sigh, this thing has taken so many lives. I'm not prepared to let more people die because of it. So long as it still exist, people will come looking for it. Aasir wasn't the first and he definitely won't be the last. I sit on the bed and opened the locket. I took out the two small chips, one was red and other one was blue.

The blue one, holds so many secrets to life, that the public does not need to know. Which is why I have to protect this necklace with my life.

The red one, was just Aasir's shady dealings. I threw it to my mouth and chewed it, I disposed it on the trash can.

I take the remaining chip and put it back to the locket and close it. I put back the necklace to where I had hid it.

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MPHATHIKHAYA

Kayise:I don't know what excuse to make really..

Mphathi:I just want to know why you did it.

Kayise:Somehow I blame you for all of this Mphathi. You came to me and told me that I need to sleep with your brother, no actually you emotionally blackmailed into doing that. Then I did as you asked, then few days later you act like I cheated on you and accused me that I secretly had a crush on your brother... And now I'm pregnant and Khumbulani is the father, so I'm sorry for drugging you Mphathi but I needed this baby to be yours. I thought I was doing it for you...

Mphathi:You're pregnant?

Kayise:I am...

Mphathi:And it's Khumbulani's child?

Kayise:Yes... See this is what I didn't want to happen. I know how much you want to be a father, that's why I thought of drugging you...

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QINISELA

I left my wife at home, I needed to come here alone. I haven't stepped foot in five years, when father passed away, we weren't even on good terms. We were forever fighting and arguing.

I knock on the door and my mother is surprised to see me. Her eyes are wandering everywhere.

Mom:Qinisela you didn't tell me you were coming over.

Qinisela:Do I need to report when I'm coming home? What are you wearing?

She was wearing such a short dress. Mother is a grown person, in her 60s. So I don't understand why she is wearing such a short dress.

Mom:Qinisela you need to leave, I have a guest.

"Gloria what's taking so long??", I hear a man's voice speak with footsteps approaching. Ngizoke ngizwe!

An unfamiliar man comes to us and he immediately turns back when he sees me..

Mom:I told you to leave Qinisela, I have a guest.

Qinisela:Emzini ka baba? (In my father's house?)

Mom:Qi..

Qinisela:Ulethe ishende emzini kababa ma!?(You brought your boyfriend in my father's house!?)

Mom:I'm older than you Qinisela. You will not shout at me. Your father left us, so I'm supposed to be single forever?

Qinisela:You are 65 for God's sake!! What the fuck do you need a boyfriend for!? And you saw it fit to bring him to my father's house!?

I pushed her aside and went to the bedroom, he was relaxed and only on his boxer shorts. I chuckled and shook my head.

Qinisela:Oze ngayo ngicela uyibone! (Leave!)

"Son let's talk about this."

Qinisela:Uma ngingabiza u Mphathi kunganuka umsunu, kuzokusiza ulalele Mina mengithi bona oze ngayo(If I call

Mphathi to come here all hell will break loose. It will help you to listen to me when I tell you to leave).

Mom:Qinisela this is not your house.

She said coming to the bedroom.

Qinisela:It's my father's house, how can you bring another man here!?

Mom:He wasn't your father so don't act like his favorite!!!

Wow!!

Qinisela:So you are going to play that card?

Mom:Qinisela I'm sorry... I didn't mean it like that.....

Qinisela:Save it... You know coming here I was excited to let everything remain behind me. But I will always be reminded that I'm not a Shongwe. So continue with your boyfriend. You will never see me bothering you again.

I walked out with a heavy heart.

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KHUMBULANI

I just arrived home and my mother is calling me.

Khumbulani: Mom?

Gloria: Khumbulani have you spoken with Qinisela??

Khumbulani: No, why?

Gloria: I just said something hurtful to him and he left unhappy here.

Khumbulani: What did you do....

Gloria: I... I lashed out and told him that Shongwe wasn't his father so he mustn't act like he was his favorite.

Khumbulani: Why would you say that to him???

Gloria: I was wrong I know. I need to apologize but he isn't answering my calls.

Khumbulani: Let me try to call him. I always warn you about your tongue Gloria but you don't listen. You saw how broken he was when he found out that dad was not his biological father! And that was all because of you njalo don't forget!!!

I clicked my tongue and hung up. I tried calling Qinisela and he answered on the third ring.

Qinisela:Khumbulani...

He sounds like he was crying..

Khumbulani:Where are you?

Qinisela:I want to be alone.

Khumbulani:I know, but I want to be there with you. Please send me your location.

Qinisela:Okay...

To be continued

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KAYISE

I don't know what to say anymore to Mphathi, I'm giving up. It's clear he won't be moving past this anytime soon. There is a baby at hand, and I don't think he's ready to accept it. I also can't risk telling Khumbulani that I am pregnant with his child, I can't betray Nakia like that. She was so angry that day when I told her what happened, so imagine if she finds out that she is the "clueless wife". Ayyy Umuntu uhambe ezifaka nje emanyaleni! How do we get out of this mess??

Mphathi:Can we talk?

Kagise:Yes, I'm listening..

Mphathi:First I want to say I'm sorry for everything. I should have listened to you when you told me that we should try other options, but I was too stubborn and wanted to do things my way. I shouldn't have manipulated you to sleep with my brother, that was wrong on so many levels. And me acting like a victim is not on point. I know that this is all my fault. I'm sorry mama, please allow me to do better. I love you Kayise and I don't want to lose you.

Kayise:Will you accept this child as yours??

He closed his eyes and I could see him breathing heavily.

Mphathi:I will... It's what we wanted anyway.

Kayise:What if you try to harm my baby Mphathi? I don't mean to paint you as a bad person, but this is my first ever child and I need to be careful.

Mphathi:I won't, I promise. I'll accept him/her as my own.
Come here.

I shifted to him and he brought me closer to his chest.

Mphathi:I love you, and we will get through this I promise you...

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KHUMBULANI

I take the bottle away from him. I don't like people who run to alcohol whenever they have problems.

Khumbulani:That's enough now.

Qinisela:She does not want to tell me who my father is, but she reminds me every chance she gets that Shongwe was not my father. 28 years of my life, and I don't know who my father is, or whether he abandoned me or he didn't know that I exist. I hate Gloria.

Khumbulani:I'm sorry Bro, but dad loved you as his own.

He started to chuckle, that bitter chuckle.

Qinisela:Mxxm, as if you don't know you were his favorite.

I looked down.

Qinisela:I don't care about him, all I want to know is who my father is. And Gloria doesn't want to tell me. I had hoped that she will tell me, but she chased me out. Can you believe she has a boyfriend!? And she brought him to the house? On the same bed she used to sleep with Shongwe in???

Khumbulani:What!?

Mom has never said anything about dating someone. Why is she even dating? She's in her 60s.

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NARRATED

Nakia walks to the bedroom to get Lani's clothes. She empties the pockets, but a picture falls down from his jacket. She freezes for a moment, and blinks her eyes. She picks up the photo and look at it, she moves to the trashcan and tears it to pieces before throwing it away.

She takes the clothes and walk out of the room, when she was outside she looks back and looks at the clothes she was holding..

"What the hell just happened??", she murmurs.

She continues going to the laundry room and throw the clothes to the washing machine. Her mind was far away and she was thinking a lot.

She goes to the living room and calls Chege.

Chege:Hello.

Nakia:You don't call to let me know that you arrived safely.

Chege:I was going to tell you, I just checked in at the hotel and settling in.

Nakia:Okay, do you need more money??

Chege:I will let you know when I run out. Anyway are you good?

Nakia:I just had the weirdest thing happening.

Chege:What happened??

Nakia:I entered our room to get Lani's clothes and I saw myself outside, I don't remember picking them up.

Chege:Really?? Have you been getting enough rest?

Nakia:I am serious Chege, something is off. I feel like I have seen or lived this day before. What happened now feels very familiar... I don't know man.

She looks at her surroundings and something was not right.

Nakia:I will call you later..

She hangs up and stands on her feet, looking around. She walks through the passages touching the walls. She was not sure what she was looking for, but she was looking for something. She stumbles on the guest bedroom, and something in her tells her to open it. She takes a deep breath and twist the doorknob, the door slowly opens and she gets inside. She Breathes relieved when she doesn't see anything suspicious.

"Got worried for nothing"

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she said laughing.

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KHUMBULANI

I dropped off Qinisela at his house and drove home. I need to see my mother and find out exactly what she is doing. Why is she dating!?

I get out of the car and head to the door, I don't even knock. I let myself in and shout for her.

Gloria:Why are you shouting like that???

I passed her and looked room to room for this boyfriend.

Khumbulani:Where is he?

Gloria:Who are you talking about??

Khumbulani:The man Qinisela said he saw.

Gloria:Why are the two of you poking your noses in my business??? Did you expect me to stay single forever???

Khumbulani:Yes, you are old ma.

Gloria:Oh so because I'm old I don't deserve love?

Khumbulani:Dad was your husband and what you are doing is tarnishing his dignity. Did you have to bring that man here??

Gloria:Let me ask you this my son, if it was your father who was alive and I'm the one who is dead. Wouldn't you boys be encouraging him to move on?? It's acceptable when it's a man who does it, but it's suddenly World War II when I do it??

Khumbulani:But ma I_

Gloria:I loved your father I won't lie, but he's gone Khumbulani. He's gone and never coming back. Life shouldn't stop because he's gone, life goes on son. I have honored your father and stayed single all these years. And now that I am finally doing something that makes me happy, it's a problem??

