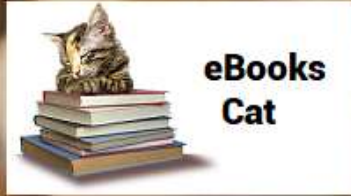


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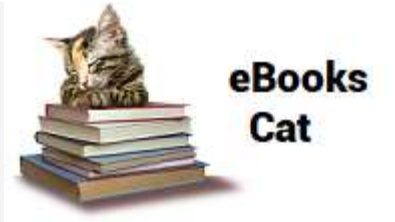


LOVE YOU FOREVER

Unconditional love



Cathrine Phiri



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Intro

“I messed up.” Omphile looks down embarrassed in himself. As expected he has disappointed the family as if dropping out of school and being arrested 5 times is not enough.

His father; Nkosinathi Bengu looks down and shakes his head.

Whenever Omphile admits to something they believe him because for sure he would have done it after all he never admits to anything. He’s

the type that denies until they swear on their mother's life knowing very well that they are lying.

Nkosinathi sighs shaking his head.
“What did you do this time?”

“I made a girl pregnant.” Omphile answers. Almost whispering

Nkosinathi chokes on his cigarette
“You what?”

He’s hoping maybe his ears are deceiving him and that Omphile is going to smile and tell him he’s just joking.

Omphile exhales heavily ready to repeat what he said and ready for his punishment. “Baba I made...”

Nkosinathi interrupts him. “I heard what you said I just wanted to make sure my ears aren’t deceiving me....at your age Omphile you sleeping with girls is that why you wanted to leave school?” he utters sullenly.

“It was a mistake Baba.” Omphile answers looking down and knuckling his fingers.

Nkosinathi chuckles in disbelief. “Oh so you just happen to end up on top of each other? I see you want to kill me... how are you going to take care of someone’s child because you will not live in my house.”

MaNgcobo Omphile's mother who was eaves dropping storms into the room not minding that she could get accused of eaves dropping. "Baba you can't kick him out. Where do you want him to go?"

"I'm kicking him out it's about time he learnt that actions have consequences." Nkosinathi answers not showing any care for his son or what would become of him if he left the house.

"Baba please forgive him this once." MaNgcobo kneels down at his feet. "Where do you expect him to go? He's just 20."

“He should have thought about that before taking his clothes off and getting on top of someone’s child. Wena Omphile I want you out of my house isn’t you’re a man now you know how to get someone pregnant. Then providing for your family won’t be hard right?” Nkosinathi stands up balancing with his walking preparing to walk away but Omphile holds his arm kneeling down.

“Baba I know I have disappointed you but at least take Nondumiso in I’m sure her parents also do not approve of our relationship.” Omphile says still clinging on to his father’s hand.

“Nondumiso! The same girl I told you to stay away from? Never Omphile

not in this life time you want to be with the daughter of a murder. We all know that family sacrificed their son for riches.” - Nkosinathi

“It’s just a rumor Baba they are just normal people.”

Omphile answers now holding his father’s leg.

Nkosinathi pushes him off. “Fine I’ll give you a chance to stay. I can let you stay but not her so choose do you want to be with your family or that witch?”

“Baba please don’t be like this I really love her and she’s carrying my child.” Omphile pleads.

“Choose son I forgive you for being a disappointment once again or you leave with that witch because there’s no way I will ever accept her in our family.” -Nkosinathi

Omphile feeling defeated let’s go of his father’s leg. He loves Nondumiso more than anything and if there was anyone to be punished for this mistake it’s him. “Baba you can’t make me choose between you and her.”

“And choose wisely because the moment you decide to be with her and step out of the yard you’re no longer my son.” Nkosinathi limps away he got ran over by a car two years ago and now his one leg is

shorter than the other because of the dislocated bone on his hip.

He was on his way to town and Nondumiso's father accidentally ran him over from that day both families never saw eye to eye.

Nkosinathi thinks that the Xaba family wanted to sacrifice him for riches no one in the area believes that the Xaba family is rich on their own. Some say they sacrifice people for riches and some say Mr Xaba is in a cult yet he's just a man who inherited a huge legacy from his father and has worked hard to be where he is.

“I warned you Omphile

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no one in the area believes that the Xaba family is rich on their own. Some say they sacrifice people for riches and some say Mr Xaba is in a cult yet he's just a man who inherited a huge legacy from his father and has worked hard to be where he is.

“I warned you Omphile I warned you but you don't listen.” MaNgcobo says pocking Omphile in the head with her finger

“I'm sorry Ma!”

“What now? Are you going to choose that girl of yours or family?” She questions. She knows about Omphile

being in love with Mr Xaba's daughter but just like any mother she wanted her son to be happy.

Omphile excuses himself and goes for a walk to clear his head.

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AT THE XABA HOUSEHOLD

Nondumiso has been looking for a way to tell her mother that she's pregnant since morning. Knowing how strict her parents are they are going to beat her until she loses the so called baby. Both her parents are university graduates and so were her

grandparents and great-grandparents. Since the family no longer has a male child Nondumiso was next in line to carry on the family legacy by working in the family company. And right now she's about to disappoint her family.

“Uhhh...mum!” Nondumiso slowly walks into her mother's bedroom. “There's something I need to tell you.”

Ingrid stops painting her nails and gives Nondumiso all her attention.

“Okay baby what is it? Wait is it a boy? You have no idea how I've waited for this day.” She says excitedly and pats on the bed so

Nondumiso should come sit next to her.

“Uhm....sort of!” Nondumiso scratches the back of her neck.

“You can tell me baby I’m listening.” Ingrid answers with a smile.

“Mum I’m pregnant.” Nondumiso says with tears already clouding in her eyes.

The smile on Ingrid’s face disappears. Never has she been so disappointed in her daughter.

“I am so sorry!” Nondumiso quickly kneels at her feet but Ingrid does not

respond. “Mum please say something.”

“What have you lacked in this house? How many times did I teach you about boys and getting pregnant? I’m so disappointed in you right now.”

“I know I have let you down but I’m sorry. I just found out a week ago that I’m pregnant.” Nondumiso holds on to her mother’s dress hoping she would tell her mistakes happen and that they are going to get through this.

“You are not pregnant. You are going to get rid of that bastard and pretend nothing happened you hear me?”

“No!” Nondumiso quickly stands up. “I want to keep it.” she adds.

Ingrid claps and shakes her head in disbelief. “Keep it in whose house young lady? You want your father to beat me to death if he finds out that you’re pregnant? He’s going to blame me for your mess.”

“I will tell him the truth.”

“You will not tell him anything. You are going to shut your mouth and get rid of it. What will people say when they find out that my 18 year old girl is pregnant?” Ingrid answers.

“I thought you’d understand mum.”

“Don’t even try to make me feel guilty you knew what you were doing when you were opening your legs so don’t try to shift the blame on me” she replies emotionless.

“I don’t want to abort it.”

“I’m not asking you in fact I’m booking a doctor’s appointment now.” Ingrid leaves the room making a phone call Nondumiso sighs sitting on her bed. They only did it once without a condom she didn’t even want to Omphile begged her until she agreed he promised to pull out. She reaches for her phone and sees a text from Omphile telling her to meet up with him at their usual spot.

She puts on her shoes and lies to her mother about going to buy airtime.

“Hey mamakhe!” Omphile hugs Nondumiso and lifts her up spinning around. They have been dating for two years they met each other on their way to town. Omphile had forgotten his wallet at home and she paid for his taxi fare.

“Are you okay? She didn’t hit you right?” Omphile asks after putting her down.

Nondumiso nods. “I’m fine! What did your parents say?”

“Eish! They are not happy they are making me chose between you and

them.” he answers scratching his head.

“And what did you choose?”

“I will always choose you.” Omphile plants a kiss on her lips.

“My mother wants me to abort.”

“No what if this is the only child we’ll ever have?” Omphile questions and she shrugs.

“Then what are we going to do because our families do not want us together?”

“Let’s leave this place and go somewhere where it’s going to be

just the two of us.” Omphile suggests this thought has crossed his mind several times.

“But Omphile you don’t work and we don’t have any money.”

“I will find a job please if we stay here they are going to separate us.” He cups her chin. “It’s the only option mamakhe.”

“I don’t know I’m scared.”

“We will be fine I promise you. I will take care of you and then later we will come back and do things right.” he assures her

“Where do we go where they won’t find us?”

“EGoli!” he answers without hesitating.

Nondumiso’s eyes widen she wasn’t expecting that and she’s never been outside KZN. “And how do we get there from here? Omphile KZN is my home.”

“If we stay here they won’t let us be together and I have enough money to take us out of here and maybe buy food and pay rent for the next month or two just trust me.” he says.

“Fine but my parents will hate me.”

“We will come back and I will make things right I promise.” He kisses her until she agrees.

“When are we leaving?”

“A week later.” He answers and she nods although she’s not sure of her decision.

She really loves Omphile but KZN is her home and she has never pictured herself living in a one roomed house. She grew up as daddy’s little girl she has never went to bed on an empty stomach or had to lack anything her whole life and the thing of just leaving scares her.

Omphile holds her in his arms and assures her that she's going to fine and that he'll take care of her.

A WEEK LATER

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OMPILE

He waited until his parents were asleep. His clothes were already packed him and Nondumiso had agreed to meet at 11pm. They didn't

take much just clothes and IDs. Omphile knows very well that his parents will never forgive him for running away from home but he would do anything to be with the love of his life.

He puts the goodbye letter on the table and heads out this could be the last time he gets to see this place because his father swore that if he steps out of the yard and chooses to be with Nondumiso he is no longer his son.

On his way out Omphile grabs a photo frame of his parents and shoves it in his little bag.

“I’m sorry baba but I love her.”
Omphile says to himself locking the gate. With that he walks away.

AT THE XABA HOUSEHOLD

It’s almost past eleven and Nondumiso is still packing she does know what to take and what to leave. The other thing that delayed her is that’s she’s undecided on whether to go with Omphile or not. She really loves him but this thing of running away together doesn’t sit well with her. She’s scared and not sure of the decision she’s about to take.

Her phone vibrates on the bed and it’s a message from Omphile telling her that he’s outside. She takes a

deep breath and carries her suitcase out making sure she makes less noise as possible she also left a note for her parents apologizing on not being the princess they want her to be.

“Are you ready?” Omphile asks as soon as Nondumiso walks out of her parents’ house.

“Babakhe I’m scared!”

Omphile cups her chin and plants a soft kiss on her lips. “We’ll be fine I promise.”

They hold hands as they wait for the uber that is going to take them to the station where they are going to get a

bus to Johannesburg. Nondumiso keeps looking at her parents' window and thinking about how disappointed they are going to be after reading the letter.

“I can't believe we are really doing this.” Nondumiso says as soon as the bus starts moving she's both excited and scared.

“Well it's too late to back down now” Omphile kisses her hands.

“So it's just us two now?”

“Just us two and our little angel.” Omphile brushes Nondumiso's still flat stomach. “We'll be fine I know

you're scared but I promise we'll be fine."

"Can you make one promise to me?"

"Sure anything." he answers with a smile.

"Promise we'll have each other's backs no matter what."

"You don't have to ask me that my love. I told you I'll love you forever but I promise we'll always have each other come what may." He answers sincerely.

"My mother is going to faint when she sees that letter."

“Yah neh! Mine will be hurt.” Omphile sighs heavily. It’s selfish of him to just leaves without telling her. Him and his mother are very close he even told her about Nondumiso and she was happy for them the only problem is his father.

“Siyaphi? (Where are you going?)”
Nondumiso asks

“I have a friend in Kagiso Krugersdorp. I have already talked to him and he agreed to let us stay with him for a couple of days while I find us a place.” Omphile answers

“So we’ll be living together? Just us two?”

He nods. “Just you and me.”

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The bus dropped them off at park station where they waited for Nthabiseng Omphile’s friend who took about two hours to get there. They were starting to doubt if he was coming.

“I’m sorry guys you know how the traffic is in the morning.” Ntabiseng says panting he came in running.

Omphile stands up and fist bumps with Nthabiseng. “You’re here and

that's what matters...remember Nondumiso?"

"How can I forget her" he hugs Nondumiso. "Pregnant lady!"

"Don't start." Nondumiso chuckles weakly.

She was hungry and tired. She had never slept in a bus before. They walk from park station to Mtn taxi rank where they get a taxi to Kagiso Nondumiso was sleeping the whole way they had to wake her up when they got at their stop.

"We are here! This way please" Nthabiseng says leading the way.

He leads them to the spare bedroom. His parents are in Zimbabwe for their uncle's wedding and they are going to be back in a weeks' time.

Nthabiseng shows them around the house the bathroom and etcetera.

Nondumiso baths while Omphile and Nthabiseng go to buy some bread.

“Look man I know you two love each other but she was safe with her parents than here because things are tough out there. It's hard to find a job nowadays.” Nthabiseng says as they walk back home from the shops.

Omphile sighs. “I know
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but I'm sure in a month or two I would have found something.”

Nthabiseng chuckles because he knows more than anyone how tough Joburg is. “Ntwana ku rough ngaphandle companies are not hiring these days you only get a job through connections but hey let's think positive.”

“I have to get a job no matter what I made her leave her parent's house where she was being treated like a princess so at this point I'd do anything to make sure she's happy.”

“I hear you mara umoshile ntwana what were you thinking not using protection?” says Nthabiseng.

Omphile scratches his head. “I messed up bad I don’t even know what got to me that day.”

“You two better make me the godfather because I’m not helping you for free.”

“What’s a godfather now?” Omphile answers laughing.

BENGU HOUSEHOLD

Tears roll down MaNgcobo’s cheeks as she reads the letter left by her son. She knew he loved Nondumiso but she never imagined he’d chose her over family. She blames her husband for this if only he had

listened to Omphile and forgave him it's not like he's the first person to make a mistake.

“Kungabe kuhamba kahle wakhala wedwa nkosikazi? (Is everything okay?)” Nkosinathi asks entering the kitchen.

MaNgcobo quietly hands him the letter. Nkosinathi reads it and frowns banging the table with his fist.

“So this boy has decided to go against me?”

“Why do you have to be so stubborn now you've costed me my son?”
MaNgcobo replies crying.

“Your son is hard headed and he better not come back here.”

“How can you say that baba? That child you hate so much is carrying your grandchild one way or the other she’s carrying a Bengu and sooner or later you’d have to accept it.” she says

“Lingawa licotshwe yinkukhu. (Over my dead body)”

“Baba if anything happens to my son I’ll never forgive you.” MaNgcobo threatens.

Nkosinathi clicks his tongue and leaves his room. He doesn’t care whether Omphile ran away or if he

hangs himself after all he does nothing but raise his blood pressure in fact he's happy the he ran away at least he can now get some peace and quiet with his wife. Omphile is their one and only son and the opposite of everything they want him to be.

MaNgcobo takes out his phone and tries calling Omphile but his number no longer exists.

OMPHILE

The first month of staying with Nondumiso was the best of his life. They found a room to rent in Blackies (Krugersdorp) Nondumiso had some money with her so they managed to

buy themselves a bed wardrobe two plate stove and some kitchen utensils. Nthabiseng also helped them with a few things from his parents' house including a mini fridge. It's not much but they are happy with the little they have.

Nondumiso and Omphile changed their phone numbers to avoid talking to their parents.

“I'm back!” Omphile announce as soon as he walks into their one roomed house he leaves every morning and comes back in the evening he'll be job hunting during the day.

Nondumiso rushes to hug him he lifts her up as they kiss.

“Hey mamakhe!”

“Hey babakhe!” Nondumiso answers with a smile they might be broke but they still love each other dearly.

“How was your day?”

“The usual” she answers

“The baby isn’t bothering you?”

“Not at all I’m even starting to doubt if there’s anything in there.” She says pocking her stomach with her finger.

Omphile chuckles. “There is trust me.”

He puts her down and sits on the bed then makes her sit on his lap as they kiss.

“Any luck getting a job?”

Shaking his head. “No.”

Nondumiso smiles and pecks his lips. “Don’t lose hope yet. Just keep searching some opportunity will come up.”

“Let’s hope so what did you eat?”

She stands up and goes to the mini fridge then walks back to Omphile with a bowl.

“What’s this?” Omphile asks and she frowns

“Green salad.”

“Haibo these are just leaves and tomatoes to me. My love you can’t expect me to eat this” he saying picking up the lettuce with his hands.

“Then what do you want to eat Omphile?”

“You should have cooked” he answers.

“You know very well that there isn’t much to eat in this house. What do you want me to do?”

“I can’t eat this” he shakes his head

“I don’t know what you want...eat me then.” Nondumiso snaps

“I know very well that we don’t have much but leaves? Why didn’t you cook papa or something?” he answers raising his voice.

“You know what...”

She stops herself before she could say something she’s going to regret and leaves the room slamming the door behind her.

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To be continued...

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OMPHILE

It's hard to ignore each other especially living in a one roomed house. Nondumiso is under the covers pressing her phone after she got tired of sitting outside. Omphile just finished cooking he noticed that Nondumiso wasn't taking any action of cooking super he decided to cook.

“Mamakhe!” Omphile shakes Nondumiso so she can wake up.

“Leave me alone!” Nondumiso answers with her head still under the covers.

Omphile gently pulls the covers off her. “Mamakhe I’m sorry I didn’t mean to upset you I even ate your leaves if it makes you happy.”

“It’s lettuce not leaves Omphile. Lettuce!” she answers sitting up.

“Fine lettuce kee...my love it’s just that I’m not used to eating those kind of things. Mamakhe I’m a man I can’t spend the whole day on...”

“Lettuce Omphile” she says annoyed.

“Yes that I need something solid as a man and I shouldn’t have talked to you like that I’m sorry.”

Nondumiso pouts her lips trying to remain mad but she can’t. “Smells great what did you cook?”

“Pap and liver!” he answers with a smile.

Nondumiso dishes for them. They sit on the bed eating discussing baby names. After eating they help each other do the dishes then go to bed since they have no entertainment they have nothing else to do than cuddle.

“My mother must be angry wherever she is.” Nondumiso sighs sitting closer to Omphile for warmth.

Omphile sighs too they really messed up. “I’m sure there was an exchange of words between the two families.”

