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Introduction

(Yes life is hard at 27. Trying to get a job has been a mission but it was vital to make money especially with his mother fighting for her life in hospital. His father is unemployed and his sister Luyanda is only 8 years old doing Grade 3. Life has to go on and that means he has to hustle hard to ensure that they have something to eat every day. He started selling fries and hotdogs. Music is what feeds his soul)

1

Luyanda : When is maka Mehluco coming back?

(That's how she refers to their mother. Everyone called Duduzile Mabaso their mother by maka Mehluco and Luyanda grew up calling her the exact way)

Mehluco : Soon. Bring the brush and I'll help you brush your hair

(Luyanda went inside their small shack. His father was busy trying to open their small gate and he was struggling. He was holding a beer with one hand and trying to open a gate with his other hand. Mehluco just stood there and watched him and finally his father managed to open the gate. He tripped and fell.)

Mabaso : Mehluco come and help your father, my son. Ubaba udakiwe (Daddy is drunk)

(Mehluko shook his head and went to help his father get back up)

Mehluko : You didn't come home again last night baba.

Mabaso : I'm home now, my boy. That's what matters. Where is my princess? Lulu! Come to daddy

(Mabaso stumbled on his way to the house. Luyanda walked out and looked at her father)

Luyanda : He is drunk again

Mehluko : Come. You are going to be late for school

Mabaso : Hello daddy's princess. Come give daddy a hug

(Luyanda shook her head)

Luyanda : No. Your hands are dirty baba

(Mabaso started singing)

Mabaso : Daddy's hands were soft and kind when I was crying.
Daddy's hands were hard as steel when I'd done wrong.
Daddy's hands weren't always gentle but I've come to
understand there was always love in daddy's hands.

(Mabaso finished singing and tears ran down his cheeks.
Luyanda looked up at Mehluko who was busy brushing her
hair)

Mehluko : Baba please go and cry inside the house. Uzokhalisa
ingane (You will make Luyanda cry)

Mabaso : I'm not crying, my son. Lulu come, I'll give you money
for school.

(Mabaso's hand was balanced on a door frame and one was
holding his beer)

Luyanda : Mehluko is still fixing my hair, baba. I'll come now

Mehluko : Go. Where is your school bag?

Luyanda : Inside. I'll go and get it

(Mehluko threw the brush on top of a milk crate and wore his jacket that was hanging on a clothesline. Mabaso gave Luyanda some money)

Mehluko : Usule ukudla emlonyeni Luya (Wipe your mouth) I'll carry your school bag. Give it here

(He took Luyanda's school bag)

Luyanda : This school bag is old now and it's torn.

(Mehluko sighed)

Mehluko : I know. I'll try and buy you a new one. How much did baba give you?

Luyanda : R3

Mehluko : Ok. I'll add R2 for you

(Luyanda smiled)

Luyanda : Thank you. Are you going to visit mama today at the hospital?

Mehluko : Maybe tomorrow. I don't have money for transport to go today

Luyanda : Ok

(Mehluko looked around. Khayelisha township, This township is always busy especially in the morning. Mothers and fathers are going to work and their children are getting ready for school, they are standing outside with their mirrors combing hair or applying makeup. There are a few who are only coming back now from the shebeens, They are holding beers just like his father. Some are busy doing laundry outside their houses. Not forgetting young males who are always sitting on the side of the road asking R1's or R2's from everyone who is passing by. These are the same young men who rob people of their money and take their cell phones during the night. There were security guards coming from work, They were working the night shift and they looked exhausted. There are always different aromas

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Someone is cooking rice, Someone is cooking chicken curry and there is always that one person who burns the cabbage)

Eita razo

(Said two men that were sitting on the side of the road)

Mehluko : Sho

(He continued walking without even setting his eyes on them)

Luyanda : There is my friend, I'll go with her. Jika (Go back)

Mehluko : Are you sure?

Luyanda : Uh!. Give me my bag

(Mehluko pulled her bag from his shoulder and gave it to her.
He gave her R2)

Mehluko : Ufunde grand.

(Luyanda smiled and waved at him)

Luyanda : Bye-Bye

Mehluko : Sharp

(Luyanda ran to her friend and as soon she caught up with her
Mehluko made his way back home. He arrived home and
packed a bag of potatoes, cooking oil and his sauces inside his
trolley)

Mehluko : Baba! Baba!

(He shook his father who was sleeping with his bottle of beer)

Mabaso : Yes my boy

(Mabaso opened his eyes and closed them again)

Mehluko : Ngisaya enqoleni (I'm going to my food cart)

Mabaso : Ok my son. Please take off baba's shoes

(Mehluko shook his head and took off his father's shoes)

Mehluko : I'll see you later

(He pushed his trolley all the way to his food cart. He opened his window and swept the floor. He ignited his primus stove. He played music from his phone and his friend Msizi arrived)

Msizi : Nja yami. Kuhambani?

Mehluko : I'm good, man.

Msizi : Walana. Aren't you going to the hospital?

Mehluko : No. Not today

Msizi : Smoko? (Why)

Mehluko : I don't have money bro.

Msizi : Why didn't you tell me. Ay Meh mfethu

Mehluko : Relaxa. I'll go tomorrow

(Someone was standing on the window. A girl)

Mehluko : Hi

Girl : Hi do you have hotdogs?

Mehluko : No. Sorry

Girl : No problem. I'll have fries with hot sauce

Mehluko : I just got here and it will take some time to get them ready.

Girl : Ok. Should I wait here or come back....

Mehluko : Please come back after an hour

Girl : Oh

(She put on her headphones and walked away.)

Msizi : She likes you. You should have asked her to wait

Mehluko : No. Today is just one of those days

(Mehluko is right. Sometimes he wakes up and feels like his life is not worth it. Sometimes it's hard to even go out and face people, never mind socializing with them and sometimes he wakes up and wants to conquer the world. People complained about his mood swings but the truth is he had no control over it.)

Msizi : Tonight I'm going to make you feel better.

Mehluko : Jah?

Msizi : Sishaya ibhadu (We are having a party)

Mehluko : Kwesakho? (At your house)

Msizi : Sho.

Mehluko : Ok. Ay no I'm coming

Msizi : Good. So should I invite her?

Mehluko : Who?

Msizi : Ayabonga

Mehluko : I don't know who that is.

Msizi : A girl who was here.

Mehluko : No no bro.

Msizi : You need a girlfriend Meh

Mehluko : Relationships require money bro.

Msizi : She is not that type.

Mehluko : And how do you know that?

Msizi : Aw kahle Meh.

(Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : You don't know. Nx ey wena

Msizi : Uyi cherry e grand kodwa.

Mehluko : Jah. She is beautiful but I'll never be able to maintain her lifestyle. You know girls from Ekasi always want money.

Msizi : Not all of them.

Mehluko : Maybe.

(Mehluko finished slicing potatoes and fried them)

Msizi : Buka boy. I need to go and buy a few things la esthawa

Mehluko : Ok.

Msizi : See you later

Mehluko : Sharp...Ekse Msizi. If you come back after 14h00 please come back with intwana yami lapha esgele (Come back with Luyanda from school)

Msizi : No problem.

(1 hour later Ayabonga came back)

Ayabonga : Am I early?

(Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : Here is your order

Ayabonga : How much do I owe you?

Mehluko : R10

Ayabonga : Ok. Here is R20 I'm buying for you as well.

Mehluko : Oh. That is very generous of you

Ayabonga : Can I come in now and eat with you?

(Mehluko chuckled)

Mehluko : Yeah sure.

Ayabonga : Thank you. Mehluko, Right?

(She smiled)

Mehluko : Jah

Ayabonga : I'm Ayabonga Shozi.

Mehluko : Ayabonga please sit down

(Ayabonga sat down on a bucket)

Ayabonga : Your girlfriend won't be mad if she found me here.
Right?

Mehluko : No she won't

(They laughed)

Ayabonga : So you do talk?

Mehluko : What do you mean?

Ayabonga : No. You are different.... Very quiet guy

Mehluko : If you spent more time with me then you would see
that I'm not that quiet

Ayabonga : Oh then maybe I should come here more often

(Ayabonga smiled. Mehluko stared at her. Ayabonga was beautiful and Mehluko wouldn't mind having her as a girlfriend but he doesn't even have a proper room to sleep in, which is more reason he stayed away from serious relationships.)

Ayabonga : Why are you staring at me like that?

Mehluko : Nothing.

Ayabonga : Girls around here think that you are not a nice guy.

Mehluko : That's bad.

Ayabonga : I spoke to your friend on my way here and he invited me to come to his house tonight.

Mehluko : Msizi?

Ayabonga : Yeah

Mehluko : Ok. Uzoza?

Ayabonga : Do you want me to?

Mehluko : Jah

Ayabonga : Ok. I'll come

(A car passed by with ANC members)

Ayabonga : Oh when are the elections?

Mehluko : I don't know.

Ayabonga : Do you vote?

Mehluko : I do.

Ayabonga : But look at this place. No change

Mehluko : Jah but it's still important to vote.

Ayabonga : Maybe.

(Hours later Luyanda walked in with her school)

Luyanda : Mehluko look what I got yo....

(She paused when her eyes landed on Ayabonga)

Luyanda : Mi Meh

(She gave a lollipop to Mehluko but her eyes were on Ayabonga. Mehluko smiled)

Mehluko : Thank you. Bingelela u sis Ayabonga ke (Greet Ayabonga)

Luyanda : Hi

Ayabonga : Hello baby girl. You are so beautiful. Come here.

(Luyanda looked at Mehluko for approval)

Mehluko : Go

(Ayabonga kissed her cheek)

Ayabonga : What is your name?

Luyanda : Luh

Ayabonga : Luh? That is a beautiful name. How was school?

Luyanda : Nice

Ayabonga : Is she your daughter?

(Ayabonga looked at Mehluko)

Luyanda : No. Meh is my brother

(Ayabonga laughed)

Ayabonga : Oooh ok.

Luyanda : Are you his girlfriend?

(Ayabonga looked at Mehluko and then back at Luyanda)

Ayabonga : No no no. We are friends

Luyanda : Ok. Meh I'm hungry

Mehluko : Why did you bring your bag here?

Luyanda : There was no one at home and the door was locked.

Mehluko : Oh...Ayabonga I don't think I'll make it tonight. I just remembered something

Ayabonga : Jah?

Mehluko : I can't leave her alone.

(Ayabonga stood up)

Ayabonga : No. Let her sleep over at home, She will sleep with my daughter.

Mehluko : You have a daughter?

Ayabonga : Yes. She is 4 years old

Mehluko : That's nice but I don't think that is a good idea... I mean for Luyanda to come to your house

Ayabonga : I insist. My mother won't mind looking after them

Mehluko : I don't know hey

Luyanda : Where are you going Meh?

Mehluko : Somewhere

Luyanda : Ok

(Luyanda took out her book and her crayons)

Mehluko : You can't do that here. You will mess up your books

Luyanda : I won't.

(Mehluko sighed)

Ayabonga : You need a break Mehluko. I'll come and pick her up later

(Ayabonga walked out)

(Later that day they were at Msizi's house and Luyanda was at Ayabonga's house. The music was loud)

Msizi : Aah! Bro. You still don't know how to dance?

Mehluko : I'm good with other things not dancing

(Ayabonga looked at Mehluko and bit her lower lip)

Msizi : We need more ice.

Ayabonga : Yes we do.

Msizi : Where is Nkosi and Bonga?

Linda : They went for a smoke outside

(Linda was one of Msizi's friends)

Msizi : Ok. Turn up the music Sindi

(Sindi was Msizi's girlfriend. They drank and the noise was deafening. Mehluko went outside and Ayabonga followed him)

Ayabonga : Are you ok?

Mehluko : Yeah yeah yeah

Ayabonga : Ok. Are you worried about Luh?

Mehluko : Is she going to be fine?

Ayabonga : Of course.

Mehluko : Alright

Ayabonga : Where is your mother?

Mehluko : She is in the hospital

Ayabonga : I'm sorry to hear that

Mehluko : She has been battling with Tuberculosis

Ayabonga : But she is going to be fine, Right?

Mehluko : Yes. She is getting better

Ayabonga : That's goo... Oh Shit!

Mehluko : What's wrong?

(A man was coming towards them)

Man : Ayabonga, where is my daughter?

Ayabonga : Muzi please. Don't you dare

Muzi : You are busy drinking alcohol namadoda and you left my daughter?

Ayabonga : She is with my mother!

Muzi : She is your daughter!!

(They argued and Mehluko went back to the house)

Msizi : Where is Ayabonga?

Mehluko : With some guy. I think it's her baby daddy

Linda : U Muzi?

Mehluko : Jah

Linda : U Muzi found you with his baby mama?

Mehluko : We were just standing outside. No big deal

Linda : Bro wam uyamcava u Muzi (Do you know Muzi?)

Mehluko : No

(Linda laughed and put his hands over his head)

Linda : If I were you I'd run from this very moment

Msizi : Ey kahle Mlindoz. What's up with the drama?

Linda : Ohho

Msizi : Here is your beer Meh.

(They continued drinking until the early hours of the morning. Ayabonga didn't come back. She probably went home with her baby daddy. It was after 03h00am when they heard a loud bang on the door. Msizi got up and opened the door. SAPS walked in)

Cop : Are you Mehluko Mabaso?

(Mehluko was sleeping on the couch)

Msizi : No

Cop : Where is he?

Msizi : There he is

(One cop kicked Mehluko on his leg)

Cop : Wake up siboshwa!!

(Mehluko rubbed his eyes and he couldn't believe it)

Mehluko : What's going on?

Cop : You are under arrest for raping Ayabonga Shozi

Mehluko : Ini?

(Everyone else in the room was shocked)

Msizi : Aibo! How? No this is a mistake. Meh was....

Cop : Shut up! You? Let's go

(They dragged Mehluko out of the house)

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Mehluko : I can't be here. I didn't do anything

Cop : That's what they all say.

Mehluko : Sayitsheni I have a sister waiting for me at home and she is only 8 years old

Cop : She will survive without you. You are going to be in jail for a very long time, I'm talking about plain 15 years or more. Your sister will definitely forget that you ever existed

Mehluko : This is a mistake.

Cop : No. Come

(Mehluko was taken to his cell. He hoped that he was going to go home the next day but minutes turned to hours and he was still stuck in that cell. Monday morning they told him to go

home, That's all they told him. He walked for hours until he got to Khayelisha. Luyanda was sitting outside)

Luyanda : Meh!!!

(She ran to him and hugged him. Mehluko smiled at her)

Mehluko : Are you ok? Where is tayma?

Luyanda : Inside. Phela umaka Mehluko ngeke esaphinde ebuye wee Meh (Mom will never come back)

Mehluko : What do you mean?

Luyanda : I don't know. Baba said I'll never see her again

Mehluko : Why?

Luyanda : Angazi (I don't know).... Where are you coming from?

(Mehluko forced a quick smile)

Mehluko : From a friend

Luyanda : Ok. I won't be going to school now.

(Mehluko was puzzled by everything Luyanda said to him ever since he got home)

Mehluko : Let's go inside

Luyanda : Khona omama lapha phakathi (There are women in there)

Mehluko : What women Luya?

(Mehluko knocked twice and went inside. He found two women and his father and the atmosphere was not so pleasant)

Mehluko : Sanibona

(Mehluko looked at his father and moved his gaze to the women who were sitting on their small bench)

Mabaso : Where are you coming from?

Mehluko : I came across a small problem but it's sorted now

Mabaso : You were arrested Mehluko.

(Silence)

Mabaso : You were arrested for rape. Rape? Ukudlwengula

Mehluko? Ngempela?

Mehluko : It was a wrongful arrest baba

Mabaso : I bet it was.

(Mabaso's eyes flashed with defiance and he glowered at Mehluko)

Mabaso : Well your mother died while you were busy chasing skirts and getting arrested.

(Mehluko looked dumbfounded and he didn't move. He just sat there staring at his father like he was still processing what his father just said)

Mehluko : U Mah wenzeni? (What did my mother do?)

Mabaso : She died last night. These are my sisters Sbongile and Nomusa, I asked them to come and discuss funeral arrangements with me

Mehluko : u Mah akasekho? (My mother is no more?)

Mabaso : Yes Mehluko.

(Mehluko stood up and he walked all the way to his food cart. He got inside and moved around not knowing what to do. He felt a surge of adrenaline, His chest tightened and he felt like he was disconnecting from the real world. Luyanda was knocking but he couldn't move from where he was sitting. Luyanda kept knocking continuously)

Luyanda : Meh vula (Open) I know you are here

(Mehluko gathered all his strength and stood up to open the door for Luyanda. Luyanda smiled and he had to try to pull out a smile too because clearly Luyanda wasn't aware of what was going on)

Luyanda : Are you sad because I didn't go to school?

Mehluko : No

Luyanda : Are you sad because maka Mehluko is not coming back?

Mehluko : Mhmm-Mhmm

Luyanda : Don't be sad we will go and visit her

Mehluko : Yah

Luyanda : Sis Ayabonga told me that you were going to come back today.

(As much as Mehluko needed answers about his arrest but at that moment he had bigger problems.)

Mehluko : Yah

Luyanda : Let's go home

Mehluko : Home?

(Mehluko wishes that Luyanda understands what he is going through)

Luyanda : Uh!

(Mehluko dragged himself out of his food cart and when he was outside he saw children playing, some ladies were sitting outside the house doing hair braiding, they were laughing with no worries. Will he ever be able to laugh like that again? Be happy? Mehluko and Luyanda went home)

Sbongile : Mehluko your mother will be buried in Port Shepstone

Nomusa : No one has money but we will try and bury her. Khulekani is our brother and Duduzile was his wife so we need to help him since he is unemployed

Mabaso : Thank you

Mehluko : Where are you all coming from out of the blue?

(They all turned to look at Mehluko)

Sbongile : Mehluko Mabaso, is that how you speak to your elders?

Mehluko : I had no idea that you were my elders. Where are my elders coming from? I thought my father had no relatives

Mabaso : Mehluko this is not the time. My sisters are here to help us so you can't speak or ask anything like that.

Mehluko : No My mother will be buried here. We don't need them baba

(Mehluko opened the curtain and sat on his bed. Their shack was one room with 2 beds. They used the curtains to separate the beds and where they cooked)

Nomusa : Ay clearly we are not needed here. Let's go, Sbongile.

Sbongile : Let's go. Khulekani we tried but uyizwile ke indodadana yakho (You heard your son)

Mabaso : I'll give you a call Nomusa. Thank you

Sbongile : Bye Luyanda.

(Nomusa and Sbongile walked out)

Mabaso : Mehluko

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how are you going to bury your mother?

Mehluko : My mother had a funeral policy. Baba I'm tired of your sisters coming here only when it suits them. I called them when my mother started getting sick and they asked me where are they going to sleep if they come here? Besilala singadlile bekhona osisi bakho and now that my mother is gone they want to play superheroines?

Mabaso : They were just trying to help.

(Luyanda came to where Mehluko was sitting and she placed her head on his lap)

Mehluko : Why now? They hated my mother and you know it baba.

Mabaso : Just shut up! Your mother needed you in her last hours and you were stuck in prison cells. Now you come here and you want to act all perfect?

(Those words cut deeper than any blade.)

3 DAYS LATER

(The funeral went well. Duduzile had a wonderful send off. Mehluko tried his best to make sure that people who attended his mother's funeral had something to eat even though it still confuses him why people expect a mourning family to cater for them.)

Msizi : Nja yami hhade (I'm sorry)

Mehluko : Impilo boy (It's life)

Msizi : Eish nendaba kaMuzi. He is a bastard but I'm glad Ayabonga bailed you out

Mehluko : I told you amathekeni ala ekasi will put you in trouble.

Msizi : She just want to apologize to you. She had no idea about the stunt that Muzi pulled.

Mehluko : I don't care anymore. Msizi I just lost my mother.
Edladleni babheke mina nou so I don't have time for Ayabonga
or Muzi.

Msizi : I know Nja yami so you won't mind ukuthi ngithathe
spani from u Muzi?

Mehluko : Job? What kind of a job?

Msizi : Sphusha omunye nje umshikashika (It's just some
business)

Mehluko : Tell me it's legal Msizi ngoba awufuni ukufahlaka
(You don't want to go to jail)

(Msizi rubbed the back of his neck)

Mehluko : U dom bro wami. You want to go to jail?

Msizi : It's just a once off job. Soncinza I trans ezi few then sihlehlele yonke le dai deng (We are going to steal a few cars and stop the whole thing)

Mehluko : Noma yini nja yami. Angikhathali (Whatever. I don't care) You are old enough and you know what you are getting yourself into.

Msizi : Aw Meh ungaringi kanjalo (Don't speak like that)

Mehluko : Ku grand. Vaya (Go)

Msizi : No hard feelings?

Mehluko : Uncunde ispani from umuntu ocishe wangfahlakisa iminyaka edanyani (You took a job from someone who almost sent me to jail for years) and now you are asking me that?

Msizi : Ufuna ngenzeni ke Meh? Ngiyadidinga inyuku (What do you want me to do? I need money)

Mehluko : Sure I get that. Vaya

(Meh went back to the house and his father was drinking)

Mehluko : You just finished burying your wife and you are already drinking?

Mabaso : I loved my wife and I will always love her, son.

Mehluko : Then act like it baba

(Mabaso started singing)

Mabaso : And I will always love you, I will always love you my darling you. Bitter sweet, memories that is all I'm taking, with me so goodbye, please, don't cry.... (He paused and rubbed his eyes) Do you know that song my boy? The song was written and recorded in 1973 by Dolly Parton. The song was written as

a farewell to her former business partner Porter Wagoner and...