I sat down, feeling bad. She was making a lot of sense. But it's not something you can just smile to, seeing your mother moving on.

Khumbulani:I'm sorry.

She sat down next to me.

Gloria:It's okay.

Khumbulani:But did you have to remind Qinisela that dad was not his father?

Gloria:It was a slip of the tongue.

Khumbulani:Who is his father??

She started to become uncomfortable.

Gloria:You don't know him.

Khumbulani:He deserves to know the truth. It's been years and you are not saying anything. He deserves to know where he comes from.

Gloria:It's not easy as you think.... But I will tell him.. Can you call him to come here tomorrow?

Khumbulani:You will tell him the truth?

Gloria:Yes, I will tell him everything...

Khumbulani:Okay I will tell him.

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MPHATHIKHAYA

Kayise:It was your brother, said something about your mother having a boyfriend.

Mphathi:What???

Kayise:Calm down, no need to throw a fit. She's just enjoying her life.

She laughs.

Mphathi:But a boyfriend??

Kayise:Let your mother be, we all deserve to be held close at night.

Mphathi>Please, I can't imagine my mother still being sexually active at her age.

Kayise:Well she is.

Mphathi:Can you give me my phone???

Kayise:No don't call her. I'm sure Khumbulani has already told her off, she doesn't need to be shouted by you too.

Mphathi:Kayise this is my mother we are talking about.

Kayise:And I know that, but be quiet for once. I know they told you in hopes that you will put an end to it. But your mother also deserves to be happy.

Mphathi:That's my dad's wife.

Kayise:Your father is gone, and she is still alive. We should be doing a lot of things right now. I don't know why we are still discussing this.

Mphathi:Yes Ma'am.

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KHUMBULANI

I pull the duvet and make space for her.

Khumbulani:How was your day?

I ask kissing her forehead.

Nakia:Long, I had an experience of déjà vu.

Khumbulani:Really?

Nakia:Yeah it was really weird and creepy. How was your day??

Khumbulani:Well my mother is dating, that's for sure.

Nakia:What??

Khumbulani:Yep, and she is serious about it.

Nakia:How is your new friend?

Khumbulani:Mandla? He's okay, I'm seeing him tomorrow after work.

Nakia:Be careful Lani.

Khumbulani>About what?

Nakia:This friendship, it won't end well.

Khumbulani:What are you talking about?

Nakia:Are you hiding anything from me?

Khumbulani:Hiding? I'm not hiding anything.

Nakia:Are you sure?

Khumbulani:Yes I'm sure. Are you hiding anything???

Nakia:No I'm not. Let's sleep. I love you.

Khumbulani:I love you too..

I switched off the lights and closed my eyes. If I didn't know any better I would say Nakia knows something about me...

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I wake up and frown at my surroundings, why was I sleeping on sand?? I see her sitting by the desk, typing on a very old version of a computer.

"You are here", she says still turning back.

"Uhm... what is this???", I ask still confused.

"You're dreaming, but you won't remember any of it", she says still typing. Very loudly I might say.

"Can you slow down your typing?", I ask her.

"No can do", she replies back.

I move towards her trying to get her to turn to me so I can see her.

"Stop!", she commands. I stop.

"I don't know what you are doing here or how you got in but you need to go! Wake up!!"

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I wake up panting and breathing heavily. Nakia switches on the lights and gets me to calm down.

Nakia:Are you okay??? What's wrong?? You were speaking in your sleep.

Khumbulani:I don't know, I don't remember. I think I was dreaming.

Nakia:Dreaming about what?

Khumbulani:That's the thing. I don't remember....

Nakia:Let me get you some water, you look shaken up...

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To be continued...

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Unedited

NAKIA

I take the glass away from him, he was still shaking.

Nakia:So you don't remember what happened in the dream?

Khumbulani:No, I... I.....

Nakia:It's okay, take it easy.

I check the time and it was almost 3am.

Nakia:Let's go back to sleep..

I switch off the lights and spoon him like a baby. Whatever he dreamt about must have been scary, I've never seen him so shaken up like this.

We woke up in the morning and I prepared breakfast for him.

Nakia:How are you feeling now?

Khumbulani:I'm okay, maybe it was just a dream.

Nakia:Okay are you going to work?

Khumbulani:No, I'm going to see Mandla and come back to spend my day with you.

Nakia:Uhh I have to go somewhere today.

Khumbulani:Where are you going??

Nakia:You remember I was looking for a building last month? I think I've found one.

Khumbulani:Oh that, do you want me to come with you?

Nakia:No it's okay, you can see Mandla. I'll be fine.

He nods and eats his food. When he was done, I washed his plates.

Khumbulani:Babe did you wash my clothes yesterday?

Nakia:Yeah, they are in the closet.

He was holding his jacket.

Khumbulani:I had a picture here and now it's gone.

Nakia:A picture?

Khumbulani:Yeah, did you see it?

Nakia:No I didn't see it.

Khumbulani:Eish okay maybe I dropped it somewhere.

Nakia:What is the picture about?

Khumbulani:It's just someone Mandla is looking for, so I took it with the hopes of finishing the search.

Nakia:I will help you look for it.

We searched everywhere on the house but we didn't find it.

Nakia:Are you sure you brought it here? We have looked everywhere.

Khumbulani:Let me call him.

He called him and put the phone on loudspeaker.

Mandla:Hello.

Khumbulani:Mandla hi, did I leave with the picture there yesterday?

Mandla:Yeah, you left with it. What's up?

Khumbulani:I think I lost it, I can't find it.

Mandla:No worries, I made copies of it.

I saw him sighing relieved.

Khumbulani:Thank God, will see you soon.

Mandla:Okay bye.

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QINISELA

Khumbulani told me that Gloria told me to come see her today, that she will tell me who my father is. That's the only reason I'm here.

She opens for me after knocking, she smiles at me but I keep a straight face.

Gloria:Come in.

I follow her to the living room.

Gloria:Do you want anything to drink? Juice or water?

Qinisela:No I'm fine. I'm only here because Khumbulani told me that you will tell me who my father is.

Gloria:Son, I am so sorry for everything...

Qinisela:Just be honest, for once...

She sighed and sat next to me. She tried to touch my hands but I moved away.

Gloria:Your father... Shongwe was a good man. He loved you, even though you were not his. He found out when you were 10 years old but that did not stop him from being your father...

Qinisela:Just get to the point..

Gloria:I'm getting there.... I was pregnant with my second child, Mphathi was already Seven years old then. Shongwe was very excited about welcoming another son. But, during labor, something happened. I had given birth to my son and your father had seen him too. We hadn't given him a name yet. They took my son to place him with other babies, but when I asked for him later they said he was missing and they turned the whole hospital down. Looking for him. But they never found him. I was shattered and torn apart, I didn't understand what was happening. Then later at night, a woman came to me, she was carrying two babies in her arms and she was crying. She had also just given birth, but sadly her son died. She gave one twin to me and said, "We both lost our sons, take him and I will take this one". Confused, I took the baby from him and asked her, "Who are you?"

She looked like a mess, she looked like she hadn't slept all night.

"Take the baby and raise him as your own

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and I will take this one and raise him as my own too."

She said that and ran out of the room. I looked at the baby's eyes and fell in love instantly, I got reminded of the son I lost.

One nurse came to my ward room and asked me where I got the baby from. I decided to be honest and told her what just happened. We both made a promise that night that I would take the baby as my own. When my husband came back the following day, he came to the news that we had found our son. He didn't suspect anything, we named the baby Qinisela and raised him as our own. Shongwe found out when you were 10 that you were not his, and not mine either. We came across your twin in town, he was walking with that woman who gave you to me. Shongwe was angry that I did not tell him. We tried finding our son that we had lost but we never found him. So I'm trying to say to you, I don't know who your father is, and I don't know who your mother is. That woman who gave me to you, died years ago before I could get answers and I didn't know anything about her. I'm really sorry Qinisela.

I rubbed my face, my tears were so close to coming out. My whole life has been a lie, why do people lie like this? How can you mess up my life like this??

Qinisela:You lied to me...

Gloria:I'm sorry...

Qinisela:So I'm just an adopted son. Maybe I'm an orphan. I don't belong anywhere, I've always felt that I don't belong here but now it has been confirmed. Does my twin look like me?

Maybe I can find him. Maybe we can find our real family and find where we belong.

Gloria:It was years ago Qinisela, I didn't get a good look at him.

Qinisela:I hate you so much..

I said with tears in my eyes. Finding out that your life has been one big fat lie is not something you can accept with a smile!

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MANDLENKOSI

Khumbulani:So, I think I have the solution to opening your door.

Mandla:I'm listening.

Khumbulani:We just need someone with power to open it.

Mandla:And where will we get someone with POWERS?

I asked rolling my eyes. Khumbulani said he also remembers faintly when he was young that there was a closed room in his house, but when he asked his mother to open the doors days back they opened..

Khumbulani:There is a kingdom of the Sun called Elangeni, there is someone there who is said to possess great powers of the Sun. Maybe she can open this door for us.

Mandla:Elangeni Kingdom? I have never heard of the place. Who is that person?

Khumbulani:Her name is Langelihle, but she is a Queen. We are going to have to go there and ask her to come with us.

Mandla:How long will it take to get there?

Khumbulani:Maybe 3 or 4 hours. If we wake up early tomorrow, we can get there in time.

Mandla:Let's hope she will be able to help us.

Khumbulani:I hope so, those who know her say she is kind hearted.

Mandla:Okay, I guess we are going to Elangeni tomorrow.

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KAYISE

Mphathi is now better, I am never trusting anything from Google ever again.