“Do you think that they would accept us if we went back?”

“You want to go back?” Omphile quickly sits up so he can see her facial expression his worst fear is Nondumiso wanting to leave.

“Not really it’s just that.... I’m just asking.”

Omphile cups her chin making her face him. “Mamakhe do you want to go back home?”

“No I want to be with you.”

Omphile sighs heavily. “We will make it work I promise.”

“Okay and I love you babakhe.”

“I love you more!” he kisses her forehead and pulls her in for a kiss.

XABA HOUSE (KZN)

Mbongeni Xaba and his wife are having breakfast things are no longer the same since Nondumiso left. The house is quiet they miss her loudness

and how she loved dancing to Amapiano disturbing everyone's peace.

Mbongeni exhales heavily and Ingrid rolls her eyes because she knows he's about to talk about Nondumiso. Not that she hates her daughter but she just can't seem to understand why she would leave home to be with a boy a boy an uneducated one for that matters.

"I wonder what my little Nono is doing now has she ate?" Mr Xaba says throwing the fork on the table.

"I can't believe she just ran away from home without even thinking about us."

Ingrid never showed her husband the letter Nondumiso left because if Mbongeni had read it Nondumiso would be back home as they speak. There was no way Mbongeni was going to let his princess stay with a boy at her age. Ingrid is just scared that her husband might call her a careless mother if he found out that Nondumiso was pregnant.

After breakfast Mbongeni leaves for work and Ingrid decides to clear her head by going to the mall spending money always helps clear her head. To her surprise she runs into MaNgcobo.

“Mrs Xaba how are you?” MaNgcobo waves at Ingrid with so much excitement.

Ingrid pretends not to hear her and continues walking until MaNgcobo tabs her on the shoulder.

“Mrs Xaba how are you?” MaNgcobo asks with the warmest smile.

“I’m not good isn’t your son decided to take my daughter away from me.”

“I’m sorry about that it’s just that they are kids and they make bad decisions thinking it’s right it’s my fault I should have just let them love each other.” MaNgcobo answers.

Ingrid claps once. “Love each other my foot. My daughter will not be married to a school dropout.”

“Ingrid don’t forget that you’re also a school dropout remember you also got pregnant at 17. You as a mother should have understood your daughter more than anyone.”

Ingrid clicks her tongue and walks away she hates being reminded of her past. Yes she didn’t grow up rich but she’s rich now and that’s all that matters.

NONDUMISO

It’s been five months since she ran away from home and she regrets it

very much and wishes to go back but at the same time doesn't want to leave the love of her life. She knows very well that her parents would accept her but isn't sure if Omphile's parents will also accept him.

Nondumiso is all alone at the house while Omphile is out job hunting

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while Omphile is out job hunting it's been five months and things are getting tough. It's close to month end and if they don't pay rent the landlord might kick them out.

Nondumiso opens the fridge to find something to eat but they only have spinach margarine and water in

there. She opens the cupboards only to find a packet of popcorn. She sighs and hold on to her baby bump sitting on the bed she's hungry and doesn't know what to do.

She takes her phone and scrolls down her contact list starts texting her friends asking for money. Some are blue ticking and others are telling her stories. Her best friends are telling her to go back home. Tears roll down her cheeks as she thinks of how she has always been there for them when they needed her or maybe they just liked her because she was rich.

She's hungry and doesn't know what to do Omphile left in the morning.

She runs into her mother's phone number and stops herself when she's about to call her she made a promise with Omphile that they are going to love each other forever and that would never happen if she went back home.

She goes outside to get some air and runs into her landlord's son Thabani.

"Nono!" Thabani greets her with so much excitement

"Hey! What's up?" she answers weakly.

"I'm good just came back from the shops got you some chips." He smiles handing her a plastic bag.

“For me! Why?”

Thabani shrugs. “I don’t know I just thought of you.”

“You always think of me thanks!”

“You better give that baby my name the way I love being around you.”
Thabani answers with a chuckle.

They sit on the step while eating the fries. Thabani is about six years older than Nondumiso and they are very close it’s because of the pregnancy.

“Where’s your boyfriend?”

Nondumiso sighs. “He went job hunting.”

“Getting a job these days is like picking up money in the streets it’s very rare to just get a job without any connections. Does he at least have a education?”

Nondumiso shakes her head “Nope!”

“Ayy then he’s wasting his time why do you think some of us have gotten tired of standing the whole day waiting to be hired.”

“Well at least you have a source of income your father is definitely going to kick us out this month” she says.

“Don’t tell me you don’t have rent money?”

“Things are tough Thabani!” she answers.

“Things are tough using such an expensive phone?”

She chuckles. “This old thing!”

“That’s an iPhone the latest version.”

“Do you think anyone would buy it?”
Nondumiso asks.

“Of course just go to those Indian shops where they swap devices for money.”

Nondumiso thinks twice her parents bought her the phone on her birthday and it has a lot of memories of her and Omphile.

“Do you have a laptop?” she questions

“Yeah why?”

“I want to transfer my things in your laptop then I’ll put them in a flash drive because I’m selling this phone.” she replies.

“How much are you selling it for?”

Nondumiso shrugs. “How much do you think one would pay for it?”

“I don’t know R2 500.”

“Then I’m selling it for 2.5” she says with a smile.

“For real Nono I want it.”

“You can have it as long as you have the money.” She says with her fingers crossed that he takes it.

Thabani disappears into the house and comes back with R2 500 cash and hands it to Nondumiso. She really loves her phone but it’s the only option. They transfer her stuff into Thabani’s laptop then into a flash drive. She removes her sim card and gives the phone to Thabani.

The rent for the house is R1 300 so she gives Thabani the money in advance then asks Thabani to accompany her to President square so she can shop for some grocery and they also pass by Pep store buying baby cloths.

When Omphile come back from God knows where he's welcomed by the delicious smell of beef aroma. The plastic bags on the bed also have him bombarding himself with questions.

“Babakhe!” Nondumiso says hugging Omphile.

“Hie what's with the plastic bags? Where did you get the money?”

“It doesn’t matter let’s eat.” she tries to walk to the stove but he pulls her back.

“It matters where did you get the money?”

“I sold my phone.” she says

“Mamakhe no! Why didn’t you tell me first?”

“I’m sorry but we needed some things” she answers

“I would have sold mine.” Omphile sits on the bed and buries his face in his hands he feels like he’s failed her. “I have failed you!”

Nondumiso kneels in front of him and lifts his face up so he can face her.
“Babakhe you didn’t fail me it was just a phone.”

“You loved your phone.”

“But I don’t need it that much so don’t worry yourself. How was your day?” she asks trying to change the subject.

“Same as usual.”

“I bought a few things for the baby do you want to see?” Nondumiso asks already emptying things on the bed.

Omphile smiles faintly nodding. He feels he has failed his love. All he wishes is to make her happy but nothing is going right he can't even do a simple thing as provide for her what will happen when the baby comes?

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OMPHILE

Omphile hasn't been himself since Nondumiso sold her phone he feels

he has failed her and its haunting him. There's no guarantee that he'll get a job and what will happen if they run out of food again or even worse if the landlord kicks them out?

He has tried to think of ways to get a job or get money but everything leads to a dead end.

“What's on your mind?” Nondumiso sits next to Omphile. She's not sad at all about selling her phone to her being with 'babakhe' means more than just a silly phone.

Omphile hasn't gone job hunting for the past two days he's been depressed. It feels like nothing is moving in his life. When he

suggested they run away he didn't think things would turn out like this.

“Babakhe I'm talking to you what's bothering you?” Nondumiso questions.

“Nothing! Have you bathed?” Omphile asks forcing a smile.

“Well if your mind wasn't occupied you'd know that I just got dressed in front of you.”

He sighs heavily. “Mamakhe we need to talk.”

“Should I be worried?”

“You know I love you right?” he says holding her hands.

“Don’t even take the direction you want to take right now please not today.”

“Mamakhe please listen first” he requests. “Trust me I really want us to be together but this is not healthy for you or the baby. I thought I could take care of you but as you can see I can’t.”

“I don’t know what you’re talking about we’re doing fine njee.”

Omphile cups her chin. “I really love you but we should go back home you should go home.”

“I can’t just go and leave you.”

“My parents would never accept me back but yours can and I’ll come for you because I cannot keep making you live like this. It breaks my heart seeing you like this.” Omphile says.

“I can’t go back if I do they will take me to another country and I might never see you again.”

“You will I’ll come back for you” he assures but she shakes her head no. She knows very well that if she goes back home it could be the last time they see each other.

Her parents would never let her be with Omphile the Xaba family and the Bengu family don't see eye to eye.

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NONDUMISO

“Are you crying?” Thabani asks Nondumiso as he finds her sitting alone on the veranda it's already dark outside and she's just sitting there.

“I'm fine!” she answers wiping the tears off her cheeks.

“You're crying and no one just cries for no reason so out with it” he sits

next to her. “And where’s Omphile? Should I maybe call him?”

“No! He knows I’m here and I told him I need space.”

“Space for what don’t tell me you two are fighting?” he asks curiously.

“I don’t want to talk about it.”

“Then go inside and talk to Omphile you two can’t afford to turn on each other so whatever it is go in there and solve it. I understand you two messed up wherever you were but you need each other.” Thabani says.

“What do you mean messed up?”

“Come on Nono I can put two and two Omphile is 20 and you’re 18. Your parents are in KZN and you’re pregnant” he says

“Omphile wants me to go back home he says I’ll be safer there.”

“I don’t know what to say on that but do what makes you happy” he answers.

“The problem is that both our parents don’t want us together and if we go home they will make sure we never see each other and I don’t want that.”

“You and Omphile are young I’m sure you’ll find your way back to each other” he replies.

“What if he meets someone else what if I meet someone else?”

“Ayy I don’t know then but I suggest you both sit down and talk it out

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what if I meet someone else?”

“Ayy I don’t know then but I suggest you both sit down and talk it out” he stands up and also helps Nondumiso stand up.

Nondumiso goes back to their room and finds Omphile laying on the bed

facing the ceiling. He quickly sits up as soon as the door closes.

“You were crying?” Omphile meets her across the room. “I know you’re hurt but mamakhe it’s the only option.”

“Two weeks give me two weeks to get you a job and if that fails then I’ll go.”

“I’ve tried looking for a job. What do you think I’ve been doing these past 5 months?” he asks sitting on the bed.

Yes he has been looking for a job but like Thabani said ‘to get a job you need connections’ and the Xaba

family is well known all over South Africa. Nondumiso just needs to get in contact with some people without having her father know her whereabouts.

Most of her contacts remained in her sim card so she put it in Omphile's phone and started calling everyone one she thinks might help. Most of them are promising to call her back and some of them are telling her that they are not hiring.

“Okay this is harder than I imagined.” Nondumiso sits on the bed throwing the phone next to her.

“Told you it's not easy.” Omphile answers

“Well I’m not giving up and I’m not going home either so get ready to see my face daily.”

“I love seeing your face mamakhe I just want you to be happy.” he answers.

“The past five months have been the best of my life. I am happy and I believe that you will find a job just stop doubting God.”

“God? Since when to do pray?” he asks with a raised eye brow.

“I always pray and I believe God will make it happen when the time is

right. I know we messed up but this baby is a lesson and a blessing.”

He brushes Nondumiso’s stomach.
“Let’s name him or her Blessing.”

“That’s nice Blessing Bengu... Like B.B”

“Just Blessing” he chuckles brushing her stomach and the baby decides to kick.

“Did you feel that?”

“You better be a girl don’t want to lose to your mother” Omphile smiles talking to Nondumiso’s stomach.
They made a bet Omphile thinks it’s a girl and Nondumiso says it’s a boy.

The phone rings and Nondumiso picks it up.

(On the phone)

Nondumiso: Hello!

Voice: Hie! Nondumiso Xaba?

Nondumiso: This is her speaking.

Voice: Sorry to call you late but you called Mr Khumalo earlier today and left a message he said you should come see him tomorrow morning.

Nondumiso looks at the phone for a moment because she called a lot of

people and can't remember who's who.

Nondumiso: Uhm where did Mr Khumalo say I should see him?

Voice: Have you ever been to Keywest mall Krugersdorp North?

Nondumiso: Yes why?

Voice: We have our offices there you can stop by at Mr Price home.

Nondumiso: Okay thanks I'll be there first thing morning.

She says her goodbyes before hanging up then shifts her attention to Omphile.

“I think I got you a job” she says excitedly. “I don’t know which one but I called one of my father’s friend who’s here in Krugersdorp asking for a job I didn’t think he could call back and with luck you might get it.”

“Thanks mamakhe!”

“Omphile yini? Why do you look sad now?” she asks.

“I’m happy really it’s just that I didn’t know things would turn out like this.”

“I told you we’ll be fine and when you get a job things will be better I promise” she gives him a hug.

The following morning they wake up early and take a taxi to Keywest mall they made sure they got there by 8am on the dot. Mr Khumalo came in a little late so they had to wait for him then around 9am he showed up.

“Mr Khumalo will see you this way please...” a lady say to Nondumiso she leaves Omphile outside the office while she goes to talk to Mr Khumalo she recognizes him right away. She and Mr Khumalo’s son used to be best friends until Mr Khumalo moved to Johannesburg.

“Nondumiso Xaba! You kids are growing too fast” Mr Khumalo says.

“Well time flies it’s been six years remember. Linjani baba?”

“Time flies indeed and is it me or you’re pregnant?” he asks.

“Uhm... yes I am pregnant.”

“Will you be able to work then?” he questions and she chuckles remembering that she never mentioned that Omphile is the one who’s going to be working.

“Actually I’m not the one looking for a job it’s...”

He interrupts her. “We weren’t hiring but Edward (his son) begged me to take you. He started going on about

jobs being hard to find and blackmailing me as usual with the ‘she could be your future daughter in-law’ you know how he is.”

“Same old Edward” she chuckles remembering how she and Edward got married in fifth grade. (They were just playing)

“So are you talking the job?”

“So in other words you willing to take me if I want the job?”

“Correct!” he answers

She exhales heavily thinking of what to do because they might never find another opportunity like this not to

mention she's never worked in her life.

“So how much will I be getting paid?” she asks with a smile Omphile will be disappointed but what choice do they have.

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To be continued...

4

Chapter 4

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Mr Khumalo and Nondumiso discuss her working hours and salary before

she signs a permanent employee contract. 'The beauty of connections' as Thabani likes to call it they already made Nondumiso a permanent employee even though she's unskilled.

"Looking forward to working with you Nondu you will start next Monday and the first week you'll be working with Vanessa she'll be showing you how things are done then after that I'm sure you'll be able to work on your own" Mr Khumalo says with a smile.

"Thank you very much for the opportunity and I promise I won't disappoint" she answers shaking his hand.

“You father had my back when I needed him I’m just returning the favour. How is he anyways?” he questions he last talked to Xaba about 7 years ago. That was before he left for Johannesburg.

“My father is... he’s growing old.” Nondumiso answers with a smile.

When Mr Khumalo starts talking he doesn’t stop he started telling her about the old days when him and Xaba were still boys and how it was always their dream to work hard and make it in life. Talking about her father is a little uncomfortable for Nondumiso but she’s hiding it with a smile and crossing her fingers that Mr

Khumalo doesn't ask for her father's phone number.

“Okay that will be all for today I'll see you Monday.” Mr Khumalo says and Nondumiso quickly stands up she's been sitting for hours. She was no longer listening her mind is on Omphile who's waiting for her.

“Thank you again.”

“Ask the lady that brought you in to give you your uniform let's hope you'll find one that fits” he says with a chuckle.

“Okay and thank you again.” she says before closing the door.

Omphile stands up as soon as she sees her.

“Did you die in there?”

“I have good news and bad news.” Nondumiso says and Omphile sighs as if he knows that she’s about to crush his spirit more. “Mr Khumalo said they are not hiring but he said he’s willing to take me if I want the job.”

“I hope you turned it down because you’re pregnant Nondumiso you can’t work.”

“I can! And he said I’ll be at the front desk no one will even see that I’m pregnant by the till” she answers and

Omphile shakes his head disagreeing this is one of the reasons why he wants her to go home because she wouldn't be able to handle standing for hours not with the pregnancy.

“Babakhe please! Just let me do this while you look for a job.”

“What if I don't find the job?”

“What if you do can we please think positive and I can do this” she holds his hands. “I promise when I can no longer work I will tell you.”

“I don't know! I still think you should go home.”

“I've already signed the contract and they said I start Monday” she says.

“Why do you like making decisions without telling me? Go back in there and turn down the job you’re going back home. I’ll find the money and make sure you’re on the first bus to KZN.”

“I’m not going anywhere!” Nondumiso says with her hands folded on her chest. “If we are going to suffer then we will suffer together if we die of hunger then that’s it” she walks to the lady that showed her the way and asks for a uniform.

“I hope this one fits my name is Vanessa looking forward to working with you. I’m tired of being the only

woman around here.” Vanessa say handing Nondumiso her uniform.

“Thanks Vanessa looking forward to working with you too.”

She walks out and finds Omphile waiting for her. They walk back home in silence since there are no taxis from Keywest mall to Krugersdorp West walking is the only option. It’s a bit of a distance but walkable.

“Babakhe!” Nondumiso says and Omphile doesn’t answer. “I’m sorry for not telling you and I promise starting today I’ll run things by you first. Please just let me work I promise when you find a job I’ll quit.”

“If you’re home you won’t have to work.”

“I told you I don’t want to go home I want to be with you Omphile. I’m going to be a mother now and whether I’m 18 or 25 I can’t continue relying on my parents” she answers and Omphile sighs heavily. She has a point there are going to be parents soon and they should learn to provide for themselves.

“Promise you’ll quit when I find a job”

She nods. “I will quit and look after our baby.”

“It’s your birthday today.”

She chuckles. “I’ve never forgotten my birthday before

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let’s pass by President hyper I’m craving cake.”

BACK IN KZN.....

Ingrid barges into the Bengu household she doesn’t care about knocking.

“Where’s my daughter” she yells and MaNgcobo comes rushing from the kitchen. “You and your husband better give me my daughter right now before I burn this house down.”