Mehluko : Baba I don't care. You need a job baba, we need money. U Mah akasekho so you need a job

Mabaso : A job? 9 to 5 job?

Mehluko : I can't do this on my own tayma so yes get that 9 to 5 job.

Mabaso : Working 9 to 5, making something of your own now and it feels so fine to build a business from your know - how. Gonna.... (He was singing again and Mehluko stopped him)

Mehluko : Baba just stop with these Dolly Parton's songs. Do you understand what is going on with our lives?

Mabaso : Yes (He drank his beer)

Mehluko : No you don't baba.

(Mehluko covered Luyanda with a blanket. Luyanda and Mehluko slept in one bed but with different blankets. Mehluko went outside because he needed some time away from his father and as always there were always drunk couples who were fighting on the streets. Mehluko sat on his crate and watched them. He heard a few gunshots but that was nothing new in Khayelisha. He finally went back to the house and got to bed but some knocked unexpectedly and the person was banging the door constantly)

Mehluko : Who is that?

Please open the door. I need your help

(That voice sounded like Ayabonga's. Mehluko was a bit reluctant to open the door after what happened the last time he was with Ayabonga. He went to open the door anyway and Ayabonga was standing there tears running down her face and her hands soaked with blood)

3

Mehluko : What happened?

Ayabonga : They shot them. Please help me, I need to take them to the hospital.

Mehluko : They shot who?

Ayabonga : Muzi and Olwethu

(Mehluko stepped out and closed the door)

Mehluko : Olwethu? Your daughter?

Ayabonga : Yes. Please come

Mehluko : But....

Ayabonga : Mehluko please. You are my only hope now, They are dying

(Ayabonga tightened her grip on Mehluko's hand and they walked away. Muzi's car was not far from Mehluko's house. People were just watching and no one was willing to help Muzi or his daughter. Muzi's head was pressed on the steering wheel, Blood gushing out of his mouth. He was covered in blood and Olwethu was sitting on a chair next to his father pressing her tiny hand on her bleeding thigh.)

Ayabonga : No one wants to help Muzi. Please take them to the hospital, I can't drive.

(Ayabonga was still crying)

Mehluko : I don't have a driver's license

Ayabonga : Let's go. Please

Mehluko : No no what if I get arrested? Call the ambulance

Ayabonga : Mehluko we live in Khayelisha!! Ambulance will take forever to get here. Muzi is dying. Please!!

(Mehluko opened the door and they moved Muzi to the back seat. Mehluko took a deep breath and started Muzi's car,. They drove off. Ayabonga was sitting with Muzi at the back seat and Olwethu was sitting next to Mehluko who was driving)

Ayabonga : Muzi please open your eyes. Stay with me baby

Mehluko : What happened Ayabonga?

Ayabonga : I don't know. Muzi went to buy milk with Olwethu and then I heard gunshots. When I...

Mehluko : Ok ok. Everything is going to be fine.

Ayabonga : They took Msizi

Mehluko : What?

Ayabonga : I started at his house before I came to you and I found his mother crying saying they took her son

Mehluko : Damn you Msizi!!!

Ayabonga : Please drive faster. I think Muzi is dying

Mehluko : No no no don't say that

(Mehluko accelerated the speed and in less than 30 minutes they made it to the hospital. Doctors came running to help Muzi and Olwethu. Muzi was taken to the ICU)

Doctor : Ms Shozi we have to keep your daughter here for a few days. We have removed a bullet from her thigh but I still recommend that we keep her here. Please go home and get some rest

(Ayabonga wiped her tears)

Ayabonga : Thank you Doctor. Is Muzi going to be fine? He is my daughter's father.

Doctor : Oh I wasn't aware. Mr Mngomezulu is still unconscious and it seems like he lost too much blood. We will have to do a transfusion but I will confirm with you tomorrow for now please go home. Both of you

Mehluko : She is right Ayabonga. We need to go

(Doctor smiled at Mehluko)

Ayabonga : Ok. Thank you

(Mehluko and Ayabonga walked out of the hospital)

Mehluko : This is risky Ayabonga. I'm driving without a license

Ayabonga : They just stood there... I didn't know that people from Khayelisha hate Muzi that much. They detest him. I asked them to help me and they ignored me.

Mehluko : Mhmmm

Ayabonga : I'm sorry Mehluko. I know what he did and I promise you that I had nothing to do with it, Muzi is a jealous type and he is inconsiderate. I went to the police station to bail you out and I told them to drop the charges.

Mehluko : Is this the part where I'm supposed to say Thank you?

Ayabonga : No. Of course not

Mehluko : I need to find Msizi

Ayabonga : Please be careful. Muzi crossed the wrong people this time around.

Mehluko : I knew that this relationship yaka Muzi no Msizi, would end in tears.

Ayabonga : I told Muzi to leave Msizi alone but as usual he didn't take my advice and now Msizi is missing because of him. What if he dies?

Mehluko : Who? Muzi?

Ayabonga : No no no. Msizi

Mehluko : I just hope that he'll come back home (Mehluko sighs) safe.

Ayabonga : Muzi can't die Mehluko. I need that man more than anyone else. Olwethu is nothing without him

(Mehluko parked the car)

Mehluko : Yah. I need to go now

Ayabonga : Thank you Meh for everything.

Mehluko : No problem. I need to go and get myself out of these clothes.

(Ayabonga smiled)

Ayabonga : Thanks.

Mehluko : Bye

(Mehluko went home and his father was sitting outside basking in the sun drinking sugar water)

Mehluko : Baba

Mabaso : You don't rape them anymore

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You kill them now?

(Mehluko looked at his t-shirt that was covered with blood)

Mehluko : Oh this? I was helping someone.

Mabaso : Mehluko if you go to jail my son you need to keep it in mind that no one will get you out. You'll die in there

Mehluko : I don't know what you are talking about, tayma.
Where is Luya?

Mabaso : She is eating inside.

Mehluko : Ok

Mabaso : Do you have R15?

Mehluko : For beer? No. I don't have it

Mabaso : Mxm. I'm going to Kwamazithanqaza, I'll be back now

(Kwamazithanqaza is the name of their local Tarven)

Mehluko : Whatever baba

(Mehluko went inside the house and he found Luyanda standing on top of the bench buttering a slice of bread. The house was a mess)

Mehluko : When are you going back to school?

Luyanda : Igazi (Blood) Are you hurt?

Mehluko : No. Finish with that and go outside, I want to bath here.

Luyanda : What happened?

Mehluko : Nothing Luya! Just go!!

(Luyanda understood her brother's mood swings sometimes. She took her bread and walked out)

(The following day Mehluko was coming from his food cart and Ayabonga stopped him. He stopped and leaned on his trolley. Ayabonga seemed drained)

Mehluko : Hi

Ayabonga : Muzi needs blood, Meh. Mine did not match his

Mehluko : That's bad

(Mehluko pushed his trolley)

Ayabonga : He is going to die Mehluko

Mehluko : People die every day

Ayabonga : How can you say that?

Mehluko : My mother died while I was arrested because of your Muzi and you expect me to feel sorry for him? Tough

Ayabonga : Olwethu won't survive without her father

Mehluko : I'm trying to survive every day without my mother...entlek, what do you want me to do? Why are you telling me all this?

Ayabonga : I don't know. I was hoping that you would say something to make me feel better

Mehluko : Oh. Sorry

(Ayabonga was crying uncontrollable)

Mehluko : Just go home Ayabonga and get some rest

(Ayabonga walked away and Mehluko went home. The thought of his mother dying and him hoping that if maybe he was there for his mother then he could have prevented his mother's death made him consider going to the hospital and check if there was anything he could do to help Muzi.)

Mehluko : Luya I need to go to the hospital

Luyanda : To visit maka Mehluko?

Mehluko : Maka Mehluko is de... Is not in the hospital Luya.

Luyanda : Ok. Uncle Msizi was here

Mehluko : Are you serious?

Luyanda : His eye was closed like this

(She pressed her fingers on her left eye)

Luyanda : And he had bruises all over his face

Mehluko : At least he is alive. Do you have homework?

Luyanda : No

Mehluko : Good. Go to Aunt Doris's house and I'll fetch you there as soon as I come back from the hospital

Luyanda : Why are you going to the hospital? Are you sick?

Mehluko : Something like that but I'll be fine... Now go. I need to lock the door

Luyanda : Leave your phone. I want to play games

Mehluko : I can't

(Luyanda looked at him)

Mehluko : Fine. Take it and stop sulking....mi! mi!

(Luyanda took his phone and walked out)

Mehluko : Don't give it to your friends Luyanda

(Mehluko locked the door and put the key under the carpet.
Luyanda was already busy on his phone)

Mehluko : I'll leave the key here (He looked at Luyanda) Are you listening to me?

Luyanda : Where is the Candy Crush?

Mehluko : What is that?

Luyanda : Game. Did you delete it?

Mehluko : No. Bye

Luyanda : Then where is it?

Mehluko : Go Luya

(Luyanda ran to their neighbors house and Mehluko went to the bus stop. 2 hours later he was at the hospital)

Doctor : Are you here to see Mr Mngomezulu?

Mehluko : I heard that he needs blood

Doctor : Yes and you are?

Mehluko : His.... His friend. I was here with Ms Shozi yesterday

Doctor : Oh yes. Yes, now I remember.

Mehluko : Yah

Doctor : Do you know your blood type?

Mehluko : No

Doctor : No problem. Please follow me

Mehluko : No problem

Doctor : I doubt that your blood will match but it's worth trying. Mr Mngomezulu is B negative which is a very rare blood type, only 2 percent of the population have this blood type but we will do the test anyway.

Mehluko : Oh ok

Doctor : Yes. The conventional tests to determine blood type take about 10 to 20 minutes.

Mehluko : Let's do this

Doctor : Please fill out this form and as soon as you are done please make your way to that room.

(Mehluko did everything he was told to do and the blood test was done. 45 minutes later the doctor came back. He looked at the document and back at Mehluko)

Doctor: You have golden blood. This is amazing

Mehluko : What do you mean?

Doctor : You have the most rarest blood in the universe. Rh null... Your blood contains no antigens on the red blood cells and it's...

Mehluko : Can I donate? That's all I want to know?

Doctor : Yes of course. I'm just shocked.... I mean this is the first time I come across something like this.

Mehluko : I see. Can I do this now?

Doctor : Yes. Please come with me

Mehluko : How long is it going to take?

Doctor : Not more than an hour

Mehluko : Perfect

(Mehluko sat down and they cleaned his arm)

4

Mehluko : Can I go now?

Doctor : Have some snacks first

Mehluko : No. I need to go home before I find myself behind long queues at the taxi rank.

Doctor : You don't have a car?

Mehluko : Dr Ngubane, Do I look like I have a car?

(Doctor laughed)

Doctor : What kind of a question is that? (She looked at her watch) Look, let me take you home.

Mehluko : Aibo! Why?

Doctor : Because I don't want you to faint on your way home

(She laughed but Mehluko didn't laugh)

Doctor : Seriously though, you might feel drowsy after this transfusion.

Mehluko : No I won't. Don't worry about me

Doctor : I insist. Please let's go

(Dr Ngubane took off her lab coat and grabbed her bag with her car keys. Mehluko shook his head, that was the last thing he expected. They went to the car)

Mehluko : Is this what you do for every donor?

(Dr Ngubane smiled and shook her head)

Doctor : Not exactly.

Mehluko : Then why are you doing this?

Doctor : Because I want to.... Mehluko, was it your first time donating blood to someone?

Mehluko : You still remember my name?

Doctor : Yes

Mehluko : I didn't get yours Doc

Doctor : Dudu

Mehluko : Dudu? (He frowned)

Doctor : Dudu. What? Is it that bad?

Mehluko : No it is a beautiful name actually but I prefer calling you Dr Ngubane.

Doctor : Why?

Mehluko : Because Dudu is... Because that is what I prefer.

Doctor : If you say so. Was it your first time?

Mehluko : Yes

Doctor : Why?

Mehluko : Because Muzi needed blood

Doctor : Do you know how many lives you can save with your blood?

Mehluko : No and to be honest with you I don't care. It's just blood

Doctor : Rhnull? Just blood?

Mehluko : Yes

(Dudu sighed)

Dudu : Ok

Mehluko : You can drop me off here. You don't want to find yourself in Khayelisha

Dudu : You stay in Khayelisha?

(She scrunched her nose)

Mehluko : Yes. Is that a problem?

Dudu : No of course not (She smiled)

Mehluko : I see. Thanks for your kindness, I'll be fine from here.

(Mehluko got out of the car)

Dudu : Mehluko please wait

Mehluko : What?

Dudu : Let me take you to Khayelisha

Mehluko : You have a problem with Khayelisha. I see it, dokotela so don't bother yourself.

Dudu : Ok fine. I do have a problem with Kasi life but I want to take you home. Please

Mehluko : No thanks. Uvaye grand

Dudu : Ok give me your number. I just want to call you and find out if you went home safe

Mehluko : Khayelisha is one hour away from here, of course I'll be safe.

Dudu : Ok. Bye

(Mehluko went home. He was angry with Dudu and he felt like he was being judged.)

(Luyanda and his father were home. Mabaso was cooking rice)

Mehluko : I didn't see this one coming

Mabaso : What?

Mehluko : To find you home at this time of the day

Mabaso : I know and now that you are here I'm thinking that maybe I should go back to wherever I was

(Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : You don't have money. That's why you are here

Mabaso : Mehluko I'm not your friend. Now iron your sister's uniform

Mehluko : I always do that

Mabaso : Where are you coming from?

Mehluko : From the hospital. Do you know Muzi?

Mabaso : Iginsa?

Mehluko : Is he a criminal? Tayma, stop saying Muzi is a criminal

Mabaso : Ok he is a child of God not a criminal. I thought they killed him

Mehluko : Use ICU. He needed blood baba

(Mabaso looked at Mehluko's arm)

Mabaso : You donated your blood to that criminal?

Mehluko : I was doing it for Olwethu, his daughter. Please don't tell anyone that I donated my blood, I don't need drama.

Mabaso : You just wasted your blood. Khayelisha doesn't need people like Muzi

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he deserves to die.

Mehluko : Baba!

Mabaso : No son. Is he going to pay you? For your blood?

Mehluko : What? No

(Someone knocked on their door and Mabaso went to check)

Mabaso : You gave him for free..... Yey Siphon mngani wami.
How are you?

(Siphon is Mabaso's best friend. He was away for a few weeks and now that he was back Mehluko knew that it was the last time they saw their father. Mabaso and his friends were heavy drinkers in the whole of Khayelisha)

Mehluko : Luya are you sleeping?

(Mehluko opened the curtain and Luyanda was sleeping.
Mabaso walked back in and he had a smile on his face)

Mabaso : I need to go

Mehluko : That's what I thought. Ugezile u Luya?

Mabaso : Yes. I'll see you guys later

(Mabaso walked out and Mehluko finished ironing Luyanda's
uniform. He cooked curry. Msizi knocked on his door)

(Mehluko looked at his face)

Mehluko : Eh! Unje?

Msizi : Bang'khawathile blind. Look at my face

Mehluko : I see. Sit down nja yami. Ebaba, those people almost killed you.

Msizi : Look at my eye

Mehluko : Ehsani! But it isn't that bad. What happened?

Msizi : Entlek ang'cavi (I don't) I went to buy airtime and Muzi was there with his daughter. Muzi told me to come to his house that night and then he left. Few minutes after they left I heard gunshots but I thought it's nothing bad. On my way home I saw Muzi trying to get in his car and he had blood all over.

Ayabonga was crying telling him to stop, I just ran home but when I got there I found men waiting for me with guns and they told me to get inside the car.

Mehluko : Muzi tried to drive himself to the hospital in that state?

Msizi : Yeah bro. I heard he is in hospital

Mehluko : I took him and his daughter to the hospital. Cabanga ngoba I was driving without a license

Msizi : Wait. You helped Muzi?

Mehluko : I had to bro. He was dying but I was doing it for Olwethu.

Msizi : You are a good man Nja yami.

Mehluko : It's really nothing. I was just trying to help, that's all. So they roughed you up?

Msizi : Ey ndoda I don't know how they knew that I'm working with Muzi. I oledi likwatile bro (My mother is angry)

Mehluko : She should be. Msizi you need to stay away from Muzi.

Msizi : He is going to die anyway.

Mehluko : He won't.

Msizi : There is no match for his blood so he is going to die and that means (Msizi looked at Mehluko and smiled)

Mehluko : Msizi what are you up to?

Msizi : Nothing boy.....Nothing

Mehluko : Don't get yourself in trouble

Msizi : I won't. I need to go boy

Mehluko : Sharp

Msizi : Where is Lulu?

Mehluko : Usegidlile (She is sleeping)

Msizi : Alright. See you tomorrow Nja yami

(Msizi walked out and Mehluko shook his head.He knew that Msizi was up to no good)

(The following day Mehluko was getting ready to go to his food cart and he saw a car parked outside his gate. Mehluko ignored it and continued packing his trolley. Dudu got out of the car)

Dudu : Mehluko

(Mehluko was shocked to see her)

Mehluko : How did you get here?

Dudu : I missed you (She laughed)

Mehluko : What can I do for you Dr Ngubane?

Dudu : That's formal.

(Mehluko chuckled)

Dudu : I wanted to apologize for yesterday

(She looked around and she had that look on her face)

Mehluko : Why did you bother yourself coming here because it's quite clear that you are uncomfortable here.

(Dudu tried to pull out a smile)

Dudu : Who said I'm uncomfortable?

Mehluko : The look on your face says it all, you look... disgusted.
Anyway what do you want e Kasi lami?

(Mehluko locked the door and put the key inside his pocket)

Dudu : So you are really staying in that?

Mehluko : That? (Mehluko rubbed his face) You know what?
Please leave. Now!

Dudu : I... I... I didn't mean to say that.

Mehluko : Vaya!

Dudu : Mehluko I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to upset you

Mehluko : Entlek yini ngawe? Ngithe vaya (What's your
problem? I said go.)

(Dudu slowly went back to her car and she drove off. Mehluko kicked his trolley and put his hands at the back of his head. He was really angry. He opened the door and went back to the house. 2 hours later he received a call from an unknown)

Mehluko : Hello

Mehluko please don't hang up, it's me Dudu.

(Mehluko sat up)

Mehluko : What do you want, Dudu? Is this about blood? You want my blood?

Dudu : No no no. It isn't.

Mehluko : Then what do you want from me?

Dudu : I just want to get to know you better

Mehluko : Why?

(Silence)

Mehluko : I feel harassed right now. Is this how you treat every person who comes to your hospital to donate blood?

Dudu : I'm sorry. Please go out with me

Mehluko : No. Dudu lalela, Whatever it is that you are trying to do, I'm not interested. Got it?

Dudu : Fine

(Mehluko hung up. Why is this doctor suddenly after him?)

Hhaibo lamazambane ke? (And these potatoes?)

(That was his father asking outside and he sounded drunk. He walked in with a plastic bag)

Mabaso : Why did you leave your trolley outside... (He burped)

(Mehluko shook his head)

Mabaso : What does that suppose to mean? You are speaking in sign language now? Huh Meh? U smart, ushaya ama sign language.

(Mabaso kicked off his shoes and took out his beer from his plastic bag.)

Mabaso : I bought chips for you and Lulu.

Mehluko : Baba how old I am?

Mabaso : Who needs your age? Did you get a job?

(Mehluke deep sighed)

Mehluke : You bought beer instead of bread. Does that sound right to you?

Mabaso : It's all wrong but it's all right. Just close your eyes and fantasize. Tell me sexy lovin' lies (He sang)

(Not his father and Dolly Parton's songs again. Mehluke stood up and wore his sneakers)

Mabaso : Do you know that song, My boy? Classic. Mxm you know nothing

(Mehluke walked out and he went to the shop. He found Linda and Bonga playing snooker. He sat on a brick)

Bonga : Aw ezinye zazo (greetings)

Mehluko : Ey Bongz kuhambani?

Bonga : Ku grand sidlala kona ukuba unemployed

Linda : Ukuba ominenhle

(They laughed)

Mehluko : Ku rough. U waar uMsizi?

Linda : I don't know, I haven't seen him all day.

Bonga : He is up to something.

Mehluko : But what?

Bonga : I don't know but last night I saw him speaking to Muzi's guys.

Mehluko : Oh yeah?

Bonga : Yeah and things seemed awkward between them.

Linda : Speaking of Muzi, I heard that he is out of the ICU.
Someone donated blood

Bonga : Yey ndoda ngizwile.

Mehluko : That's good. So who gave him blood?

Linda : No one knows for now

Mehluko : Oh ok. That's good

Bonga : Awudale i beer phela Meh (Buy us a beer)

(Meh stood up)

Mehluko : Forget it bro

Bonga : izwide nje nja yami (just one)

Mehluko : Angna nyuku mina Bongz (I don't have money)
ngisalanda intwana yami la esgele (I'm going to fetch Luyanda
from school)

Linda : Sharp

(Dudu was calling non stop and Mehluko answered)

Mehluko : Do I need a protection order?

Dudu : No. You just need to accept my proposal

Mehluko : Why is this so important to you?

Dudu : You are different

Mehluko : Let me rephrase my question. Why is a good doctor like you running after I outie nje yase Kasi?

(Dudu laughed)

Dudu : You are different and I just want us to be friends.

Mehluko : I see.

Dudu : Let me come to Khayelisha this coming weekend and you can show me around...maybe

Mehluko : Are you sure?