Kayise:I'm thinking of chicken wings, spicy.

Mphathi:Should you eat spicy food while pregnant?

Kayise:I don't know, but okay. I'll just get BBQ ones. What do you want?

Kayise:Full chicken, not wings.

Kayise:Okay, I will be back.

NARRATED

The following day, Khumbulani and Mandlenkosi have been driving for hours and they have finally arrived Elangeni.

Khumbulani:This is the place.

Mandla:I feel like I have entered some million dollar mansion!!

Khumbulani:Can you believe she built this place as you see it standing like this!!?

Mandla:She sounds like a remarkable woman.

Two royal guards come to them and they introduce themselves, and ask to see the Queen.

"Come with us", one of the guards say. They follow behind them, their eyes were everywhere. Admiring the beautiful Kingdom.

They entered the throne room and their Jaws dropped.

"The Queen will be here in a minute. Sit!", they command.

They sit down, and wait.

A while later they hear footsteps, finally the Queen of Elangeni shows up, with her husband by her side. Mandla couldn't help himself, he stands up in awe watching the goddess enter the room.

Mandla:I think I just fell in love..

He whispers and nudges Khumbulani to stand up.

Khumbulani:Should we bow?

Mandla:I don't know, she's a Queen.

They whisper within themselves.

"No need to bow gentlemen", she tells them with a warm smile.

Langelihle:I was told we have unknown visitors at the soil of Elangeni. So how can we be of assist?

Mandla:Your Highness, we need your help..

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To be continued....

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Narrated

Elangeni Kingdom.

Mandla:Your Highness, we need your help.

Langelihle:What kind of help?

Mandla:We would like to talk with you in private, because this is a very sensitive issue.

Langelihle:Okay if you say so, let's go to the other room.

They all stand up, Langelihle tells Sondela that he can excuse them. They share a brief kiss before he walks away. Khumbulani laughs a little at Mandla who didn't look too happy about seeing them kissing.

Langelihle:This is the most quietest place...

Khumbulani:We will just get straight to the point. We need you to open a door for us.

Langelihle:A door?

Khumbulani:Mandla has a door at his house that has never been opened, so we need your help with opening it.

Langelihle:And what makes you think that I can open that door?

Khumbulani: Well I heard rumors that you have some special powers or something like that.

Langelihle: I'm not a very trusting person lately, this Kingdom has been through a lot, with people coming here with hidden agendas, wanting to destroy this Kingdom and everyone in it. I'm the sole protector of Elangeni and I promised my ancestors that I would protect my people with everything I have. Now you two, I don't know you, I've never heard of you.

Mandla: My Queen I promise you, we only need your help to open the door. We are not bad people I promise. We are not lying.

He pleaded with her. She looked at them, she wasn't convinced. With the recent attack they just had, it was really hard to trust anyone. She was really trying to keep everyone safe, but it seems like she is always failing.

Khumbulani: I understand that you don't trust us, but we seriously need help. That room could be the key to us getting our answers. There is a woman we are looking for.. Show her the picture..

He nudges Mandla who was love struck over the Queen. He takes it out from his pocket and shows it to Langelihle.

Mandla: That's the woman we are looking for, I'm not really sure how it connects to the closed door but my gut tells me it

is. My father gave me that picture before he passed away, he passed away immediately after he had given me that picture. He said I should find this woman for her, but I can't find her. Everything I find, takes me back to years ago.

Langelihle looks at the picture and frowns.

Langelihle: Is this person from today? Why does she look different?

Mandla: I know you are going to think we are crazy, but we think she's a ghost or something. Someone who looked identical to her, was alive in the 1600s.

Langelihle: Trust me, I've heard crazier things. Nothing surprises me anymore... You sound genuine. But, I'm going to have to ask our traditional healer to find out exactly if you have pure intentions before I can agree to helping you.

Khumbulani: We would really appreciate that.

Langelihle: Follow me.

She leads them to Gobi's hut.

Gobi: Langa, welcome.

Langelihle: Ninjani gogo (How are you?)

Gobi: I'm fine.

Langelihle:I need your help, with testing whether the two of them are not wolves in sheep's clothing. They say they need help.

Gobi:No worries Your Highness. Leave me with them.

Langelihle:Thank you Gogo.

She walks out.

Gobi:Khumula iscathulo(Take off your shoes).

They take off their shoes and sit on the mat.

Gobi starts throwing her bones and does her work.

She starts burping and chanting in a weird language. Mandla and Khumbulani look at each other confused.

She stops after a while and looks at her bones, she shakes her head hitting her shoulders with Ishoba..

Gobi:Kuningi okungahambi kahle la(There are a lot of wrong things here). Ungasishiya(Leave us!!)

She says pointing to Mandla.

Mandla:I should leave???

Khumbulani:Just do as she says.

He stands and walks out. Khumbulani remains, wondering why Mandla was chased out.

Khumbulani:Ngabe lokhu kusho ukuthi anginayo inhliziyo emhlophe(Does this mean I don't have a pure heart?)

Gobi:Ukufika kwenu la akulethile udlame(Your arrival here brings no harm). Khona okunye engikubonayo Eyyy vumani bo!! (I'm seeing something else here).

Khumbulani:*Swallowing* Ubonani makhosi? (What are you seeing Makhosi?)

Gobi move her shoulders up and down, her spirit was heavy and not at peace.

Gobi:Tshela umfana ukuthi wenzani!!! (Tell the boy what you did!!!)

Like he was getting shocked by electricity, he stands on his feet. Fear traveling through his every cell. Just hearing the words come out from Gobi made him nervous. What if Mandla is listening from outside? He can't know what he did. Their friendship would be over.

Gobi starts crying while lighting up Impepho.

Gobi:Angeke kuphele kahle!! Iqiniso liyamukhulula umuntu (It won't end well. The truth sets you free)

Khumbulani:I did not ask you to consult about my life. I don't care how mighty or powerful you are, but this is not cool!!

He storms out of the room feeling so much heat. He spots Mandla from a distance and calms himself down. They reach each other.

Mandla:Dude why was I chased out?

Khumbulani:Ohhh, she saw something about my father and wanted to tell me.

Mandla:Regarding his killer?

Khumbulani:Yeah something like that. Anyway, we received the green light.

Mandla:That's fantastic..

They go back inside to the throne room and Gobi was already there.

Gobi:My Queen

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they are right. They only need help.

Langelihle:Thank you Gogo, okay gentlemen I will help you. But I must warn you. I just got my powers back after giving them away for seven years, so they are a bit too powerful and rusty.

Mandla:We just need the door to be opened.

Langelihle:Well it's late to drive now, so we can go tomorrow morning. We will offer you a place to sleep.

Khumbulani: Thank you so much Your Highness. We really appreciate it.

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QINISELA

Qinisela: Just tell me the name of the woman at least so I can start my search.

Gloria: I told you that I don't know Qi.. I Don't know who she was.

Qunisela: Oh God..... So you just took a baby from an unknown woman and raised him without saying anything to anyone? If I didn't find out about this, were you going to tell me???

Gloria: I'm sorry Qinisela. Please understand where I'm coming from. I also lost my son that day, and I never saw him ever again.

Qinisela: Who was the woman Gloria? I know you know her. I know you very well, and right now you are lying to me, and your story has a lot of plot holes. I don't want to believe that you just took a baby from a person you don't know.

Gloria: I'm telling you the truth Qinisela, I don't know her.

Qinisela:You will tell me the truth today wena Gloria!!! You owe me that much. You can't keep on lying to me like this. Just be honest!!!

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NAKIA

So here I was, with a sales agent.

Nakia:But I just need a small building, not a big one like this. I need to cater for about 50 people a day. This one is big.

"Okay we have other options. There are ones which are even more suitable for a restaurant, that you want to start".

Nakia:Please take me there. I don't love this one.

We drove to another place, and this was better than the last.

"Well how is this one?"

Nakia:It's amazing.

I took few pictures, inside and outside and sent them to Lani. He was with Mandlenkosi wherever he was, I don't know what those two are up to. He replied back.

'Awesome! How much is it?' - Lani

'We haven't talked about the prize, but you are paying right??' -
Nakia

'Of course I'm paying, just send me everything.'-Lani

'This is why I love you' - Nakia

'I love you too. We are spending the night here, so I will see you tomorrow. I miss you, and I feel like we aren't spending much time lately.' - Lani.

'We will spend time when you return tomorrow. Be safe' -
Nakia

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Narrated

Back at Gloria's house.

Qinisela is pacing up and down, wanting the name. Aa

Gloria was scared of the monster her son is turning into.

Qinisela:Are you telling me the name or do you want me to burn this house down!!!?

He shouts and his voice fills the entire room.

Gloria:Okay okay I will tell you.... Her name... Her name is Theresa Nkosi... She is alive and lives by the North of Durban. Your twin is also alive, and he looks exactly like you..

Qinisela:So why weren't you telling me that??

Gloria:I'm sorry...

Qinisela:Give me her address...

Gloria:What are you going to do Qinisela?

Qinisela:That's none of your business, what I do from now is none of your concern. You are not my mother remember?

Gloria:I raised you Qinisela.

Qinisela:Wangintshontsha, aluqonde ulimi! (You stole me!)

Gloria:334A Avenues Rd.

Qinisela:Thank you, I hope to never see you again. I curse the day you decided to be my mother.

Gloria:Qi please don't curse me, I am your mother. I never treated you in a way that would make you think you are not mine. Please forgive me son.

Qinisela:It's too late to say sorry. You have ruined my life.

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Narrated

The following day.