“I wish I knew where they are but I don’t.” MaNgcobo answers calmly luckily her husband is at work otherwise he would have kicked Ingrid out as they speak.

“Busisiwe please if you know where she is just tell me. I know I made a mistake by being harsh to her when she told me she was pregnant. I just want her to come home I miss her.”

“Like I said Ingrid I do not know. I have tried talking to Omphile’s close friends but no one knows his whereabouts. I wonder where they are or how they are surviving it this cruel word” MaNgcobo looks down shaking her head as tears threaten to come out.

“This is all your son’s fault I’m sure he manipulated my innocent Nondumiso. Busisiwe if anything happens to my little girl I will never forgive you and you better find her or I’m bringing the law into this.”

MaNgcobo claps her hands in disbelief. “The law my foot Ingrid Omphile and Nondumiso are in love why can’t you just accept that? Nondumiso is 18 meaning she’s no longer a child according to the law so I don’t know what law you are talking about.”

“Your son took my daughter. He must have done something to her there’s no way my daughter would just follow

someone like Omphile. That would ruin our reputation dating a dropout.”

“Please leave! I will not have you insult me in my house.” MaNgcobo says already opening the door. “Yaz I feel sorry for Nondumiso for having a mother like you I think I now understand why she ran away. You only care about yourself” she pushes Ingrid out of her house and closes the door locking it this time.

NONDUMISO

It's now her second week at work and so far everything is going very well the only thing that's killing her is transport. Not that they are not giving her transport money at work but there

aren't any local taxis to take her to town so she has to walk every morning and back.

Omphile accompanies her of course they get to discuss about their long term goals and just talk.

“Good morning!” Nondumiso hugs Vanessa they have become very close in the two weeks they have known each other one would swear they knew each other their whole lives.

“Hey sweetie!”

“You look happy today” she say getting behind the counter and grabbing a chair.

“Maybe it’s because I got laid”
Vanessa sticks out her tongue.

“Can we please do what we are here for.” Edward shows up from nowhere. He hands Nondumiso coffee he does that every morning.

“Where’s mine?” Vanessa asks.

“You have legs to go to the kitchen don’t you” he walks away and Vanessa give him the middle finger as soon as he turns his back on them.

“You can have mine” Nondumiso chuckles Vanessa and Edward are always fighting.

“Thanks and I think Mr Boss’s son has the hots for you.”

“I’m pregnant.” Nondumiso answers.

“You don’t know men wena.”

“Too bad I love my boyfriend very much” she says with a smile.

“I’ve been meaning to ask where does Omphile work?”

“He... he doesn’t work” she replies.

“Haibo all that handsomeness is for nothing. Does he at least have some sort of source of income?”

“Can we please talk about sometime else?” she says taking the coffee from Vanessa so they can share.

“Is he at least good in bed? He can’t be broke and useless.”

“Can you please stop Vanessa!” she harshly pushes her chair back and goes to the ladies bathroom. Things are tough financially. She’s trying to be strong but things are tough.

“Breath Nondumiso! Everything will be fine Omphile will get a job and everything will be fine.” she says staring at herself in the mirror.

*

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Later that day Omphile comes to get her as usual they get home around 6:30pm whereas she knocks off at 5:30pm.

“I’m starving do we have something to eat?” Nondumiso asks already opening the fridge.

“I’ll make something for you just sit and relax.”

Omphile makes a sandwich for her then she eat while she tells him about her day. After she’s finished eating she just drops on the floor and loses consciousness leaving Omphile perplexed because he doesn’t know

what he did or what is wrong
because he just made her a chicken
mayo sandwich.
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5

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AT THE HOSPITAL...

Omphile walks into the room where Nondumiso has been admitted. His heart skipped a beat or two the time when she lost consciousness he didn't know what to do. With help

from the landlord and Thabani they managed to rush Nondumiso to the hospital.

“Hey!” Omphile says on a low note. He walks upto her bed and plants a kiss on her lips. He’s still in shock for a second her thought he was going to lose her. God knows how much he loves her she might not be his first love but he loves her dearly.

“Are you okay mamakhe?” Omphile asks still cupping her chin and she nods with a smile.

“I’m fine babakhe but what happened? How did I end up here?” she asks as Omphile helps put

pillows behind her so she can sit comfortably.

“You fainted. Don’t worry the doctor said you’re just exhausted and I think it’s from the standing and walking every day” he says gentle brushing her cheeks the pregnancy is making her glow she didn’t gain weight she’s still her usual thick self. “You scared me today.”

“I’m sorry! Maybe my body is more tired than I imagined.”

“Maybe you should stop working and just go back home” Omphile says and she shakes her head no.

“Please! At least do it for the baby it’s

not healthy to keep pushing yourselves like this.”

“I’m fine I just need more rest. I just have to make sure I sleep eight hours a day.”

“The doctor said you should rest and I agree with him. All that walking every day isn’t good for you. I know you’re working for us but please listen to me this once” he locks his palms together as a sign of pleading but she shakes her head no.

“Mamakhe please!”

“No I can’t stop working and I can’t quit either. I told you I can’t leave you here all by yourself. As for the

walking I'll ask Edward to pick me up on his way to work”

“And who's Edward?” Omphile questions with so much curiosity because he has never heard of this Edward person and already he's jealous by just hearing his name.

“Edward is my boss's son and my friend. You don't know him his family moved from KZN before you and I even met.”

“Oh!” he nods but he's not fully convinced. “Will this Edward agree to come pick you up?”

“Yes” she answers.

“Ngiyakuthanda uyezwa (I love you)”
he pecks her lips.

“I love you forever till infinity.”

“Even though I’m broke?” he
chuckles.

“My love don’t cost a thing.”

A smiles escapes his lips he’s
probably the luckiest 21 year old that
ever lived. “You know love doesn’t
pay bills right?”

“I know babakhe but this is just a
phase and as long as I’m working I
got your back.” she buries her face
on his chest giving him a hug.

The doctor said it was just stress and that Nondumiso needs rest then also gave her vitamins for the pregnancy. Luckily Nondumiso's employee contract comes with medical aid meaning the hospital bill was covered. The doctor wanted to keep her for the night but she refused because she couldn't skip work the following morning.

It's only been two weeks and she needs to prove that she can work before they give her job to someone else. Omphile wasn't happy about that but with Nondumiso's stubbornness he was fighting a losing battle.

The following morning Nondumiso called Edward to pick her up on his way to work and he did not seem to have a problem with it. As much as Omphile hated this whole plan he did not have a say in it he felt less of a man. He very much regrets this running away plan because nothing is going his way. To him it feels wrong having Nondumiso work and bring food to the table.

“What’s wrong?” Thabani sits next to Omphile. Thabani is also unemployed not that he’s uneducated but jobs are a little hard to find even with a engineering degree.

“Nothing I’m fine!”

“Trust me you don’t look fine you look like life is throwing stones at you so out with it what is bothering you boy?” he asks.

“Everything. Nothing seems to be moving. I can’t get a job then there’s Nondumiso who’s stubborn

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she doesn’t want to listen to a word I say.”

“You are a very lucky man Omphile. It’s rare to find true love these days and to find a woman that loves and supports you like Nondumiso does is just a blessing. I know you want the best for her but do you really want

your child to grow up without a father?" he exhales heavily.

"I know you two are young and things are tough but this is life boy and it's survival of the fittest. Don't give up just keep looking for a job and who knows you might get lucky. I understand things are tough but she's working and there's nothing wrong with her paying the bills. Who said only the man has to pay the bills? And if it's like that then why are all these married women out there working." Thabani adds.

Omphile shakes his head. "It feels wrong I'm supposed to be the provider and I can't even buy our baby a R24 top."

“She knows you’re trying and she loves you that’s why she’s still here. Just give it time and you will find the job. Stop trying to make Nono leave because you might end up losing her. The moment you two separate you’ll get used to each other’s absence and the love might fade.” Thabani says

NONDUMISO

“Lunch time madam let’s go.”
Edwards says already helping
Nondumiso up her chair.

“Wait! It’s not even lunch yet.”
Nondumiso answers.

“It’s ten minutes to and Vanessa will cover for you.”

Vanessa looks behind her as if there’s another Vanessa at the shop. “Which Vanessa? I also want to go for lunch.”

“Cover for Nono and I’ll buy you lunch Vanessa” Edward takes out his wallet and pulls out R100. “I want my change.”

“Thanks boss you should work this side more and you two can take as much time as you want.” Vanessa says with a smile. Her and money are best friends plus Mr Khumalo is out of town so everyone is doing as they please.

“Edward you don’t have to buy me lunch they make food for us at work.” Nondumiso says pulling her hand away from Edward’s.

“You’re pregnant and you need to eat healthy you can’t keep eating the same thing daily” he takes her to Spur and orders a meal for her. Edward is 22 just a year older than Omphile.

“Thanks for offering to buy me lunch.”- Nondumiso

“How did this happen? You were always a good girl.” He says referring to the pregnancy.

Nondumiso chuckles. “I was never a good girl I acted like one for my family and this wasn’t planned it just happened” she answers rubbing her stomach.

“You also went cold on me thought we had a thing going on.”

“Edward we were kids please don’t tell you’re still hung up on that.” she laughs but notices he’s not joking.

“Edward come on I was in 5th grade.”

“Well my feelings for you haven’t changed.”

“You’re kidding right?” Nondumiso claps her hands in disbelief. “Do not see my stomach? I’m pregnant.”

“I can see that and Nondumiso you know I can treat you better than he can.”

“And who said he’s not treating me good?” she questions.

“I know you Nondumiso and you’re not happy. I know sometimes you go to the bathroom to cry and I overheard you talking with Vanessa the other day” he holds her hand.

“Come live with me.”

“No how can you even ask me that?”

“That boy you call a man can’t even take care of you but I can. I don’t care if you’re pregnant just come stay

with me” he pleads still holding her hand.

“I love Omphile.”

“Love won’t put food on your table come live with me and I’ll take care of you” he assures Nondumiso stands up and excuses herself going to the bathroom after borrowing Edward’s phone.

(On the phone)

Nondumiso: Babakhe!

Omphile: Hey are you okay?

Nondumiso: Yes I just miss you.

Omphile: I miss you more mamakhe.

Nondumiso: Okay that would be all. I just wanted to say I love you and we will be fine.

Omphile: Okay I love you more!

She hangs ups and deletes the call history then goes back to Edward.

“Thanks for lunch Edward. As for your proposal I very much love my broke boyfriend” she smiles and walks out of the restaurant.

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NONDUMISO

Edward quickly runs after her. “I didn’t mean to upset you I’m sorry. Can you at least finish your lunch? I promise I won’t annoy you” he pleads and she walks back to the table.

“Whoa slow down big guy!” she chuckles sitting down.

“Excuse me?”

“Nothing he’s kicking” she answers with a smile and Edward rushes to her side of the table.

“Can I feel it?”

She takes his hand and places it on her stomach. “Feel that?”

The smile on Edward’s face widens. “Wow the things God does so there’s a person inside you. How do you feel? Does it hurt?”

“No I feel fine.”

“You’re one strong woman” he shifts his face towards hers and she quickly shifts back.

“Edward!”

“It’s a forehead kiss” he kisses her forehead and goes back to his seat. “Forehead kisses are from the heart and I adore you for being strong and brave.”

“Brave?”

“You’re dating an unemployed and broke man so yeah that’s very brave of you” he answers sipping on his juice.

“Don’t call my man names wena.”

“Whatever he’s broke vele and he better not mess up because you might end up being Mrs Khumalo” he answers and a smile escapes Nondumiso’s lips.

“You once said those words to me back when Mnqobi was hitting on me and the moment he messed up you made your move.”

“But do you think we would have lasted if I hadn’t moved to Joburg?” Edwards asks. Him and Nondumiso had agreed to give things a try but when he got home that very day he got news that they are supposed to move and they lost communication because he couldn’t even say goodbye to her.

“I don’t know Edward but I’m glad I met Omphile he’s a very wonderful person he’s a good listener and he respects me.”

“If he really respects you then he would have waited until marriage” he answers and Nondumiso rolls her eyes. “You forgot that he’s also unemployed.”

“Please stop! If you and I going to be friends then no insulting my boyfriend.”

“Noted the food is here” Edwards says.

They have their lunch then go back to work. They were late but since they had bribed Miss Vanessa all was well.

“Hey madam!” Vanessa says shifting down her glasses. They are just fashion glasses but when customers ask her she says her eyes are sore.

“How was lunch?”

“Lunch was delicious thanks for asking.”

“I foresee you and Edward being together” she sprinkles water on Nondumiso’s face.

“I rebuke the devil.”

“Let’s say you weren’t pregnant would you be with him?” she asks and Nondumiso shakes her head no.

“I love Omphile and I don’t see myself loving someone else.”

“It will end in tears” Vanessa chuckles.

“Tears of joy you mean.”

“Omphile is one lucky guy but please be sure that he also loves you the same way you love him. He could be with you because you’re pregnant” she says.

“The scale never balances Vanessa obviously one of us loves the other more

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obviously one of us loves the other more it could be me or him but what I know is that we love each other and no matter what you or Edward says I will always love Omphile.”

“Oh! So Edward has already commented okay that’s interesting” she nods as if she’s thinking of something.

“Whatever it is keep it to yourself.”

“Vanessa you can go for lunch I’ll stand in for you.” Edward says. “30 minutes Vanessa.”

“Don’t do what I wouldn’t.” Vanessa says

“And what could I possibly do that you wouldn’t.” Edward answers grabbing a seat. He waits until Vanessa leaves then shifts his attention to Nondumiso. “You’re not mad right?” he asks

“No but never speak bad about my man.”

“I promise” he holds her hand but when she tries to shift away he tightens his grip. “Are you okay though?”

“I’m fine Edward stop being weird and Omphile will break your ribs if he finds out you were touching me.”

Edward's eyes widen. "He's violent too?"

"No! He's just over protective he doesn't like people touching me."

"He's broke unemployed and controlling ayy Nondumiso you're one brave woman." Edward answers and Nondumiso gives him the look. "Fine I'll shut up."

They go quiet for a couple of minutes.

"Where's your phone?" Edward asks.

"I don't have a phone."

“Haibo Nondumiso what’s really going on in your life? Did you maybe run away from home?” he asks and she shakes her head no.

“My mother kicked me out so that’s why I’m here” she’s scared Edward might try and contact her parents if he found out.

“I’m sorry to hear that but if you need anything I’m here okay.”

Nondumiso nods. “Okay!”

Edward stands up and kisses her on cheek before attending to a customer that just entered the shop. “My bad can’t help it” Edward calls from afar

and Nondumiso just shakes her head.

After work Edward drives her home. “Edward I can open the door for myself.” Nondumiso says getting out of the car.

“And I’m a gentleman.”

“Anyways thanks for lunch and thank you for driving me home. I’ll see you tomorrow drive safe” Nondumiso says already opening the gate.

“I’m not getting a hug or something?”

“Of course not. Go before I let the dogs out on you.” Nondumiso says

joking they don't have any dogs in the yard.

“It's just a hug Nondumiso don't tell me your boyfriend doesn't want that too?” he says and Nondumiso doesn't respond. “You shouldn't let him control you like that you know.”

“Fine Edward!” she shifts closer to him and gives him a hug. “Okay you can let go of me now.”

Someone clears their throat and Nondumiso quickly shifts away from Edward.

“Hey my love!” Nondumiso greets Omphile with a smile and Edward

raises an eye brow more like 'so this is the famous unemployed Omphile'

"Hie you must be Omphile I've heard a lot about you. I'm Edward."

Edwards says extending his hand for a hand shake. Omphile hesitates but eventually shakes his hand.

"Hie Edward. Please next time try to keep your hands to yourself."

Omphile utters with a calm but firm tone.

"I was just saying goodbye." Edward answers chuckling.

"There are many ways to say goodbye without having to touch her.

You can just wave meters away.”
Omphile replies.

“Being overprotective won’t keep her”
– Edward

Omphile holds Nondumiso by her waist and gently shifts her close to him then whispers in her ear. “Permission to break his ribs?”

“I’m right here and I can hear you. If you have something to say then say it to my face.” Edwards shifts towards them.

“Can you two stop acting like 5 year olds Omphile please go back inside and Edward just leave.” Nondumiso

says she's tired and doesn't need this kind of drama.

“You better hold on to her because the moment you mess up you'll lose her and you'll lose her to me.”

Edward says and within a split second a punch had landed on his nose.

“Omphile!” Nondumiso exclaims rushing to check on Edward who now has a bleeding nose. “Oh my God Edward are you okay?” she asks and he nods.

“Mamakhe I...”

“Shut up!” Nondumiso yells. “What is wrong with you? Did you really have

to punch him?” she helps Edward into the car and offers to drive him to the pharmacy that is just a 15 minutes’ drive from their place. She hates blood and the last time they were in a situation like this Omphile ended up behind bars.

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NONDUMISO

“Nondumiso I’m fine it’s just a bleeding nose you don’t need to take me to the doctor. See my nose

stopped bleeding.” Edward says cleaning himself with his shirt that is now stained with blood.

Nondumiso parks the car just near Fat cake city and takes a deep breath. When she saw blood she panicked the last time she saw so much blood was when Omphile got arrested and it was because of something exactly like what just took place minutes ago.

“I’m sorry for his behaviour I told you he’s over protective.” Nondumiso says with her hands covering her face and elbows on the steering.

“Is that the kind of man you want to be with? What if he hits you? It’s clear he can’t control his anger.”

“You provoked him Edward how can you say that to him?” Nondumiso

reaches for her bag that is still on her arm. Takes out wet wipes and starts cleaning up Edward.

“You’ve become such a mother have you noticed?”

She chuckles. “Well I’m going to be a mother soon and are you sure you’re okay?”

“I’m fine!”

“Fine then I should go check on Omphile” she starts the car she learnt to drive when she was sixteen but doesn’t have a license yet.

“Check on him for what? I got the bleeding nose.”

“He’s my boyfriend and don’t question me” after some time she parks the car a few houses away from hers and says her goodbyes.

When Nondumiso gets by their house she finds Omphile waiting for her where she left him.

“Hie!” she utters.