Dudu : Yes yes. I'm sure

Mehluko : Fine.

Dudu : It's a date.. I mean thank you

(Mehluko chuckled and hung up. The whole thing did not make any sense to him)

5

(There was a BMW following Luyanda and I on our way from school)

Meh!

Luyanda : U Malum'Msizi

Mehluko : Eita

(Msizi got out of the car)

Msizi : Hello princess

Luyanda : Hi

Mehluko : Zithini? (What's up)

Msizi : Ayikho engaphandle (No problem) u grand?

Mehluko : Yeah... Who are these people?

Msizi : Olova nje engithesha nabo (Guys I'm working with)

Mehluko : I see.

Msizi : I want to give you something

Mehluko : What?

Msizi : Buka la nja yami. It's nothing much but it will cover you here and there

(Msizi gave Mehluko a brown envelope. Mehluko tried to open it)

Msizi : Don't open it here

Mehluko : Where did you get this money?

Msizi : I'm working Meh.

Mehluko : Don't lie to me

Msizi : I'm not. Take this money, you need it.

(Mehluko sighed)

Msizi : U 2 blocks (It's R2000)

Mehluko : I don't want troubles Msizi bro

Msizi : Relax ntanga. It's clean money

Mehluko : If you say so. I need money so ta nja ka (Thanks)

Msizi : I'll share whatever I have with you. Any day bro

Mehluko : As long as this won't get me in trouble

Msizi : You know me Meh. I'll never do anything to jeopardize our friendship

Skhali as'mashe (Let's go)

(One of the guys said)

Mehluko : They call you Skhali now?

(Msizi chuckled)

Msizi : Don't worry about it.

Mehluko : Have you heard anything from those guys who came to your house?

Msizi : No. I'm sure they realised that they had the wrong guy.

Mehluko : Oh yeah?

Msizi : Yeah. I need to go bro

Mehluko : Sharp

Msizi : I'll see you tomorrow

Mehluko : No flob

(Msizi went back to the car. Luyanda and Mehluko went home, they found Ayabonga sitting outside)

Mehluko : Ayabonga

Ayabonga : Hi

(Mehluko opened the door for Luyanda)

Mehluko : Go in. I need to speak to Ayabonga

Luyanda : Ok

Ayabonga : She is such a lovely kid

Mehluko : Yeah. What brings you here?

Ayabonga : Muzi is recovering. He got a donor (She smiled)

Mehluko : That's good

Ayabonga : It is. Unfortunately the donor requested to be anonymous

Mehluko : Unfortunately?

Ayabonga : Whoever it is, saved Muzi so it would have been only fair to thank that person.

Mehluko : But you don't seem happy

Ayabonga : Olwethu...they said it will take her months to be able to walk again

Mehluko : That is terrible

(Ayabonga sniffed)

Ayabonga : What if she never walks again Mehluko?

Mehluko : No don't say that

Ayabonga : I want to kill people who did this to my daughter.
God forbid

Mehluko : You don't want to go to jail Ayabonga

Ayabonga : For my daughter, I don't mind.

Mehluko : And who will take care of her if you go to jail?

(Silence)

Ayabonga : Muzi won't let them get away. Trust me

Mehluko : I know. Look, I need to do a few things so if there is nothing else....

Ayabonga : Yeah yeah yeah. I need to go anyway...Thank you Mehluko, for everything.

Mehluko : Don't sweat it.

(Mehluko walked inside. He opened the envelope Msizi gave to him and deep down he was worried about that money but he needed money)

(3 Days later. Saturday 13h00)

Mehluko : I thought you were joking about coming here

Dudu : I wasn't. So where do we go from here?

Mehluko : Let's go to shisanyama

Dudu : Shisanyama? ... Ok ok fine. Do you want to drive?

Mehluko : No

Dudu : Please. I'm tired

Mehluko : Fine

(They drove to the nearest Shisanyama)

Dudu : I thought you would say that you can't drive

Mehluko : I can but I don't have a license

Dudu : You need to get one

Mehluko : Maybe

Dudu : Do you have a girlfriend?

Mehluko : Yes

Dudu : What's her name?

Mehluko : Nomkhosi

(Nomkhosi is the only girl that was able to handle Mehluko for a while. Being in a relationship with Mehluko was a mission, firstly it was difficult for any girl to stick around because of his mood swings. Mehluko would stay weeks without making contact at all. If his girls visited him he would get angry and chase them away only to regret it later but some days he loved Nomkhosi like she is the only girl in the world)

Dudu : Oh. Where is she from?

Mehluko : Stanger

Dudu : I see

Mehluko : Sesifikile

(The Shisanyama was packed as usual)

Dudu : Are we going to be fine here?

Mehluko : Yeah. Sit here

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I'll come back now

(Mehluko went to buy meat and he asked guys from Shisanyama to bring it to them as soon as it was ready)

Dudu : This is a nice place

Mehluko : It is

Dudu : You don't speak much. Do you?

Mehluko : What makes you say that?

Dudu : No I'm just asking...Tell me, how often do you see your girlfriend?

Mehluko : Every week

Dudu : She comes to your place?

Mehluko : Of course

Dudu : I see. Well I don't have a boyfriend, I'm always swamped with work so relationships are just too much for me

Mehluko : How old are you?

Dudu : You don't ask a girl how old she is Mehluko

(They laughed)

(Dudu was a beautiful girl which made Mehluko more concerned about why she was so interested in him. Dudu seemed like those girls who would have any men they want but not Mehluko. Mehluko was just a Kasi boy, yes he had looks but Dudu? No)

Mehluko : Come on tell me

Dudu : 30

Mehluko : Ok. Kids?

Dudu : None at the moment

Mehluko : I guess your job is much more important

Dudu : Not exactly. Guys are just scared to approach me so without a boyfriend I can't get married and without marriage I can't have kids

Mehluko : Yeah right, so you are the type of person who believes in getting married before having kids?

Dudu : That's how I was raised. Do you have kids?

Mehluko : No. I have a sister, She is 8 years old.

(Dudu smiled)

Dudu : That's nice. I would love to meet her one day

Mehluko : Yeah sure

Dudu : And your mother (She laughed)

(Mehluko opened his beer)

Mehluko : My mother is no more

Dudu : Oh my God I'm sorry. I had no idea

Mehluko : It's ok. Her name was Dudu

(Dudu laughed)

Dudu : Stop lying

Mehluko : I'm serious. That's why I prefer calling you Dr
Ngubane

(Dudu laughed and touched Mehluko's hand. Her touch sent
shivers all over Mehluko's body)

Dudu : You don't say

(Their meat arrived)

Dudu : So where do I pay?

Mehluko : Don't worry, I took care of it

Dudu : Oh no you didn't. I asked you out and not the other way around so I was supposed to pay

Mehluko : I may look broke to you but I can take care of a girl
Dr Ngubane

(Mehluko was unemployed but he kept his pride spot on)

Dudu : That's not what I said, don't put words in my mouth

Mehluko : Can we eat now?

Dudu : A guy with confidence. I like that (She murmured)

Mehluko : I didn't get that

Dudu : Nothing Mr Mabaso

Mehluko : Mr Mabaso? Seriously?

(They laughed)

Dudu : As long as you keep referring to me as Dr Ngubane then get used to it

Mehluko : Is that so?

Dudu : Uh!... When are you planning to come to my house.... I mean to Morningside where I stay?

Mehluko : You want to take me to the suburbs now?

Dudu : Why not? I want to pay for our food as you did

(They laughed)

Mehluko : Men are supposed to take care of women

Dudu : It's 2019 Mehluko not 1920

Mehluko : And I still live by the same rule. Nothing will change that

Dudu : You are really different

Mehluko : My name is Mehluko

(They laughed)

Dudu : How far did you go with your studies?

(Mehluko chuckled and took a sip of his beer)

Mehluko : Why do you want to know?

Dudu : I want to get to know you better as I said before

Mehluko : It doesn't matter

Dudu : Do you have matric?

Mehluko : No

Dudu : I know you are lying

Mehluko : Then why ask?

Dudu : Are you always this difficult?

Mehluko : Depends

(Dudu smiled)

Dudu : There is something about you

Mehluko : Do tell

Dudu : Mehluko you are more than what meets the eye and I believe that you can achieve so much better, you just need to work on a few things about yourself.

Mehluko : Things like?

Dudu : You think you only have yourself. Am I wrong?

(Silence)

Dudu : Not everyone comes to your life because they have a certain motive. Some people have pure interest

Mehluko : Dudu I....

Dudu : Young people are dying in silence Mehluko. They don't want to talk about how they feel.

Mehluko : I think we should go

Dudu : Can I see your sister before I go?

Mehluko : Yeah sure

Dudu : Thank you

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(They finished eating and they went to Mehluko's house. Mabaso was playing Dolly parton songs sitting outside the house with Sipho and Luyanda. A Bluetooth speaker was placed on top of an old bucket)

Mehluko : Stay here. I'll call her for you

Dudu : Ok

(Mehluko got out of the car)

Mabaso : You never cease to amaze me Mehluko... You are stealing cars now? What's next my boy?

Mehluko : Luyanda, someone is here to see you. Come here

Mabaso : Are you not going to greet my friend?

(Sipho was sleeping on a chair)

Mehluko : He is sleeping

(Mehluko went inside the house with Luyanda.)

Luyanda : Whose car is that?

Mehluko : A friend of mine

Luyanda : Sis Nomkhosi doesn't have a car

Mehluko : It's not Nomkhosi

Luyanda : Is it Palesa?

(Mehluko took Luyanda's face cloth and washed her face.)

Mehluko : No

Luyanda : How many girlfriends do you have?

Mehluko : Luya you can't ask me that

Luyanda : Ok

Mehluko : Where is your Vaseline?

Luyanda : There it is

Mehluko : Don't ask her too many questions, ok?

Luyanda : I don't do that

Mehluko : You do. Come, let's go

(They went out)

Mabaso : It's a beautiful car by the way. Why don't you invite her in?

Mehluko : No baba

Mabaso : Are you ashamed of me? I'm not drunk.

Mehluko : You are. We'll be back now

Mabaso : Don't forget to tell her that you are unemployed.
Focus Meh! Focus!

Mehluko : Focus on what?

Mabaso : The bag my boy

(Mehluko shook his head and held Luyanda's hand. They went to the car)

Dudu : Wow. She is beautiful, Hello Luya

Luyanda : Hi

Dudu : My name is Dudu

Luyanda : Are you one of his girlfriends?

Mehluko : Luya (Mehluko cleared his throat)

Luyanda : Sorry

(Dudu laughed)

Dudu : I like her already. How old are you Lulu?

Luyanda : I'm 8 years old. Meh is not my father. There is my father dancing with his friend

(She pointed at Mabaso and Sipho who were dancing)

Mehluko : You talk too much....Maybe we should go

Dudu : How about we go and buy ice cream, just you and I?

Luyanda : Meh won't allow me to go with you

Mehluko : Of course I won't

Dudu : Mehluko give her a break

Mehluko : I hardly know you Dudu and I can't just let you take my sister

Dudu : You don't trust me

Mehluko : I don't trust anyone

Dudu : Ok.

Luyanda : Please Meh.

(Luyanda's happiness meant a lot to Mehluko but he didn't have much to make her happy)

Dudu : Give me a chance. Let me prove myself to you

Mehluko : Ok. I'll give you only 30 minutes with her and if you don't come back I'm calling the police

(Dudu laughed and Mehluko got out of the car. He accidentally left his phone in Dudu's car)

(Sipho was gone and Mehluko's father stepped in)

Mabaso : Where is my daughter?

Mehluko : Out

Mabaso : Out with who?

Mehluko : Dudu

Mabaso : Dudu? You are dating aboDudu now? Are you trying to replace your mother?

Mehluko : No

Mabaso : If anything happens to my daughter I'll hold you accountable

Mehluko : Nothing is going to happen to her

Mabaso : Msizi is stealing cars now

Mehluko : You know everything that happens in Khayelisha baba

Mabaso : Yeah. Stay away from him

Mehluko : I will

Mabaso : Tell me about this sugar mama

Mehluko : I don't know what you are talking about

Mabaso : Her breasts are large. Don't you think?

Mehluko : Tayma what are you talking about?

Mabaso : Your sugar mama. The one who is trying to bribe my daughter to win your heart

Mehluko : Dudu

Mabaso : She is nothing like my Dudu. Her ass is flat. She is nothing like those girls you were dating, where is that one with dark lips like she smoking Marijuana?

Mehluko : Tayma I don't like the way you are speaking

Mabaso : I'm your father. Her breasts are large my boy but as long as you are happy

Mehluko : You don't know Dudu baba so just leave her alone

Mabaso : Her car is expensive so the size of her breasts and her ass doesn't matter anymore. You are focus my boy, I like that. Soon we are going to be out of this township

Mehluko : Your sisters didn't come for my mother's funeral

(Mabaso opened his beer)

Mabaso : You don't want them here, that's why.

Mehluko : They think they are smart

Mabaso : Mehluko we are poor. They wanted nothing from us

Mehluko : They thought that maybe Mah left us some money. I know your sisters and they were hoping for some benefits

(Silence. Mabaso was fast asleep holding his beer)

(45 minutes later Dudu and Luyanda were back)

Dudu : Do you trust me now?

Mehluko : Sort of

Dudu : Your sister is smart just like you.

(Mehluko laughed)

Dudu : Your girlfriends called. Here is your phone

Mehluko : Oh yes. I forgot it here

Dudu : Mehluko why didn't you tell me about your master's degree Engineering?

Mehluko : You went through my phone?

(Silence)

Mehluko : I can't believe this. You went through my personal emails?

Dudu : I was just....

Mehluko : You had no right to do that Dudu

Dudu : I'm sorry

Mehluko : You should be. Few days in my life and you are already invading my privacy?

Dudu : I want to help you, ok? Mehluko you are capable of doing great things. You don't belong here

Mehluko : Maybe I do!

Dudu : You don't. Your sister deserves better

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it's not her fault that she grew up in poverty but you can change her life. Do it for her and allow me to help you

Mehluko : How?

Dudu : Firstly this place is not good for a smart kid like her. This environment is just... What I mean is please allow me to buy you a proper house at least down here in Khayelisha Zone 12

Mehluko : No. I will get my family out of this place and I'll do it by myself. I don't need favors Dudu

Dudu : I'm not doing this for you but for Luyanda. She deserves way better so don't be selfish

Mehluko : Why are you so kind to us?

Dudu : Because I see good in you

Mehluko : And what do you want in return?

Dudu : Nothing you are not willing to offer

(Silence)

Dudu : Let's go to my house. Let me show you the other side of life

Mehluko : No

Dudu : Why can't you see that I care about you?

Mehluko : Why do you care? No one cares Dudu

Dudu : I do. Let's go and have dinner, just the 3 of us

(Mehluko sighed)

Mehluko : Fine

(Mehluko looked at Luyanda who was fast asleep)

Dudu : Thank you (She smiled)

Mehluko : Let me go and tell my father that we are going out for a while

Dudu : No problem

Mehluko : Luya is dirty

Dudu : Don't worry about it (She laughed)

(Mehluko shook his head and he went to tell his father that they are going with Dudu but Mabaso was too drunk and tired to respond. 1 hour later they were in Dudu's house)

Mehluko : You live in this big house alone?

Dudu : Yes but my parents come to visit me almost every weekend

Mehluko : Ok. It's beautiful

Dudu : Thanks. I'm on leave so I'm thinking of going home

Mehluko : Where is home?

Dudu : Richmond... Juice?

Mehluko : No thanks

(Luyanda woke up from the couch and looked around confused but she smiled when she saw her brother)

Luyanda : Where are we?

Mehluko : Dr Ngubane's house

Dudu : Dudu's house (She laughed) How are you my princess?
Are you hungry?

Luyanda : Just a little

Dudu : Come with me. We are going to take a bath and eat

(Luyanda looked at Mehluko)

Mehluko : Yeah sure

(Alondwe stood up and Dudu picked her up . Dudu kissed her cheek, Luyanda was busy looking all over the house. Mehluko sat down and watched TV and a few minutes later Dudu and Luyanda came back. Luyanda was wearing Dudu's gown, and Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : You look good in that

Luyanda : It's big

(They laughed)

Dudu : Please let's go and eat

Luyanda : May I please eat here while I watch TV?

Dudu : Of course my angel. Let me get you a blanket

(Luyanda was sitting in a living room. Mehluko and Dudu were in the kitchen. They finished eating and washed the dishes)

Dudu : Life is really not that bad Meh

Mehluko : For you

Dudu : Allow me to be part of Luyanda's life

Mehluko : I don't know Dudu. I learned from a very young age to take care of my family and now you want to change all that. I don't want to feel like I owe you for the rest of my life

Dudu : It doesn't have to feel that way

(Silence. They stared at each other for a few minutes. Dudu cleared her throat)

Dudu : My dishwasher has been giving me problems for days now

Mehluko : What is the problem?

Dudu : Honestly I don't know

(Dudu and Mehluko grabbed a dishcloth to wipe their hands at the same time and their hands met. Dudu moved her hand away and Mehluko grabbed it. He went closer to her and ran his thumb on her lower lip. Dudu's breathing grew louder. He

kissed her and she didn't fight it. Mehluko squeezed her ass and broke the kiss)

Dudu : Let's go to my room

Mehluko : Is that why you brought me here?

Dudu : No no no. I'm sorry I was...

(Mehluko silenced her with another kiss)

Mehluko : I don't mind going to your room Dr Ngubane

(Dudu blushed. Mehluko checked on Luyanda and she saw her laughing at whatever she was seeing on TV. She seemed so happy. They went to Dudu's bedroom)

(Dudu's eyes were wide open seeing Mehluko naked)

Dudu : That is... Oh My God

(Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : Breathe Dr Ngubane

(Dudu couldn't keep her hands off Mehluko. She kept kissing him)

Mehluko : Ok, we need to go now

Dudu : Please don't go. It's already late, I'm not driving to Khayelisha at this time (She laughed)

Mehluko : This was your plan. So you didn't get enough?

Dudu : I want you all night

(Dudu had a way to draw Mehluko closer to her.)

Mehluko : Luyanda needs to go to school tomorrow

Dudu : I will give her a sick note (She laughed)

(Mehluko kissed her neck)

Mehluko : Fine. Where is she going to sleep? She needs to sleep now. I don't want her to watch TV for over 3 hours

(Dudu looked at Mehluko and smiled)

Mehluko : What? I'm serious. I want her to read more and spend less time watching tv

Dudu : Luyanda is one lucky girl. I'll put her to bed

Mehluko : Dudu. Thank you

Dudu : You don't have to thank me for anything

(Dudu wore her robe and stepped out. Dudu took some to get back and Mehluko decided to check on her)

Dudu : So how many colors were there?

Luyanda : 9

Dudu : Yes my angel

(Mehluko leaned against the wall and watched Dudu reading a book to Luyanda. This is all he ever wanted for his sister)

Dudu : Now good night baby. I love you

Luyanda : I love you too

(Dudu pecked Luyanda's lips. She stood up from her chair)

Dudu : Oh I didn't see you there (She smiled)

Mehluko : When are you going to read me my bedtime story?

(Dudu wrapped her arms around Mehluko and they went back to the main bedroom)

Dudu : You are way too old for bedtime stories Mr Mabaso

Mehluko : Really (He smiled)

(Dudu couldn't hold herself. She kissed him and hugged Mehluko)

Dudu : I didn't know that a man could bring so much happiness to a woman's life in just a few days without trying so hard

(Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : Is it that good?

(They laughed)

Dudu : Meh we have a kid under this roof

Mehluko : But I didn't say anything wrong

(Mehluko's phone rang and it was Nomkhosi)

Dudu : Please don't answer it.

(Mehluko took a deep breath and kissed Dudu's hand)

Mehluko : Fine

(They slept. Mehluko struggled to sleep and that was nothing new to him. Whenever things were looking up for me there was

a voice deep within him telling him that no one really cares and all those people who seemed to care were not going to stay for long which is why he distanced himself from people who cared about him. In his mind he had one thing: " Let me leave before they do and save myself from a heartbreak". Mehluko was fragile but he wasn't brave enough to admit it. He took his phone and went to the bathroom where he called Nomkhosi. Time was 02h00 am)

Nomkhosi : Meh

Mehluko : Hey

Nomkhosi : Bad dreams?

Mehluko : Sort of

Nomkhosi : You know I'm always here for you but I don't know if I'm still strong enough to be here for you

(Mehluko sighed)

Nomkhosi : A woman answered your phone yesterday

Mehluko : I was hoping that we would talk about something else

Nomkhosi : No Meh. You are not home as we speak, I came to check on you.

Mehluko : Khosi let me call you later. I don't need this now

(Mehluko hung up and took a deep sigh. He tightened his grip on the basin)

Mehluko : Take it easy Meh. Easy (He said to himself)

Are you ok?

(Mehluko turned around quickly to find Dudu standing behind him)

Mehluko : Can you take us home?

Dudu : Did you see the time? I'll give you some sleeping tablets just for today only

Mehluko : I don't need sleeping pills Dudu!

Dudu : Ok ok.

(They checked on Luyanda and they went back to bed)

Dudu : How much do you know about depression?

Mehluko : Can we not talk?Please

Dudu : No problem

(Her phone rang, Mehluko glanced at the clock back to her phone)

Dudu : Relax, it's work... Dr Ngubane (She answered)

(Silence)

Dudu : Oh my goodness, Not again.... No no it's fine. You always have my back

(Silence)

Dudu : Tomorrow?... OK ok Bye

(She hung up)

Dudu : Urgh man. I can't believe this ...who wants to work on their birthday?