They arrived at Mandla's house after driving for so long. There were royal cars and guards outside that made people wonder who was at Mshengu's house.

Mandla:My Queen, thank you once again for coming with us. You really do follow your name.

Langelihle:*Smiling* Show me the room.

The three of them walk to the closed door.

Mandla:This is it.

Langelihle:Okay... You might want to back away....

The two of them step away and watch as she does her thing. She closes her eyes and touch the door trying to open it, but it was stuck..

"Okay you can do this... You are Langelihle, the last wielder of the powers of the sun", she proclaims to herself.

She touched the knob again and her eyes started glowing, she smiled and twisted the door knob. The door opened the little. Mandla and Khumbulani looked in shock, was it really opening?

But instead, Langelihle get sucked in to the room and disappears out of their sight.

They rush to the door, but it was tightly sealed and no way of opening it.

Mandla:The fuck???? Did you see that??

Khumbulani:The ghost swallowed her!! Oh God we are definitely going to hell. We are burning for our sins, we have killed the Queen!!!

He said with his hands over his head. Both of them panicking. Confused by what just happened. What happened to the Queen??

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To be continued....

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Narrated

@Mandla's House.

Khumbulani:The ghost swallowed her!! Oh God we are definitely going to hell. We are burning for our sins, we have killed the Queen!!!

He said with his hands over his head. Both of them panicking. Confused by what just happened. What happened to the Queen??

Mandla:What in the actual fuck just happened!?

The royal guards came to them, looking so not happy when they didn't see their Queen..

"Where is Her Royal Highness?", one guard asked, clearly not playing.

Mandla:*Stuttering* We can explain.... We... She's... Going to be back... She went inside...

The guard looked at him and nodded, they went back to their stations.

Khumbulani:Dude... Why did you lie???

Mandla:What did you want me to say? That she was sucked inside? Does that make sense to you?? Help me open this...

They tried opening the door.

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KAYISE

Mphathi is alright now, and is slowly warming up to the idea of me being pregnant with his brother's child. I just want to have a smooth pregnancy, this is my first baby so I want the best for him or her. About the gender, I am open to a boy or a girl. As long as I hold my baby in my arms, my heart will be at ease.

Mphathi:Babe your cousin is at the door and she is making so much noise.

He says as he approaches me. I know that can only be Tania, she is naturally loud. You do not want to hear her laugh, trust me.

She brings out her arms when she sees me.

"Aww mzala", we hug each other. I haven't seen her for months, she was at another province because of work.

Kayise:What brings you here? You didn't tell me you were coming.

Tania: Is it wrong to visit my favorite cousin?

Kayise: No, but I haven't even cooked yet.

Tania: That's great because we are going out. I have very exciting news to share. Get dressed darling go!

She was excited. I hurried to our bedroom and changed into classy clothing, I had just taken a bath.

Tania is that cool cousin that everyone wants to get along with. We get along very well, more than I do with my siblings. There is just too much competition with those, but with Tania, I feel like she understands me, and she never judges me.

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MANDLENKOSI

I pull harder but nothing..

Khumbulani: I give up...

Mandla: Well you can't give up. What will we say to her people?

Khumbulani: I don't know but we have to t_

I stopped him when I noticed the door opening a little. I pulled him towards me, there was this bright light coming from the little opening. We looked in awe as the door opened, Queen Langelihle got pushed out and she fell on the floor. I ran to the door to try and keep it open but it got sealed tightly in my face, without even catching a glimpse of what inside.

I turned back and Khumbulani was making the Queen stand up, she looked spooked and was shaking.

Khumbulani:Your Highness are you okay? What did you see inside?

Her eyes were popping out and she was breathing very heavily. I was starting to get worried about her, what did she see??

Langelihle:Need to go home...

She stood up and fixed her hair.

Mandla:You can't go now. What did you see inside?

She ignored us and walked right out. Khumbulani looked at me and I shrugged my shoulders, we followed after her running. She got into one of the cars and looked at us.

Langelihle:Some things are not meant for the public eye. Stop trying to open the door! I repeat, stop trying to open the door. Goodbye.

She closed the car door on us and they drove away, leaving us confused and with a lot of questions.

Khumbulani:What was that about?

Mandla:I wish to know.

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KAYISE

She took me out to eat at a restaurant.

Kayise:So what are the big news you want to share?

Tania:So you know how I was working in Free State right?

I nodded, waiting to hear what she has to say.

Tania:Well, I was promoted to Executive director and I am transferred back to Durban baby...

I found myself screaming like a baby seeing candy. I'm so happy for her. I went to her side of the table and squeezed her into a hug.

Kayise:Oh mzala I am so happy for you. I'm sure your mother was happy too.

Tania:She was, she even sent me money to spoil myself.

I went back to my seat and ordered ice cream for us. This is definitely worth celebrating.

Tania: Aybo oe wangigxisha ngo ice cream engabe uthenga utshwala! (Why are you pumping me with ice cream instead of buying me alcohol?)

Kayise: I can't drink alcohol girl, but I can order one for you.

Tania: No way, tell me you're lying!!!

Kayise: Mhh, it has finally happened.

Tania: *Smiling* It seems today is a day of good news.

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NAKIA

Khumbulani just walked in looking so sad and miserable.

Nakia: What's wrong baby?

Khumbulani: How are you?

Nakia: I am fine, but you don't look okay. What's going on??

I pulled him to the couch and held his hand.

Khumbulani: So I was helping Mandla find a woman, and uncover the mystery of an unopened door at his house. We did not find the woman, nor open the door. Then I heard from a friend of mine, that there is someone with supernatural powers. So I convinced Mandla that we should go to her and ask for her help. We went and she agreed to come back with us, but we had to be tested first by the traditional healer. She found that we brought no harm to the kingdom

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but then she started telling me that I should confess to Mandla about what I did. I lashed out on her and left her hut.

So, we came back here with the Queen, her name is Langelihle, she came and tried to open the door. But, she was the one who got sucked in it. An hour later, she came out of it looking spooked and scared, like she just saw something she wasn't supposed to see. The door closed again, before Mandla could hold it. Langelihle left in a rush and told us that we should not try to open the door again, that some things are not meant for the public eye. Mandla is not doing well, I feel so helpless. I promised him that I would help him but I failed. We haven't found anything, with the picture and the door.

He looked really down, I stood up and went to our room. I took the necklace from where I had hidden it. I went back to him and gave it to him.

Khumbulani:What is this??

Nakia:It will give you a headstart with your search. I'm not supposed to even be giving you this, because I swore an oath that I will protect it with my life. But you are my husband, and I can't stand by watching you suffer.

I opened the locket and gave him the chip..

Nakia:This will give you a quarter of your answers.

Khumbulani:Who are you Nakia??

Nakia:*Sighs* The world isn't what you think it is Lani. There are a lot of dirty secrets hidden, people killing each other for money, others stealing from each other, children, women and men getting raped, witchcraft, a lot of chaos. It's a lot going on. Who do you think is responsible for all that?

Khumbulani:The government, I don't know.

I laughed a little.

Nakia:It will take a week to destroy all the firewalls in that chip, then you can see what's inside it.

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NARRATED

@Elangeni Kingdom.

Langelihle quickens her pace and walks inside. Sondela approaches her and tries to touch her.

Sondela:Hey, you are back..

Langelihle:Yes, I will see you just now. I need to talk with someone.

Sondela:Oh okay.

She walked away and went to the prophecy room. She shut the door and paced up and down. Thinking. Wondering. Trying to make sense of things.

Langelihle:Ataru I need to talk to you, I know you said you were going to your resting place but I need someone to talk to.

She waited for a while, wind started to blow in the room and she showed full form.

Ataru:Why are you disturbing me Langelihle?

Langelihle:I need to talk.

Ataru:You sound troubled. Talk to me.

Langelihle: Today I saw something, that I want to make sense of. I'm sure you already know..

Ataru kept quiet and looked at her.

Ataru: We are not supposed to intervene.

Langelihle: That guy.... Khumbulani... He started all of this, and he doesn't know.. This is all happening because of him...

Ataru: It is not your place Langelihle.

Langelihle: I know, but our whole lives have been a lie. Everything we know is suddenly not true. This changes everything! How is it even possible!? Is there a closed door here at the palace?

Ataru: There is... In every house..

Langelihle: This is crazy.... This is insane... I'm going out of my mind...

Ataru: Ochitsuke Langa (Calm down).

KHUMBULANI

I have put the chip Nakia gave me in a safe place. I wonder where she got it from? Who is she actually??

Khumbulani: Why don't you tell me what's inside it?

Nakia: You will see for yourself.

Khumbulani:Nakia you are hiding everything from me..

Nakia:You are also hiding things from me.

Khumbulani:I'm not hiding anything.

Nakia:Lani let's just leave it, I don't want to talk about this.

Khumbulani:No let's talk about it, I feel like I don't even know you Nakia.

Nakia:There is nothing you don't know. Lani don't forget that I am carrying the Country's secrets, I can't share everything with you. I have told you all that you needed to know. You are the one who has been lying to me for years!!

Khumbulani:I have been lying about what?? I have never cheated.

Nakia:Why does your idea of lying involves cheating??? Do you want to tell me something maybe!?!

She stood up and looked at me.

Khumbulani:No, I have never cheated on you! And I won't start now.

Nakia:What angers me the most is that you think I am stupid Lani!! Just because I agree to everything you say you think that equates to me being stupid!!!

Khumbulani:Babe please don't shout.

Nakia:No let's do this, you are telling me the truth today!! What did you do to Mandla??