“Mamakhe I’m sorry I shouldn’t have done that and I’m sorry.”

“Why would you do that? That’s my boss’s son and what if he gets you arrested Omphile? We hardly have money for food how am I going to bail you out of jail? You’re going to be a father soon and you should know that action have consequences you can’t go beating up people unprovoked.”

Nondumiso yells and Omphile just looks down and shakes his head. Not because he regrets punching Edward but he hates that she’s angry especially when it’s because of something he did. Her happiness

mean the world to him that's why when it comes to her he attacks like a wild animal.

"I'm sorry I didn't mean to yell at you but please don't hit people."

Nondumiso says with a calmer tone.

"Let's go inside."

"I'm sorry mamakhe!"

"It's okay. Let's just go inside." she gives him a hug first then takes his hand leading him inside the house.

Luckily Omphile is good in the kitchen not as good as 'mamakhe' but he knows a thing or two and he's already prepared dinner for them.

They have supper then do the dishes.

"Babakhe what is your dream?"

Nondumiso asks. She has her head on Omphile's lap laying on her back facing the ceiling.

“I don’t know!”

“Come on there has to be something you wanted to be growing up. For example I wanted to be a Physiotherapist” she says

“Okay I don’t know what that is but some of us did not grow up with parents that gave us the opportunity to ‘dream’ we already had our lives planned.”

“What do you mean already had your life planned?” she says sitting up with Omphile’s help of course.

“My father doesn’t care what I want he wants me to join the army. That’s one of the reasons why I had to drop out of school because I knew by doing that I won’t have the qualifications.”

“But did you have to drop out of school? Couldn’t you tell them what you wanted and try make them see things from your point of view” she questions and he shakes his head.

“My father is a very stubborn man and once he’s set his mind on something he doesn’t barge. As for dropping out of school I got arrested several times and no parent wants their child to learn with someone who’s once been in jail so I had no option but to drop out which also meant no military school.”

“What if you had managed to write your matric would you have gone to the military?” she asks and he smiles brushing her cheeks with his fingers.

“I had meet you and I just couldn’t go even if I wanted to.”

She smiles. “That’s sweet and stupid
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would you have gone to the military?”
she asks and he smiles brushing her
cheeks with his fingers.

“I had meet you and I just couldn’t go
even if I wanted to.”

She smiles. “That’s sweet and stupid
you can’t give up your dreams
because of someone else.”

“Really? So if you were to choose
between me and psychic what what
thing you’d choose your dream?”

She giggles “It’s Physiotherapy and
yes I would choose my dream
because my dreams would never turn
on me sweetheart.”

“True but I chose you till infinity.”

“I chose you too that’s why I’m still here” she shifts closer to him and plants a kiss on his lips.

“Thank you for loving someone like me.”

“Babakhe we won’t always stay like this I know you will get a job and everything will be fine.” she says.

“I’m the luckiest!”

“You heard what Edward said you better hold on to me” she laughs.

“Okay about Edward I am very sorry and I will also apologize to him but please tell him to keep his hand to himself.”

“I’ll make sure to deliver the message” she answers. “Please avoid getting into fights Omphile this time they will lock you up and I don’t

want to be bringing you warm porridge in prison.”

“It won’t happen again only if that Edward stays away from you.”

“Edward is just a friend and even if he goes after me my heart is with you. All you have to do is trust me.” Nondumiso says.

“I do trust you but I don’t trust Edward. I know you love me but he’s a man like me.”

“So you’d also chase after a pregnant woman that has a boyfriend?” she questions

“No but when a man wants something he can do whatever it takes to get it especially when it’s the opposite gender. Don’t give me the friends’ story because I was once your friend and look at us today.”

“And you tricked me into sleeping with you. You promised not to do anything.” she shakes her head.

“Can we not talk about that please I have made so many bad decisions in my life but you’re not one of them”

“Are you kidding me I’m the mother of your child you’re stuck with me” she says picking the phone that’s vibrating next to her.

(On the phone)

Nondumiso: Hello!

Voice: Nono this is Vanessa hope I’m not disturbing your steamy session.

Nondumiso: Don’t start what do you want so late?

Vanessa: Okay so I got your number on Edward that idiot hung up on me before I even finished talking...

Nondumiso: (interrupting her) girl hit the pin in the head.

Vanessa: Patience girl... anyways my boyfriend works at a company called Hermies and one of their guys died so they need a fill in. Does Omphile maybe know how to drive?

Nondumiso: Please hold!

“Babakhe do you know how to drive and do you have a license?” she asks and he nods.

Nondumiso: (on the phone) he can drive what's up?

Vanessa: I got him job.

Nondumiso: No jokes Vanessa are you serious?

Vanessa: Really Nondu? Do you think I'll get off my man to call you just to play?

Nondumiso: Oh my God thanks girl!

Vanessa: I'll text you the address and he managed to pull a few strings he should just bring a copy of his ID and you can thank me by buying lunch tomorrow. Bye!

She hangs up and Nondumiso throws the phone on the bed.

"Who was that?" Omphile asks

"That was Vanessa."

"Oh the forward girl you work with kahle kahle how old is she?" he questions

"She's 25 and that person you're calling forward just got you a job."

"What kind of a job?" he asks but doubting he thinks she's pulling his leg.

"As a driver at Hermies and they said you should come in tomorrow."

"Oh my God!"

“Babakhe you got a job” she screams
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“I love you!” Omphile says as he gentle kisses Nondumiso. They are all dressed up and ready to leave for work just waiting to their transport to come pick them up.

“I love you too babakhe!” Nondumiso answers with a smile. She’s very happy that Omphile has finally found a job and it’s all thanks to Vanessa.

“Please don’t forget to thank Vanessa for me.” Omphile says for the fifth time now.

“I won’t forget.”

A car hoots outside and Nondumiso opens the window to check and it’s a white polo. She sees Vanessa coming out. “Your ride is here” she says to Omphile.

He gives her another kiss before they leave the house.

“Hie Omphile! I’m a hugger.”
Vanessa says already in Omphile’s arm.

“Hey Nessa!” Nondumiso waves.

“Hey you! Give me a hug” she answers. She seems in a very cheerful mood.

Omphile leaves with Vanessa’s boyfriend who wasn’t even introduced to Nondumiso.

“You look happy!” Nondumiso says waiting to hear the PG details. Vanessa is just a free spirit she says what she wants and when she wants to say it.

“I don’t kiss and tell.”

“Since when? Come on you always tell me.” Nondumiso says she’s now

more curious because Vanessa isn't the type that doesn't kiss and tell.

"I met a man child. The man."

"I'm happy for you." Nondumiso give her a hug barely since her stomach is now huge.

"Omphile cleans up good yena he's not bad the nigga is just broke."

"Please don't start it's still early and I have to deal with Edward" she sighs heavily. She's crossing her fingers that Edward is not mad at her.

"Why? What happened with Edward?"

“Omphile punched him in the nose” she says trying to hold the laughter back. “Trust me it wasn’t funny at the time but Edward said something about Omphile losing me to him and Omphile didn’t hesitate to punch him.”

“Oh my God I’m so gonna laugh at him when I see him. What was he thinking? I don’t blame Omphile though” they both burst into laughter.

“Okay now get yourself together Edward’s here.” Nondumiso says as she sees Edward’s car driving towards them.

“Morning ladies!” Edward gets out of the car and opens the door for Nondumiso.

“You’re not fair!” Vanessa says getting at the back.

“She’s pregnant what’s your excuse.” Edward answers getting into the car too. “Nondumiso seat belt!”

AT HERMIES

Vanessa’s boyfriend S’fiso had already talked to his boss about Omphile joining them so all that was left was for Omphile to sign a contract with them. He didn’t get a permanent position but he signed a four months contract which is way

better than just sitting at home and doing nothing. According to S'fiso if he gets lucky his contract might get renewed and who knows he might be a permanent employee.

“So how do you know Vanessa?” S'fiso asks as they make their first delivery to KFC. At Hermies they manufacture ice cream cones, snacks, and waffles.

“I wouldn't say I know Vanessa. She just works with my girlfriend.”

“But when looking at her, what kind of woman do you think she is?” S'fiso goes on.

“I don’t know really I don’t know her that much why?”

“I don’t know I think she might be the one” he says and Omphile just nods. He doesn’t know how to respond to that but to him Vanessa is a little forward and doesn’t look like the type that is ready to settle.

They deliver to different locations going to places Omphile has never even been luckily they had a GPS and S’fiso is familiar with most of the places.

“Was that your woman I saw in the morning?” S’fiso asks as they have lunch they carry their own lunch. Luckily Omphile came prepared.

“Yes! That’s my heart.”

“She looks young you also look young. How old are you?” he questions and Omphile chuckles.

“I am 21 and she’s 19. It’s a long story but things just happened and here we are.”

“You two are so young you also look young. How old are you?” he questions and Omphile chuckles.

“I am 21 and she’s 19. It’s a long story but things just happened and here we are.”

“You two are so young do your parents know that you live together?” he asks and Omphile shakes his head no. “Well at least you are now working eyy. Does she work?”

“Yeah she works at Mr Price home.”

“At least eyy things are very tough when you don’t have a stable income. Especially with a child on the way.” S’fiso says and he sounds like he can relate.

“Do you have any children?”

“Two girls” he answers.

“You had them with Vanessa?”

S'fiso chuckles. “No! Vanessa is the slay queen type and it scares me because sometimes I feel like I'm not meeting her expectations. She wants fancy everything and sometimes it gets hard for me to tell her that I can't afford some things.”

“Trust me I understand your situation. Nondumiso comes from a very rich family. I'm even surprised how she ended up being my girlfriend because I'm the opposite of everything she is.”

“Well the heart wants what it wants and the fact that she left everything to be with you should mean a lot to you. Hold on to her girls like her are very rare.” S'fiso answers.

“Well I’m not planning on letting her go. My wish is to make things right by her parents. I just wish I had enough money to do things right.”

“Just give it time boy everything will fall into place.”

AT NONDUMISO’S WORK PLACE

“Here!” Edward hands Nondumiso a white plastic bag.

“What’s that?” Nondumiso asks

“Open it!” Edward says before walking back to his office his father’s office.

Vanessa snatches the plastic bag from Nondumiso's hands and opens it. "Dang you are one lucky lady Nondumiso Xaba." Vanessa says waving an iPhone.

"I can't take that. What will Omphile say?"

Vanessa shrugs. "I don't know tell him I bought it for you."

"This is a phone it's different from buying someone lunch and this is how the lying starts and I don't think I want to go down that road yet."

"Omphile has to understand that you need a phone." Vanessa says.

“And I will get one when I have the money. Not to mention Omphile already hates Edward so I have to return this” she takes the phone from Vanessa and puts it back in the plastic. Then goes to the manager’s office. Nondumiso grew up being showered with money so it no longer moves her.

“May I come in?” Nondumiso knocks on the door.

“Sure! What’s up?” Edward says closing his laptop.

“Thank you for the gift but I can’t take this I’m sorry” she puts the plastic bag on the table.

“Why not? You need a phone so we call you.”

“And who’s we?” Nondumiso asks.

“The company me!”

“You can just call me on Omphile’s phone. What will Omphile say if he found out that you bought me a phone this doesn’t feel right I’m sorry but I can’t take it.” she says.

“Doesn’t feel right to you or Omphile? I bought you a phone Nondumiso what’s the big deal it’s just a phone.”

“An expensive phone Edward. I just can’t!” she turns ready to head out

but Edward rushes to her and holds the door.

“It just a phone Nondu a phone. It didn’t even cost me that much this is my way of saying sorry for last night. I shouldn’t have said that.”

“I forgive you but keep the phone” she says but he won’t let her leave. He gently brushes her cheeks with his fingers. “Edward stop this time Omphile won’t be so polite.”

“Your hair is a mess!”

Mess is a gentle word. She looks terrible her hair does.

“Yeah I’m going to do it at lunch” she pushes Edward’s hands off her.

“Will that be enough time?”

“Yes I’m not braiding it. I’m cutting it short.” She answers.

“Don’t tell me you can’t afford to do your hair?”

She can’t! It’s getting too expensive for her and cutting it is the best option. “I’m tired of the hair that’s why I’m cutting it” she tries to walk out but he pulls her back.

“It’s just a phone Nondumiso. Please take it I bought it with love and as a friend. Please!”

She sighs heavily. “Stop touching me and I’ll show it to Omphile first he asks me to return it then that’s it.”

“I’m fine with that and please don’t cut your hair. Let me pay for you just this once.”

“No!” she shakes her head.

“You can pay me back month end.”
He takes out his wallet and hands her R500.”

She looks at the money debating on whether to take it or not.

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NONDUMISO

She's still in Mr Khumalo's office and she knows exactly what Edward is trying to do. He thinks by flashing money at her she might maybe start seeing him differently. Little does he know that this one is not charmed by money. She grew up in a very rich family she's the kind that would wear a million dollar dress and still act normal. If she really loved money she would have left the moment Omphile suggested she goes back home.

“Please don’t give me money Edward it feel like cheating on Omphile.”

Nondumiso says after thinking hard on whether to take Edward’s money or not.

“Come on Nondu I’m just trying to help.”

“Thanks Edward but like I said I have decided on cutting my hair. Thanks for the phone too I’m sure Omphile would love it.” Nondumiso takes the phone

“You’re going to give it to Omphile?”

“Yes do you have a problem with that?” she asks and Edward shakes

his head no. She heads out leaving Edward puzzled. He spent a lot of money on that phone. He was hoping to score a few points by buying her a phone.

“Did he take it back?” Vanessa questions as Nondumiso sits on her chair.

“No he said I should have it and that he bought it with love and said a bunch of stuff that I can’t remember.”

“Come on he bought it with love. So are you taking it or should I?”
Vanessa asks with a smile on her face.

“I’m taking it and since you have a great fashion sense I need you to help me decide on what to do with my hair. I want to cut it short and add some color.”

“Say no more girl I have a few short hair styles on my phone that are to die for” she grabs her phone and starts searching for hairstyles.

The day goes by with Edward all over Nondumiso as if he doesn’t see that she’s pregnant. Maybe if Omphile was to rough him up a little he would stay away.

After work Vanessa uninvited joins Nondumiso and Edward so Edward

had to drop off Vanessa first then Nondumiso.

“Thanks for the ride.” Nondumiso says getting out of the car.

“Anytime and I never got the chance to tell you that you look prettier with short hair.” Edward says and Omphile walks out of the gate. He knocked off at 5pm.

“Hie Edward!” Omphile greets after giving Nondumiso a peck. “Sorry about yesterday but please try to keep away from my woman.”

“For the record I hate you.” –Edward

“Dude the feeling is mutual.” Omphile answers

“Guys come on don’t be like that and Edward thank you for the ride. Drive safe!” Nondumiso says. Edward just waves they drives away.

“Why are you like that to someone who’s helping me?” Nondumiso asks Omphile they are still outside the house.

“That Edward person likes you. And he’s using helping you to score points trust me one of these days he’s going to confess.”

“Even if he confesses babakhe I love only you.” Nondumiso pecks his lips. “I love only you Ngcolosi wami.”

“You show know how to turn a man on.” He loves it when she uses his clan name.

“Don’t start let’s go inside” she says as Omphile takes her bag and opens the gate for her.

“One day I’ll be opening the gate for you like this when we are entering our own house.”

“And I will be in high heels with my soccer team running around” Nondumiso says as they hold hands walking towards their room.

“Romeo and Juliet my father is calling you.” Thabani calls Omphile looks at Nondumiso who just shrugs. They don’t know if they did something wrong or maybe the landlord wants to raise their rent.

They make their way to the dining room where they find Thabani’s mother and father watching Idols wooden mic. Nondumiso and Omphile greet Mr and Mrs Khosi before sitting down. They offer them juice but they turn it down.

“Omphile and Nondumiso right?” Mr Khosi asks. Romeo and Juliet nod.
“How old are you?”

“I’m 21 and she’s 19.” Omphile answers.

“And where are your parents? Do they know you live here?” Mrs Khosi asks.

“Our parents are in KZN and no
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Omphile looks at Nondumiso who just shrugs. They don’t know if they did something wrong or maybe the landlord wants to raise their rent.

They make their way to the dining room where they find Thabani’s mother and father watching Idols wooden mic. Nondumiso and Omphile greet Mr and Mrs Khosi

before sitting down. They offer them juice but they turn it down.

“Omphile and Nondumiso right?” Mr Khosi asks. Romeo and Juliet nod.

“How old are you?”

“I’m 21 and she’s 19.” Omphile answers.

“And where are your parents? Do they know you live here?” Mrs Khosi asks.

“Our parents are in KZN and no they don’t know that we are here or that we live together.” Omphile replies.

“How come they don’t know?”

“Uhm Nondumiso got pregnant and both our parents didn’t want us to be together so we decided to... uhm to elope.” Omphile answers looking down.

“Oh so you chose love over family?”- Mrs Khosi

“Something like that.” Nondumiso says with a smile. She doesn’t care if it’s wrong she’s glad she chose Omphile.

“And how far are you nana?”

“I’m 6 months.” Nondumiso says rubbing her stomach and Mrs Khosi nods then looks at her husband who

also nods as if they are agreeing to something.

“That will be all. Thank you.” Mr Khosi says. Nondumiso and Omphile say their goodbyes although they have many questions. They go to their room.

“Smells delicious did you cook?” Nondumiso asks.

“Yes.” Omphile answers throwing himself on the bed.

“You are the best. How was your first day at work?” Nondumiso sits on his lap with her hands on his shoulders.

“Work was great it’s not that hard.”

“I’m glad you enjoyed and before I forget I got you something.” she reaches for her bag and takes out the phone she got from Edward. “I got you this.”

“A phone mamakhe? Where did you get the money?”

“They were on special on one of the shops so Vanessa borrowed me the money” she answers hoping he doesn’t pick up that she’s lying.

“Thanks but you need it more than I do.”

“I’ll take yours. And I want you to have it” she says and he gives her a

kiss. He's never owned a phone that expensive.

“Thanks mamakhe!”

“I'll dish up for us” she gets off his lap and switches on the stoves heating the beef stew. “Am I the only one who found it weird why the landlord called us?”