Mehluko : Who has your back?

(Dudu laughed)

Dudu : Are you jealous Meh?

Mehluko : Mxm

Dudu : You are so cute baby

(She laughed and kissed him)

Dudu : Dr Hlongwane needs to go away for a few days so he wants me to cover for him.

Mehluko : He? You know what, Dudu? Never mind

Dudu : Mehluko Dr Hlongwane is like a father to me.

(Silence)

Dudu : Ooook.

Mehluko : When is your birthday?

Dudu : Tomorrow and now I have to cancel all of my plans

Mehluko : That's bad

(They went out for breakfast and Dudu bought Luyanda a few things and clothes.)

Mehluko : I don't need anything Dudu. I'm fine

Dudu : Your brother is boring Lulu.. Let's go and play games and leave him here all alone

(Mehluko chuckled)

Mehluko : Don't buy her anymore things

Dudu : Don't be jealous

(Dudu and laughed and walked away. Mehluko went to wait in the car

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(Dudu was different maybe it because she was a doctor, she knew how to handle Mehluko's mood swings, she told him things that he wanted to hear and every hour she gave him assurance that she wasn't going anywhere but still Mehluko believed that he needed to stay away from Dudu really soon because in his mind he thought no one really cares so whenever he started catching feelings for a woman he wanted to dump them)

(The following day it was raining. It was Dudu's birthday and Mehluko decided to go to the hospital to give her flowers and a Ferrero Rocher box. By the time he got to the hospital he was wet from the rain.)

Mehluko : I'm here to see Dr Ngubane

Lady : Oh Dudu. Let me call her (She smiled)

(She dialed)

Lady : Dr Ngubane there is a handsome gentleman here who wants to see you

(She smiled)

Lady : Sharp

(She placed the phone down)

Lady : She is coming (She smiled)

(Dudu was coming and her eyes were glued on a file that she was carrying)

Dudu : Who want.... Oh my God baby

Mehluko : Happy birthday Dr Ngubane

(Tears filled Dudu's eyes. She hugged Mehluko. Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : You are going to mess up your clothes. I'm wet

(Dudu pulled back. Mehluko wiped her tears)

Mehluko : This is not much but Happy Birthday

Dudu : It's too much... Oh My God I can't believe this. Zanele thank you.. This is my boyfriend Mehluko Mabaso

(The boyfriend part caught Mehluko a little bit off guard but the fact that Dudu appreciated his effort meant so much to him)

Mehluko : Let me leave you to do your job

Dudu : No. Come with me

(Mehluko followed Dudu. He closed the door and took off his wet jacket)

Dudu : Thank you. This means a lot to me

(She said looking at her flowers)

Mehluko : It's nothing. One day I'll give you more than that (He laughed)

Dudu : I know my love

(Silence)

Dudu : Mehluko I love you and I want us to be happy. I don't expect you to love me back as much as I do but all I'm asking is for you to allow me to buy that house in Zone 12. For Luyanda

(Mehluke shook his head)

Mehluke : No Dudu. We spoke about this

Dudu : I'm begging you Meh

Mehluke :Ok ok. No problem

Dudu : You will find a job soon. That master's d...

Mehluke : In South Africa a master's degree means nothing

Dudu : No no don't say that. Timing Meh Timing

Mehluke : Yeah right

Dudu : Thank you. So tomorrow I want us to go and see the house

Mehluko : Ok

(Dudu hugged him and kissed him all over his face)

Mehluko : Ok stop. (He laughed)

Dudu : Can I order food for us?

Mehluko : Aren't you supposed to be working?

Dudu : You come first... Pizza?

Mehluko : Yeah

Dudu : I love my flowers... Wow

(Dudu ordered)

Mehluko : Are you working double shift?

Dudu : No. I'm finishing at 18h00 and I was thinking (She kissed Mehluko's neck) to come to Khayelisha after my shift

Mehluko : Dudu stop that....so you want me to sleep over at your house?

Dudu : Uh! You and Lulu

Mehluko : I can't.

Dudu : Please. I'll take her to school tomorrow morning

Mehluko : Ok

Dudu : Awesome.

(Mehluko looked at Dudu and his hope was reborn. Maybe that was the woman who was going to change his life and Luyanda's. They finished eating and Dudu requested an Uber for Mehluko)

Dudu :Your ride has arrived. I'm going to miss you

Mehluko : Come on. I'll see you in a few hours

(Dudu sighed)

Mehluko : Let me go now

Dudu : Wait. Stay for 2 minutes

Mehluko : Dr Ngubane I'm going to see you later

Dudu : I know

Mehluko : Woooooh. Look at me, you are not crying, are you?

(Dudu wiped her tears)

Dudu : No

(Mehluko laughed and kissed her)

Mehluko : Don't do that. I'll see you later

(Mehluko wore his jacket and headed out)

Dudu : Mehluko I love you

(Mehluko smiled and walked out. Later he was at Khayelisha)

Mabaso : Yey this woman is treating my daughter well my son

Mehluko : Jah right

Mabaso : Ribs must learn a thing or two from her if she wants to win my heart

Mehluko : Ribs wani manje loyo?

Mabaso : Rebecca

Mehluko : Eh! The shebeen queen?

Mabaso : Don't call her that

Mehluko : Tayma o jola le shebeen queen? (He laughed)

Mabaso : Shut up. She is beautiful and she got curves

(Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : Curves? Where? Are we talking about the same Rebecca? Maka Scelo?

Mabaso : As long as I'm happy

Mehluko : Ay no o gabadiya (He laughed)

Mabaso : Mxm. Let me go to Siphon

Mehluko : No no. Please sit, tell me more

Mabaso : No

Mehluko : Are you angry? (He laughed)

Mabaso : Vele I'm angry

(He walked out. Mehluko laughed. Luyanda walked in)

Luyanda : Kanti when is she coming?

Mehluko : I shouldn't have told you that we are going to Dudu's house, now you are asking me the same thing every hour.

Luyanda : You said 18h00

Mehluko : I'll call her now. Relax

Luyanda : Where is your phone?

(Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : Just relax Luya

(The following day. Mehluko was busy getting Luyanda ready for school

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She was still angry because Dudu didn't fetch them last night. Luyanda opened TV. Mehluko was worried about Dudu, the last time she called him, she told him that she was going to be late. After that she didn't pick up his calls)

Mehluko : Now you are going to be late for school

Luyanda : Ok ke let me switch it off

Mehluko : Wait wait. Turn up the volume

News reporter : Top news this hour. Dr Ngubane found dead in Khayelisha. Welcome to Singapore news this hour, my name is Cynthia Majaha. Good Morning

. It has been confirmed that the body that was found in the early hours of this morning was indeed of Dr Dudu Ngubane from Singapore Hospital. To give us more information about this is our journalist Jessica Mnyamana who is at the scene where Dr Ngubane's body was found... Jessica, Good Morning. We just woke up to the terrible news about the passing of Dr Ngubane, tell us what happened?

Jessica : Morning Cynthia and thank you. I am indeed at the scene where Dr Dudu Ngubane's body was found. Dr Ngubane was shot dead in this place last night and her body was discovered this morning by a community member who was passing by. Police are still in search of her car

Cynthia : Jessica is it safe for us to say Dr Ngubane's death is related to the hijacking of her car? Was she killed by hijackers?

(Luyanda looked at Mehluko who was holding his hands over his head)

Mehluko : My God. Dudu is gone

Luyanda : Sis Dudu?

Mehluko : Dudu is gone. They killed her

(Mehluko was going crazy. He walked out and walked back in with his hands at the back of his head. He took out his phone and dialed Dudu's number, it went straight to voicemail

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(Mabaso walked in)

Mabaso : No no we need to leave this township, another person has been killed. Speak to your girlfriend and tell her to get us out of here...She is rich, angithi?

(Mehluko was covering his face with his hands. Luyanda was sitting next to him not knowing what to do with her brother)

Mabaso : Mehluko!!

Luyanda : He doesn't want to talk

Mabaso : What happened? Is he sick?

Luyanda : Meh what happened on TV?

Mabaso : He broke my TV?

Luyanda : No

(Mehluko stood up)

Mehluko : I need to go, take Luyanda to school.

Mabaso : Me? Why?

Mehluko : She is your daughter, have you forgotten?

(Mehluko's eyes were red)

Mabaso : She is....Mehluko you don't look good, what happened?

(Mehluko shoved Luyanda's school bag on his father's chest, he looked at Luyanda)

Mehluko : He is going to take you to school

(Mehluko walked out and he went straight to Msizi's house. He found Msizi's mother cleaning windows)

Mehluko : Where is your son?

Msizi's mother : Where is my son? You come to my house and you don't even greet me instead you are asking me where my son is like you are asking one of your friends? Where is respect?

(Msizi shook his head and he headed straight to Msizi's room. He banged the door knocking)

Msizi's mother : If you break that door you are going to pay for it Mehluko. What is wrong with you?

(Msizi's mother sounded so angry)

Mehluko : Msizi open this door

(Msizi opened the door and looked around)

Msizi : Ey ndoda wangifaka straight ku June and July, ngithi amaduku (You scared me, I thought it was the police)

Mehluko : Futseg!

(Msizi didn't expect to see his friend this angry. He was confused)

Msizi : Zithini? (What's up)

Mehluko : Zithini? Zithini?

(Mehluko pushed him inside the house roughly. Msizi took a few steps back and Mehluko pushed him again, he fell on his bed and Mehluko roughed up his face with punches)

Mehluko : Do you know what you did?

(He kept asking as he punched him. Msizi's mother ran inside the house and pushed Mehluko away from his son)

Msizi's mother : What do you think you are doing? Huh?

(Msizi wiped the blood from his mouth)

Msizi : Mehluko what the fuck have you done? Usukhawatha mina manje wena? Me Meh? Me?

Mehluko : You killed Dudu. You took her car and you killed her!!

Msizi : Who is Dudu? What are you talking about?

Msizi's mother : Get out of my house Mehluko!

Mehluko : Your son is busy stealing cars and killing people and you have some audacity to tell me to leave your house?

Msizi's mother : Msizi would never do that

Mehluko : And how do you know that?

Msizi's mother : Go away!!!

Msizi : Meh listen h....

Mehluko : Woza la wena

(Mehluko grabbed Msizi by his neck and Msizi's mother had to intervene. She pushed Mehluko out of Msizi' room)

Mehluko : I'll never forgive you for this one Msizi. Never!

Msizi : Bro wam I can explain.

Msizi's mother : You are not going to explain anything kulosikhotheni Msizi. Go Mehluko! Leave my house!

Msizi : Mah please stop. Meh listen....

Msizi's mother : Go Mehluko! You want to kill my son? In my house?

Mehluko : You are going to rot in jail. I promise you Msizi

(Msizi's mother walked away and she came back with a kettle. Mehluko wasn't paying attention and so was Msizi)

Msizi : It doesn't have to be that way. If you are talking about what happened last night then let me explain to you what really happ....

Msizi's mother : I told you to leave my house and you didn't listen. Bamba la

(She poured him with boiling water and luckily it only reached Mehluko's arm and not his face. Msizi's eyes were wide open, both of them couldn't believe what his mother did)

Msizi's mother : Next time I'm going to kill you if you come to my house with bullshit!

(The heat of the sun made the pain on Mehluko's arm worse. He shook his head and walked away)

Msizi : Meh wait

Msizi's mother : Shut up wena!!

(Mehluko saw the police standing outside the house with his father and he hid behind the water tank. Not that he was guilty of anything but seeing police scared him somehow. Finally the police walked away and he went home)

Mabaso : Police were here and I told them that you are not here. Mehluko what have you done?

(Mehluko looked at Luyanda who had tears running down her face. She didn't go to school)

Mehluko : I didn't do anything

Mabaso : Do you remember what I said to you? I told you that if you go to jail no one will get you out and I meant it. You made your bed

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now lie on it.

Mehluko : Baba I didn't do anything wrong. I promise you

Mabaso : I told you to stay away from Msizi and you didn't listen to me, ngoba mina vele ngiyadakwa and no one should

take anything I say seriously. Right? You are going to jail my boy

Mehluko : For what?

Mabaso : For killing Dr Ngubane. Someone saw Msizi with someone who looked exactly like you getting inside Dr Ngubane's car that was stolen last night. You and Msizi didn't just steal her car but you left her dead

Mehluko : I was here last night.... Luya, tell him that I was here with you last night waiting for Dudu. Tell him

Mabaso : No. I'm not the judge here Mehluko, this is not the court of law so save all that information for the day you go to court for hijack and murder

(Mehluko rubbed his face not believing his father)

Mabaso : I leave you in this house hoping that you are a good person but only for you to leave your sister all alone and go out to steal cars and kill people for things they worked hard for.

Mehluke : Baba I didn't kill anyone!! Dudu was my girlfriend, why would I kill her? I'm not a criminal and I've never been one

Mabaso : I don't know that. I'm hardly here so I can't defend you.

(Mehluke kicked the door and put his hand at the back of his head. Luyanda looked at his arm)

Luyanda : Ushile. Look at his arm baba

Mabaso : Yeah if you do the wrong things, the community will burn you alive.

(Mehluke tightened his fist)

Mabaso : What? You want to play John Cena now? Just try and I'm going to kill you before you even go to jail.

(Mabaso walked out. Mehluko sat down and bangs his forehead on his lap. Luyanda walked closer to him with a spoon that was full of margarine, she spread the margarine on Mehluko's arm.)

Luyanda : Maka Mehluko said it heals burn wounds, remember?

(Mehluko tried not to cry but he failed. He pulled his sister to his chest)

Mehluko : I may have to go away for a while but I'll come back. Ok?

Luyanda : Go where? To jail?

Mehluko : No. I'll go to my friend

(Mehluko knew that since he was on the suspect list police were going to come and take him away any time)

Luyanda : I don't want you to leave me. How will I go to school?
Who is going to take care of me?

(Mehluko pressed her head a bit tighter on his chest)

Mehluko : Baba

Luyanda : Baba is not always here. I'll go to sis Dudu

Mehluko : Dudu is gone Luya (He sighed) they killed her

Luyanda : They killed her like in movies? She will never come back?

(Luyanda pulled away and looked into Mehluko's eyes)

Mehluko : She went to visit Mah, She will be back (He tried to pull a smile)

Luyanda : Maka Mehluko was locked inside the coffin and they buried her. She will never come back. Is that what they are going to do to Sis Dudu? (Tears ran down her face)

(Mehluko regretted introducing Luyanda to Dudu. Maybe if Luyanda didn't meet Dudu, Her death was not going to hit Luyanda that hard. He blamed himself for everything, even for going to that hospital to donate his blood because that was how he met Dudu)

9

(Mehluko missed Dudu more than he ever missed his own mother. He couldn't eat the whole day. He looked at their pictures and he couldn't believe Dudu died just like that on her birthday. He hated Msizi. Someone knocked on his door, he checked the time and it was 22h00. For a moment he thought it was the police, he got out of bed and opened the door. It was Msizi)

Msizi : Nja yami please, I really need to speak to you.

(Mehluko took a deep breath trying to calm his anger)

Mehluko : About what?

Msizi : Can I come in?

(Msizi tried to sit down)

Mehluko : No no no don't get comfortable, you only have 5 minutes to tell me why you are here, only 5 Msizi so don't sit down.

Msizi : Why didn't you tell me about you and Dudu?

Mehluko : 4

Msizi : Ok ok. We didn't kill leya doctor, ok? The person who killed Dudu is not from this township and it wasn't the hijackers. It was someone who wanted to kill Dudu. they shot her and they left soon after that leaving her car behind.

Mehluko : Do you really expect me to believe that?

Msizi : Mehluko come on!! Sishaya amatrans thina asibhodisi abantu (We steal cars. We don't kill people)

Mehluko : How did you see all that? How did you see the people who killed Dudu?

Msizi : We were following her car from Zone 10 but another car came out of the blue and blocked Dudu's car. She got out of her car and they spoke for a few minutes. They seemed to be arguing because Dudu tried to walk away but that guy pulled her back and after that yasho insimbi (we heard gunshots) the guy left her there and he went back to the car and drove off

(Mehluko slowly lifted up his head and he looked puzzled)

Mehluko : Why didn't you help her?

Msizi : Haibo Meh this is Khayelisha bro, you die trying to help. I didn't even know ukuthi wena usuyishaya nabo dokotela (You are dating doctors) I didn't even know Dudu until I heard this morning that she was a doctor.

Mehluko : What happened to her car?

(Msizi swallowed roughly)

Msizi : We... We had to take it, Meh.

(Mehluko stood up quickly)

Mehluko : You stole Dudu's car and you left her on the side of the road dying? Msizi, instead of taking Dudu to the hospital you and your friends decided to steal her car at the scene?

Msizi : Hade (sorry)

Mehluko : Uthi Ha.... You know what? Get out

Msizi : Meh mamela Nja yami. Dudu was already dead when we got there. Besekabhodile and there was nothing we could have done

Mehluko : Except stealing her car. Msizi you are unbelievable, what happened to you? We grew up together and we had big dreams but now you do this?

Msizi : Kumele ngenzeni Meh? Sit around all day doing nothing?
Nginengcosi Meh (I have a child) so I need money.

Mehluko : Stop trying to come up with stupid excuses because you want to fuck up. You killed Dudu and nothing you are going to say will ever change that. You have no idea of what you have done, the damage you have caused ku Luyanda. Mina maybe I didn't deserve Dudu but Luya? U Luya

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Msizi? She deserves happiness and you took it away from her.

Msizi : Meh..

Mehluko : Get out.

Msizi : Sharp

(Msizi bumped into Mabaso on his way out)

Mabaso : Wena unyoko ushise uMehluko(Your mother burnt Mehluko) I don't ever want to see you again. You bring us nothing but trouble

Msizi : Tayma I....

Mabaso : Aysuka. Go away

(Mabaso shutted the door)

Mabaso : Mehluko you need to go to Port Shepstone and stay there for a while.

(Mehluko looked at his father and to his surprise he wasn't drunk)

Mehluko : Why?

Mabaso : A black car was at Shisanyama today and there was a man asking questions about you

Mehluko : Man?

Mabaso : Yes and he was angry

Mehluko : Man? What man?

Mabaso : I saw that man on TV in the tarven.... Ch....Charles Ngubane. Yes his name is Charles Ngubane

Mehluko : Ngubane?

Mabaso : He is Dr Ngubane's father. Yeah yeah... Mehluko you need to go, he is going to kill you.

Mehluko : Tayma relax

Mabaso : I can't relax, Mehluko. I can't even drink a single beer because I'm scared of my son dying or getting arrested while I'm drunk.

(Silence)

Mabaso : Did they come back?

Mehluko : Who?

Mabaso : The police

Mehluko : No

Mabaso : Good. I'm going to call Nomusa and tell her that you are coming

Mehluko : No no baba. I can't go to Port Shepstone, not when the police are looking for me. If I go they will think that I'm running away because I am guilty or something

Mabaso : Are you not guilty?

Mehluko : No. Baba I loved Dudu, I know that we only knew each other for a few days but I loved her and she had plans for us... Luya. Luya is not coping, baba.

(Mabaso deep sighed)

Mabaso : I know. My daughter really loved her.

Mehluko : So why would I steal that from Luya? I didn't kill Dudu.

Mabaso : I believe you but not everyone will. You need to go because if you don't you are going to die. Ngubane was angry and I know that he is going to do anything to get justice for her daughter. When those journalists asked him how he felt about losing his daughter, He told them he is going to be fine because he has everything under control. Do you know what that means?

Mehluko : I'll explain to him that I have nothing to do with Dudu's death

Mabaso : Dudu was fine all this time and then you two started dating, people spot her in Khayelisha a couple of times and then she dies. People saw her with you, you Mehluko who is Msizi's best friend. The same Msizi who hijacks cars. Now tell me, do you honestly believe that Ngubane will give you a chance to explain?

Mehluko : What do I do now?

Mabaso : Go to Nomusa

Mehluko : And Luya?

Mabaso : She will have to stay behind but I know that she...

Mehluko : She won't agree (He sighed)

Mabaso : Yeah but what about school?

Mehluko : I'll call her teacher

Mabaso : Nomusa won't be able to feed two people. You know my sister

Mehluko : Don't worry about it. I do have money

(Mabaso frowned)

Mabaso : Oh.

Mehluko : Yeah Dudu gave me some money

Mabaso : How much?

Mehluko : Not much but it will keep us going for a few months

Mabaso : What about your food cart?

Mehluko : Dudu gave me money to purchase a container but for now I'm just tired baba.

Mabaso : Like a shipping container? Mehluko that is really good, do it.

Mehluko : Not now. I don't even know where my life is going.....Msizi didn't kill Dudu and now my question is who killed her and why? She was a good person baba

Mabaso : Do you believe Msizi?

Mehluko : I do. They saw everything that happened

Mabaso : Then they must go to the police station and tell the police

Mehluko : They can't.

Mabaso : Why not?

Mehluko : They stole her car

(Mabaso was shocked)

Mabaso : Eh! Your friend stole a car of a deceased, at the scene?

(Mehluko sighed)

Mehluko : Good night baba

Mabaso : Tomorrow you need to go

Mehluko : Mhmm-Mhmm

(Mehluko went to bed. That night suicidal ideation crossed his mind more than the usual. There was a lot to take in and he felt like he wasn't strong enough. He looked at Luyanda who was sleeping next to him and he knew that he had to be strong for her but for how long?)

10

(The following day Mehluko and Luyanda were ready to go to Port Shepstone)

Mabaso : I don't understand why you always want to follow your brother around. Mehluko is not your age, he is way older than you Lulu.