Khumbulani:I didn't do anything, that Sangoma was lying babe. I'm just friends with Mandla.

She stood up and walked away. I followed after her and held her hand.

Nakia:Leave me alone Lani!

Khumbulani:Let's talk about this babe...

Nakia:I have nothing to talk about.. Until you tell me the real reason why you killed a pregnant woman, and you didn't stop there. You went for her two children that saw you and you finished them off!!! That's why you are trying to get over your guilt by pretending to be friends with Mandla. You are not his friend, you are just making yourself look good in front of him, so that when he finds out the truth he will be lenient and think of how kind you were to him.

Khumbulani:How do you know all of this?

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To be continued....

#20

Unedited

The mood was so tense that it could cut through vibranium. I don't know where she is getting all of this.

Nakia: So you suddenly have nothing to say?

Khumbulani: Were you spying on me?

Nakia: That's all you have to say about all of this??

Khumbulani: I don't have to talk to you about this...

I let go of her hand and turned back.

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NAKIA

He just walked away and left me here. He knows I'm telling the truth, and he knows it that I'm right. When was he going to tell me? It's like I'm the only one who was keeping secrets from

him, meanwhile he has taken lives of people! I am fuming with anger and rage. I have been quiet all this time because I thought it was not my business or he was scared to tell me. But his reaction tells me otherwise, he is not feeling guilty about what he did. He is playing Mandla, and he has him where he want him to be.

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QINISELA

I close the door of my car and take a deep breath. I don't even know what I'm doing here! I just want answers, and get to know my twin. I wonder if he knows that we were stolen. Who is our real mother? Is she alive or is she dead???

I walk towards the gate and enter. There was a kid playing by the yard and I went to her.

Qinisela:Hi, bakhona abadala?(Are the elders here?)

"Yebo bakhona(Yes they are here?)"

She replies back to me with a smile and goes back to her playing. I go to the door and fist my hands, knocking twice. It was open, but I couldn't enter without permission.

I heard someone coming, it was a middle aged woman, probably Gloria's age.

She stopped when she saw me.

"What are you doing here?", she looked side by side and dragged me outside.

Qinisela:I'm sorry for showing up unannounced, but I need to talk to you about something.

"I have nothing to talk about. You need to leave", she looked really scared.

Qinisela:I just want to know who my mother is...

"I said leave, before my family comes back..."

She pushed me out of the yard.

"Do not come back here ever again. I knew what I was doing when I gave you to that woman!! Now leave!!!", she declared. You could clearly see how annoyed and angry she was. Her eyes were ready to kill me.

I took my rejected body to my car and got in. I held on to the wheel, taking everything in. Where to from here??

My phone rang and it was my wife. I sniffed my tears and answered her.

Nancy:Babe where are you? Khumbulani just called me and he says you are not answering his calls. Where are you?

Qinisela:She chased me out.

I said almost whispering.

Nancy:Who chased you out? Please come home my love.

Qinisela:I am on my way..

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At Gloria's House.

Ben had come to visit her, and she was not in her usual mood today.

Ben:Is this still about your son?

Gloria:Yeah, he is hurt and feels rejected. He is still my son, biological or not.

Ben:Where is he now?

Gloria:I think he went to that woman.

Ben:Does he know the whole truth??

Gloria:I told him that I'm not his mother, he had a twin..

Ben:Gloria!!!

Gloria:What do you want me to say?? I have told him everything!

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KHUMBULANI

She is still not talking to me, the whole day we have been angry at each other. And I don't think she is prepared to back down any time soon. I might as well humble myself.

Khumbulani:Can we talk?

Nakia>About?

Khumbulani:Please..

Nakia:Talk I'm listening.

Khumbulani>About what you said... How did you know?

Nakia:Again I am asking, is that all you are worried about??

Khumbulani:Just answer me.

Nakia:I wasn't going to involve myself with anyone I don't know what he has been up to, so yeah I did a background check on you. At first I understood that maybe you were scared to tell me, but your reaction now tells me otherwise. You were going to hide this forever..

Khumbulani:That's why it's called a secret!

Nakia:Lani I don't want to fight with you, let's stop talking about this.

Khumbulani:We are not fighting, we are just talking!

Nakia:You are shouting!

I sighed and calmed down..

Khumbulani:Please don't tell Mandla about this.

She laughed and continued with her phone.

Nakia:You don't have to worry about that, one way or another he will find out EVENTUALLY. Nothing stays hidden forever! Maybe you should hurry getting him answers before he finds them somewhere else!

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MANDLENKOSI

I know this is stupid, but I couldn't hold myself. I am here at Elangeni, the Queen has to tell me what she saw in that room. My heart won't be at peace if I don't find what's inside. I am escorted to the throne room and I am told to wait for her. I wait for a few minutes and she arrives. She doesn't look too happy to see me.

Langelihle:Mandlenkosi, I thought we concluded our business yesterday.

Mandlenkosi:Your Highness, I am sorry for showing up unannounced here, but I need to know.

Langelihle:Didn't I tell the two of you to stay out of this!?

Mandla:With all due respect MY Queen, but we came to you asking for help

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not advice. I need to know what's in that room. That's all.

She looked at me and indicated with her hands that I should follow her.

I followed after her, and she took me to some weird room.

Langelihle:Sit down.

I sat on the chair.

Langelihle:I want you to see for yourself what I saw. It's the same woman in the picture that I saw. I don't know if you will even make it back alive or what!

Mandla:Whoa!? What do you mean by that??

Langelihle:Your whole world is about to be changed upside down, and everything you know is about to be questioned.

Mandla:Your Highness you are scaring me!!

Langelihle:Do you still want to do this??

I swallowed my saliva, I was starting to be scared. The way she was saying all of this was scary and sending chills.

Mandla:Yes, I want to know.

Langelihle:Whatever happens, please don't scream. Come...

She held me up and we went to another room.

Langelihle:I have never opened this door, apparently there is a closed room in each and every house. I'm not going to go in with you. What you will find here, is the same as what's in your house.

I nodded, and she opened it, her supernatural powers are helpful. The door opened and I felt myself getting pulled inside, like I was going through a tube. I was breathing heavily, and looked at where I was. I was inside..

The Queen did not really come with me.

I turn back when I hear someone typing very loudly, the kind of typing that is annoying and can hurt your ears. I hold my ears and move towards that person. It was a woman, and the clothes she was wearing looked exactly like the ones the woman in the picture was wearing..

"You people come and go as you please in this place now!", she said. Still focused on her typing. I couldn't make out what she was typing, that was a very old computer. Is she even typing the right thing? She is doing it way too fast.

Mandla:I just need answers. My father gave me a picture, which I'm assuming is yours. He wanted me to find you for him, but he died. Can you.. Can you stop that?? You are typing really loud...

"I can't.. I have been sitting on this chair for as long as I can remember", she said to me.

I looked around and this room was empty. What does she eat? Drink? Or the bathroom? Who even is she??

Mandla:What are you doing here!?

"If I tell you, I will have to kill you"

I frowned.

Mandla:Did you know my father??

"Your time is up. You need to leave now!!Goooo!!"

Mandla:No wait I need to_

I couldn't finish my sentence as I got vomited outside.

Langelihle was still standing there, waiting for me.

Mandla:No no no, take me back.

Langelihle:She will just throw you out again.

I was very confused and angry a little.

Mandla:What is she doing in there?

Langelihle:I don't know, I only saw her yesterday....

Mandla:You are lying to me. I can see it. Coming here was a waste of time. Khumbulani said that you are a kind hearted person but I see that he was mistaken.

Langelihle:Are you insulting the Queen?

Mandla:You're not my Queen. Nxxx..

I dusted myself and walked out. This was useless. I don't know why she just won't tell me what she knows, because she knows something. Why do people have to lie like this? They always say they are protecting us! From what exactly!?

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MPHATHIKHAYA.

She hands me my phone and I put it on my ear.

Mphathi:How are you ma?

Gloria:I am not fine Mphathi, I am worried about Qinisela.

I sighed, this was another mess that she created for herself!

Mphathi:What did he say to you?

Gloria:He left here angry yesterday. I told him that I am not his mother, because he wanted to know his father.

Mphathi:Did you tell him who his mother is?

Gloria:I don't know who his mother is, that woman at the hospital just gave him to me.

Mphathi:Ma I know you, please tell Qinisela the truth, before you lose him.

Gloria:He cursed me.

Mphathi:Because you don't want to tell him the truth. Where did you get him exactly?

Gloria:I have told the truth Mphathi, he was given to me.

Mom is lying, I can tell. I have been with this woman for 35 years of my life. I know when she is lying, and right now she is lying through her nose.

Mphathi:I will hang up, because you only called to lie to me. I don't know why you keep on doing this... Qinisela is my brother too. Do you think I like seeing him unhappy like this?

Gloria:*Sniffing*I am sorry...

Mphathi:Why are you crying now ma?

Gloria:Qinisela is my sister's child, she had twins and she gave Qinisela to me because I lost my child. I'm sorry..Id him this. Not me.

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To be continued

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GLORIA

I know my children must hate me, because I have been lying to them. I don't have an excuse for what is happening, Qinisela is justified for acting like this. I have lied to him for 28 years. Even now, I still continued to lie, and withheld the truth from him.

In all honesty, he is my sister's child.