“I also wanted to ask why do you think he was asking all that?”

She shrugs “I have no idea.”

“Maybe he was just asking I mean you are pregnant maybe they want to know what to do if something was to happen or if you were to go in labor.”

“Maybe! And did Thabani have to call us Romeo and Juliet.” Nondumiso laughs shaking her head.

“That’s Thabani for you and who is Romeo and Juliet?”

“You don’t know Romeo and Juliet?” her eyes widen. Who doesn’t know Romeo and Juliet in this decade?

“Am I supposed to know them?”

“Babakhe the story of Romeo and Juliet is the greatest love story ever. They were two lovers just like us and their parents didn’t not want them to be together just like us” she says

“Did Juliet get pregnant and they eloped?”

She laughs. “No she didn’t get pregnant but they really loved each other too bad they ended up dying.”

“How is it the greatest love story if they ended up dying?”

“Romeo couldn’t live without his love so he took his life” she answers

“Ayy that’s just stupid.”

“It’s romantic.” She lightly slaps his arm. “Would you die for me?”

“No!”

She clicks her tongue. “If I die first I will haunt you”

“I love you mamakhe and I don’t want to lie to saying I will die for you but I promise to love and protect you always. Oh my God you cut your hair.”

“And you only noticing now” she shakes her head then goes to get water so he can wash his hands. She kneels down so he can wash his hands.

“Mamakhe you don’t have to kneel every time.”

“My mother used to do it for my father all the time and I want to.” she

chuckles putting the dish down.

“Okay now I can’t stand up please help.”

He helps her up. “Okay why don’t you sit down I’ll serve you”

He helps her wash her hands and since they don’t have chairs the bed is their chair and table. They eat while talking about their dream house. While they are still eating the phone rings and the contact ‘Mum’ flashes on the screen

“Is that your mum or mine?” Omphile asks.

“That’s my sim card but how did she get this number?”

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“Are you going to answer that?”

Omphile asks as they stare at the ringing phone. It’s the fifth time now the person won’t give up.

Nondumiso is pacing. She knows what's going to happen when she picks up the phone her mother is going to ask her to come home or worse she might come drag her kicking and screaming. Knowing Ingrid she already has a plan up her sleeves.

“Let's just switch off the phone and throw away the sim card” Nondumiso suggests because going back home is not an option.

“Babe just answer it maybe its' urgent.” Omphile picks up the phone and hands it to Nondumiso who's now sweating. Knowing her mother she might report Omphile for kidnapping her even though she

knows it's not true. This is one of the reasons they changed their sim cards.

“I swear if it's Edward who called my parents and gave them my number I'm going to kick him in the balls” she curses before answering the phone

(On the phone)

Ingrid: Finally she has decided to answer did you really think you will get away with running from home?

No response.

Ingrid: I know you can hear me Nondumiso...look baby I'm sorry about the way I reacted when you

told me you were pregnant. Please come home. We will figure it out just come home. Your father misses you he's worried sick please just come home I'm willing to accept your baby.

Nondumiso: But are you willing to accept my relationship with Omphile?

Ingrid: Just come home baby then we'll talk.

Nondumiso: It's a yes or no question mum. If I come home are you going to accept my relationship with Omphile?

Ingrid: Not in this lifetime.

Nondumiso: Goodbye then.

Ingrid: Nondumiso what did that boy feed you? Are you willing to disrespect us because of him? So you'd rather be with a boy you hardly even know? You realize soon he'll get tired of you. This is just teenage love and trust me as you grow you'll want different things and you'll also find out that he's not the kind of man you want to spend your life with.

Nondumiso doesn't respond she just looks at Omphile who's looking at her curious to know what is being said on the other end of the phone.

Ingrid: Nondumiso!

No response.

Ingrid: (now losing her calm)
Nondumiso I know you can hear me.
You better get your head straight
before I come there and drag you
back home.

Nondumiso hangs up and harshly
throws the phone on the bed.

“What did she say?” Omphile
questions.

“She wants me to come home and
I’m not going there. I will never go
back there until the day she accepts
that I love you”

“Mamakhe just go! I really love
spending time with you but that’s

your mother and in the future we are going to need her blessings.”

Omphile say kneeling in front of Nondumiso cupping her chin.

“Are you tired of me already?” she asks with tears clouding in her eyes as her mother’s words replay in her head. Maybe he’s tired of her.

“No! How can you even say that?”

“Then why do you keep pressurizing me to go back home Omphile? Isn’t this the reason we ran away in the first place? We wanted to be together and now you no longer want to be with me” she says now crying.

“Mamakhe you know that’s not true.”
Omphile responds calmly.

“Then what? Why are you so bent on me going back home? What do you want to do when I’m gone? Omphile am I not trying enough?” she cries.

“Okay is this still about your mother or there’s something else you’re angry about?”

“I’m just tired Omphile I’m trying to keep it together but you keep pushing me away.” she cries which is a little weird to Omphile because he doesn’t know what he said or did that might have upset her.

“Mamakhe I’m not pushing you away. If you don’t want to go then fine. We can stay together but please don’t cry
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” he says holding her in her arms.
“I’m sorry I didn’t mean to upset you.”

He holds her in his arms she cries until she’s satisfied. He cuddles her to sleep. The following morning Omphile is the first to wake up and bath then wake Nondumiso up when he has warmed up her bathing water.

“Will you be able to go to work today?” Omphile asks as Nondumiso walks into their room with a towel wrapped around her body she just finished bathing.

“Yeah I’ll be fine.”

“You don’t look good is everything okay.” Omphile asks very concerned.

“I also don’t feel good and I don’t know why. I’m not sick but I just have this feeling that I can’t explain.”

Nondumiso dresses up then have some cornflakes. Today they are both quiet. There’s this negative energy they just can’t explain.

“Mamakhe are you okay?” Omphile asks for the sixth time now.

“I just have this feeling like something bad is going to happen today.”

Omphile shifts closer to her and cups her chin. “Nothing is going to happen today” he plants a kiss on her lips. They kiss for some time. “Okay mamakhe I have to go to work.”

“I love you! Always know that.”

He kisses her forehead. “I love you too but right now I have to love you and leave you”

“Why does this feel like this is the last time I’ll ever see you?”

“Mamakhe what are you saying I’m just going to work. I will see you in a few hours” he gives her another kiss. “I love you okay!”

She nods. "I love you!" she goes to stand by the window watching Omphile until he disappears. She takes her phone (Omphile's) so she can call Edward to check if he's still picking her up because usually he communicates that he's coming about an hour earlier. Edward is not picking up.

She sits on the bed waiting for Edward and ends up falling asleep. A knock wakes her up she quickly fixes herself and grabs her bag.

"What took you..." she opens the door and to her surprise stands Ingrid. "Mum!"

“Grab your stuff we are leaving”
Ingrid pushes her out of the way
getting into the house. “Wonders
shall never end so this is the reason
you don’t want to come home. Living
like a pig.”

“Mum stop and please leave. I’m no
longer a child I’m above 18 and I can
do what I want.”

Ingrid laughs clapping her hands.
“You think life is a movie I see” she
grabs Nondumiso by her arm and
drags her outside.

“Mum stop!”

A slap land on her cheek. “Look
young lady you will come with me

and you will come with me right now or you will be reason I go to jail after I have killed you. Now go to the car.” Ingrid yells and Nondumiso shakes her head no causing her to earn another slap.

“You can hit me all you want mum but I am not coming with you.”

Ingrid sighs and calls for the two men she came with to come and pick her up kicking and screaming. When the landlord tried to interfere Ingrid tells them where to get off plus she had come prepared for anything.

“Mum I’m begging you.” Nondumiso cries as the car starts moving. She’s sitting between two men meaning

there's no getting out. "Mum I will kill myself if you do this."

"One day you will thank me for this"

Ingrid replies.

#not edited

To be continued...

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Chapter 11

AT HERMIES

It's lunch time and Omphile is trying to call Nondumiso but she's not picking up her phone and he's

worried sick since she did not look well when he left home. He calls Vanessa who picks up after the third try.

(On the phone with Vanessa)

Omphile: Vanessa Hi! Sorry for disturbing but is Nondumiso okay?

Vanessa: What do you mean?
Nondumiso didn't come today and so did that stupid idiot Edward (clicks her tongue)

Omphile: That's weird because when I left home she was ready for work.

Vanessa: Look dude I'm having a rough day and I gotta go.

With that she hangs up leaving Omphile bombarding himself with questions. Could Nondumiso be with Edward? After all Edward has the hots for his girl and maybe they are together after all they drive together when going to work.

Omphile tries to clear his mind and focus on work for the next few hours left which seemed like forever. The moment he knocks off he rushes home and finds the door not locked Nondumiso's bag is on the floor and the phone on the bed.

“Hey!” Thabani says standing by the door. “I’m sure you’re looking for Nondumiso her mother took her.”

He feels the body getting hot and starts sweating if her mother has her then it means he might never see her again. “When did this happen?”

“In the morning about an hour after you left there was nothing we could do they took her kicking and screaming. I know how much you love Nondumiso and I’m very sorry.” Thabani says before closing the door.

Omphile sits on the floor with his back against the door as tears voluntarily roll down his cheeks. What

now? How will he get her back especially with no money? He cannot just walk into the Xaba household empty handed. His heart sinks as he thinks of how she said something bad was going to happen he feels if he was around maybe they wouldn't have taken her.

He takes his phone and dials his mother.

(On the phone)

MaNgcobo: Hello!

Omphile: Ma!

MaNgcobo: Omphile! Oh my God is that you? Baby why did you run away

from home? You know what don't mind that just come home and we'll talk it out.

Nkosinathi speaks on the background asking who MaNgcobo is talking to.

Omphile: They took her ma! Please I need your help I know I've disappointed you in my life but please talk to father for me I have to go and get her before...

Nkosinathi grabs the phone from MaNgcobo and puts it on louder speaker.

Nkosinathi: You have the nerve Omphile.

Omphile: Baba I'm sorry but please think of your grandchild or at least talk to the Xabas for my sake. Her mother will take her away and I might not see her again.

Nkosinathi: Good let her mother take her maybe it might knock some sense into you and I meant it when I said I want nothing that connects me to that family.

Omphile: Baba Ngiyacela! (I'm begging you)

Nkosinathi: When you come to your senses you know where home is but don't ever think of bringing that girl in my house.

He hangs up and Omphile sinks on the floor crying. He has no one to turn to. Most of his relatives are out of the country and he does not have their contacts maybe if he had some money he was going to go ask for her hand.

They say men don't cry but he really loves her and it's not like he just woke up and decided to fall for his family's worst enemy. Babadala bathi inhliziyo ayiphakelwa (the heart wants what it wants)

What now? Should he go back and ask for his father's forgiveness? Or maybe try going to the Xabas to ask for Nondumiso's hand but how will he

be able to do that when he's this broke? This is the moment he wishes he had siblings at least he'll be having backup.

He calls his friend Nthabiseng hoping maybe he might help him figure out a plan to get Nondumiso back but all Nthabiseng could tell him is that it's best if he went back home.

The door opens and Thabani walks in. "Hey I know you're not in a good space but my parents want to talk to you."

"Okay I'm coming" Omphile answers with his head still down. Thabani kneels next to him and pats his back.

“Kuzalunga boy Nondumiso loves you and she will wait for you. For now I suggest you get your life together that way you can do things according to tradition.”

Omphile nods and wipes the tears off his cheeks following Thabani out where he finds the Khosi family waiting for him. He greets them taking a seat.

“We are very sorry about Nondumiso.” Mrs Khosi utters. “Okay let me get straight to the point we are moving and the reason why we had called you and Nondumiso here the other day is because we wanted

someone to leave this house to and you two were the perfect match.”

Omphile quickly looks up not sure what she means by ‘leave the house to them’.

“Our first born son bought us a home in the UK so we have decided to move there meaning there’s nothing left for us here in South Africa. We wanted to sell the house but since you’re our only tenants and good people we decided to leave the house to you it’s upto you what you choose to do but we will sign over the rights to you and Nondu.” Mrs Khosi adds.

“Wow! I’m speechless a house.”

Omphile answers. “Thank you very much Mr and Mrs Khosi.”

“It’s okay son just bring us a copy of your ID so we can get started on the paperwork

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” Mr Khosi smiles.

FLORIDA (KRUGERSDORP)
JOHANNESBURG

Ingrid asked to use an old friend’s house for a day because there was no way she was going to go into a hotel with Nondumiso screaming as if she’s kidnaped. Nondumiso has been

crying the whole day. She's tried pleading with her mother to let her go but Ingrid won't listen to a word she says. Ingrid has already booked tickets to KZN and stands firm on her decision.

“Mum I'm begging you please at least let me say goodbye?” Nondumiso kneels at her mother's feet. “Mama please let me see him one last time I promise I will come with you.”

“You just want to run away and you're not seeing that stupid boy of yours” Ingrid answers focused on her magazine.

“Fine!” Nondumiso stands up and goes to the kitchen to make herself

something to eat she hasn't ate anything since morning. She rubs her stomach "Hang in there little one we'll go back to daddy that I promise."

She doesn't fight with her mother that night but she ignores her when she tries talking to her and goes to bed early. The following morning her mother wakes her up so she can get ready for their trip. Nondumiso doesn't resist she baths and wears the dress her mother picked out for her.

"You look beautiful." Ingrid says with a smile and it takes everything in Nondumiso not to roll her eyes.

"Thanks mum!"

They have breakfast and the two men that picked up Nondumiso like a pillow the day before drive them to the airport.

“Thank you I’ll take it from here.” Ingrid says to the two man as they walk into the airport. “Everything will be fine baby I know you love him but this is what’s best.” Ingrid holds Nondumiso’s arms as they walk.

“Mum wait!” Nondumiso says. “I love you!”

“Aww I love you too baby.”

“But I love Omphile more.” she pushes her mother’s hand off her and

runs for dear life.

She's sees a couple ahead of her the woman is pregnant but she doesn't care she clings on to the man.

"Please help me."

"And she's touching me Lizzy tell this child to stop touching me." Nqobani (from MR & MRS SIBIYA novel) says trying to get Nondumiso off him but she's holding on to his arms tight.

"Hey wena you don't touch people you don't know."

"Nqobani stop she looks scared. Are you okay sweetie?" Elizabeth says cupping Nondumiso's chin and she shakes her head no.

“Please help me?”

“We are busy.” Nqobani answers.

“What do you need help with?” Elizabeth asks and Nqobani rolls his eyes irritated.

“There’s a lady that wants to kidnap me” she lies.

“Okay where do you live?” Elizabeth asks.

“Lizzy she could be lying can we just go please Deon is waiting.”

“Babe can’t we just help her? Look at her eyes are puffy and she needs help.” Elizabeth pouts knowing

exactly that he can't resist her when she does that.

“Nana there's another couple I'm sure they would love to help. Lizzy let's go!” he tries to take Elizabeth's hand but she shifts back and turns to Nondumiso. “We'll help you.”

“And who's we?”-Nqobani

“Fine I'll help her myself.” Elizabeth yells.

“Great now we are fighting over a stranger. You don't even know this child Elizabeth” As usual they start shouting at each other. Nondumiso gets behind Nqobani when she sees her mother she's looking for her but

with the fighting couple Ingrid doesn't even look their way.

#not edited

To be continued....

As you know I don't post weekend unless sponsored so see you Monday and if you haven't read MR & MRS SIBIYA I sent the link yesterday just check the post before this one to read it or buy the pdf at R50 contact +27814035864.

Reading the story will help you know more about the featuring characters because I will not be introducing them since it's not their story.

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Nondumiso is with the Sibiyas in Pretoria they had no choice but to take her with them. The Sibiyas are in Pretoria because Diana (Nqobani's mother) is getting married. The twins do not approve of the new man joining their family but have no choice since he makes their mother happy.

Nondumiso is seated on the couch listening to Nqobani and Elizabeth talk about her as if she is not the

same room with them. Nqobani thinks she ran away from home and Elizabeth thinks she was being kidnaped and that she could be in danger.

“You two don’t have to fight over helping me or not. I’m fine now thank you for your help.” Nondumiso says getting on up from the couch. “Can you please just help me get back to Krugersdorp then I’ll be out of your hair.”

“What about the woman who wanted to kidnap you? Won’t she find you there?” Elizabeth asks. She’s now worried about what’s going to happen to Nondumiso. She knows that life

better than anyone she has been kidnapped several times.

“Then she should go to the police.”
Nqobani answers.

“Sorry for being a pain in the stomach but I don’t usually do that it’s just that I was stranded and my mother was going to take me away.” -Nondumiso

“Don’t worry about him he’s crazy. I will help you okay ” Elizabeth says and Nondumiso nods.

“Oh now I’m the crazy one ” Nqobani mumbles.

“Can you please shut up Nqobani?”
Elizabeth yells startling Nondumiso.

“Okay is it me or you just switch from nice to super angry in a split second?” Nondumiso walks a little further away from Elizabeth she just can not understand her character. “I’m sorry it’s just that he annoys the shit out of me sometimes.”

“But he’s your husband how does he annoy you?” Nondumiso asks because she and Omphile never annoy each other.

“Well that's just how it is marriage isn't always rosy. Sometimes we fight and sometimes we get along just fine other times I just want to choke him in his sleep but then I think again; this nigga makes me happy he gives me

money and good sex" Elizabeth says causing Nondumiso to laugh at the 'good sex' part.

"Gee Lizzy easy. Parental guidance must be observed" Nqobani scolds her.

"She's pregnant there's no parental guidance here" she answers and Nqobani chokes on his beer. He had not noticed that Nondumiso is pregnant.

"Kid how old are you?" –Nqobani

"I'm 19!" Nondumiso answers playing with her hands.

"Before you judge it was a mistake we didn't plan it."

Nqobani chuckles "What do you expect when you engage in unprotected sex? A bucket of rice?"

"Can I go?" Nondumiso says right now her mind is on Omphile and how worried he may be. Her worst fear is Omphile going back to KZN to look for her hence. "I'm sure my boyfriend is worried sick."

"Before you go who wanted to kidnap you because we can't let you go what if it's still not safe." Nqobani says taking a seat.