Mehluko : It's ok baba, we will be back in less than a week. Leave her alone

(Mehluko opened his wallet and gave R500 to his father.)

Mehluko : For food baba...remember to include rice and cooking oil.

Mabaso : Don't worry, I'll handle that.

Mehluko : Nkos'Inami called and he told me to come to his house. I thought he was in Johannesburg working

(Nkos'Inami was Nomusa's son)

Mabaso : He was sick and he had to come back. Don't go to his house with my daughter Mehluko.

Mehluko : Ay mina I don't think Nomusa will be happy to see us after what happened the last time they were here

Mabaso : Nomusa is a good person and she doesn't hold grudges

Mehluko : Ay ay. I'll stay with Nkos'Inami

Mabaso : U Nkosi usikhotheni. If you stay with him you will come back here with more troubles from Port Shepstone. Nkosi is just like Msizi

Mehluko : Luya take your bag and let's go

Mabaso : Do you understand what I'm saying Mehluko?

Mehluko : Sho tayma but I don't understand why you treat me like a child as if I don't know what's best for me.

Mabaso : I don't care how old you are. You are my son

Mehluko : Yeah. I'll call you as soon as we get to Port Shepstone

Mabaso : Go safely. Bye my princess

Luyanda : Bye baba

(They saw Ayabonga on their way to the bus stop)

Ayabonga : Hi

Mehluko : Eita

Ayabonga : Hi Luya. Where are you guys going with the bags?

Mehluko : Somewhere

Ayabonga : I see. no Msizi naye he went somewhere with his bags. Interesting!

(Ayabonga seemed different that day. She wasn't the friendly Ayabonga.)

Mehluko : Interesting? Is everything ok?

Ayabonga : Actually yes. Muzi is coming back home (She smiled) It's a pity because most people thought he was going to die and they spent his money like nobody's business. I honestly feel sorry for them

Mehluko : Oh yeah?

Ayabonga : Yeah. So Muzi is coming back home and everyone decides to leave Khayelisha? Interesting indeed

(Mehluko chuckled)

Mehluko : What are you talking about?

Ayabonga : Nothing. Nothing at all

Mehluko : Ok

Ayabonga : Can I give you my 2 cents advice?

Mehluko : Mhmm....Yeah I guess .

Ayabonga : You should have waited for Muzi to get out of the hospital

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maybe he was going to thank you for taking them to the hospital. I understand that maybe you felt like he owes you but messing with his things? With his money? You dug your own grave Mehluko

(Mehluko closed his eyes trying to understand what Ayabonga was saying to him)

Mehluko : What are you saying?

Ayabonga : You know what you and your.... (She paused)

(A car parked next to them. A man rolled down the window)

Man : Mehluko Mabaso. Are you going somewhere?

Mehluko : Y...Yeah....Who are you?

Man : Detective Mhlongo

(Detective Mhlongo got out of his car)

Detective : I have a few questions for you

Mehluco : About?

(Detective Mhlongo looked at Ayabonga)

Ayabonga : I have to go

(Ayabonga walked away. Luyanda was holding Mehluco's hand)

Detective : Can we get inside the car?

Mehluco : No

Detective : Oh I see. Fine. Tell me about your relationship with Dr Dudu Ngubane

Mehluko : Dr Ngubane was my girlfriend

Detective : Girlfriend?

(He took out his notebook and a pen)

Mehluko : Yes girlfriend

Detective : For how long?

Mehluko : For less than a week. We met at the hospital and she kept calling me and coming here to visit me

Detective : You make it sound like she was following you around and you weren't interested.... Tell me about the night she died

Mehluko : What do you want to know?

Detective : Where were you that night?

Mehluko : I was at home waiting for her. She called me and said she was going to be late, we were supposed to go to her house. It was her birthday

Detective : Right. What time did she call you?

Mehluko : It was after 18h00.

Detective : What was her reason for being late?

Mehluko : I didn't ask her

Detective : Did you go to Singapore Hospital that day?

Mehluko : I did. It was her birthday and I wanted to give her something.

Detective : Something?

Mehluko : Flowers Detective

Detective : Why did you have to go to the hospital?

Mehluko : I wasn't sure if I was going to see her later. Dr Ngubane was supposed to be on leave but some doctor called her and asked her to cover for him so I thought she was going to work double shifts

(Detective Mhlongo stopped writing and looked at Mehluko)

Detective : I see. Do you mind telling me how you met Dr Ngubane?

Mehluko : I went to Singapore to donate blood and that's how I met her.

Detective : Blood?

Mehluko : Yes blood. I was donating blood for someone who needed blood and luckily my blood was a match.

Detective : What do you mean luckily?

(Mehluko sighed and looked at the time)

Mehluko : The person who needed blood was a B negative and no one matched his blood but luckily my blood type is Rhnull so...Detective I really need to go now.

Detective : Wait. Do you know Dr Hlongwane?

Mehluko : Maybe I know him just not his name.

Detective : Mr Mabaso did Dr Ngubane mention anything to you about selling your blood?

(Mehluko raised his eyebrow)

Mehluko : Selling my blood? No she didn't. She did ask me if it was my first time donating blood and she asked if I knew how many lives I could save with my blood and that was all.

(Detective Mhlongo closed his notebook)

Detective : That will be all Mr Mabaso. Thank you for your time

Mehluko : Wait. Am I a suspect?

Detective : You are more of a victim and the deal went wrong. That's all I can say

Mehluko : What's going on?

Detective : We are still running an investigation. I suggest you go back home and don't leave town before we wrap up this investigation

Mehluko : I'm not safe here, Detective. Mr Ngubane has been asking questions about me

Detective : Nothing is going to happen to you. Go back home

Mehluko : Who killed Dudu?

Detective : No one knows for now. As I said we are still running an investigation

Mehluko : Did you find her car?

Detective : Not yet. Thank you Mr Mabaso

(Detective Mhlongo went back to his car and drove off)

Mehluko : We need to go back home Luya

(Luya smiled)

Luyanda : Are you serious?

Mehluko : Yeah... What? You didn't want to go?

Luyanda : No

Mehluko : Oh ok. Let's go back.

Luyanda : There is Mpendulo

(Mpendulo was Linda's little brother. He was selling brooms and steel wools)

Mpendulo : Siyashenela ngala ngo R15! Steel wools for R5
siwashe amabhodwe!

(He was shouting on the streets. Knocking door to door)

Mehluko : Mpendulo come here

Mpendulo : Aw Malum'Meh (He smiled)

Mehluko : Yah. You are selling brooms now?

Mpendulo : Ku rough. I need money for my school trip, We are
going to the Play House

Mehluko : Sho. Ay no ngiyakuzwa. Where is Mlindoz?

Mpendulo : Uka Moloi. They have a problem with their
electricity so he was helping them

Mehluko : Ok. Give me one broom

Luyanda : We don't need it

Mehluko : Luya keep quiet.

Luyanda : Oh

(Mehluko gave R50 to Mpendulo)

Mehluko : Hopefully that will help you with your school trip

(Mpendulo smiled and rubbed his hands together)

Mpendulo : Big time. Thank you Malum'Meh

(Luyanda grabbed one broom from Mpendulo)

Mehluko : ta boy. See you around

(Mehluko and Luyanda went home)

Luyanda : Brooms are R15 not R50

Mehluko : I know

Luyanda : Please buy me coke

Mehluko : You don't drink coke

Luyanda : Mhmm... Buy me Doritos

Mehluko : Luya I wasn't giving that money to Mpendulo just for fun. He needed it

Luyanda : Ay ok

Mehluko : Go buy your Doritos and bread...Give me your bag, you'll find me at home.

Luyanda : Ok

(Mehluko kept thinking about what Detective Mhlongo said to him and he needed answers)

11

(Mehluko found his father and his friend Sipho drinking outside the house)

Mehluko : 20 minutes baba? We only left for 20 minutes and you are already drunk?

Sipho : The one and only womanizer of Khayelisha, how are you?

(Mehluko ignored him)

Mehluko : Where is the money that I gave to you baba?

Mabaso : Are you not supposed to be in Port Shepstone?

Mehluko : No. Give me the money

(Mabaso took out R200)

Mehluko : Where is the rest of the money?

(Mabaso pointed at the beers and a bottle of vodka)

Mehluko : You bought beer? Baba you still don't get it? You refuse to grow up

Mabaso : Islands in the stream, that's who we are, no one in between. How can we be wrong? (Mabaso sang and paused. He took a sip of his beer)

(Mehluko was frustrated. He walked inside and dropped their bags. He walked out)

Mabaso : Where are you going? Mehluko they are going to kill if you don't go to Port Shepstone

Mehluko : Do you really think I care?

(Luyanda walked in through the gate)

Luyanda : There was no brown bread so I bought white

Mehluko : Fine. Luya I need to go and buy a few things in town.
Are you going to be fine?

Luyanda : Yes. When are you going to come back?

Mehluko : Soon Luyanda

Luyanda : Are you sad?

Mehluko : No.

Luyanda : I'll go to Aunt Dori's house

Mehluko : Do that.

Luyanda : Meh wait

Mehluko : Not now Luya

(Mehluko went to the taxi rank and he took a taxi to town. When he got there he saw Nomkhosi with a man, their eyes met and Nomkhosi was shocked. The man kissed her and walked away. Nomkhosi walked towards Mehluko)

Nomkhosi : Hi

Mehluko : Sho

Nomkhosi : What are you doing here?

Mehluko : Are you serious right now?

Nomkhosi : Meh don't do that

Mehluko : Get to the point. I don't have all day

Nomkhosi : Mehluko I'm sorry you had to find out that way.

Mehluko : No you don't have to explain

Nomkhosi : Meh I tried, I waited for you to love me and you failed instead you kept breaking my heart, cheating on me. I had to move on. Mehluko you are hard to love, you make it so difficult to love you. Love is a beautiful thing and you make it so ugly

Mehluko : How long have you been doing this behind my back?

(Nomkhosi sighed)

Nomkhosi : I'm not going to answer that. I loved you so much. You made me love you and then you left, you brought so much joy to my life and you left.

Mehluko : And him? Do you really love him?

Nomkhosi : Does it matter?

Mehluko : Yeah because we could still work things out. Khosi there is a chance for you and I. You know me more than anybody else and I can....

Nomkhosi : There is no more us Mehluko. I'm pregnant

Mehluko : Wh.. Wha...What?

Nomkhosi : I'm sorry. (Tears ran down her face)

Mehluko : Don't be sorry.

(Mehluko walked away. His heart was ripped off. He went to Shoprite and he bought a few things. He felt an unbearable pain on his foot)

Mehluko : What the fuck! (He muttered)

(He turned around

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anger written all over his face)

Woman : Oh my God, I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

Mehluko : You just hit me with a bloody trolley!! Can't you see where you are going?

Woman : I.. I.. I. I'm sorry, bhuti. Let me see

Mehluko : No!!! Nxa (He clicked his tongue)

(Mehluko joined the queue to pay. His blood was boiling. Finally it was his turn to pay)

Cashier : That will be R600

(Mehluko opened his wallet and there was only R520. He left his card behind)

Mehluko : Uhhmm... Ok, leave that and that.

No i'll take care of it

(Said the woman behind him. The same woman who hit him with the trolley)

Mehluko : No you won't!

(The cashier looked at him and back at the woman. Mehluko paid and took his stuff. He walked away. His phone rang)

Mehluko : Yah

Meh, where are you?

(Mehluko checked his phone screen)

Mehluko : Ey Bongz ngila esthawa (I'm in town)

Bonga : I saw you going to Shoprite, wait for me. I'll take you home

Mehluko : Are you using your father's car?

Bonga : Yeah. Where are you now?

Mehluko : Outside Shoprite

Bonga : I'll be there now.

(Mehluko hung up and a woman was standing next to him with the stuff he left at the counter)

Mehluko : You again?

Woman : I just wanted to apologize. I had a lot on my mind and I wasn't looking where I was going, my brother is in the hospital and no one told me..... I only....

Mehluko : Take a deep breath

(She took a deep breath)

Woman : I'm sorry. I really am

Mehluko : No problem

Woman : I paid for the stuff that you left with the cashier

Mehluko : You didn't have to

Woman : Just a goodwill gesture... I mean this is my way of saying sorry

Mehluko : Sharp

Woman : My name is Moy'omuhle. My friends call me Moya

Mehluko : Oh... Ok

(Bonga's car pulled over)

Mehluko : It was a pleasure meeting you

(She laughed)

Moy'omuhle : You don't mean that, not after I almost broke your ankle.

Mehluko : I'm a man. I'm going to be fine

Moy'omuhle : How is the pain?... I can give you a lift home if you don't mind

Mehluko : No don't worry. I'll go with my brother over there

Moy'omuhle : Oh

(Bonga joined them and helped Mehluko with his groceries)

Bonga : Ntokazi

(Moy'omuhle smiled)

Moy'omuhle : Hi

Bonga : Am I disturbing something?

Mehluko : No no let's go. Bye Moy'omuhle

(They walked away)

Moy'omuhle : Wait. Yours. I didn't get Yours....I mean your name

Mehluko : Mehluko is my name

(Moy'omuhle smiled. Mehluko walked away and he turned around)

Mehluko : So you are not going to ask for my number to call me and check how my ankle is after you broke it with your trolley?

(Moy'omuhle laughed and took out her phone)

Moy'omuhle : Here is my phone

(Mehluko took her phone and dialed his number)

Mehluko : Now I have yours too

(He winked at her and Moy'omuhle blushed)

Moy'omuhle : That's good. Talk later?

Mehluko : Talk later

(Mehluko went to Bonga's car)

Bonga : Zithini manje ngalesas'khukukazi? (What's up with that lady?)

Mehluko : Just some lady nje I met at the store.. Ey ndoda I saw Khosi. Ubambile(She is pregnant)

Bonga : What? Ingcosi yakho?

Mehluko : No, not my baby. She found someone else

Bonga : When did you guys break up?

Mehluko : We didn't.

Bonga : She cheated on you?

Mehluko : I don't blame her but I'm angry bro

Bonga : You should be. Hade Nja yami

Mehluko : Life goes on

Bonga : That one is a whole package

Mehluko : Which one?

Bonga : The one we left there

Mehluko : Oh Moy'omuhle?

Bonga : Is that her name?

Mehluko : That's what she told me

Bonga : She is beautiful. Very beautiful

Mehluko : Look how she hurted me

Bonga : Damn! She almost left you with a broken ankle

Mehluko : Bro. Today is the worst day of my life

(Bonga laughed)

Bonga : Msizi left Khayelisha

Mehluko : Why?

Bonga : They used Muzi's money thinking he was going to die.
Loya mjita uyagula strong (Msizi is crazy)

Mehluko : You know Ayabonga told me that Msizi left with his bags but I thought she was crazy

Bonga : She was telling you the truth and people think you were also part of it

Mehluko : They think I used Muzi's money?

Bonga : Yeah

Mehluko : Bayangidakelwa. I'm dealing with my own shit and I don't have time for nonsense

Bonga : Ngizwa kuthiwa bekukhona amaduku lapha kwesakho. Zikhiphani? (I heard that there were police officers at your house. What's up?)

Mehluko : Yeah something happened but it has nothing to do with Msizi or Muzi.

Bonga : Yeah?

Mehluko : Yeah. Doctor Ngubane and I were in a relationship.

Bonga : Dr Ngubane? The one who was killed la ekasi?

Mehluko : Yeah and they think I had something to do with it cabanga

Bonga : Bullshit! Why would you do that?

Mehluko : Angazi. Detective Mhlongo came to interrogate me this morning

Bonga : And?

Mehluko : Mxm. He told me things that didn't make sense. They are still running an investigation and hopefully I'll have all the answers I need soon

Bonga : Do you think oMsizi killed her?

Mehluko : That's what I thought at first but No akubona. Detective asked me about Dr Hlongwane and I still don't understand why he asked me about him

Bonga : Who is that?

Mehluko : Enye nje intshebe who works in Singapore Hospital

Bonga : Maybe he is one of the suspects

Mehluko : I doubt. Dudu said he was like a father to her so why would he kill her

Bonga : Ey you'll never know Nja yami

Mehluko : Yeah right

(Mehluko smiled when Moy'omuhle crossed his mind)

Bonga : And nou?

(Silence)

Bonga : Meh zithini?

Mehluko : Huh? Huh?

Bonga : You are smiling bro

Mehluko : No akuna jaivi (No problem).... I'm what?

Bonga : Weeee! You are thinking about her

Mehluko : Who?

Bonga : The lady from Shoprite

(Mehluko chuckled)

Mehluko : No

Bonga : You surely know how to move on fast

Mehluko : U ringa ngani? (What are you talking about?)

Bonga : No I mean you just lost the doctor and already you are jumping to another woman... Another relationship

Mehluko : Who said I'm doing that?

Bonga : Meh, you can't fool me. I know you

Mehluko : Awkahle kancane Bongz so what am I supposed to do now? Wear black clothes and mourn for Dudu?

Bonga : Did you ever love her?

Mehluko : I don't know...I guess I did. I was falling hard for Dudu and shit happened. I need to forget about her Bongz. The sooner the better

Bonga : Are you sure that you are ready to move on? You just lost Dudu and then you found out that Nomkhosi is pregnant.

Mehluko : Ha ke tsebe Bongz (I don't know) Moy'omuhle is....

Bonga : You don't know her Meh

Mehluko : Of course I don't empa...

Bonga : Empa nothing Meh. You need to heal.

Mehluko : You don't want to understand.

Bonga : I'm trying to help you here but have it your way ke

Mehluko : Help me? Kanjani? Come on Bonga

(Silence)

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2 Days Later

(Mehluko received a call from Detective Mhlongo telling him to come to the police station)

Detective : Do you know this man?

(He showed him the picture)

Mehluko : Yeah I know this Doctor

Detective : It's Dr Hlongwane

Mehluko : Yeah and?

Detective : He was working with Dr Ngubane

Mehluko : I know that.

Detective : Mr Mabaso we need you to tell us everything you know about this doctor.

Mehluko : Why?

Detective : We believe that he is the one who killed Dr Ngubane

Mehluko : What?

Detective : This is what happened. Dr Ngubane and Dr Hlongwane were on the mission to get your blood and sell it.

(Mehluko was shocked)

Mehluko : What?

Detective : Yes and when Dr Ngubane realized that she was in love with you she abandoned the deal and she came to the police station before she was killed.

Mehluko : What was she doing here?

Detective : To report the case. Dr Hlongwane was threatening her and the same Dr Hlongwane was planning to kidnap you and soon after Dr Ngubane left here she was killed

Mehluko : You are telling me that the reason why Dudu was with me was because she wanted my blood?

Detective : At first yes.

Mehluko : I should have known.

Detective : We need to build a strong case against Dr Hlongwane and we need your help. Mehluko people are killed in that hospital and we need to put an end to it.

Mehluko : Detective I know nothing about Dr Hlongwane. He called Dudu and he told her to come to work

Detective : And Dr Ngubane was supposed to be on leave?

Mehluko : Yes and she was planning to go home to Richmond

Detective : And Dr Hlongwane stopped her?

Mehluko : He told him to come to work

Detective : Was there anything that you noticed in that hospital when you were donating blood? Something unusual?

Mehluko : Nothing. Detective I was there to donate blood. That was my only reason

Detective : Give me your phone

Mehluko : Fine

(Mehluko handed his phone to him and he went through it and wrote some things down)

Detective : Tell me about your friendship with Msizi Dube

Mehluko : Why?

Detective : You have nothing to hide. Right?

Mehluko : I'm not going to say anything about Msizi. Detective are you charging me here or should I go home?

Detective : Who is he working for?

Mehluko : Msizi is unemployed

Detective : He is stealing cars so he is self employed. Don't you think?

Mehluko : I know nothing about that.

Detective : We believe that someone from Khayelisha stole the late Dr Ngubane's car

Mehluko : Ok

Detective : Mr Mabaso I saved you. We had so much evidence to lock you up for a very long time and I saved you because I knew that you were innocent so the least you could do right now is give me the names of the perpetrators

Mehluko : I don't have the names. You want me to lie now because you saved me? Detective Mhlongo you didn't save me, you were just doing your job which is to look for real criminals. I'm not a criminal and you know it

Detective : Ok fine maybe you didn't kill Dr Ngubane but someone saw you getting inside her car after she was killed.

Mehluko : Those are just rumors. I've already said that the night Dr Ngubane died I was at home, waiting for her. What more do you need from me?

(Detective Mhlongo stood up)

Detective : Nothing. You are free to go

Mehluko : Yeses! Thank you.

(Mehluko went home. Later he finished eating and his phone rang)

Mehluko : Hello

Mehluko I was waiting for you to call but nothing.

Mehluko : And who is this?

Moy'omuhle so you didn't keep my number?

(Mehluko smiled. Actually he didn't)

Mehluko : I did but I had a problem with my phone and most numbers were removed. How are you?

Moy'omuhle : I'm good. Do you remember my brother I told you about? that he was in the hospital?

Mehluko : Uhhmm.. Yeah

Moy'omuhle : He is out of the hospital so yeah I'm good.

Mehluko : That's good. Was he sick?

Moy'omuhle : No, He was shot. Him and his daughter

Mehluko : Now that's bad

Moy'omuhle : Yeah but we thank God he survived even though his daughter suffered serious injuries and doctors said it will take her some time to be able to walk again

Mehluko : You know something exactly like that happened la ekasi a few weeks ago. A guy was shot with his daughter

Moy'omuhle : Are you serious?