What happened was, Theresa is my little sister. She married a Nkosi. Her and her husband had children, and when I got pregnant with my second child, it was a coincidence that she fell pregnant too. But she, she was pregnant with twins. The family Theresa married into was culturally strict and they pride themselves in their traditions. In all their family history, there have never been twins, those that gave birth to twins, one twin was given away and the other lived with the family. So when Theresa found out that she was pregnant with twins, she came to me for advice. She was not prepared to throw away her child, no matter the tradition. I told her to hold on and wait until we give birth, because I didn't know what to tell her. We gave birth the same day, I gave birth to a boy and she gave birth to twin boys too. She forbid her husband from coming into her room because she didn't want him to see the twins.

But then, my baby didn't make it, he only breathed for five minutes and died. When he was born, the umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck and the doctors couldn't do anything to save him. I was shattered because I thought I was carrying a healthy baby. So I went to check on my sister, and I told her what has happened. We came up with a plan, it was better for me to take her one twin and raise him as my own. I agreed because I was desperate for another son. So we swore that day that we would never tell anyone, and we would cut all ties with each other. That's why my sons don't know her. We have never kept in contact with each other since then. Shongwe found out, I still don't know how he found out. But he did and he was angry at me, that I could do something like that.

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KHUMBULANI

I am holding the chip in my hands, I knock. He tells me to come in.

Mandla:Bro hey. Come in.

I follow him, shaking.

Mandla:So yesterday I went back to the Queen, to ask her what she saw because she didn't tell us anything that day.

Khumbulani:You did what!?

Mandla:Chill! Anyway, she opened the door for me and I got in. I saw the typing woman too, but I couldn't see her face. I'm assuming she is the one on the picture, she was wearing the same clothes. She didn't tell me anything though because she chased me out. Then I asked the Queen to take me back inside but she refused. I have a feeling that she didn't tell me everything, I saw it in her eyes that she was lying. Anyway, we are so close to getting our answers. So close.

Khumbulani:Wow, that's a whole new revelation. How did she have a closed-door?

Mandla:Apparently, it's at every house..

Khumbulani:Mhhh... I came to give you this...

Mandla:What is it??

Khumbulani:I don't know, I was hoping that you would be able to access the contents. It's related to our search.

Mandla:Okay

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let me get to work..

He walked away, he seemed to be in a good mood today.

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NAKIA

I am with Chege on the phone, I miss him. Maybe I should go to Kenya and visit him.

Chege:I am fine Nakia, everything is going really well. I got a waitressing job at one of the restaurants. Very soon, I will be able to get my own place.

Nakia:I am so happy to hear that, but don't forget that you are going back to school next year.

Chege:I won't forget, thank you for everything you are doing for me Sis. I am also sorry for saying you neglected me the other day.

Nakia:ni sawa(It's okay). You were right, I did neglect you when I came here. But I won't do it again. I got your back.

Chege:Thank you, so how is everything going on with your husband?

Nakia:Not so good. I don't know if we will make it past this.

Chege:I'm sure it can be fixed.

Nakia:I don't know Chege. I don't think he loves me anymore.

Chege:What makes you say that?

Nakia:He doesn't touch me these days, he is always with Mandla. And yesterday he said he doesn't have to talk to me about something that I had confronted him with.

Chege:I'm sure it's just a misunderstanding dada, talk to him.

Nakia:He doesn't want to talk Chege. Even now he left to be with Mandla. I don't think our marriage is surviving this phase.

My phone vibrated, I was receiving another call.

Nakia:I will call you back, someone else is calling me.

I hung up on him and answered the incoming call, it was Kayise. I haven't talked to her since that day at the coffee place.

Nakia:Kayise, how are you?

Kayise:I am fabulous darling, how are you?

Well someone is happy.

Nakia:I am also fine.

Kayise:That's good, listen I called to let you know that me and Mphathi are now okay. We talked and fixed things.

Nakia:Thank God, you two love each other. So what about the pregnancy?

Kayise:We are keeping it, and raising him/her as our own.

Nakia:So the father? He deserves to know.

Kayise:Not in this case Nakia. He has his wife and they have their own children. He knew the agreement when he agreed to do this.

Nakia:What about that child? What of him or her when they grow up and find out that Mphathi is not the father?

Kayise:We will deal with it when it gets to that.

Nakia:Secrets have a way of coming out. Trust me. I should know..

She laughed, in a mocking way.

Kayise:I didn't call for your advice Nana, bye now..

She hung up on me. I shook my head and called back Chege. I am staying out of this.

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MPHATHI

Nancy takes me to the room Qinisela is at.

I thank her and walk towards him. He didn't look good at all. I sat next to him, and pat his shoulder.

Mphathi:Hey.

He nodded.

Mphathi:Have you talked to mom?

Qinisela:No, I don't see the point. She just sent me a long message telling me that Theresa is my mother.

Mphathi:I'm sorry you had to find out this way.

Qinisela:I just don't get it. If Theresa is my mother, then why did she chase me out like that!? She threw me out of the yard like I was some beggar stealing her things. She hates me.

He bowed his head and I heard him sniffing.

Qinisela:I wonder when will people learn that their lies do not benefit us, lies only create chaos and heartbreak.

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KAYISE

Tania was still around, but she doesn't stay with us. No matter how much I trust you, but bringing female relatives to your house is never a good idea. Mphathi left to check up on his brother, Qinisela. That is giving me time to cook for him.

I just got off the phone call with Nakia, if only she knew that it's her husband who's the father of this baby; she wouldn't be pushing me like this to be honest with him.

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Theresa steps out of her car and sighs before she walks inside. She has missed her, although they haven't seen each other for long, but she was still her sister. And she needed to talk to her. She knocks on the door.

Gloria drags her feet and goes to open. She is shocked when she sees Theresa.

Gloria:Theresa...

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Narrated

A week later....

Mandla and Khumbulani are staring at the computer screen, waiting for the download to finish. It hits 100% and they clap hands.

Khumbulani:Finally.

Mandla:Now to see what's inside here...

He clicked the keyboard and opened the files that were contained on the chip.

Mandla:It's a video.

Khumbulani:Play it.

He clicked play and they watched. A woman's face popped on the screen.

The woman, on the video, was holding the camera and looked like she was running.

"This is Agent Martins, I have been successful in our search. The woman behind the door, I have found her... Her name is...."

To be continued....

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Narrated

"This is Agent Martins, I have been successful in our search. The woman behind the door, I have found her... Her name is...."

Mandla paused the video as he heard someone knocking.

Khumbulani:Who is it?

Mandla:I don't know, ignore it.

He pressed play again.

" She calls herself "The Narrator". I am currently seeking an emergency strike team... I am under seige.. I repeat, I need back up"

The video glitched and they heard Martins screaming. The video ended and they both looked at each other confused.

Mandla:The Narrator???

Khumbulani:I have a plan.

Mandla:Let's hear it..

Khumbulani:We need to get her out of that room and talk to her. This is bigger than we thought.

Mandla:How do we do that?

Khumbulani:We open the door, all of us, at the same time.

Mandla:All of us as in?

Khumbulani:All of us connected to this mess. Me and you.

Mandla:How are you connected to it?

Khumbulani:Dude.. I was here when The Queen got swallowed by her. Doesn't that make me connected?

Mandla:I hate it when you make sense.

Khumbulani:I was doing research yesterday on the net on some paranormal site.

Mandla:Okay, so will you call your wife to open it? Or you will go there??

Khumbulani:No I will ask Nakia.

He stood up and called Nakia..

Nakia:Hello..

Khumbulani:Babe are you home?

Nakia:Yes, do you need something?

Khumbulani:Yes, can you open all the doors in the house?

Nakia:Uh... Why??

Khumbulani:Just do as I ask, please...

Nakia:Okay....

She went around the house opening every door, but got stuck to one that was not opening.

Nakia:One of the guest room is not opening babe..

Khumbulani:Okay stay there, I will tell you when to open it again...

Nakia froze and tilted her head to the side...

Khumbulani:Nakia are you still there??

She blinked her eyes and frowned, wondering what was happening.

Nakia:Yeah I'm here. Did you say anything?

Khumbulani:Yes, I said stand there and wait for me to tell you to open the door.

Nakia:Are you sure? Have you watched the video?

Khumbulani:Yes, the woman behind the door is called The Narrator. Did you know?

Nakia:A little bit...

Khumbulani:Okay, hold on...

He went to Mandla and told him to stand up.

They went to the closed room.

Khumbulani:This is it.. It's now or never...

They both looked at each other, breathing heavily..

Khumbulani:3....2.....1.....Open it....

Nakia and Mandla simultaneously opened the door, but struggled with it at first. They pushed harder and it slowly opened up. She pushed it open.

Nakia:It opened.

She exclaimed somehow happily.

Mandla:Me too, I opened it....

Mandla put a brick on the door, to prevent it from closing.

Khumbulani:You can close it. I will see you later... I love you....

He hung up. He looked at Mandla and they walked inside...

They were welcomed by loud typing, more like fighting with the computer. The woman, looked back at them and gasped.

Wait.... How did he... How did they...?? No no this can't be happening..... I look back to the computer and type but nothing... How did they get in here???

"Mam, can you stop your typing?"

Advertisement

one of them say to me.

I am breathing in hiccups right now, trying to fix this mistake that's happening. It must be a typing error, I didn't see this coming.

I click the keyboard and type in the words, "Khumbulani tells Mandela that they should forget about all of this and find other ways to open the door", my computer glitches and I almost smash it..

I turn back to them in anger, and storm to Khumbulani. I poke him with my finger.

"Do you have any idea what you two have done!?", I ask fuming.

Khumbulani:We... We just need answers..

Mandla:You're the woman in the picture...

Is he asking or what!???

"YOU NEED TO LEAVE NOW!!!", I shout..