"Actually I wasn't being kidnapped that was my mother forcing me to go back home with her " Nondumiso answers.

“Why?” Lizzy questions. Nondumiso sighs and tells them about her ordeal how she left home with Omphile till when her mother came to get her.

“Aww that’s sweet young love” Elizabeth says smiling.

“It’s stupid life is tough out there. You can’t just run away from home without a plan you’re not going to feed the baby love and kisses” Nqobani utters shaking his head.

“My boyfriend now works and I work too I know we will be fine. We love and trust each other.”

“Everything will be fine don’t listen to Nqobani love always win. As long as you have some source of income but you two have to make things right by your parents and soon” Elizabeth says.

“Our parents don’t want us together. I’m starting to think they don’t love us too because why would they try to separate us when we are happy together?”

“That’s just how parents are they get overprotective sometimes. Your mother isn’t separating you from your boyfriend because she doesn’t love you but she now knows life and she’s just trying to protect you. Marriage isn’t like in the movies yes sometimes

things are rosy and fine but there will come a time when you will fight and say hurtful things to each other ”
Lizzy answers.

“You don’t know my mother she just hates Omphile because he doesn’t come from a rich family.”

“I know but you know how our parents are and I don’t blame them for being like that it’s just how they were raised. What I want to tell you is that you should make peace with your parents because you need their blessings even the Bible says clearly that honor your mother and father....”
she gets interrupted by Nqobani who just choked on his beer. Elizabeth doesn’t read the bible so it’s a

surprise to him hearing her quote a verse from the Bible.

“Anyways” Elizabeth shoots a glare at Nqobani. It was more of a warning.

“As I was saying you and your boyfriend should start saving money then go back home and do things right okay?”

Nondumiso nods “Okay and thank you for helping me.”

“You’re welcome and if you need anything just call us.” She reaches for her purse and gives Nondumiso her contact card “No matter how small just call.”

“Thanks you and your husband are very kind.”

“We not” Nqobani mumbles sipping on his beer. Elizabeth kicks him causing Nondumiso to chuckle.

“Are you two always like this?”

“Sometime but I love his crazy ass” Elizabeth looks at Nqobani who winks at her.

“Okay let me make lunch you must be hungry.”

“I really have to go!” Nondumiso answers standing her hands are on her stomach.

“Baby can we talk in the kitchen?” Nqobani leaves the room and

Elizabeth follows behind him.
Nondumiso picks up the remote and switches on the TV it's been long since she watched some TV.

"I couldn't help but overhear" says a voice and Nondumiso quickly turns only to be met by a smiling face.
"Mr Sibiya!"

"Hie Nondumiso right?" he sits next to her and takes her hand "You're really pretty you'll have a pretty baby."

"Why do you people change characters just moments ago you had no interest in talking to me and how did you change your clothes so fast?"

“Not important but I want us to talk about this” he points at Nondumiso’s stomach “This precious thing in there.”

“What about my baby?”

“I’d like to buy it or should I say him or her” Mr Sibiya answers with a smirk.

“No my baby is not for sale and why would you want to buy a baby when your wife is pregnant?”

He shifts closer to her “You could make a lot of money. I can even help your boyfriend marry you plus you’re young you could have more babies in the future.”

“Omphile will hate me and no I will not sell my baby why are you being weird Mr Sibiya?”

“Nondumiso listen to me you’re nineteen . Do you want to be a mother at your age and do you think that boyfriend of yours will love you the same when the baby comes? You will change trust me I’ve seen it you’ll start smelling milk you won’t have time for yourself and you’ll start looking like a granny and eventually he’s going to start seeing other girls” he adds.

He’s playing mind games and little does Nondumiso know that she’s not talking to Nqobani she’s talking to

Deon after all he's the infertile one and would do anything to have a child to raise as his own.

Nondumiso is pretty he just took a liking in her and now wants her baby.

“So what do you say? I could get you back to college help you and your boyfriend become Mr and Mrs don't tell me you don't want to wear the white gown like other girls ” Deon says he knows she's a child and can be easily manipulated.

“I can't sorry this is my first born child and I would like to see him grow.”

“It's tough out there without money you know just let me adopt the baby

and you're young you can have another one. Don't you want to make your parents proud? Imagine they wake up and see your boyfriend's family standing outside your gate and asking for your hand in marriage " he says and for sure it's her dream that they do things according to tradition actually it's every girl or woman's dream to leave their father's house properly.

"I don't know!"

"Why don't you think about it" he smiles

"But what do you want a baby for? You can just adopt I'm sure you people are stinking rich look at this house."

“Ask no questions and hear no lies” he answers and with a smile and Elizabeth walks in.

“What are you two talking about?” she questions folding her arms.

“Nothing I’m just greeting her.” Deon quickly stands up and goes to hug Elizabeth.

“You look terrible!” Deon has always been open about his thoughts and feelings.

Elizabeth rolls her eyes “Thanks it’s these Sibiya twins inside me.”

Something falls in the kitchen and Elizabeth rushes there. Deon takes out his card and hands it to Nondumiso.

“Call me when you think about it” he says

“I told you my baby is not for sale.”

He sits next to Nondumiso. “He’s not going to marry you unless you pressure him he will keep making excuses about money and trust me if you were to wait until you get money it’ll give him more reason to go out; the only reason why you’re living together is that baby.”

“Omphile loves me.”

“Does he? Or he’s only with you because he feels sorry for you and because you’re pregnant? Or even better do you love him? Are you sure

you want to spend the rest of your life with him?” he says placing the card on Nondumiso’s lap. Now she’s confused she even starting to doubt if she really loves Omphile.

To be continued

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IN KRUGERSDORP

Omphile gets home from work tired not to mention being unable to concentrate thinking about Nondumiso. Someone knocks on the door disrupting his thoughts.

“Mrs Xaba!” his eyes widen he did not expect to see Nondumiso’s mother. He looks behind her in hopes that maybe she has changed her mind and came back with Nondumiso.

“Aren’t you going to invite me in?”

“Please come in” he says making way for her to enter. She looks around expecting to see her daughter but there is no sign of Nondumiso.

“I’m sorry we don’t have any chairs.”

“Nondumiso ran away and I was hoping she came back here but it seems I was wrong.”

“Mrs Xaba I...

“Oh shut up you knew she was going to get pregnant when you had unprotected sex but that’s not why I’m here. I know Nondumiso is going to come back here I need you to convince her to come home you say you love her? If you really love her then tell her to come home and I promise I will approve of your relationship ” Ingrid says looking around the house as if she is looking at something disgusting.

“You’re not wrong about one thing Mrs Xaba I really love your daughter but as for convincing her to come home I don’t think I’ll be able to do that. I have tried and she doesn’t

want to” Omphile answers looking down.

“Then try harder Nondu deserves to be treated like a Princess not living in this shit hole.”

“I will try Mrs Xaba to make her the happiest woman even if that’s the last thing I’ll do” Omphile answers sincerely.

“I’m going back to KZN and if Nondumiso doesn’t follow me in the next week tell her never to show her face again. She’ll be as good as dead to me and I won’t have a child anymore ” Ingrid says before leaving.

Omphile sits on the bed holding his head now he is more worried. He is thinking what if what if something happened to Nondumiso? The door opens and he quickly stands up.

“Babakhe!” Nondumiso rushes to hug him. They hug and kiss each other.

“Are you okay? You are not hurt right? Mamakhe I thought something has happened to you.” Omphile says kissing her all over her face.

“I’m fine now that I’ve seen you.”

They kiss each other until someone clears their throat. When Omphile glares at the door he is met by Elizabeth’s smiling face and Nqobani who looks annoyed because Lizzy

forced him to be there. “Who are they?” Omphile whispers.

“This is Mr and Mrs Sibiya they helped me ” Nondumiso answers.

“Thank you very much for helping her ” Omphile says.

“It’s not like we had a choice she wouldn’t let go of us ” Nqobani answers.

“Babe!” – Lizzy.

Nqobani force a smile “You’re welcome and were are leaving” he says and Lizzy pulls him back “If you need help killing someone you can call us.”

“Nqobani!”- Lizzy.

“Hayy Lizzy what do you want me to say they have our numbers.”

“Baby if you need anything don’t hesitate to call okay and I mean anything” Lizzy says hugging Nondumiso.

“Can we talk boy? ” Nqobani says to Omphile and he nods then they step outside.

“Your boyfriend is very handsome” Elizabeth says to Nondumiso they sit on the bed since there are no chairs.

“He is very handsome and I love him very much.”

“How long have you two been together?” Lizzy questions.

“This is the third year.”

“Does he make you happy?” she holds Nondumiso’s hands who nods
“Just make sure you’re not settling okay? Make sure you’re not just with him because you’re pregnant and you feel like no one will ever love you after that.”

“I’m with him because I love him and I want to spend the rest of my life with him.”

Elizabeth smiles “Young love! Stay like that respect him and he will treat you like a queen.”

“He already treats me like a queen.”

Elizabeth reaches for her bag and takes out an envelope. “Take this and don’t you dare turn my money down I’m giving it to the baby. Buy clothes for the baby.”

“Why are you so nice to me?”

“I’m never nice to people so you’re lucky.” she chuckles “I don’t have much friends or family and the past years made realize how important it is to be nice to people because you may never know tomorrow and one day you might need their help.”

“Thank you Mrs Sibiya” they hug
“One day I will repay you for your kindness.”

“I know sweetie.”

“But why did your husband want to adopt my baby.” she asks

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she has been dreading to ask.

“What are you talking about?”

“I don’t mean to come between you and your husband but he came to me and asked if I could let him adopt my baby” she answers and Elizabeth chuckles shaking her head because she knows exactly who that was.

“My husband has an identical twin and don’t let him get to your head whatever he said he was just trying to make you sell your baby. Do no trade your baby for anything you hear me? This is your baby and you will hate yourself for doing that I have seen it happen to people I know.”

She nods “I’d never sell my baby!”

“And I’m so going to kick him in the balls how dare Deon try to manipulate you like that?”

Nondumiso laughs “You and your husband love violence.”

She chuckles “Something like that but do not sell your baby no matter

how tough things get. It's better you call me and I'll come help."

"Thanks again Mrs Sibiya."

Omphile walks into the house and tells Elizabeth that Nqobani is waiting for her in the car. Elizabeth hugs Nondumiso then leave.

"I missed you" Omphile hugs Nondumiso and gives her a kiss "I love you mamakhe and last night I almost died when I heard your mother had taken you away."

"I promised to love you forever and I'm not going anywhere" she smiles and he pecks her lips. "What were you and Mr Sibiya talking about?"

“We were talking about you and he was telling me about how I should make things right with your parents and that I should start saving for lobola. Well some of the things that I can't tell you.”

The smile on Nondumiso's face widens “That's great but I'm curious what are you hiding from me?”

“Finally everything is falling into place I have job and you're back home” he says pulling Nondumiso into his arms “I think now I believe that everything happens for a reason. If your mother hadn't come here you wouldn't have met the Sibiyas.”

“True but she had no right to come drag me like that do you know I could sue her?”

“No mamakhe that’s your mother and there’s no way she could hurt you intentionally but I promise this I will do things right and I will give you your princess wedding” he says with his head pressed against hers.

“I don’t care about a princess wedding I just want to be with you.”

“You deserve that wedding and more. I promise to make you the happiest woman that ever lived” he says and watches her blush.

“And I promise to love support and respect you always. But promise me one thing you’d never cheat on me

because they day you do will be the days you and I end.”

“I’d never hurt us like that I know cheating is a deal breaker for you” he answers.

“I’ll love you forever till death.”

Omphile laughs “Now it sounds like we making wedding vows.”

“Yes we are and you may now kiss your bride Mr Bengu.”

“Yoooh ngimane ngikuqabule (kiss you) like there’s no tomorrow. I will make you happy Nondu just give me some time to get my shit together like Mr Sibiya said.”

“Those two are so weird one moment they fighting the next they are making out. They are very nice people crazy but nice.”

“Did I tell you how beautiful you are?”
She blushes “You can tell me again.”

“You look beautiful my love.”
They start kissing deepening the kiss.
The next thing he is buried deep inside her with her nails digging on his back as they make love.

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NONDUMISO

She's lying on Omphile's chest as they catch their breaths after their steamy love making session. Her mind is still on Deon's words.

She's trying to block them out of her mind but she's worried. What if Omphile doesn't love her the same after the baby is born?

“What's on your mind?” Omphile runs his fingers on Nondumiso's back
She smiles “Do you think we are going to be good parents?”

“I have never been a father before but we can try to be the best.”

She sighs “I don’t want to end up being like my mother. Not that I’m saying she’s a bad mother but I don’t want to be like her.”

“You won’t.” he kisses her forehead.

“Let’s say we can no longer afford to take care of our baby would you give him up for adoption?”

“Adoption? Nondumiso where is this crazy talk coming from why would we give our child for adoption? This is our child our first born child” he using his fingers to turn Nondumiso’s face so she can face him “You are not thinking about giving up our child are you?”

She shakes her head “No of course not.”

“I almost forgot the Khosi family are leaving the country and they won’t be coming back” Omphile utters.

“Please don’t tell me we have to move?”

He smiles and shifts his body close to Nondumiso’s “We are not moving.”

“Are we having a new landlord?”

“We will be the landlords” he answers.

Nondumiso sits up pulling the bed spreads so she can cover her nakedness “I’m not following.”

“They are leaving the house to us” Omphile answers excitedly.

“Omphile quit it with the jokes.”

“I’m serious they called me yesterday and told me that they are leaving the house in our names” – Omphile

“Why? This is a house babakhe you don’t just give someone a house.”

Omphile shrugs “I don’t know why but they are giving it to us they even asked for a copy of my ID.”

“Wow! Talk about miracles.”

“I was also surprised” he gets out of bed and pours himself some water to drink.

“I have to go and thank them. The Lord is good babakhe it’s not everyday that a person just gives you a house.”

“Your mother was also here.”

Omphile gets back into bed “She said if you don’t come home the next

week you are no longer her daughter.”

Tears cloud in Nondumiso’s eyes “I guess I no longer have parents.”

Omphile opens his mouth to say something but doesn’t. He is scared that she might think he is trying to get rid of her if he tells her to go home.

The following day Nondumiso goes to work she ubers since she had some cash.

“Finally she decided to come to work”
Vanessa removes her glasses waiting for an explanation.

“I’m fine thanks for asking”
Nondumiso answers.

“Oh please! You owe me an explanation you can’t just disappear

making me work alone then just come back as if everything is okay.”

Nondumiso lets out a groan rolling her eyes because she knows Vanessa will continue bothering her until she tell her where she was. “My mother happened long story short I had to run away from her. I’m sure she’s very disappointed.”

“I’m sorry but I’m so mad right now Mr Khumalo is not around and Edward also decided not to show up these past days.”

“I’m sorry. Give me a hug”

Nondumiso shifts towards Vanessa with her arms open “Don’t resist it we both know you missed me.”

“I hate you.”

“I love you more” Nondumiso wraps her arms around Vanessa

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” Nondumiso wraps her arms around Vanessa “I’m sorry.”

“How is Omphile?”

Nondumiso looks at her with a raised eyebrow because Vanessa has never asked about Omphile before.

“He’s fine.”

“Okay.”

“Why do you ask?” Nondumiso questions.

“I am just asking.”

“Good morning ladies” Edward greets with a smile. Vanessa answers. “Hie Nondu.”

Nondumiso does not respond.

“Nondumiso!” - Edward.

“Who is he talking to?” Nondumiso says to Vanessa.

“I think someone is calling me”

Vanessa gives them some space.

“Did I do something wrong?” Edward asks very confused.

“I don’t know you tell me.”

“I’m really confused right now ”

Edward says taking a seat next to Nondumiso.

“You called my mother and don’t you dare deny it because you’re the only one who knows where I stay.”

“Look Nono I really hate your boyfriend but I didn’t call your mother. Maybe it was my father and your

address is on your contract so you can't blame me for this" he answers. "Just stay away from me."

The day goes by with Nondumiso avoiding Edward as much as she can.

"Hey nana" says a voice.

"Good..." she pauses and glares at him confused. "Mr Sibiya!"

"What a surprise I didn't know you work here" Deon answers with a smile.

"So you expect me to believe that you just happen to end up where I work by coincidence?"

"I don't know what's going on in that head of yours but believe me I just ran into you" he answers.

“How can I help Mr Sibiya?”

Nondumiso tosses her phone in her bag behind the counter.

“I couldn’t find what I was looking for.”

She chuckles and claps once “And what were you looking for?”

“A reading light and before you say anything I did not see one that I like.”

“Okay then it was nice seeing you” she answers.

“You left without giving me a straight answer.” Deon leans on the counter.

“Mr Sibiya I’m working.”

“What time do you knock off? Its minutes to six” he says checking his wristwatch.

“Well you’re the only customer left and we close at five thirty.”

“Nondu do you need a lift home?”

Edward says Vanessa left early.

“Let me grab my bag” Nondumiso answers.

“Is this your boyfriend?” Deon asks and Nondumiso shakes her head.

Nondumiso excuses herself going to the bathroom leaving Edward with Deon.

“So how do you know Nondumiso?”

Deon asks Edward.

“I should ask you the same question.”

“We are just two people who know each other but you my friend from the few minutes I have seen you I can tell

you like her” he says and Edwards does not respond “Tell her.”

Edward chuckles “She’s pregnant and loves her boyfriend.”

“Umuntu uthathwa umuntwini wakhe.”

“Who are you?” Edward asks.

“I’m no one but if you need help getting her give me a call; that’s if you really love her” he places his card on the counter and turns to leave.

“Wait! How are you going to help and what’s in it for you?”

Deon turns around with a smile

“Nothing I’ll just be helping.”

OMPHILE

He takes out his phone and dials Nondumiso. They haven't talked since morning which is unlike him because he checks up on her every chance he gets.

(On the phone)

Omphile: Mamakhe!

Nondumiso: Babakhe!

Omphile: How is your day going?
Sorry I couldn't call to check on you.

Nondumiso: What are you busy with because you don't work on Saturdays?

Omphile: I fell asleep I'm sorry.

Nondumiso: Okay I will be home in the next few minutes.