Mehluko : Yeah yeah yeah

Moy'omuhle : We live in a cruel world. Anyway

Advertisement

how is your ankle?

(Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : Nothing a massage can't fix

Moy'omuhle : Oh. A massage?

Mehluko : Yeah and I'm sure that you are good with that. I saw your hands

Moy'omuhle : You are such a charmer

Mehluko : I'm serious. Where do you live?

Moy'omuhle : Elaine's gate

Mehluko : Ithekeni yasema suburbsin. (Lady from the suburbs)

(Moy'omuhle laughed)

Moy'omuhle : Oh please, that's not true.

Mehluko : Do you stay with your boyfriend?

Moy'omuhle : No, I don't have a boyfriend. I stay with my mother and my step father

Mehluko : Ok. What about your brother?

(Silence)

Mehluko : Moya?

Moy'omuhle : I'm still here. My brother stays in his flat. We hardly see him and that's why we didn't even know that he was in the hospital

Mehluko : Oh ok

Moy'omuhle : Yeah. He is.... (She paused)

Mehluko : He is what?

Moy'omuhle : Nothing. So when am I going to see you again?

Mehluko : I don't know. You tell me

Moy'omuhle : Tomorrow I'm working

Mehluko : Uspana waar?

Moy'omuhle : I work in a call center

Mehluko : You bought a car with a call center salary? kante how much are these call centers paying?

(Moy'omuhle laughed)

Moy'omuhle : No. My brother bought me that car

Mehluko : Ay no ngiyakuzwa.

Moy'omuhle : Yeah. Some days I work till late so I guess he was tired of fetching me from work and he purchased a car for me
(She laughed)

Mehluko : That's good

(There was a knock on the door. Only people from Khayelisha knocked from Morning till late.)

Mehluko : Look, I need to go. There is someone at the door

Moy'omuhle : At 21h00? I'm sure it's your girlfriend

Mehluko : So it's you?

(Moy'omuhle laughed)

Moy'omuhle : I'm your girlfriend now?

Mehluko : You want to friend zone me? Forget it.

Moy'omuhle : That's not what I said.

Mehluko : Let me call you back

Moy'omuhle : Sharp

(Mehluko opened the door and Muzi was standing there with his gun pointing at Mehluko)

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Muzi : Get out

Mehluko : Zikhiphani?

(Muzi cocked his gun)

Mehluko : Fine.

(Mehluko closed the door and Muzi was following him with a gun at the back of his head)

Muzi : Get in the car

Mehluko : Are you going to tell me what this is all about?

(Muzi hit Mehluko with his gun on his head. Mehluko cursed in pain)

Muzi : Open the door

(Mehluko sat at the back seat and Muzi drove off. It was clear for Mehluko that Muzi wanted to kill him but why? Muzi drove for almost an hour and he finally stopped his car by the bridge)

Muzi : Out!

(Mehluko opened the door and got out of the car. Muzi was still limping)

Muzi : Where is Msizi?

Mehluko : I don't know?

Muzi : Where is my money?

Mehluko : I don't know

Muzi : You think this is a game, neh? You think we are here to have fun?

Mehluko : I don't know, you tell me.

(Muzi grabbed Mehluko by his neck and his gun was inside his mouth)

Muzi : You go to my flat and steal my money? I'm going to kill you. You sold my car without my permission? I'm going to kill you. I've always known that you are nothing but a stupid trouble maker. I'm going to kill you and dump your body right here in this river. Do you understand?

(Mehluko pushed the gun away from his mouth and he wiped his mouth)

Mehluko : Lalela out yami. Angikushi mina, I'm not scared of you and I've never been scared of you. Put that gun down and face me man to man. I'll fuck you up rough and tumble

Muzi : The only thing I want to hear coming from that mouth is where my money is. That's all

Mehluko : And how am I supposed to know that. Muzi I'm not your friend and I don't even know you

Muzi : How come I lose my money and you stop running your food cart? How come I lose my money and you start buying brooms ngaboma R50? Your father is the new blesser of Khayelisha. He is buying everyone beers, with what money?

Mehluko : I am a man and I hustle for myself and my family. Do I have to report to you every time I get money? Muzi you don't own me and I'm definitely not one of your ice boys

(Muzi's phone rang)

Muzi : Ndoza (He answered)

(Silence)

Muzi : Good. Bring him here

(He hung up and smiled at Mehluko)

Muzi : Guess what? They found your friend and you guys are going to die together like Romeo and Juliet or is Romeo and Romeo in this case?

(Mehluko chuckled)

Mehluko : Muzi if there is one thing I'm not scared of is dying. You have no idea how much I want to die

Muzi : Who the fuck do you think you are?

Mehluko : The same guy who saved your life but today you have a nerve to stand in front of me with a gun in my head

Muzi : And just because you took me to the hospital you thought you could inherit my things

Mehluko : I didn't just take you to the hospital. I did more than that

Muzi : What?

Mehluko : I'm not going to tell you because I don't want you to think you owe me. Kill me or get that fuckin gun out of my face

Muzi : I'm going to blow up your brain

Mehluko : That's what you do, you hide behind a bloody gun. Put that gun down and I'll show you what real men do

Muzi : You think I'm scared of y...

(Muzi's phone rang. He took it out)

Muzi : You think I'm scared of you Mehluko?... Talk to me (He answered)

(Silence. Muzi looked around)

Muzi : Bring him here

(He hung up and a few minutes later Msizi and 2 guys came)

Msizi : Meh, what are you doing here?

Muzi : Shut up and let me be the one who asks questions here.
Where is my money?

Msizi : Muzi please let Mehluko go. He knows nothing about your money

Muzi : And you do? Skhali you stole from me and you thought you would get away with it? You clearly don't know me. Aphelile amahlathi. Where is my fuckin money?

Msizi : I'm sorry... I... I

Muzi : You what? You thought I was going to die and you went to my flat to steal my money? Skhali you still don't understand. I don't die

Msizi : Muzi I can explain

(Gunshots.. Muzi shot Msizi on his leg. Mehluko's eyes were wide open. Msizi slowly went down on his knees)

Mehluko : Muzi are you crazy?

Msizi : Meh please go

Muzi : Stand up Skhali

Msizi : I can't (Msizi groaned in pain)

Muzi : You want me to help you? Where is my money
Skhali?

(Muzi shot Msizi again on his stomach)

Mehluko : Muzi stop!!!

Msizi : It's ok Meh. Please go home

Mehluko : No!! Ok ok how much does he owe you?

(Muzi laughed and looked at the two guys)

Muzi : Izwani lebhari. You want to know how much he owes
me?

Mehluko : Yeah yeah. I'll pay it. Please don't kill him.

Muzi : R10 000

Mehluko : I can give you R6 000 tomorrow. Guaranteed

Muzi : Are you sure?

Mehluko : Yeah

Muzi : And the rest?

Mehluko : I'll make a plan. Just let him go

Muzi : Tomorrow 09h00am. I'll be waiting in Shisanyama

Mehluko : I'll be there

Muzi : Mehluko I'm not scared of killing and I'm not scared of going to jail. Jail is my second home. Komalume so don't fuck with me. Ok?

Mehluko : Sho

(Muzi looked at his watch)

Muzi : Can you hear that? Tick-tock! Tick-tock! That's the sound of the clock. Can you hear it?

Mehluko : Yeah

Muzi : Excellent. Gents let's go

Mehluko : Muzi please, Msizi needs to go to the hospital

Muzi : Do you think I care about this bastard?

(Muzi and his guys walked away leaving Mehluko and Msizi behind.)

Mehluko : Msizi! Msizi! Are you ok?

Msizi : My legs (He whispered)

Mehluko : Nja yami I need to get you to the hospital

Msizi : You can't

Mehluko : No! Come here

Msizi : Just leave it, Meh!! Go

Mehluko : Shut up!!!

(Mehluko picked him up and he was carrying him in his arms.
He walked with him and his phone rang)

Mehluko : Fuck! (He murmured)..Msizi I need to put you down.

(Silence)

Mehluko : Msizi!!!!

(Silence. Mehluko panicked, he quickly placed him down)

Mehluko : Msizi!! Msizi wake up!

(Silence. Mehluko pulled out his phone and there was a missed call from Moy'omuhle. He called her back)

Moy'omuhle : You said you'll call me back

Mehluko : Moy'omuhle I need your help. Please come here,
please

Moy'omuhle : What's going on? Are you ok?

Mehluko : No. How soon can you get to... (Mehluko looked around and he wasn't sure where they were)

Moy'omuhle : Where? Mehluko talk to me. Are you in danger?

Mehluko : My friend has been shot. I need your help. We need to get him to the hospital

Moy'omuhle : What? Ok ok where are you?

Mehluko : That's the thing. I don't know

Moy'omuhle : What do you mean?

(Mehluko walked around with his hand at the back of his neck)

Moy'omuhle : Are you still there?

Mehluko : Yeah yeah yeah. There is nothing here, no one.

Moy'omuhle : Look for something Mehluko, Shops...Gas stations. Anything. I'm on my way

Mehluko : There is nothing here! Just trees

(Silence)

Mehluko : Moya? Hello?

(He looked at his phone screen)

Mehluko : Dammit!! Airtime

(He went back to Msizi who was just laying there not moving an inch. He picked him up and he walked with him until he saw a big sign written Ikhwezi Day care. He sat down with Msizi and

pulled out his phone. He had no airtime but luckily Moy'omuhle called)

Mehluko : Ikhwezi day care

Moy'omuhle : What?

Mehluko : We are at Ikhwezi day care

Moy'omuhle : Uhhmm... I don't know where it is but I'll find it. Just stay there. Ok?

Mehluko : Sho

Moy'omuhle : Check his pulse

Mehluko : What?

Moy'omuhle : Your friend. Check his pulse

Mehluko : How? Moy'omuhle listen. Just get here!!!! (He yelled)

(Moy'omuhle hung up)

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(Moy'omuhle finally arrived and she drove to the hospital.
Mehluko was walking up and down)

Moy'omuhle : Sit down Mehluko

(Mehluko looked at her and he continued pacing around)

Mehluko : Kanti why are they not telling us anything?

Moy'omuhle : This is a public hospital Mehluko. Msizi is not
their only patient

Mehluko : Ey sisi. How is Msizi?

(Mehluko asked the nurse that was passing by)

Nurse : Msizi?

Mehluko : Msizi Dube.

Nurse : I don't know any Msizi Dube. Please excuse me

Mehluko : What?

(Mehluko walked closer to her and his blood was boiling due to anger)

Nurse : Bhuti lalela, you need to calm down.

Mehluko : Calm down? Do you see this blood on my clothes?

(Silence)

Mehluko : And you want me to calm down?

Moy'omuhle : Mehluko please sit down and stop fighting with the nurses

Mehluko : Shut up Moy'omuhle. These people don't know how to treat other people and it makes me sick.

Nurse : Sisi please tell your boyfriend to calm down

(Mehluko was enraged. He tried to grab her by her clothes but Moy'omuhle stopped him)

Moy'omuhle : Mehluko stop!!! What's wrong with you?

(Mehluko deep sighed and he sat down. He cracked his neck)

Moy'omuhle : Nurse I'm so sorry, he is just worried about his friend who got shot this evening and he was admitted here an hour ago

Nurse : What is his friend's name?

Moy'omuhle : Msizi Dube

Nurse : Ok. I'll check

Moy'omuhle : Thank you (She smiled)

(2 hours later they were still waiting and no one told them anything)

Moy'omuhle : Maybe we need to go and we will come back tomorrow

Mehluko : No no no. I can't, you can go if you want.

Moy'omuhle : Mehluko please. You can't sleep here

Mehluko : I will if I have to

Moy'omuhle : Don't be ridiculous. Msizi is going to be fine

Mehluko : Who told you that he is going to be fine?

Moy'omuhle : No news is good news, right?

(Silence)

Moy'omuhle : Let me take you home. Please

Mehluko : Ok fine

(They walked out of the hospital and Moy'omuhle took
Mehluko to Khayelisha)

Moy'omuhle : Uhlala la?

Mehluko : Yeah

Moy'omuhle : I know this place. My brother's daughter lives here with her mother

Mehluko : Ok

(Mehluko was so worried about Msizi)

Moy'omuhle : I'll give you a call tomorrow morning

Mehluko : Sho

(Mehluko walked away and Moy'omuhle was still standing outside her car. Mehluko walked back to her. He pulled her by her waist and kissed her. Mehluko broke the kiss and Moy'omuhle pulled him back and they kissed again)

Mehluko : Call me as soon as you get home

Moy'omuhle : Ok (She whispered)

Mehluko : Now get in the car and go home

(Moy'omuhle got inside the car and drove off)

(The following day Mehluko went to withdraw all his money that Dudu gave to him as a deposit to purchase his container. He went to Shisanyama and Muzi was waiting for him)

Mehluko : Here is your money. You will get the rest in a few weeks

(Muzu looked at his watch)

Muzi : You are 3 minutes late

Mehluko : I know.

(Muzi chuckled. He counted the money)

Muzi : Where did you get this money?

Mehluko : I don't answer to you

(Mehluko stood up and pushed back his chair. He walked away)

(1 MONTH LATER)

(Dr Hlongwane was arrested for murder. Mehluko and Moy'omuhle were in a relationship. Their relationship was going well and they couldn't get enough of each other. Moy'omuhle helped Mehluko with the rest of Muzi's money. Msizi was out of the hospital and unfortunately he was in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. Msizi's mother came to see Mehluko at his shop. Mehluko was busy peeling his potatoes)

Mehluko : What can I do for you?

Msizi's mother : Mfan'wam I'm sorry for what I did to you

Mehluko : Now you understand that Msizi is not perfect.

(Msizi's mother wiped her tears)

Msizi's mother : It is my job to protect my son. Mehluko you don't understand how hard it is to be a mother. No matter what your children do you have to defend them

Mehluko : You defend your children by pouring boiled water on other people, oledi?

Msizi's mother : I'm sorry Mehluko. I was angry

Mehluko : Yah. How is Msizi?

(Msizi's mother started crying again)

Msizi's mother : He is not doing well, Mehluko. He doesn't want my help. He is always stuck in his room

(Mehluko stopped peeling potatoes)

Mehluko : Can I go and see him?

Msizi's mother : Please my boy. He can't even bath

Mehluko : That's bad Mah

Msizi's mother : I don't know what to do anymore. Why is God punishing me like this? What is my reason for going to church?

Mehluko : Don't do that to yourself Mah. Let's go

(Mehluko locked up and they went to Msizi's house. Msizi was sleeping and he slowly opened his eyes)

Mehluko : Ezinye zazo (Greetings)

(Msizi smiled)

Msizi : Nja yami

Mehluko : Kuhambani Nja yami?

Msizi : Amahaxa haxa (It's bad) Ngiyabhoda (I'm dying)

Mehluko : Izinja azibhodi (Dogs don't die)

(Msizi laughed and Mehluko saw tears in his eyes)

Mehluko : Ungayidali (Don't do that)

(Msizi covered his face with his blanket, hiding his tears from Mehluko.)

Mehluko : Uyinja wena emalunda lunda. Inja engahlehleli.
Abayikhipha amazinyo ihlasele ngenzipho zayo. Igovu. It's not
over Nja yami

Msizi : I can't Meh

Mehluko : You can and you will. Life is waiting for you out
there, just get out of that bed.

Msizi : How?

(Mehluko walked out and he came back with a basin)

Mehluko : Nali ivati, siyasiplasha nou. (Here is water. We are
taking a bath)

Msizi : Meh don't do this

(Mehluko pulled Msizi's blanket and he helped him up. He
helped him take off his clothes and he bathed him. He dressed

him up and put him in his wheelchair, he pushed it out of his house. He took him to his food cart)

Msizi : ta Nja ka

Mehluko : Don't thank me

Msizi : Meh I'm sorry for everything I've put you through

Mehluko : Everything happens for a reason

Msizi : I'll pay you back

Mehluko : Msizi you don't have to worry about that money bro. Money comes and goes

Msizi : That money was meant for your business. To improve it

Mehluko : Msizi don't sweat it

Msizi : He came to see me

Mehluko : Muzi?

Msizi : Yeah. His daughter can't walk

Mehluko : Eish ngizwile.

(Msizi chuckled)

Msizi : He blames me for it

Mehluko : Muzi wants to blame everyone for his own shit.

Msizi : Muzi is cold. Ever since he lost his father
he was never the same again

Mehluko : He lost his father?

Msizi : Yeah a few years ago. He was shot on his way to work

Mehluko : That's bad Msizi

Msizi : I know. He was using Muzi's car that day and people who killed him thought it was Muzi

Mehluko : Damn!

Msizi : Muzi is just full of anger Meh and I don't think he will ever be the same again, sometimes I feel sorry for him, you know.

Mehluko : Lento ayenzayo will get his whole family killed one day. He needs to stop

Msizi : I'm just glad that I made it out... Alive. Akuyona impilo leya Meh, every time you have to watch your back, always on

the lookout. You don't know when the police are going to knock on your door, you sleep with one eye close and one open.

Mehluko : I told you to stay away from Muzi

Msizi : I know. He asked me about you

Mehluko : What?

Msizi : Yeah. I know what he wants and please don't do it Meh. He will convince you to join them

Mehluko : He wouldn't dare. I'm not stupid Msizi....Muzi sent me to jail for something I don't know and not even once did he ask for my forgiveness.

Msizi : He thought you and Ayabonga were dating. I assured him that nothing was going on between you two

Mehluko : I don't want Ayabonga.... Sharp I liked her the first time I saw her but it was just a fling and I got over it. I regret going to your party Nja yami

(Msizi sighed)

Msizi : I know.

Mehluko : Dr Hlongwane was arrested, you heard?

Msizi : Eish Yah. He is old and he won't survive in jail

Mehluko : Fuck, He deserves to die after killing Dudu....How come you were not arrested?

(Msizi laughed)

Msizi : I don't know. Cops came to my house once and after that I heard nothing from them.

Mehluko : I'm sure Muzi's guys did something to make the case disappear. You know them

Msizi : I still can't believe that you saved me Mehluko after everything

Mehluko : Asihlehlele (Let's leave it)

Msizi : No. I'm sorry Meh

Mehluko : Sho

(Later that day Moy'omuhle came to see Mehluko and she was with Luyanda)

Moy'omuhle : Hello

Msizi : Hey

Moy'omuhle : How are you?

Msizi : I can't walk (Msizi laughed)

Moy'omuhle : Come on Msizi. Don't be hard on yourself.... Hey baby

Mehluko : Sthandwa sami, where did you get my sister?

Moy'omuhle : From school.... I'm late for work

Mehluko : Are you working the night shift again?

Moy'omuhle : Yes baby.... Where is your hot sauce?

Mehluko : There it is

(Moy'omuhle was busy preparing her hot dog)

Moy'omuhle : See, now I have something to eat at work. I love you baby

Mehluko : You don't have food?

Moy'omuhle : I do now. (She laughed)

(Mehluko shook his head and took out R70. He gave it to Moy'omuhle)

Moy'omuhle : Baby come on. You don't have to

Mehluko : Please go to work

Moy'omuhle : Ok ok. Kiss kiss

(Mehluko looked at Luyanda who was busy playing games on Msizi's phone. Mehluko kissed Moy'omuhle)

Msizi : Ey enough!

(They laughed)

Moy'omuhle : Bye baby. Luya give me a kiss

Luyanda : On the cheek

(Luyanda pointed at her cheek. They laughed. Moy'omuhle kissed her on the cheek. Mehluko walked her out to her car)

Mehluko : When am I going to see you? Ngafa itswayi

(Moy'omuhle laughed)

Moy'omuhle : Come on baby. We were at the hotel 2 days ago

Mehluko : I know but I need you sthandwa sami

(Moy'omuhle took off her sandals and she wore sneakers)

Moy'omuhle : Guess what? My parents are going away for a few weeks. There is a.....(Moy'omuhle tied up her laces and got out of the car) there is a wedding.

Mehluko : So?... Where is your brush?

(Moy'omuhle took her brush and gave it to Mehluko. Mehluko brushed her weave)

Moy'omuhle : So you are welcome to spend more time with your girlfriend at her home

Mehluko : No no no. I can't do that

Moy'omuhle : Meh please. I insist baby

Mehluko : You want me to fuck you under your parents roof?

(Moy'omuhle laughed)

Moy'omuhle : You make it sound so terrible

Mehluko : It is

Moy'omuhle : No it isn't

Mehluko : Just go to work sthandwa sami. I'll call you later

(Mehluko kissed her and Moy'omuhle squeezed his dick)

Mehluko : Fuck you. (He said while kissing her)

(Moy'omuhle broke the kiss and she laughed)

Moy'omuhle : I love you more

Mehluko : Bye. Take care of yourself

Moy'omuhle : Bye baby

(Mehluko walked away and he took out his phone and sent a "I love you" text to Moy'omuhle)

Mehluko : Yah Luya

Luyanda : Aw

(Msizi and Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : Are you hungry?

Luyanda : No

Mehluko : How was school? Do you have any homeworks?

Luyanda : Yes. I have 2

(Luyanda gave Msizi his phone and she opened her school bag)

Mehluko : No. Not here

Msizi : Relax. I'll help her. I got 4 distinctions in my matric, remember?

(They laughed. Msizi was helping Luyanda with her homework)

Msizi : Wee Meh awusho wincanywa ngempela le thekeni? (Do you really love her)

(Mehluko knew Msizi was talking about Moy'omuhle)

Mehluko : Strong bro

Msizi : How much do you know about her?