Nothing happens, they should be gone after I have commanded them to leave! What have these two done?? I run back to my chair and my computer was dead, the screen was blank...

Nooooo!!

I touch my face and run my hands on the screen..

I feel a hand touching me on my shoulder, and then I'm lifted up by strong hands..

I scream in fear and panic as someone pins me into a chair. It's Mandla, he ties me down with a rope. Khumbulani looks at him wondering what the hell he is doing..

Khumbulani:Dude....

Mandla:We can't let her get away. She will tell us everything we need to know.

I look at them as they bicker like children. Oh they are so grown! It feels like just yesterday when I was welcoming them to the world!

Mandla:We know you are called "The Narrator".

"Yes that's right", I nod.

Mandla:I just need honesty from you that's all. We have went around like idiots trying to open that door!!! What were you doing in there!? And who are you!?

Narrator:Like my name says, I am The Narrator. I narrate your lives, and write down everything that happens. I technically watch over you.

They looked at me like I'm crazy.

Mandla:You're lying, only God watches over us..

God!? What is that? Is it a new recipe for stew?

Narrator:God??

Mandla:Lady I don't have time to play, who are you??

Narrator:I am the Narrator, I watch all that is happening and narrate it. Everything that happens, I narrate it. Since you two have taken me out of that room, just know that no one is watching the world..

Khumbulani:I don't know whether this is a prank or what.....

Narrator:I report everything to the Higher Being.

Khumbulani:The Higher Being?? What is she talking about?

Mandla this woman is crazy.

Narrator:Khumbulani you are the one who called me here, I had left years ago and went home. But you called me back again.

Khumbulani:I called you back?? I don't even know who you are!!

I looked at Mandla and he was really clueless. I laughed a little. When is he going to tell him that he killed his family?

Mandla:My dad. Do you know him? He is the one who gave me your picture..

I blinked, I remember him. I don't know how he managed to take a picture of me, but I have taken care of him. I just didn't know he left that picture behind. By the time I noticed, Mandla was deep in his search. So I had to do everything, to drive their attention away from me. But it seems I didn't do a good job. There is a reason the door is kept closed! Because no one is supposed to know. They have compromised me!

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To be continued...

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THE NARRATOR

I have been existing since the beginning. I have a home. It is beautiful. Peaceful. Calming. That's where I get to be with my family. I was given the job to come to Earth, and bring order. By doing what I do best. Being a Narrator. These two idiots have messed with things that they don't even understand. I need to get out of this prison and go back to my chair. Who knows what mess is happening while they are still keeping me here!?

Mandla:So you are responsible for all the shit happening in our lives?

Narrator:I am not. I am mainly a Narrator, like I said.

Khumbulani:This is crazy.. So there is no heaven? No hell? No angels?? No afterlife?? You are the one responsible for our lives??

Narrator:I am not. Like I said at the beginning, it is up to you what you choose to believe in. If you believe there's heaven, then there is heaven. Can you get me out of this? I have answered all your questions.

Mandla:Not yet. You said Khumbulani called you back. What did you mean by that??

Narrator:When someone takes more than one life, and feels no remorse after that.

Khumbulani:What are you talking about??

Narrator:You heard me typing when you were younger, I was leaving that day. But then, you called me back by committing crimes more than once. Like I said, I was brought to bring balance and order.

Mandla:Khumbulani what is she talking about?

Khumbulani:I don't know brah...I...

Narrator:You might as well be honest with him Khumbulani.. Hiding the truth any longer will longen my stay here. I need to go back home.

Khumbulani:I don't know what you are talking about.. I have nothing I'm hiding.

Narrator:December 22 2016, at night...

He looked at me shocked, and he shook his head for me to keep quiet.

Narrator:Ntombizethu Mshengu with her two children were driving, excited to get home. The husband and the other son were waiting impatiently at home.

Mandla:What is this?? That's my mom.

I side eyed him to shut up!

Narrator:Ntombizethu was seated on the back, as she was pregnant. And her son was the one driving. When suddenly, in the middle of the drive, a man stood in front of the car. He was drunk and carrying a gun on his hand. Ntombizethu panicked and told the son to drive before they get hurt. But, the son accidentally bumped the drunk man and he fell down.

Ntombizethu stepped out of the car, pregnant as she was, stepped out of the car to check on the drunk man. Her children called after her, but she told them to remain in the car. She went to the drunk man and touched his chest. "Are you okay?"

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she asked the man. The drunk man, completely out of his mind, shot Ntombizethu in the stomach three times. Her children screamed in the car seeing their mother getting shot. The drunk man noticed the children in the car, and staggered to them. They were scared and praying for a way out from this drunk man.

But, he didn't have mercy, he didn't think twice, he killed the two children of Ntombizethu. They had seen him, and he was not going to let them go. They would become witnesses to his crime. Remorse or guilty? Not even. He walked away like nothing ever happened. The murder was never pinned to him.

Why did he do it? Only he knows. And who is the man? None other than Khumbulani Shongwe.

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GLORIA

It was really good to see Theresa last week. We haven't caught up in so many years. She has visited again.

Theresa:I am sorry for not keeping in touch all these years.

Gloria:It's understandable. We promised that we would never contact each other.

Theresa:When I saw him that day, I became scared and chased him out. He must thin I hate him.

Gloria:And Qinisela is a sensitive child, he takes everything to heart. He hates me too, I have been hiding the truth from him and kept on lying repeatedly.

Theresa:Do you think he can forgive us?

Gloria:It's hard to tell, he is not answering any of my calls.

She sighed and stared at the TV blankly.

Gloria:Will you tell your husband about this?

Theresa:Where would I even start? He thinks I gave birth to one child. How will I explain a twin who rocks up at 28 years.

Gloria:Qinisela will want to know who his father is..

Theresa:I regret ever lying, I should have told my husband the truth. Maybe he would have convinced his family to let us keep the twins.

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MANDLENKOSI

I charge to him and throw him on the ground.

Khumbulani:I'm sorry brah.

That's all he has to say!!!? That he is sorry..

Mandla:So it's the truth?? You really did it...!?

I punch him on the face and bang his head on the floor. He pushes me but I overpower him and pin him back to the ground.

Mandla:You killed my entire family!!! My siblings were young and you just killed them with no remorse!!!?

My tears fell on top of him. My mother was the sweetest person ever, and we were all too happy to welcome another sibling. I didn't have that much time with her, until he decided to take her life...

"Mandla you are killing me.... Please... Sorry"

I didn't stop, I took out all the anger I was carrying on him. I gave him multiple punches, without stopping!

"Stop you have killed him. Stop it!!", T. N says bringing me back to reality. He wasn't breathing, and his face was full of blood. So as my knuckles.

Mandla:He deserves it.. It's a life for a life....

I said breathing heavily..

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NAKIA

I am getting really worried. I have been trying to call Lani for an hour now. I don't know what they found in that room or if they are still alive! I wore my shoes and grabbed my keys in a hurry. I am going there. My husband needs me!

I got inside the car and drove off...

24

Mandla has killed Khumbulani. Rage overcame him, by the time I set myself free from the chair, he had already killed him. I don't know what he is going to say to his wife because she is on his way. I looked at him and a part of him felt guilty, regretting what he had done. That was an easy way out for him.

"Nakia is on her way over here", I tell him.

He looks over to me and looks back to Khumbulani.

Mandla: Let her come. I want her to see what her husband has done.

I kept quiet and went back to that room. My computer was smashed, and was no longer working. Only thing left, is to go home. I have done my job. I will return once again when I'm needed. My Father must miss me. Oh what of my siblings? I haven't seen them in years. They must be so grown by now. Time really flies that side. I hear a scream followed by a loud cry, and I just know it's Nakia.

I rush to them and she had her hands over her mouth. Where is Mandla?

Nakia: Lani... Please wake up....

She knelt next to her and tried to wake him up. She was wasting her time, he is already gone. His spirit left his body, and I can see it hovering his body. He looks at me and mouths a "I am sorry". I shake my head wondering, does he regret it now? Does he see the mess he has created???

Nakia:Who did this...?

She asked with tears.

Mandla came out of nowhere and folded his hands, "I did".

Nakia looked at him and marched to hi angrily.

Nakia:You killed my husband..

Her voice came out as a whisper, she was not believing that her husband was gone.

Mandla:He murdered my family. He deserves it. His life for theirs. I trusted him! He acted like he was my friend meanwhile he knew that he was hiding something this big from me. I hate him! I can wake him up and kill him again....

Both of them were hurting, and I was starting to get really confused and guilty. Is this how a day of a human feels like? These feelings that are dominant in my heart, maybe I went about this whole thing wrong. Maybe Khumbulani would still be alive if I didn't tell Mandla what he did. He would have told him

at his own time. This is not my story, this is Khumbulani's story, and he deserves to tell it to the end. I'm not even supposed to be here, I'm only a Narrator. I shouldn't have interfered. No this is wrong....

I walk away from them and find what they call a laptop. I open it and the screen lights up. Now how do they use this??

I navigate through the laptop and find a note pad. Perfect.

I punch the keyboard and type in, "KHUMBULANI CHAPTER #24"

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MANDLENKOSI

I hit him on the shoulder, waking him up. What's up with him today?

Mandla:Dude wake up....

Khumbulani:I'm awake, I'm just feeling weird.

Mandla:Weird in what way??

Khumbulani:I don't know... What day is it today??

Mandla:Uhhh November 30. Wednesday.

Khumbulani:Don't you feel some deja vu? Like we have lived this day?