Omphile: I'm home waiting for you.

He hangs up and shoves the phone in his pockets.

“Sorry about that” Nqobani enters into the car and starts driving. He had to stop the car when talking to Mrs Sibiya.

“How long is it going to take before we get to Krugersdorp?”

“Ten minutes why?” Nqobani glares at Omphile.

“I have to get there before Nondumiso.”

“Okay. Should I leave the car with you? Because I will not be able to pick you up all the time?” he asks and Omphile nods. He’s working for Nqobani just for extra cash.

Omphile gets home and takes a quick shower changing into clean clothes and throwing away the ones he was wearing. His phone vibrates and it’s an ewallet from Nqobani Sibiyi of three thousand rands. He quickly deletes the message after thanking him.

“Home sweet home” Nondumiso announces as she enters the room. “Whose car is parked outside?”

“Hey baby!” Omphile smiles.

“You look happy” they share a kiss.

“I’m just happy to see you mamakhe the house is boring without you.”

“I love you but right now I need a cold shower. Do you want to join me?”

Nodumiso asks taking off her top.

“I just showered.”

“We showered together in the morning and you never shower twice?” she says

“I’m just kidding I last showered in the morning let’s go.”

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NONDUMISO

She wakes up to an empty bed which puzzles her because it's Sunday and Omphile does not work on weekends. She gets out of bed and makes herself something to eat then takes a shower and gets started on cleaning the house. While she's doing the bed a receipt falls from Omphile's jacket she picks it up and reads it.

The receipt has the previous day's date but the store is in Pretoria. She doesn't dwell much on it she just throws the receipt away and continues with what she's doing.

“Omphile where are?” Nondumiso says after dialing Omphile's number. “Hey mamakhe I didn't want to wake you up. I had to rush somewhere see you later and I love you” Nondumiso rolls her eyes. She doesn't understand why he would just leave without telling her because he never leaves the house without telling her first.

She's used to being at work so being at home is now boring. She tries calling Omphile's again but he does not answer.

“I'm in Krugersdorp what are you doing?” a text comes in from Edward.

She's still mad at him but she's bored and has nothing to do.

“You can pass by I'm alone” she texts back.

“Wear something nice I want to take you somewhere.” - Edward.

Nondumiso sighs and gets out of bed taking out her white knee length dress that hugs her curves perfectly some of her dresses still fit but they are a little tight. She adds a caramel jacket that is the same length as the dress and sandals she decides to add some makeup.

Edward calls her when he's outside she grabs her purse and heads out.

“Nondumiso!” Thabani whistles as Nondumiso passes him by the verenda.

“Hie!”

“I didn’t know you can clean up this good. You look amazing” he answers with his hand on his chin whistling. Nondumiso chuckles. “Thank you and I will see you later.”

She takes out her phone and texts Omphile that she’s going out with Edward since he decided to disappear on her.

“Wow!” Edward glares at her with his mouth slightly open.

“Close your mouth and let’s go.”

He clears his throat and starts the car

“You look amazing.”

“Thanks.”

They drive to Eastgate Mall. Edward knows Nondumiso loves comedy and there was a new comedy movie out at the cinema. With some tips from Deon Edward managed to have a great day with Nondumiso without having to confess his feelings but just being 'her friend.'

Nondumiso was smiling the whole time meaning Edward was doing a great job. They had lunch and Nondumiso was laughing her lungs out the whole time although she kept checking her phone in hopes that she could find a text from Omphile.

“Okay let’s take you back home I don’t want to get into trouble with your boyfriend” Edward says
“I had fun today. Thank you Eddie.”
“You’re welcome” he says as he drops her off at her place around four pm. He was not the usual jerk he usually is the one that always in her face annoying her. He was sweet and behaving like a normal person.

Nondumiso goes into the house and finds Omphile still not back and he hasn’t replied to any of her messages. She tries calling him but he does not answer.

“Omphile where are you?”
Nondumiso sends Omphile a voice note on whatsapp. She gets started

on supper and waits for Omphile. Her phone vibrates several times she quickly picks it up thinking it's Omphile but it's Edward sending the pictures he took of her.

OMPHILE

He stops at Chris Hani mall to pour some fuel he had some deliveries to make and the last stop is Marimba gardens in Vosloorus. He uses that opportunity to check on Nondumiso who answers right away.

(On the phone)

Nondumiso: Where are you?

Omphile: I'll be home in the next two hours.

Nondumiso: That is not what I asked.

Omphile: (Sighs) I'm sorry and I'll explain everything when I get home.

Nondumiso: Oh so now you're hiding things from me?

Omphile: I'm not hiding anything like I said I will explain everything when I get back.

Nondumiso: Get back from where? Doesn't the place have a name?

Omphile: Can you please stop mamakhe I'm tired.

Nondumiso: Fine!

She hangs up. When Omphile tries calling her back the number is no longer reachable. He sighs heavily and gets into the car driving to where he has been sent. He is doing this for them he is doing this so he can make things right and make her happy.

Omphile drives to the address Nqobani gave to him he finds the gate open when he gets there and drives in. Before he can get out of the car a woman comes out of the house she looks like she is in her late twenties; she's wearing a very short and revealing dress. She's wearing

sun glasses and has a wine glass that she's sipping from.

"You must be Omphile" the lady says with a smile.

"Mr Sibiya told me to give you this" he says handing her a black satchel. She smiles

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"Thanks and how come I have never seen you with Nqobani?"

"I recently started working with him."

"Do you want to come in for a drink?" she asks touching his chest but he shifts back.

"I have to get going."

She takes his hand "No one says no to me so lets go."

She leads him inside the house and pours him a glass of whiskey “Where are you rushing to? It’s not even five pm?”

“My girlfriend is waiting for me.”

“That’s cute how long have you been together?” she sits next to him but he shifts to the other couch.

“Ma’am I have to get going.”

“It’s clear you have no interest in being here” she stands up and opens the door for him “I hope we will meet again Omphile.”

He does not respond he just smiles and walks out.

“I’m Tshidi” the lady calls out.

“Nice to meet you Miss Tshidi.”

“Wait you forgot something” she says before disappearing into the house

and comes back in a few minutes.

“Take care of yourself” she shoves something in his pocket.

“What is that?”

“Buy your girlfriend flowers” she gives him a hug and walks back into the house.

Omphile doesn't bother checking what it is he gets into the car and drives back home. He gets home when it's dark.

“I know you're mad but let me explain first.” Omphile says to Nondumiso who looks angry.

“I'm listening” Nondumiso folds her arms.

“I had to deliver something I found a side job and that's where I was.”

“And why didn’t you just text?” she questions.

“It slipped my mind I’m sorry.”

“You smell women’s perfume is that also part of ‘the job?’ Omphile where were you and who are you working for?” Nondumiso asks.

He sighs sitting on the bed “You don’t know the person but I’m just a driver.” Nqobani made him promise that he does not say anything about them working together because even Lizzy does not know about this side hustle. “You’re lying Omphile I know you and I know when you’re lying. Are you cheating?” she says with tears already threatening to fall down.

“Of all the things Nondumiso do you seriously think I’d cheat on you?”

“Then explain why you smell women’s perfume?” she yells.

“Look I’m tired and I’m not cheating on you. I just came back from a job I’m doing it for us so can you try and be a little supportive?”

She shakes her head and claps once
“Supportive Omphile? Supportive of you coming back home smelling like another woman?”

“Love I’m tired and I don’t need this right now” he shoves his hands in his pockets “Can we please not fight?”
When he removes his hands from his pockets he comes out with two hundred rands notes and a lacy g-string falls out.

“Oh my God!” Nondumiso gasps.

“No mamakhe it’s not what you think.”

“Really Omphile? You sleeping around? We haven’t even been staying together for a year” she says with tears falling down her cheeks.

“It’s not what it looks like I swear mamakhe” he shifts towards her and she shifts back grabs the car keys on the bed and storms out. Omphile quickly runs out when he hears a car crushing.

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OMPHILE

He quickly rushes outside when he hears a car screeching followed by a loud noise. To his surprise Nqobani's car is still where he left it and Nondumiso is seated on the driver's seat with her head pressed on the steering wheel. The accident happened outside the house.

"Mamakhe!" Omphile says shaking her shoulder. She is crying and it hurts him to see her like that.

"Mamakhe I'm sorry please don't cry."

Him talking is making her break down even more.

"Don't mind me I just want to see what happened outside" Thabani says passing by. Omphile does not respond to him he focuses on Nondumiso.

"Baby please don't cry" he gently rubs her back "I didn't sleep with her and I'm not cheating on you either."

"Then how do you explain panties falling out of your pockets?" she wipes the tears off her cheeks.

"I'm going to be honest with you. I was sent to deliver a bag in Marimba Gardens and there was this lady who was all over me. She shoved

something in my pockets and I did not bother to check I'm sorry."

She looks at him and shakes her head "Was this lady pretty? And how do you explain smelling like her?"

"She gave me a hug. I shouldn't have let her and I'm sorry again."

"Your story doesn't even make sense" she utters.

"Mamakhe you know me I'd never hurt you like that because I know what is at stake. I won't screw us up over an orgasm trust me its not worth it."

"So nothing happened?" Nondumiso asks folding her arms.

"I swear upon our unborn child."

"I believe you but please don't bring anymore panties" she says and they both burst into laughter "Why are we

even laughing when I'm mad at you?"

"I won't let anything like that happen again I promise and I'm sorry for making you cry."

"Buy me some cake" she says pouting her lips.

"Give me a kiss first" he leans over and kisses her lips.

"Don't mind me" Thabani says passing by again.

"What happened outside?"

Nondumiso asks.

"You know how taxi drivers are but luckily no one was hurt and the cars are not that badly damaged" Thabani answers already opening the door to

their house. They are supposed to leave for UK the following week.

"You know for a second I thought that it was you who had crashed the car" Omphile says helping Nondumiso out of the car.

"I wouldn't do anything that would harm my baby."

"Our baby you didn't make her alone" he says opening the door on the passenger's side for Nondumiso.

"You mean him its a boy."

"Mamakhe how far are you how come you don't go for check ups?" he asks starting the car.

"I will go the coming weekend and whose car is this?"

"My boss let me use it for deliveries"
he answers focused on the road.

"I hope whatever you're doing is legal
babe because this would be your
third strike and they will lock you up
forever."

"Its legal I promise" he kisses her
hand "You look good today did you
go out?"

"Yes with Edward" she looks outside
the car ready for Omphile to
comment.

"I don't like you hanging out with him
I'm not saying cut ties with him but I
don't like him."

Nondumiso just rolls her eyes.

NONDUMISO

She's woken up by kisses on her face. When she opens her eyes Omphile smiles and states into her face.

"Good morning!" he smiles.

"I don't want to go to work"

Nondumiso covers her head with the bed spread.

"Should we call your work place?"

"No it's okay I'm going" she gets out of bed and the first thing she does is to bite a piece of cake.

"That's enough cake you're going to get sick" Omphile hugs her from behind with his hands on her belly. The baby is kicking.

"See he's happy when mommy eats cake" Nondumiso smiles.

Omphile helps her to the bathroom her stomach is now huge she's even having trouble washing her feet.

"Mamakhe what if you're carrying twins?" Omphile asks as they eat their breakfast.

"Twins? No way!"

Omphile shrugs.

"I mean look at your stomach and you've never gone for check ups."

"I'm carrying one child don't ruin things for me" she gets up and takes her bag checking if everything she needs is packed in there.

"I'm sorry about last night" Omphile says.

"Just don't let it happen again and tell that woman to keep her hands to herself" she kisses Omphile on the cheek and heads out after reading Edward's text.

The drive to work is fun Nondumiso is laughing her lungs out they are talking about the movie they watched the previous day.

"You two seem to be in a better space than the last time I saw you" Vanessa says as Nondumiso sits next to her.

"Just mind your business."

Edward walks to the his office.

"Did he just say that to me?"-
Vanessa.

"Hey

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" Vanessa says as Nondumiso sits
next to her.

"Just mind your business."

Edward walks to the his office.

"Did he just say that to me?"-
Vanessa.

"Hey I missed you" Nondumiso wraps
her arms around her.

"Really? Is that why you went to the
movies and didn't invite me?"

"Edward caught me by surprise" she
answers.

"Edward? I thought you were with Omphile."

"He was out the whole day" she answers.

"Look Nondumiso you need to understand that Edward likes you and he will do whatever it takes to get close to you and if you keep letting him trust me its going to start causing trouble between you and Omphile" Vanessa says.

"Edward and I are just friends."

"He likes you and I saw how you were laughing he's starting to warm up your heart" Vanessa goes on

"Just set boundaries you have a man and how do you think he feels seeing

another man make you laugh that hard?"

"I hear you mum I'll set boundaries"
Nondumiso rolls her eyes.

"Don't say I didn't warn you"

"Something happened last night a woman's panties fell out of Omphile's pockets. He said its nothing but I don't know." she says.

"Do you think he's cheating?"

Nondumiso sighs "Honestly I don't know. He says he's not."

"Then believe him relationships are built on trust just like he trusts you with the Khumalo boy. Have you noticed that everyone with the surname Khumalo seems to have a loose screw?"

Someone clears their throat.

"Excuse you." - Vanessa

"Sorry you guys are loud and I'm a Khumalo" the man answers.

"We don't care" Vanessa snaps.

Nondumiso stands up to help "Sorry sir how can I help you?"

"I'm looking for bed sheets before my wife kills me."

"And why are you coming to the counter? There are the bed spreads that side." - Vanessa.

"Don't mind her this way sir"

Nondumiso says showing the man where the bed sheets are.

"Is she always like that?" the man chuckles.

"Sometimes so what exactly are you looking for?"

He takes out his phone and shows Nondumiso the color "She hates it when I ruin things we ended up fighting over silly things."

"I think its this one do you also want the pillows?" Nondumiso says with a smile.

"No and thanks Nondumiso" he smiles. "I'm Leon by the way Leon Khumalo."

"This way please" she shows him to the counter.

"How far are you?- Leon questions.

"Don't be weird Mr Khumalo you don't even know me."

"I'm just asking" he laughs.

"That would be eighty nine rands."

He pulls out a two hundred rand note
"Keep the change."

"You were right people with the
surname Khumalo have a loose
screw" Nondumiso says to Vanessa.

Nondumiso's phone rings and its
Omphile.

(On the phone)

Nondumiso: Babakhe

Omphile: Hey baby how's your day
going?

Nondumiso: Good so far how's your
day?

Omphile: Good now that I've heard your voice. Listen I have a delivery to make after work I will be back home before eight pm.

Nondumiso: Don't tell me you'll met the panties lady?

Omphile: Babe I love only you please trust me.

Nondumiso: Fine but don't come smelling like her.

Omphile: I won't. I love you forever.

Nondumiso: Bring me some cake on your way back.

Omphile: Nondumiso Xaba!

Ndomuso: I love you forever
babakhe.

She kisses the phone and hangs up.
She feels hands on her stomach and
screams "Edward!"

OMPHILE

After work he drives to Vosloorus he
talked to Nqobani about the stunt
Tshidi pulled on him and Nqobani
promised to take care of her. The
Sibiyas flew back to Capetown and
left Omphile in charge of all the
deliveries around Gauteng.

He drives into Tshidi's yard. He lets himself in after knocking several times.

"Miss Tshidi!" he calls
"I'm here!"

He follows her voice and knocks on some door. "Miss Tshidi!"
"Come in" she yells on the other side. He walks into the room and his eyes widen. She is getting dressed her towel is on the floor and she is lotioning her body. Tshidi is a very beautiful and well structured woman her skin is flawless and she has Omphile swallowing hard.

"Oh sorry about that" she picks up her towel and wraps it around her body.

"Uhm....Mr...uhm... I brought the..." Omphile stutters.

"Like what you see? I can show you more" she drops the towel again.

To be continued....

17

Chapter 17

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OMPHILE

He takes a deep breath and walks towards Tshidi. His heart is beating fast and he feels hot as if he is going to pass out. Tshidi has not said a word but she has a huge smile on her face feeling happy with herself; no man has ever turned her down.

Omphile picks up the towel and puts it on Tshidi's shoulders "Your parcel is in the dining room and Mr Sibiya said you have a package for me" Omphile utters.

"So you are just going to turn me down just like that? We both know you want this as much as I do" Tshidi says touching Omphile's chest but he shifts back.

"I told you I have a girlfriend Tshidi"
Omphile answers shifting further
away from Tshidi.

"It can be our little secret." - Tshidi.
Omphile exhales heavily facing the
wall to avoid looking at Tshidi's
nakedness "Please give me the
parcel so I can leave?"

"Come on Omphile she doesn't have
to know" Tshidi says.

"I will know and I won't be able to
look at her in the eyes knowing I
cheated."

"Is she your first?" Tshidi questions.

"And my last I love her. As much as I
really want to do this with you Miss
Tshidi I can't. My girlfriend will hate
me and she means the world to me.
This is not worth it."

"Fine!" Tshidi wraps the towel around her body and goes to her dressing table then comes back with a small brown envelope "Tell Nqobani I need more merchandise."

"Okay I'll be leaving" Omphile answers but Tshidi holds his arm.

"She's lucky. I mean your girlfriend she's lucky to have you" she says.

"I'm the lucky one" Omphile answers.

"What's her name?"

A smile escapes from his lips" Her name is Nondumiso and she's the best thing that's ever happened to me. Can I please leave?"

"Have a drink with me and I promise I won't try to sleep with you. I'm bored and lonely."

"Don't you have any friends? A boyfriend perhaps?" he mumbles the boyfriend part.

"Sadly no. Like I said I am very lonely and single" Tshidi answers "Okay I'm dressed now."

"You're beautiful I'm sure any man would love to be with you."

She chuckles "You just turned me down."

"I have a girlfriend and you're older than me."

"Age is just a number Omphile and I would have taken you to heaven and back only if you had let me."

"Okay that's my cue" he heads out and Tshidi follows behind him.

"Say hie to Nondumiso."

"I won't. Bye!"

Omphile gets into the car and presses his head on the steering wheel digesting everything that took place. A part of him wanted to and a part of him still wants to go back in there but he starts the car and drives home.