Mehluko : Not much

Msizi : I know her but she doesn't know me

Mehluko : Hhe?

Msizi : Yeah. She is Muzi's sister

(Mehluko almost had a heart attack)

Mehluko : What?

Msizi : I'm serious. Uhlale Elaine's gate angithi?

Mehluko : Yeah

Msizi : Yeah. I sesteri ka Muzi

Mehluko : Dammit!! Now I remember

Msizi : What?

Mehluko : The first time we met she told me about her brother who was in the hospital and she was talking about Muzi. Oh no. Why didn't she tell me?

Msizi : Yes. She hardly comes here and maybe she thought you knew.... I don't know

Mehluko : I didn't, we never spoke about Muzi. She doesn't even know that Muzi is the reason you're in that wheelchair.... Do you think Muzi will be happy if he finds out about us?

Msizi : I don't know Nja yami

Mehluko : Damn! Just when I thought things are coming together

Msizi : Aibo relax. It's not a big deal

Mehluko : Everything is a big deal to Muzi

Msizi : That is true

Mehluko : I'm not breaking up with her. Come hell or high water

(Msizi laughed)

Msizi : Vele you don't have to. I'm sure Muzi doesn't choose who to date his sister

Mehluko : But you know Muzi and leya out ayingizwile Nja yami
(He hates me)

Msizi : I know but he can't come between you and Moy'omuhle.

(Mehluko sighed)

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Mabaso : Yah sanibona

Mehluko : Luya look who graced us with his presence.

Mabaso : You are stupid Mehluko. Stupid! Stupid!

Mehluko : Aibo. You've been gone for weeks and you come here to tell me that I'm stupid

Mabaso : You are stupid. You paid Msizi's debt, how dare you?

Mehluko : Kahle baba.

Mabaso : Ufuna ukusebenza kuleyanqola till when?

(Mehluko stood up)

Mehluko : It was my money!

Mabaso : Your money to uplift your business. Ay ukukhokhela oskhotheni

Mehluko : It's done baba. Let's drop it

(Mabaso shook his head. He opened his wallet and took out R400)

Mabaso : Here. For electricity and other stuff

Mehluko : Hhe? Are you ok?

Mabaso : Yes

Mehluko : You just gave me money and you are sober

Mabaso : Mxm awungiyeye. Luya go to the shop and buy bread and a cold drink....Not coke

Luyanda : Ok

(Luyanda took the money and she walked out. Mehluko was shocked)

Mehluko : Aibo baba. U grand?

Mabaso : Yes Mehluko.

Mehluko : Ok. Where are you staying?

Mabaso : With Ribs

Mehluko : Oh. You guys are serious?

Mabaso : About what?

Mehluko : Whatever it is that is going on between the two of you

Mabaso : I love her, Mehluko. She is nothing like Dudu but she makes me happy, she respects me.

Mehluko : Ay no. I'm happy for you tayma

(Mabaso looked at Mehluko and raised his eyebrow)

Mabaso : You are not going to judge me and say I moved on too soon?

Mehluko : Who? Me? No baba. Of course not

Mabaso : Are you serious?

Mehluko : Yeah sho

Mabaso : Oh. Ok

Mehluko : I need to call someone, please excuse me.

(Mehluko walked out and dialed Moy'omuhle's number)

Moy'omuhle : Baby

Mehluko : Mamah, can you talk?

Moy'omuhle : Yes my love. My break finishes in the next umhmm....15 minutes

Mehluko : Ok. Your brother... Muzi is your brother

Moy'omuhle : Yeee... Yes. Is that a problem?

Mehluko : No no no. I'm...I'm just worried. No not worried but...

Moy'omuhle : Sthandwa sami relax. Muzi is my brother not my husband

(Mehluko chuckled)

Mehluko : Ok

Moy'omuhle : About tomorrow. What time are you coming?

Mehluko : Coming where?

Moy'omuhle : Hau baby. I told you that my parents are going away

Mehluko : And I told you that I'm not coming there

Moy'omuhle : Mehluko ngiyakucela.

Mehluko : No

Moy'omuhle : Think about it

ok? I love you. Bye

Mehluko : Moya listen...Hello?

(Moy'omuhle hung up. Mehluko smiled and went back to the house)

Mehluko : What is taking Lu....

(Luyanda walked in)

Mehluko : Oh here you are. Give me your school shoes and polish

Mabaso : I want to extend this house

Mehluko : What?

Mabaso : Yah. You are old and you need your space

Mehluko : Aibo baba. You've changed

Mabaso : A right woman can change your life and the way you think

Mehluko : I don't know what to say

Mabaso : Don't say anything. Ribs gave me a job at her tavern and she said some things that uhhhh...I lost myself Mehluko. You had to take care of me and your sister which is wrong. I'm your father and it is my job to take care of my children

Mehluko : Yeah true. I'm glad that you finally get it

Mabaso : I needed a right woman by my side. I'm not going to stop drinking but I'm going to take care of you and your sister

Mehluko : I want to believe you

Mabaso : I was drinking when your mother and I took you to university but I never failed. Do you remember?

Mehluko : Yeah because my grandmother forced you to

(Silence)

Mabaso : Life was different at that time. I had a good job (He sighed) but I promise you that I'm going to try

(Mabaso kissed Luyanda's forehead)

Mehluko : Sobona

Mabaso : Trust me

(Mehluko's phone rang and it was 031)

Mehluko : Hello

Hi am I speaking to Mehluko Mabaso?

Mehluko : Yes

You are speaking to Emma from AMG Models, I'm sorry to call you at this time.

Mehluko : AMG what?

Emma : Models. I saw your pictures on Facebook and I was wondering if you could come to our offices that are in Durban? We have a shoot with one of the top clothing brands and we....

(Silence. Mehluko ran out of battery, he charged his phone and tried to call the number back but they didn't pick up)

Mabaso : Who was that?

Mehluko : Some modeling agency. I think they misdialed my number

Mabaso : Oh Yah. I need to go now. I'll see you guys tomorrow

Mehluko : Ok

Mabaso : Someone will come here tomorrow morning to do some measurements. Please make sure you are here

Mehluko : So soon?

Mabaso : Yes. Lulu use that money tomorrow at school

(Luyanda smiled)

Luyanda : Thank you baba

Mabaso : Bye my princess. See you tomorrow

(The following night Mehluko was at Elaine's gate)

Mehluko : Food was great. Thank you Mamah

Moy'omuhle : I don't have beer (She laughed)

Mehluko : No. I don't drink...Anymore

Moy'omuhle : Are you serious?

Mehluko : Yeah. Something happened and I made a promise to myself that I'll never touch alcohol again

Moy'omuhle : What happened?

Mehluko : I got arrested

Moy'omuhle : Drink and driving?

Mehluko : No... I rather not talk about it

(Mehluko hugged Moy'omuhle from behind and he planted wet kisses on her neck. Moy'omuhle moaned. Mehluko picked her up and placed her on the counter)

Mehluko : How old are you?

(Moy'omuhle laughed)

Moy'omuhle : I'm old baby

Mehluko : How old?

Moy'omuhle : 24

Mehluko : Ok

Moy'omuhle : And you are 27

(Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : How do you know?

Moy'omuhle : Because I love you

(They laughed)

Mehluko : Yeah right

Moy'omuhle : Thank you for coming sthandwa sami

Mehluko : Tomorrow I'm going back home. I shouldn't be here

Moy'omuhle : No. Not tomorrow

Mehluko : Hobaneng?

(Moy'omuhle laughed)

Moy'omuhle : Baby tell me something. Where are you from?

Mehluko : Ngu Mntungwa. Umbulaz'omnyama

Moy'omuhle : So windoda yomzulu

Mehluko : Yeah

Moy'omuhle : But you speak sotho

Mehluko : Sometimes. My mother was sotho

Moy'omuhle : Oh

Mehluko : Yes

Moy'omuhle : Mina ngu Zulu uMageba

(Mehluko smiled)

Mehluko : I love you. Moy'omuhle I can't give you much. I don't have much but you are one woman I want to spend the rest of my life with

Moy'omuhle : And those other girls?

Mehluko : Gone.

(Mehluko sighed)

Mehluko : When I finished at the university I thought I had my life under control

Moy'omuhle : You went to the university?

Mehluko : Yeah. I have a master's degree and I....

(Moy'omuhle was shocked)

Moy'omuhle : Mehluko unamanga!

Mehluko : About what?

Moy'omuhle : You have a master's degree and you are still in Khayelisha?

Mehluko : Yeah. I did Engineering but that's not important. What I want you to know is that I love you and I know that you deserve the world but I can't give it to you

(Tears ran down Moy'omuhle's cheeks)

Mehluko : Don't do that Mamah

Moy'omuhle : Ngiyakuthanda

Mehluko : I know. For once in my life I'm sure about someone's feelings. Fuck! I just know that you love me

(Mehluko moved away from Moy'omuhle and rubbed his face)

Mehluko : I wish things were different. I deserve more than this life Moy'omuhle. I've been struggling for a very long time and I thought by this time my life would be different

Moy'omuhle : How was life growing up?

Mehluko : Bad. Really bad. I grew up in KZN with my maternal grandmother and life was rough. My parents were away looking for jobs and I had to stay with my grandmother. I remember coming back from school and my grandmother would tell me that she hasn't cooked. I waited and waited until I fell asleep. She kept saying the same thing almost every day and I finally realized that there was no food. That woman tried Moy'omuhle and I owe her so much, She fought for me, she fought for my education and when I passed my matric she said to my mother "Dudu I don't care how you do it but this boy needs to go the university" (He laughed)

Mehluko : And I did. I went to the university and I excelled. When my grandmother died I fell apart and life challenged me every day

(Moy'omuhle wiped her tears)

Moy'omuhle : Sthandwa sami there is light at the end of every tunnel

Mehluko : I don't know Mamah.

Moy'omuhle : Your time is coming

Mehluko : It is

(Mehluko turned around and walked closer to Moy'omuhle. He kissed her and unbuttoned her shirt. The door opened and footsteps came closer and closer. Mehluko wanted to break the kiss because he heard that someone was coming but Moy'omuhle held onto him tightly)

What the fuck is going on here?

(Mehluko froze. That was Muzi's voice. Mehluko pressed his forehead on Moy'omuhle's)

Moy'omuhle : Oh my God (She murmured)

Muzi : Moya!! Who the fuck is this?

(Mehluko slowly turned around)

Mehluko : Muzi

(Moy'omuhle was holding Mehluko like her life depends on it)

Muzi : Wena futhi!!! You are fucking my sister now?

Mehluko : Let's talk about this

Muzi : Talk about what? Huh? Talk about what?

Moy'omuhle : Muzi, Muz'okhulile please listen to me.

Muzi : Shut up wena!!

(Muzi threw the first punch and the second. Mehluko stood still. Moy'omuhle jumped off the counter and she pushed Muzi)

Mehluko : Leave him Moya. He has every right to be angry

Moy'omuhle : No!!!

Muzi : Moy'omuhle Zulu get the fuck out of my way!!

Moy'omuhle : No!

Muzi : You sleep with this bastard in our parents house? And udenka ukuthi I'll let this bastard get out of this house alive?

(Muzi took out his gun and Moy'omuhle grabbed it from him. She cocked it and pointed it at Muzi. Muzi laughed out loud and clapped his hands)

Muzi : Are you serious right now?

Mehluko : Moy'omuhle put that gun down

Moy'omuhle : No! Muzi get out

Muzi : You are going to kill me? Me?

Moy'omuhle : Get out!!!

Muzi : Moy'omuhle give me my gun

Moy'omuhle : I'm going to pull this trigger, trust me. Have you forgotten about everything that you taught me? Muz'okhulile I learned from the best and believe me when I say I'll pull this trigger.

Muzi : Listen Mo...

Moy'omuhle : Fuck off!!!

(Mehluko wrapped his arms around Moy'omuhle and He lowered her hands. Moy'omuhle broke down in tears)

Muzi : Mehluko you are going to pay for this

(Muzi grabbed his gun from Moy'omuhle and he walked out)

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Moy'omuhle : Mehluko I'm so sorry. Let me see

(Mehluko laughed but deep down he was angry)

Mehluko : It was just a few punches. I'm fine

Moy'omuhle : I didn't know he was coming here please believe me sthandwa sami

Mehluko : Moy'omuhle relax

Moy'omuhle : How do I relax after what he did?

Mehluko : He was angry

Moy'omuhle : He is always angry Mehluko. Muz'okhulile is always angry whether I do good or bad

Mehluko : Maybe he is just trying to protect you

Moy'omuhle : Protect me from what? For how long?

Muz'okhulile thinks I'm perfect and I hate it. How can I be perfect when I have him as my brother? How can I be perfect living under this roof?

Mehluko : What do you mean?

Moy'omuhle : Please excuse me

(Moy'omuhle went to her room and Mehluko followed her.

Moy'omuhle was standing in front of the mirror. Mehluko stood behind her and undressed her while slowly kissing her all over her neck and her back. Mehluko lifted her leg and placed it on top of a chair that was in front of a dressing table)

Mehluko : Next time when I tell you that I don't want to do something don't force me to do it. Got it?

(Mehluko rubbed her clit and he worked his fingers)

Moy'omuhle : Got it baby (She moaned)

(Mehluko went deeper and her body trembled. She moaned a bit louder. Mehluko squeezed her nipple and it was game over. Mehluko placed her in bed and Moy'omuhle pulled him by his t-shirt)

Mehluko : No. I'll never fuck you under your parents roof

Moy'omuhle : Oh no (Moy'omuhle covered her face)

(Mehluko took off his clothes and slept next to Moy'omuhle. Moy'omuhle wrapped her leg around him and she laid on his chest)

Moy'omuhle : You know it's impossible. Right?

(Mehluko laughed and kissed her forehead.)

Mehluko : What?

(Moy'omuhle ran her hand to Mehluko's dick)

Moy'omuhle : For me to resist that

(They laughed and Mehluko pulled back her hand and bit it gently. Moy'omuhle laughed)

Moy'omuhle : Oh you are going to eat my hand now?

(They laughed and Moy'omuhle sighed)

Moy'omuhle : I wish I could paint our love, these moments and vibrant hues...Do you know that song?

Mehluko : Is it Dolly Parton's song? (He laughed)

Moy'omuhle : What? No baby!!!

(They laughed)

Mehluko : My father loves Dolly Parton and I think he knows everything about her more than he does with anybody else in this world

(They laughed. Mehluko deep sighed)

Mehluko : Miguel Jontel Pimentel. Coffee in the Morning

Moy'omuhle : Yes baby

Mehluko : Do you love it?

Moy'omuhle : I love you. I love this

Mehluko : Music is the only Psychotherapist I need in my life.

Moy'omuhle : Yeah?

Mehluko : Yeah. Where is your phone?

(Moy'omuhle took her phone and gave it to Mehluko)

Mehluko : Unsteady by X Ambassadors and uuuuhh.....Halo by Beyonce

(Moy'omuhle looked at him)

Moy'omuhle : What about those songs?

Mehluko : I'm downloading them for you. Keep them....They are not on the list of my favorite songs but play th....(He paused)
Done. Here is your phone

(Moy'omuhle took her phone)

Moy'omuhle : Ook. I'll play these songs whenever I miss you
(She kissed his chest)

Mehluko : Yeah when I'm gone

Moy'omuhle : Gone?

Mehluko : Your brother said he is going to kill me.

(They laughed)

Moy'omuhle : He would never!

(Mehluko laughed and kissed her hand)

Moy'omuhle : My heart is at peace. This is the happiest time of my life. This house is surrounded by love and laughter for once

Mehluko : Yeah?

Moy'omuhle : Yeah. No screamings, No violence. Just you and I sthandwa sami.

Mehluko : What are you talking about?

Moy'omuhle : Nothing

(Silence)

Mehluko : Do you trust me?

Moy'omuhle : I know this is going to sound weird but I trust you more than anyone

Mehluko : Ok. Sleep now Mamah

Moy'omuhle : Why am I turned on everytime you say that?

Mehluko : What?

Moy'omuhle : Mamah

(Mehluko chuckled)

Moy'omuhle : I love you Mehluko Mabaso

Mehluko : I know Mamah.

Moy'omuhle : My step father beats up my mother and I....

(Mehluko sat up quickly)

Mehluko : What?

Moy'omuhle : Yes. They are not attending the wedding

I lied to you. They went to Durban for vacation. That's what he does after hitting my mother, he buys her expensive things, he

takes her on vacations (sniffs) they go out of the country and when they come back they look so fine until I hear my mother screaming for help in the evening.

Mehluko : Why angamu report?

Moy'omuhle : Never! My mother would rather die than to let go of that man

Mehluko : Is Muzi aware of this?

Moy'omuhle : It happened once and that's when Muz'okhulile left home. After he left our step dad stopped hitting mother and he stopped for months but waqala futhi. My mother begged me not to tell Muz'okhulile because she knew that Muzi was going to kill him.

Mehluko : But this is wrong Moya. Your father is going to kill your mother one day and trust me, you will blame yourself for it.

Moy'omuhle : I don't know what to do

Mehluko : Report him

Moy'omuhle : I can't. There is so much to lose

Mehluko : Is it worth losing your mother?

Moy'omuhle : No

Mehluko : Do the right thing sthandwa sami

(Moy'omuhle kissed Mehluko. From his lips down to his chest.)

Moy'omuhle : This is what feels right.

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(The following day Mehluko went back home)

Msizi : He found you with her?

Mehluko : Eh ndoda. Bengithi ngiyabhoda

Msizi : Your girlfriend is brave

Mehluko : Tell me about it. Nja yami those people are fucked up. Do you know why Muzi left home?

Msizi : Not really. He once mentioned it when he was drunk and he said he almost killed his stepfather

Mehluko : I understand that he had a rough upbringing but the way he carries himself is not ok. He is teaching Moy'omuhle all the wrong things

Msizi : I know but It's too late now Meh

Mehluko : Yah. I wanted to kill him last night

Msizi : Muzi is dangerous Meh

Mehluko : Because he owns a gun? Ok I shouldn't have done what I did. I shouldn't have listened to Moy'omuhle. I knew that going there was a big mistake but for Muzi to get his hands on me and I just stood there?

Msizi : Nja yami you are different and you respect other people.

Mehluko : I don't know if I'll be able to hold myself next time. Ngalusa phela mina Msizi and one day I won't be able to hide that side of me. I'm scared of what will happen the day I reveal the beast within me

Msizi : Meh you don't want to start a war with Muzi

Mehluko : He is pushing it Msizi. You know what's worse? Muzi is alive because of me

Msizi : I know.

Mehluko : You don't.

Msizi : Kuthiwa awumvayisanga e Hosi he and his daughter would have died. Does he even know that you took them to the hospital?

Mehluko : I did more than that Msizi. I gave him my blood

(Msizi was so shocked that he tried to sit up from his wheelchair)

Msizi : You did what?

Mehluko : I had to do it. Ok? For his daughter

Msizi : Do you understand what you did? Meh you fucked things up for all of us. Khayelisha is better off without Muzi and everyone knows that....Mehluko I can't believe you right now. You....You saved Muzi?

Mehluko : Do you blame me?

Msizi : Fuck!! I do! You think that I will enjoy sitting in this chair for the rest of my life?

Mehluko : I thought I was doing the right thing.

Msizi : Right thing for who!!? (He yelled)

Mehluko : For his daughter!! For Ayabonga!! (He yelled back)

(Msizi shook his head)

Msizi : I understand that you took them to the hospital because his daughter also got shot and you had to help them but giving him your blood? Really Meh?

Mehluko : I did the right thing Msizi

Msizi : The right thing you did landed me in the hospital....The right thing you did killed Tebza, The right thing you did almost got you killed and because of the right thing that you did you lost all the money that was meant for your business. Do you still think it was the right thing to do Meh?

Mehluko : What do you mean it killed Teboho?

Msizi : After Muzi shot me that night he went to kill Teboho. What about his children Mehluko?

(Teboho Moloi was one of the guys who worked for Muzi. Teboho and Msizi stole Muzi's money whilst he was in the hospital)

Mehluko : What?

Msizi : I asked you a question. What about his children? What about Teboho's children, Meh? He left 3 children. Who is going to take care of those children now? What? Your blood?

(Mehluko swallowed the lump on his throat. His chest tightened. He grabbed a glass of water and squeezed it)

Msizi : What about me? What about my child? How am I going to take care of my son while I'm sitting on this chair? Ngizosukuma kanjani ngiyophandela Idladla while I'm sitting here? Your blood saves lives. Right? Save us, Meh. Save the whole of Khayelisha. Save all these children who are now fatherless because of Muzi. The same Muzi that you saved by donating your blood to him!!!!

Mehluko : Aaaaaah!!!!

(Mehluko screamed as the glass broke into pieces in his hand)

Msizi : You fucked up this time Mehluko and I promise you if the community finds out that you are the one who saved Muzi they will kill you.

(Mehluko's body was heating up. Someone who wanted to buy
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knocked on Mehluko's window but he shutted the window and closed the curtain. When he turned around Msizi was gone. Someone must have helped him with his wheelchair without Mehluko paying attention)

(Luyanda walked in happy as usual)

Luyanda : Yah Meh. Why is your window closed?

(Silence)

Luyanda : Ok ke. Last night I slept with Mama Rebecca in Baba's bed and Baba slept in your bed. Mama Rebecca read me a book like Sis Dudu. She knows how to read weee Meh and she....