Mandla:Man I don't know what you are talking about, but I think you drank too much of that whisky.

Khumbulani:I need to go home. I will see you some other time.

Mandla:Cool... Travel safe brah.

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KAYISE

Tania:I have to leave now sweetheart. I'll see you when I return.

Kayise:Eish okay, I will miss you...

Tania:I am coming back, don't worry.

I waved at her as she drove away. I wasn't feeling well today. There was just something off with this day, and it felt really uncomfortable. I go back inside and pour myself a glass of cold water. Mphathi didn't go to work today.

Mphathi:Babe I am heading out.

Kayise: Oh, where are you going?

Mphathi: To see Khumbulani. It's been a while since I saw him.

I nodded.

Mphathi: Hey are you okay??

Kayise: I don't know

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but I just don't feel good.

I saw him panicking.

Kayise: The baby is fine, I meant emotionally.

Mphathi: Okay I'm not leaving anymore.

Kayise: No, you can go and see your brother. I will be fine.

Mphathi: I can't just leave you like this..

Kayise: I will be fine. I will call you if something happens. Just go....

I pushed him out.

Mphathi: Okay, but I will be back in an hour or two. I love you, the both of you.

Kayise: We love you too.

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NAKIA

Lani was really pissing me off now!! Where is he!?

I call him again and it sent me straight to voice mail. I clicked my tongue and called him again, it rang unanswered this time.

"I am here", that was him, holding his ringing phone and coming towards me. He tried to kiss me but I backed away from him.

Nakia:Where are you coming from?? You said you were going to buy milk but you have been gone for hours, and yet you are not carrying my milk.

Khumbulani:I'm sorry babe, I forgot. I was with Mandla and I lost track of time.

I laughed bitterly, with my hands on my waist.

Nakia:Mandla again!? Lani are you gay!?

Khumbulani:What!? No!!!

Nakia:Then why are you with Mandla 90% of the time!? Have you forgotten about me, your wife!?

Khumbulani:Of course not.

Nakia:When was the last time you even touched me!!!

A knock disturbed us. I sighed and left him there to open up for whoever it was.

KHUMBULANI

I led my brother to the living room. I am happy to see him, I have just been busy lately I barely have time to catch up with family..

Mphathi:Ayisazani bafo.

Khumbulani:I know, it's partly my fault. I have been so caught up in other things. How are you?

Mphathi:I am fine now, I have forgiven Kayise for almost killing me. I love her, and I understand where she came from.

I nodded. My mind was far away. I was feeling very different today, like I just woke up from a long nap or something.

Mphathi:Did you talk to Qinisela?

Khumbulani:No.

He looked at me, more like judging me. Well I judge myself too, I haven't been spending much time with my family. I'm forever with Mandlenkosi. No wonder Nakia was so angry!!

Mphathi:He is seriously not coping, I went to see him yesterday and he was crying.

Khumbulani:Did mom tell him who his father was??

Mphathi:She lied at first, but turns out, he's her sister's child. He says that woman chased her out of her house. He felt unloved by that act.

Khumbulani:I will call him today. First, I need to fix things with my wife.

Mphathi:No worries, I just came to check on you because it has been really long.

We both stood up and I escorted him to the door.

Khumbulani:Thank you for coming. I will see you soon..

I waved goodbye to him, and went back inside. Looking for Nakia. I found her on our bedroom. I sat next to her and took her hands on mine.

Khumbulani:I'm sorry... I know I haven't been much of a good husband, but I love you Nakia. Please believe me when I say that to you.

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To be continued...

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Everything has changed, everyone has been given a second chance to fix their mistakes.

QINISELA

I slowly walk inside and they are already waiting for me. I greet and sit down.

Gloria:Thank you for coming my son.

I nodded, I didn't want to come here but Nancy persuaded me.

Theresa:It is so good to see you Qinisela.

Yeah right, says the woman who chased me out like dirt.

Theresa:I want to start by apologizing for throwing you out that day, I was shocked to see you. I thought I would never see you again. I am sorry.

Qinisela:I just want to know why you gave me away, and why we never knew you were the sister to her..

Theresa:We made a promise to each other that night that we would cut ties with each other, so that people won't suspect a thing. I gave you to Gloria because the family I had married into

had a tradition of giving away one twin. I thought I was protecting you.

Qinisela:Once again I'm telling you, lies never protect anyone!

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NAKIA

I am smiling from ear to ear, me and Lani fixed things yesterday. It was about time. I don't like fighting with him. He's a good husband, just that he failed to adjust his time properly..

I am laying on top of him and we are just talking.

Nakia:I have missed this...

Lani:Me too, I missed you. I will never neglect you again okay...

Nakia:Okay....

I brushed his hand.

Nakia:So will you tell Mandla?

Lani:I am scared, what if he kills me? This is not like I stole money from him. I killed three of his family members.

Nakia:Then keep quiet. Never talk of it again..

Lani:What if he finds out?

Nakia:He will find out from who? He won't. Some secrets are meant to be kept till you reach the grave. This will mess the two of you up, and you don't know how he will react when you tell him this. In fact, let's stop talking about this before more ears hear us.

Lani:Don't you even want to know why I did it?

Nakia:I have my guesses, drunk, got out of control, gotten the gun to kill your father, but you failed..

Lani:I got the gun because I wanted to kill my father...

Nakia:What did he do??

Lani:He messed me up, no one messes me up!!

I kept quiet and tried to calm him down.

Nakia:It's okay.... Do you regret it though?

Nakia:I do. A lot. They didn't have anything to do with all of that.

Nakia:I hear you..

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MPHATHI

Now that I have spoken with Khumbulani and told him how Qinisela is doing, I hope he will go and see him. I don't want Qinisela to feel like we have abandoned him because he is not our biological brother. We are still brothers.

Kayise is feeling much better today, I wonder what was wrong with her yesterday. But I guess it's the hormones right, we still have a long nine months to go.

My smile slowly dropped as I remembered that she is carrying my brother's child, not mine.

I know I asked for this, but damn! Seeing your wife carrying your brother's child is not bananas.

I smile back when she comes to the bedroom carrying a laundry basket.

Kayise:I think I should ask for a leave at work.

Mphathi:So soon?

Kayise:Yes, I don't want to overwork myself at the bakery.

Mphathi:Okay then.

She nodded and folded the clothes. I stood up and helped her.

Kayise:You don't have to.

Mphathi:I want to.

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MANDLENKOSI

Nqaba was back from visiting his family.

Nqaba:I feel like I have been gone for months. What has been happening lately?

Mandla:Nothing much, just have been keeping myself busy with work.

Nqaba:Any girlfriend...?

Mandla:*Laughing* Dude...

Nqaba: Come on I know you...

Mandla: Okay do you remember that girl? That we saved from the club??

Nqaba: Oh that black Beauty?

Mandla: Yes, I think I developed feelings for her. But she is married, and I get along pretty well with her husband.

Nqaba: Ayy phuma lapho baba, married women are a no go area. Stay in your lane.

Mandla: I know, but damn that girl! Yesssss!!! I last saw her when she was at the hospital.

Nqaba: Usuyahlanya wena(You are crazy). Get rid of those thoughts please. Bros don't fight over women. You said you are friends with her husband, so don't do this.

Mandla: I wasn't going to do anything Nqaba. I won't act on it, don't worry.

Nqaba: Now you are talking. There is Nandi if you need a girlfriend.

Mandla: Nandi is not someone I can call a girlfriend. We have fucked around too much.

Nqaba: Even so, stay away from people's lives.

KHUMBULANI

I wake up and place her carefully on the other side of the bed.. I take my phone and head out, to call Qinisela.

He answers on the second ring.

Qinisela: Hello..

Khumbulani: How are you Qinisela?

Qinisela: Hanging in there what can we Say.

Khumbulani: I'm sorry I haven't been there..

Qinisela: It's okay, Mphathi told me you were busy.

Khumbulani: Is everything okay now?

Qinisela: A little. I talked with Theresa today, and she explained how everything happened. I don't know where to from here, I would like more than anything to have a relationship with my mother, but I am scared of being rejected again. She said my father does not even know that I exist.

Khumbulani: I am sorry, take it one step at a time. Don't rush. We will always be there for you, anything you need.

Qinisela: Thank you Bros, for not turning your back on me.

Khumbulani: We are family, and family doesn't turn on each other.

He sighed.

Qinisela: Anyway... Did you guys find who Shongwe's killer was?

Khumbulani: Not yet, the case is dead. And the detective seems to not even be doing anything. Mom hasn't said anything about dad visiting him, so I guess dad has finally rested in peace.

Qinisela: Let's hope so.

We chatted for a few more minutes, and it was time to hang up.

I hung up and received a text from an unsaved number.

I opened it and it was pictures of scans, followed by a text of words.

'Our son is growing. I can't wait for you to meet him.

From Kayise'.

I quickly deleted the message sweating. Why is sending me this? Wasn't our agreement that they would keep the baby and not bother me? I went to the kitchen to get water, Kayise is going to piss me off!!

I called number .

"Yes?"

Khumbulani:Why are you sending me this?

Kayise:Don't you want to know about the baby we made?

Khumbulani:Kayise don't act crazy. We agreed that we would never talk about this again.

Kayise:I'm sorry, I just thought it was best to keep you updated. I'll never do it again.

Khumbulani:Don't do it again for reals. What if Nakia was near me when I opened that message??

Kayise:I'm sorry...

Khumbulani:It's fine.

I hung up and sighed worriedly, if Nakia can find out about this, she can leave me without even turning back.

Season Two will be posted when available!!!!

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