When he gets home he finds Nondumiso cooking and she has earphones on singing out loud. He laughs at her terrible singing she is a good dancer though.

"Omphile!" Nondumiso screams "Are you trying to give me a heart attack? How long have you been standing there?"

"I just got here" he walks up to her and gives her a kiss "I missed you" he says deepening the kiss.

"I missed you too."

"And right now I want to be buried inside you" he whispers but she shifts back.

"Babakhe I'm tired."

"I'll be done in no time and I promise I'll be gentle."

He answers with his hands running up and down Nondumiso's back.

"No I'm tired Omphile."

He sits on the bed and buries his face in his hands. A part of him wishes he had done it with Tshidi.

"I'm sorry but Omphile you need to know that I'm eight months pregnant now and I'm tired from the standing" Nondumiso says.

"We don't even know that you're eight months pregnant" Omphile mumbles.

"I'm sorry okay."

"Its okay I'll go and shower" Omphile stands up from the bed and grabs a towel.

"Are you angry?"

He doesn't respond

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" Omphile stands up from the bed and grabs a towel.

"Are you angry?"

He doesn't respond he slams the door behind him.

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VOSLOORUS: TSHIDI'S PLACE

TSHIDI

She's just finished having supper.
She lives alone her husband died a

year ago and she does not have any children either. She is sitting on the couch drinking some wine while watching her favourite reality show when the door bell rings.

She ignores it it's late and she hates people who visit at night. The door opens and she quickly stands up.

"What are you doing here?" she asks placing her glass on the table.

"You and I need to talk" the person answers already making himself comfortable on the couch "Can I have some whiskey?"

She rolls her eyes going to the kitchen and comes back with a glass

of whiskey "You and your brother need to stop coming here like you own this place and you two are very identical I can't even tell you apart."

"I'm Deon!" he answers.

"Anyway I failed to make the sex tape you asked for seems Omphile really loves his girlfriend."

"What sex tape Tshidi and what business do you have with my brother?" he asks.

"Oh so you're Nqobani?" Tshidi asks sipping on her wine "You and Deon need to stop pretending to be each other."

"You didn't answer my question Tshidi!" Nqobani says raising his voice.

"Why don't you ask your brother and shouldn't you be in Cape town?"

"Woman do I look like I'm playing? I asked you a question" he speaks firmly and unlike Deon Nqobani does not have time for games.

"You don't scare me Nqobani!"

"You should be scared trust me" he answers.

"I'm not telling you anything ask your brother!"

"Listen carefully my wife cares about Omphile's girlfriend and anything that has my wife in it is my business so start talking. What sex tape were you asked to make?"- Nqobani.

"And I said I'm not telling you anything."

Nqobani chuckles shaking his head "I see you want to join your husband."

"That would be lovely don't you think?"

"You know I've always wanted to do this I just needed an excuse" he pulls out a gun and shoots Tshidi on the leg.

"Nqobani!" she screams holding her leg.

"I told you to stay away from that boy and I don't like people who are headaches in my life. What did Deon ask you to do?"

"He asked me to seduce Omphile and make a sex tape" she answers groaning in pain.

"Did you?"

She shakes her head.

"I'll handle Deon you stay away from Omphile and next time you talk to me like we are friends you will meet your maker" he stands up and gulps his whiskey down "I'll send someone to check on your leg."

A few minutes later a man walks in to help Tshidi with her leg. The door opens and Sibiya walks in...

"Are you here to finish me?" Tshidi asks.

"What are you talking about?"

"You must be Deon your brother just left" she flinches in pain sitting up.

"What happened to your leg?" Deon says taking a seat.

"Your brother happened and I suggest that you leave. Whatever beef you have with Omphile fix it yourself. I cannot afford to ruin things between Nqobani and I he's my biggest supplier." she says.

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AT THE XABA HOUSEHOLD

"You called me?" Ingrid says to Mbongeni (her husband).

"What is this?" he says waving the letter Nondumiso left "So you knew

the reason why our daughter ran away and you kept quiet?"

"Baba I can explain" she answers playing with her hands.

"I don't want you to explain I want you to take me to where my daughter is!" he yells.

"Nono doesn't want to come home unless we accept her relationship with that boy."

"I don't care Ingrid she's still my daughter and I want her home. Even if it means accepting that boy" he answers.

"Baba what are people going to say?"

"I don't care about people! I want my daughter back home in fact book a flight for me to wherever she is."

He grabs his phone and car keys before storming out. Ingrid rolls her

eyes and picks up her phone this could ruin her image. What will people say if they find out that her princess is in love and having a baby with someone from a low class family like Omphile's. She taps her foot on the floor thinking of a way to make sure her husband and Nondumiso never meet.

To be continued....

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OMPHILE

He gets out of bed as soon as the alarm goes off. He looks at Nondumiso who is sleeping peacefully with her lips slightly parted. They had fought the previous night. He was not thinking straight at the time and he made her cry again.

After he finishes bathing he wakes Nondumiso up but she does not respond to him she gets up and goes to bathroom and comes back still giving him the silence treatment.

"So we are just going to ignore each other?" Omphile asks but Nondumiso does not respond she is focused on trying to pin her sandals but she is struggling. Omphile kneels next to her and helps her "I didn't mean to

yell at you I'm sorry" he utters and she ignores him and goes to the fridge to cut herself a slice of some left over cake. Omphile snatches the plate from her hands.

"Omphile I will stab you with this knife if you don't give me back that cake and I'm not talking to you" she says holding the knife and waving it in the air.

"Can we please talk?"

Nondumiso waves in the air the knife but Omphile swiftly gets out of the way just in time. "Nondumiso are you crazy?"

She tosses the knife on the floor and kneels down leaning on the bed crying.

"Mamakhe are you okay?" Omphile kneels next to her.

"I want to go home" she breaks down
"I want my mother."

"Because of a piece of cake?"

"I'm tired Omphile I'm tired of everything my feet hurt my back hurts and then there's you yelling at me over sex" she cries.

"Look I'm sorry and if you want to stop working then I'm fine with it I now work so there's no need for you to go work" he says rubbing her back.

"I'm scared Omphile."

"Scared of what?" he asks.

"I'm going to be a mother I'm going to push a person out of me?"

"I'm equally scared but we'll be fine" he answers.

"What if I drop the baby? I don't even know how to change a nappy."

"Mamakhe we'll be fine. Why don't you call in sick today and just take a day to yourself. Go watch a movie and do anything that makes you happy" he saying cupping her cheeks.

"That needs money and I don't have any money."

He takes out his wallet and gives her five hundred Rands "I don't know if it's enough."

"Where are you getting all this money?"

"My side job is paying and soon we'll be going back home" he kisses her forehead "And you need to control your

anger Nondumiso you could have stabbed me and last time you threw a glass at me" he says.

"I'm sorry it won't happen again."

"The problem is that you don't talk to me you bottle things up and you want to be strong all by yourself. You need to understand that we are in this together and you don't have to deal with things alone I'm here for you no matter what. I will never hurt you intentionally and last night I wasn't thinking straight" he says.

"Okay I hear you."

"Take care of yourself and ease up on the cake" he kisses her lips.

"Can I use the car?"

"Yes but be careful" he answers and she nods.

"I love you."

He gives her a peck on the lips "I love you too and baby you'll make a great mum. Our baby is lucky to have you as her mother."

"Omphile it's a boy."

"Okay let me go before we start fighting and please stay away from Edward" he says.

"Babe he's just a friend."

"A friend that likes you Nondumiso. We don't want mistakes and I don't want to end up missing out on my child's growth because I'll be in jail after killing him" he answers.

"Fine then I'll go alone can I go with Thabani?"

"No go alone" Nondumiso answers and she pouts her lips.

"I'll be bored alone."

"Go with Nthabiseng's girlfriend " he suggests.

Nondumiso groans in annoyance "I hate that girl."

"Just for a couple of hours. Here's more money" he says before leaving.

NONDUMISO

Some one knocks on the door and she sighs heavily because she assumes its Amber Nthabiseng's girlfriend.

"I'm coming!" she yells in annoyance because the person is knocking nonstop. When she opens the door she gets the shock of her life. "Mum! Dad! What are you doing here?"

Her father is happy to see her
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she gets the shock of her life. "Mum! Dad! What are you doing here?"

Her father is happy to see her then there is her mother who could not think of a lie to tell her husband just to avoid bringing him to Krugersdorp.

"Hey princess" Mbongeni pulls his daughter into his arms not minding

her huge belly "I missed you how are you?"

"I'm good baba how are you?"

Ingrid rolls her eyes "Aren't you going to invite us in?"

"Please come in" she makes way for them to enter the house "You can sit on the bed."

"A bed is for sleeping you..." Ingrid stops talking when her husband shoots a stare at her. "How are you nana?" she sits down placing her bag next to her.

"I'm good what brings you two here?" Nondumiso asks.

"Baby why didn't you tell us? We were going to understand" Mbongeni says and Nondumiso looks at her mother who shakes her head.

"I was scared" Nondumiso answers in a low tone "I know how much you hate the Bengu family."

"I don't hate the Bengu family they hate us" Mbongeni answers.

"So where's that boy of yours?"

"He's at work" she answers looking down "i hope you did not come to take me back because I'm not going anywhere."

"Of course we have come to take you back what do you think?" Ingrid says ignoring her husband's stares "We will not let you embarrass us like that. You're with a..."

"Can you shut up Ingrid!" Mbongeni yells "We've just reunited with our daughter after months and all you care about is your image?"

He shifts his attention to Nondumiso

"Nana come home."

She shakes her head.

"I'm willing to accept Omphile if you come home" he adds.

"Do you mean that?" Nondumiso asks.

"Yes! I'm willing to give him a chance to fix things. Not that I support what you did but its done and you're pregnant plus the same incident happened between your mother and I so who am I to judge?"

"My daughter will never be married to that boy Bengu! " Ingrid retorts.

"She's pregnant and whatever we do that child she's carrying is a Bengu"

Mbongeni replies and Ingrid shakes her head disapproving.

"Omphile took advantage of our daughter I know my baby and she's not the type to go sleeping around." - Ingrid.

"Mum can you please stop Omphile did not take advantage of me. I am sorry for not being the princess you expected me to be but I am not going anywhere with you" Nondumiso says.

Mbongeni's phone rings and he answers it leaving the room.

"Nono just come home" Ingrid says begging.

"I love him mum."

"You're confused nana this isn't love trust me I know" she answers.

"I have made my decision."

"Fine aren't you going to make me some tea or offer me some juice" she asks and Nondumiso pours water in the kettle.

"Why don't you sit down and I'll make the tea" Ingrid smiles.

"How's home?" Nondumiso says sitting on the bed. She sends a text message to Omphile telling him that her parents showed up and they came to get her.

'Please don't tell me you're leaving with them?' Omphile texts back.

'I'm not going anywhere with them you'll find me here when you knock

off.' She replies the message and then logs off.

They have some tea while catching up Mbongeni joins them even though he hates tea he could not say no when his daughter offered. He knows and understands her situation the Xaba family never wanted Ingrid because of her background but he never told her.

"You keep yawning are you tired?" Mbongeni asks Nondumiso.

"I don't know why I feel tired all of a sudden."

"Why don't you rest we'll see you tomorrow." Ingrid says already on her feet.

They hug each other then Nondumiso walks them out. She goes back into the house and texts Amber canceling their meeting and Amber told her that she was also caught up with something. Nondumiso gets into bed and drifts to sleep.

OMPHILE

On his way home from work he passes by Spar Supermarket buying some cake for Nondumiso. While he is in the queue for paying for his merchandise he gets a text message on his phone:

Hie!

I have been thinking I don't think I can do this anymore. I am leaving with my parents don't try to follow me or call me. I know you have many unanswered questions but I'm afraid I can't answer them yet.

Goodbye Omphile.

To be continued...

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Chapter 19

OMPHILE

It has been a week since Nondumiso's disappearance. Nqobani had promised to find her but from where they were standing there was no sign of her it was as if she had just vanished into the air.

Omphile has been trying to stay positive and going to work as if everything is fine but its tough on him. His only hope is trusting that the Sibiyas find her.

"I brought you something to eat" Vanessa says entering Omphile's house. He is still staying in their little room at the back.

"Vanessa you don't have to bring me food I can take care of myself. Just

save yourself the trouble" Omphile says.

Vanessa has been checking up on him a lot lately.

"I don't mind" she answers heating the rice in the microwave "Any news on Nono?" she sits next to Omphile on the bed.

"Still waiting to hear from the Sibiyas. I'm even tempted to call her mother. I would feel better knowing that she's safe."

Vanessa picks up her phone "Give me her mother's phone number and let me try calling her."

Omphile gives her the number and she dials it putting the phone on speaker.

(On the phone)

Ingrid: Hello.

Vanessa: Mrs Xaba how are you? My name is Vanessa and I work with Nondumiso. Your daughter hasn't been coming to work for the past days so I called to check if you've heard from her if so is she's okay?

Ingrid: Nondumiso is in Krugersdorp and what do you mean she hasn't been coming to work?

Vanessa: She left a note saying she's going back to KwaZulu Natal with you.

Ingrid: I don't know what you're talking about but try calling that boyfriend of hers maybe he knows where she is after all they live together.

Vanessa: Okay thank you!

Vanessa hangs up and sighs heavily
"Is it me or she sounded like she doesn't care at all?"

"She hates that Nondu chose me over her family and trust me that's her usual self."

"Since Nono is not in KZN then where could she be?" Vanessa questions and Omphile shakes his head.

"I don't know what to think anymore let's just pray she's safe wherever

she is. I hope nothing happened to her and the baby."

KWAZULU NATAL: THE XABA HOUSEHOLD.

"Who was that?" Mbongeni walks into the kitchen after Ingrid hangs up. He opens the fridge and takes out a can of an energy drink he opens it and takes a huge sip.

"That was Nondumiso's friend."

"Oh! Is everything okay is Nono okay?" Mbongeni asks and Ingrid nods.

"She just wanted to say hello."

"I hope Nondumiso understands that we are not mad at her and that she can come home whenever she feels like it. I'm willing to accept my

grandchild. I just wish she had come to say goodbye when we were leaving Johannesburg" he says sipping on his drink.

"She wasn't feeling well the pregnancy must be making her sick."

"Please forward me her number"

Mbongeni kisses Ingrid on the cheek and leaves the room.

Ingrid quickly takes her phone and types:

'How is Nondumiso feeling?'

'She hasn't stopped crying.'

The person texts back.

'I know she's hurt but with time she will heal.'

Ingrid deletes the messages after replying and continues with her cooking.

CAPE TOWN: SIBIYA HOUSEHOLD

"I just don't get it how can one just disappear like that? I have tried everything and there's no sign of Nondumiso" Nqobani says to Elizabeth they are sitting on the couch while Nqobani massages Lizzy's swollen feet.

"It's clear she's still in the country because the airport cameras would have spotted her" Elizabeth answers.

"I promised Omphile that I will find his girlfriend how do I explain to him that I can't find her?"

"We tried don't be hard on yourself"
she answers.

"Do you think Deon would take her?
He is the one who wanted her baby."

Lizzy shrugs "Deon has been
desperate to have a child at this point
he would do anything to have one.
He did try to make Nondumiso sell
her child so at this moment he's the
number one suspect."

"But Deon has always been the good
guy he'd never harm a child or
anyone for that matter."

"I'm not saying he has a hand in
Nondumiso's disappearance but just
look into it I mean we have searched
everywhere and called everyone we
know. What if Deon was helping us

just so we don't suspect him?" she says.

"I'll look into it. Lets hope we are wrong and he's innocent."

The door bell rings "Lets ignore it" Nqobani suggests.

"Don't be lazy and go get it."

He groans in annoyance standing up to attend to the person on the door.

"Hie Raven!" (Deon's wife).

"Good afternoon good people

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" Raven says in a cheerful tone.

"You look happy" Elizabeth says sitting up.

"I'll be in the bed room" Nqobani says but Raven stops him.

"Wait I have good news and Nqobani you need to hear this too" she says excitedly "Deon and I are adopting a child I'm finally going to be a mother" she screams.

"Oh my God congratulations Raven. How old is the baby?" - Elizabeth.

"About a month I think I don't know and who cares as long as I'm going to be a mother" Raven screams.

"Where's Deon?" Nqobani questions.

"He went to get the baby she's coming from outside the country" Raven answers.

"So the baby isn't South African?"

"I didn't ask much but when Deon showed me the picture I fell inlove with her instantly" Raven answers.

"Congratulations!" Elizabeth says hugging Raven.

NONDUMISO

She has not said a word in a week she has been crying non stop. She blames herself for everything. After her parents left that day she went to bed and started feeling pain on her lower stomach. She called her mother who called the ambulance turns out she was in labor but unfortunately she had a still birth. The doctors could not give a tangible explanation as to why the baby died but all they could tell her was that the baby was no more.

Nondumiso was hurt and confused because the baby seemed fine and she had been kicking in the morning.

Nondumiso knew Omphile was going to be hurt by the loss of their child so she decided to leave. She sent Omphile a message and left with her mother she is in KZN but only her mother knows.

Someone knocks on the door and Nondumiso covers her head with the blankets pretending to be asleep.

"I know you're not sleeping you need to eat" Ingrid says pulling the blankets off Nondumiso.

"I'm not hungry."

"I know but you need your strength" she takes the spoon and attempts to feed her but she turns it down.

"Nondu loosing a child is not the end of the world you're still young and healthy you can have another child."

"I don't think I'll be able to carry another child in my life."

"Baby don't say that everything happens for a reason maybe it wasn't your time yet" Ingrid says.

"If it wasn't my time then how did I get pregnant in the first place mum? All those months I carried her only to loose her. Its just not fair."

"I'm sorry baby I know you're hurt but all will be fine" Ingrid holds Nondumiso in her arms.

"Why didn't I die instead ?"

"You don't mean that Nono you're just hurt. How do you think I would have felt if something had happened to you? Ingrid says rubbing her back.

"How will I be able to look at Omphile knowing that I killed his baby" she cries.

"Nondumiso you didn't kill the baby she died on her own" she says with tears running down her cheeks it breaks her heart seeing her daughter in this state.

To be continued....

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