Mehluko : Shut up!!! (He yelled)

(Luyanda was shocked. She dropped her packet of chips and she ran outside)

Mehluko : Dammit!.... Luyanda, come here

(Mehluko wiped the blood in his hand and he checked on Luyanda outside but she wasn't there. Mehluko was busy closing the door and his phone rang)

Mehluko : Hello

Mr Mabaso it's me Emma

Mehluko : Emma?

Emma : Yes from AMG models. I've been trying to get hold of you all day

Mehluko : Yah

Emma : Mr Mabaso we signed a contract with one of the top clothing brands and they want to do a TV ad but unfortunately none of our models at AMG fits what they are looking for and I showed them your pictures that I came across on Facebook and they loved you. They want to work with you

Mehluko : I'm not a model sisi wami

Emma : I know.,I know but you have the body of a model. Everything about you... Your height, your skin....Everything and we would appreciate having you in our studio.

Mehluko : No. Bye

(Mehluko hung up and he went home. He found his father mopping the floor and they were gossiping about him with Luyanda)

Mabaso : Myeke wena Luya. You know that your brother is crazy. He is bipolar. Don't ever go to his shop again my princess

(Mabaso turned around to find Mehluko standing behind him)

Mabaso : Yini wena wanyonyoba?

Mehluko : I'm not

Mabaso : Why did you scream at your sister? She is crying now

Mabaso : Neka le mop.

(Mabaso handed the mop to Mehluko)

Mabaso : What happened to your hand? Wena uhlale ulimele njalo nje. What happened?

Mehluko : Baba I need to go away for a while

Mabaso : Go where? I told you that I'm extending this house and I'm going to need your help.

Mehluko : I don't care

(Mehluko walked inside the house)

Mabaso : Yey wena who do you think you are talking to?....Mehluko the floor is still wet, come back here!!

(Mehluko ignored his father. Mabaso walked in)

Mabaso : What is wrong with you?

Mehluko : Nothing is wrong with me.

Mabaso : Why did you close early enqoleni?

Mehluko : Baba!!.....Can you just keep quiet? Please

Mabaso : Why are you screaming at me? Huh?

(Mehluko walked out and he went to Rebecca's tarven.)

Rebecca : How are you my son?

Mehluko : Ngi grand oledi. Please give me a beer and a pack of cigarettes

(Mehluko opened his wallet and Rebecca shook her head)

Rebecca : No. Don't

(Mehluko sighed)

Mehluko : Thanks

(Mehluko closed his wallet. He took his beer and his cigarettes. He sat down at the back of Rebecca's tarven and he found the peace that he was looking for.)

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(Mehluko packed his bag and he went to Port Shepstone.)

Mehluko : Yazi Zalo I shouldn't be here

Nkos'inami : You needed a break Meh. We all do sometimes

Mehluko : I messed up. I messed up big time Inami

Nkos'inami : Zithini Zalo?

Mehluko : You know sometimes we think we are helping kanti we are messing up things even more. I saved the wrong person. Do you remember le out I told you about abayishaya ngensimbi ekasi?

Nkos'inami : Sho. You took them to the hospital nengcosi yakhe

Mehluko : Sho. He almost killed Msizi

Nkos'inami : What? U Dube?

Mehluko : Yah. U Dube ukwi wheelchair nou and I blame myself for it Inami. I saved Muzi and after I saved him, he came out of the hospital and he killed people lapha ekasi. He wanted to kill me Zalo

(Mehluko explained everything to Nkos'inami)

Nkos'inami : Eish this is a disaster zalo. Maybe you should tell him that you donated your blood to him

Mehluko : And what difference would that make?

Nkos'inami : Maybe just maybe he will leave you and his sister alone

Mehluko : Muzi won't buy it. Imagine after he found me with his sister then sengiyaqhamuka mina suddenly ngithi "Muzi I

gave you my blood". He won't buy it Inami. Uzothi ngnamanga. Uzothi why now? Why ngingashongo all along? This is fucked up

Nkos'inami : But he needs to leave you alone Meh because if he doesn't we are going to have a problem with him and it won't end well.

Mehluko : No no no zalo. I don't need anymore problems. Maybe I should just leave this whole thing yami no Moy'omuhle and just focus on my life. Ey impilo I rough zalo

Nkos'inami : No no no. You are not going to break up with Moy'omuhle. Mehluko, life is too short. Put yourself first all the time because you don't know how much time you are left with. Our days are numbered zalo, I almost died Meh angazi noma i ankeli yakutshela yini

Mehluko : Yeah my father told me

Nkos'inami : I was like fuck I'm not dying in Johannesburg ngiyobhodela edladleni but you know what I realized? I realized that I wasn't scared of dying. I was scared of dying in Johannesburg and the reason why I wasn't scared of dying was because I've lived my Meh. I did all the things that makes me happy and I enjoyed my life

(Mehluko sighed)

Nkos'inami : Mehluko you've always put yourself second since we were young and you are growing up with the same mentality. You blame yourself about everything. Mehluko you are different and not everyone will understand you. Everything you do comes from the goodness of your heart, God created you to be the person that you are. Everyone has a purpose in this world so don't allow people to shift you from yours but as much as you live by your purpose please don't forget to be happy.

Mehluko : I get you zalo

Nkos'inami : Good. People die at the end of the day

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whether you do good or bad. We die. Don't blame yourself for saving someone like Muzi. You don't want to spend the rest of your life blaming yourself for saving someone's life. Yooo Meh I did terrible things and when I see someone like you who blame themselves for doing good it makes me realize how fuck up life is.

Mehluko : Doing good? Does it ever pay off?

Nkos'inami : Yes it does. Sometimes you won't see it but it always pays off. Don't stop

Mehluko : Yeah right

(Mehluko's phone rang. It was Moy'omuhle)

Mehluko : Mamah

Moy'omuhle : Where are you?

Mehluko : Ngise Port Shepstone sthandwa sami.

Moy'omuhle : Por....Why?

Mehluko : To sort out some things

Moy'omuhle : When are you coming back?

Mehluko : Soon

Moy'omuhle : How soon? Baby I miss you

Mehluko : In a week

Moy'omuhle : Week? No!

Mehluko : I just need to clear my head

Moy'omuhle : We need you. Luyanda and I need you.

Mehluko : Luya is going to be fine. You are going to be fine

Moy'omuhle : Meh please

Mehluko : Ok I'll see what I can do

Moy'omuhle : Ok

Mehluko : Bye Mamah

(Moy'omuhle hung up)

Nkos'inami : She is complaining already?

(They laughed)

Mehluko : Yeah. I need to go back tomorrow

Nkos'inami : Hau ufika nje izolo?

Mehluko :I know but I'm worried about Luyanda and you know baba

(Nkos'inami laughed)

Nkos'inami : Usabushaya namanje? (Is he still drinking)

Mehluko : Strong but ungcono these days yazi

Nkos'inami : I need to come to Khayelisha

Mehluko : Come with me

Nkos'inami : Mhmmm. Are you serious?

Mehluko : Sho. I tayma is hardly home so yeah. Let's go

Nkos'inami : Tomorrow?

Mehluko : Yeah

Nkos'inami : Ok

Mehluko : I need to go and see your mother before I go

Nkos'inami : Yah. You have to.

(Later that day Mehluko received a call from Moy'omuhle telling him that she was coming to Port Shepstone and she made it.)

Mehluko : You really came here?

(Mehluko laughed)

Moy'omuhle : It's not funny baby

Mehluko : What? You thought maybe I'm with a girl or what?

Moy'omuhle : No (She laughed)

Mehluko : Vele. Sthandwa sami I'm not cheating on you

Moy'omuhle : I know baby. I missed you and I couldn't wait

Mehluko : What about work?

Moy'omuhle : I requested for sick leave

Mehluko : That's crazy

Moy'omuhle : You drive me crazy

(They laughed)

Mehluko : Do you want to meet my aunt?

Moy'omuhle : Are you serious?

Mehluko : Yah. Come

Moy'omuhle : Oh my God. Ok ok wait. How do I look?

Mehluko : Beautiful as always. Woza Mamah

(Moy'omuhle brushed her hair. She took a deep breath and got out of the car. They went to the living room where they found Nomusa sewing)

Nomusa : Aibo Meh. I thought you were gone already

Mehluko : No.

Nomusa : Who is this beautiful lady?

Mehluko : Moy'omuhle. Usisi ophethe inhliziyo yami

(Moy'omuhle smiled)

Nomusa : Umakoti wethu. Wow you are beautiful ngane yami

Moy'omuhle : Thank you Mah

Nomusa : I'm happy to see you, ngane yami...Mehluko thank you son, this really means a lot to me.

Mehluko : No problem. We just wanted to see....

(Mehluko's phone rang and he answered)

Mehluko : Hello

Meh imina uMsizi. Where are you? Your place is burning

Mehluko : What? Where? At home?

(Mehluko stood up quickly)

Msizi : No. Enqoleni yakho

Mehluko : What?

Msizi : Yeah yeah yeah. Where are you?

(Mehluko hung up)

Nomusa : Mehluko what's going on?

Mehluko : We need to go

Nomusa : No. Not so soon

Mehluko : I have to go back home now. My food cart is on fire

Moy'omuhle : Ini?

Mehluko : Come let's go. Aunty I have to go

Nomusa : Ok ok ok. Please call me when you get home

Mehluko : Ok

Moy'omuhle : Bye Mah

Nomusa : Bye sthandwa sami. Please do visit

Moy'omuhle : I will

(Mehluko, Moy'omuhle and Nkos'inami were on their way to Khayelisha)

Nkos'inami : Who would do such a terrible thing?

Mehluko : I don't know zalo.

Nkos'inami : Do you think uDube?

Mehluko : No no no. It's not him

Moy'omuhle : Muz'okhulile

Mehluko : What?

Moy'omuhle : It's him. I saw him before I came here and I told him that I'm coming to you. I don't understand why he is against our relationship

Mehluko : Muzi?

Moy'omuhle : I'm sure it's him

(Mehluko and Nkos'inami looked at each other)

Nkos'inami : Your brother is an ungrateful bastard!!!

Mehluko : Inami please calm down

Nkos'inami : No. She needs to hear this. Your brother is an ungrateful bastard who targets the wrong people. Uyibhari yetso. He wants people from Khayelisha to look at him as a God but that will never happen because he is trying too much to prove a point that yena he is the mighty Muzi. Well he is not. Real OGz doesn't behave like he does. Nxa!!

(Silence)

Nkos'inami : He thinks life is a movie and I'll kill him mina
Moy'omuhle. I hate people like your brother!

Mehluko : Zalo you are fighting with the wrong person right
now

Moy'omuhle : He is angry and I understand

Mehluko : No

Nkos'inami : Vele I'm angry. After everything you did for that
bastard Meh and this is how he thank you?

Moy'omuhle : What is he talking about Meh?

Mehluko : Nothing Moy'omuhle. Nkos'inami stop!!!

Nkos'inami : I'm sorry zalo. I'm just angry right now and I don't understand why you are so calm about this whole thing.

Mehluko, her brother, took away one thing that put food on the table. How are you going to survive zalo?

(Moy'omuhle wiped her tears and looked at Mehluko)

Mehluko : Mamah please focus on the road...Don't worry about me Inami. I will get back up

(Mehluko cracked up his fingers)

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(Mehluko asked Moy'omuhle to give him directions to Muzi's house. Moy'omuhle refused but eventually she gave in. Mehluko went to Muzi's flat alone and he found him with his girlfriend. There were drugs all over the table. As soon as Mehluko walked in Muzi reached for his gun and pointed at Mehluko)

Mehluko : So this is where you stay?

(Mehluko looked around paying no attention to the gun that was pointed at him)

Muzi : What do you want in my house?

Mehluko : What do you want from me?

Muzi : I want you to leave my sister alone

Mehluko : I can't

Muzi : What?

(Muzi stood up. He threw his gun aside and grabbed Mehluko by his throat. Mehluko couldn't control himself, not anymore. He roughed up Muzi, his girlfriend was screaming for help. Mehluko stopped when he saw blood on Muzi's face. He looked at his hands and he sat down on a couch. Muzi's girlfriend tried to run out of the house but Mehluko snatched her arm)

Mehluko : You are not going anywhere. Go and put that gun away

(She grabbed the gun and ran to the bedroom. Muzi stood up and he cursed and groaned. He threw himself on his couch and covered his face with his hands)

Muzi : Fuck you Mehluko!!

Mehluko : Now listen to me. I'm not going to break up your sister, not now, not ever. You will accept our relationship Muzi

Muzi : Or what?

Mehluco : You left this fancy place of yours and you came to my Kasi. You came to my Kasi and ruined everything. You sold drugs to young people and you introduced people like Msizi to crime. Muzi no one else owes you for the shit you've been through besides yourself! If you want someone to blame for your father's death then look at yourself! People from Khayelisha have nothing to do with how your life turned out. You chose this life and now you want to spill your anger to everyone

(Muzi slowly removed his hands from his face)

Muzi : What do you know about my life?

Mehluco : More than enough. You got me arrested and I turned a blind eye. Your people stole my girlfriend's car where she was killed and no one did anything about it. You accused me of stealing your money and you came to my house and pointed at me with your gun! You shot my best friend and now he is in a

wheelchair for the rest of his life Muzi because of you! And now you took my hustle away. You took away one thing that helped me to take care of my family. Are you proud of yourself?

Muzi : I told you to stay away from my sister and you didn't listen.

Mehluko : I regret saving your life. I wasted my blood for nothing here

(Muzi closed his eyes and held his ear)

Muzi : You did what?

Mehluko : Stop acting dumb. You heard what I said

Muzi : It was you?

Mehluko : It was me. I did it for your daughter but I regret it now. Giving you my blood was the biggest mistake I've ever made

(Muzi laughed)

Muzi : Well played. You are fucking my sister and you want me to accept your relationship with her so you come up with this story thinking I'll let everything slide? Forget it!

(Muzi stood up and he was enraged)

Muzi : You don't deserve my sister and nothing you say or do will change my mind about what I think of you. You are nothing Mehluko. Leave Moy'omuhle alone before I do more than burning that stupid thing you called a shop. Do you understand me?

(Mehluko chuckled)

Mehluko : You are more stupid than I thought if you think I'll leave your sister.

(Mehluko stood up and walked closer to Muzi)

Mehluko : I'm not scared of you. I know broken men like you who tried too hard to prove to the world that they are not broken. Muzi you need to fix yourself before it's too late. Your sister needs you. While you play Mike Tyson lapha e Khayelisha remember that your home is falling apart. Your family is falling apart. You think that you are protecting Moy'omuhle but you are not. If you continue this way you are going to lose your whole family and everyone that you love just like you lost your father

(Muzi tried to attack and Mehluko blocked his arm)

Mehluko : Do you see what I mean? This is all you know. Violence. Muzi we are all fighting our own demons day in

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day out but we don't go around killing people and ruining people's lives. Fix yourself before you do something that you will regret for the rest of your life

Muzi : You know nothing about me!

Mehluko : And I don't want to.

Muzi : Leave Moy'omuhle alone

(Moy'omuhle rushed in)

Moy'omuhle : Baby!

(Mehluko turned around and smiled)

Moy'omuhle : I got a call from Lee, where is she Muz'okhulile?

(Muzi pointed at his bedroom)

Moy'omuhle : Baby are you ok?

Mehluko : Everything is ok Mamah. Let's go

Moy'omuhle : Can I talk to Muz'okhulile for a moment? Please wait in the car

(Mehluko kissed Moy'omuhle and he looked at Muzi before he walked out)

Mehluko : No I won't Muzi

(He waited and waited for Moy'omuhle and finally she came and they drove off. There was silence)

(Moy'omuhle cleared her throat)

Moy'omuhle : You almost killed him

Mehluko : With what? My hands? Then your brother is weak

Moy'omuhle : You promised me that you guys were only going to talk

Mehluko : Violence is the only language that your brother understands

(Gulps)

Moy'omuhle : Is it true?

Mehluko : What?

Moy'omuhle : That you gave him your blood?

Mehluko : Why would I lie?

Moy'omuhle : I don't know

(Mehluko sat up straight)

Mehluko : You said you trust me. Remember?

Moy'omuhle : I do baby. I'm just confused, why didn't you tell me?

Mehluko : Ngikutsheleleni? It's my blood Moy'omuhle

Moy'omuhle : Your blood that saved my brother. I deserved to know

Mehluko : Why you people want to make everything a big deal?

Moy'omuhle : You people? You people? I'm the people now, Mehluko?

(Silence)

Moy'omuhle : Answer me

Mehluko : What were you and your brother talking about for so long? Did he convince you to leave me?

(Moy'omuhle parked her car on the side of the road and she took a deep sigh)

Mehluko : Why did you stop driving? It's late. Nkos'inami needs me at home

Moy'omuhle : Mehluko I love you and no one has the power to convince me to leave you. The reason I stayed behind to speak to my brother is because I wanted to remind him a few things.

Mehluko : What things?

Moy'omuhle : Things like how I supported his relationship with Lee, a druggie like Lee. Things like how I never blamed him for our father's death even though I knew that he was the reason our father died. Muzi tries so much to keep me happy but he doesn't understand that there are some gaps that he can't fill. They all failed to close my father's gap, the happiness my father brought to my life and you did. I had to tell him all of that. Mehluko I will fight for our relationship because I love you

(Mehluko jumped to the back seat)

Mehluko : Come here

(Moy'omuhle laughed)

Moy'omuhle : Ay I know what you want Meh and we don't have time

Mehluko : Hau baby woza

(Moy'omuhle opened her door and she went to the back seat. Mehluko kissed her all the way down to her collarbone)

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(Mehluko and Nkos'inami were on their way home from Luyanda's school)

Nkos'inami : This place is still the same

Mehluko : Eish yah.

Nkos'inami : And wena. How are things between you and Moy'omuhle? You came back late last night

Mehluko : Yeah. I went to Muzi's flat and things got out of hand

Nkos'inami : Hhe?

Mehluko : Yeah. I lost my cool

Nkos'inami : About damn time

(Nkos'inami laughed)

Mehluko : No zalo. I shouldn't have done what I did

Nkos'inami : Ay ay Meh. Don't be weak zalo

Mehluko : I'm not weak. I just hate violence

Nkos'inami : I get you

Nkos'inami : Some woman came to check on Lulu last night

Mehluko : Mang? Rebecca?

Nkos'inami : I don't know.

Mehluko : I'm sure it was her. Umalumekazi wakho loya

Nkos'inami : Are you serious?

(Nkos'inami laughed)

Mehluko : Yeah. She is a nice woman

Nkos'inami : I ankeli isivukile already (My uncle is dating already)

Mehluko : Sho. And u happy

Nkos'inami : You don't mind?

Mehluko : No

Nkos'inami : That's good

Mehluko : I'm worried about Muzi. He is going to fuck things up for me

Nkos'inami : Asimcime (Let's kill him)

Mehluko : Udakiwe.

(They laughed)

Nkos'inami : But I'm serious, Meh. If someone gives you problems, you sweep them out of the way. Clean

(Mehluko raised his eyebrow)

Mehluko : You are just like Muzi zalo. I thought you were going to change after spending years in jail

Nkos'inami : I came back stronger.

Mehluko : No no no. I don't want troubles Inami

Nkos'inami : I'm joking. I'm done with that life

Mehluko : So you aren't considering going back to Johannesburg? You are fine now

Nkos'inami : No I'm not going back

Mehluko : Why? You had your life there. A good job. Zalo you were so lucky to get a job with your criminal record

Nkos'inami : Ngiyacava (I know) but Johannesburg is not for people like me.

Mehluko : Johannesburg or a job you got in Johannesburg?

Nkos'inami : Sitting behind the desk 24/7 was frustrating

Mehluko : I knew it. Johannesburg is not the problem. You are the problem

Nkos'inami : You know me

Mehluko : Yazi a couple of days ago I received a call from some modeling agency and they asked me to come to their studio but I turned them down.

Nkos'inami : Modeling? Zalo usuyamodela?

Mehluko : No no no. They saw my pictures on Facebook

Nkos'inami : So what now? You want to go there?

Mehluko : I don't know. I got an sms from them this morning asking me to email them my headshot.... If I change my mind.

Nkos'inami : Ay ay ay zalo. Modeling? That thing is for gay people

Mehluko : Don't be stupid.

Nkos'inami : I'm kidding but izinto zamabhotela lezo zalo.

Mehluko : That's not true. Inami entlek wena O dom neh? O dom dom. O bhari. I don't even know why I bothered myself telling you about this.

(Nkos'inami laughed)

Nkos'inami : Sensitive motherfucker.

(Mehluko shook his head)

Nkos'inami : Yah you have the looks. Uhlanyisa ama maid so bangene ntwana yami. I want to see you on the big screens nakuma billboards.

Mehluko : Yoooh Inami. Just forget about it bro

Nkos'inami : I'm serious. Maybe this is your calling.... I mean who gets a gig because someone saw their pictures on Facebook? Think about it Meh. Maybe you need to focus on this modeling thing ukhohlwe aboma engineering what what.

Mehluko : You are crazy.

(They laughed)

(Nkos'inami stopped walking and he whistled. Mehluko followed his gaze and it landed on Ayabonga)

Mehluko : Forget it zalo

Nkos'inami : Who is she? Ay isibabuli (She is beautiful)

Mehluko : She is off limits. That is Muzi's baby mama

(Nkos'inami smiled)

Mehluko : Inami!!!

Nkos'inami : What?

Mehluko : She is off limits

Nkos'inami : She is Muzi's baby mama. Not his wife

Mehluko : Don't even try Inami

Nkos'inami : Why not?

(Ayabonga was busy on her phone)

Mehluko : Eita

Ayabonga : Oh Sanibona

Nkos'inami : Nkosazana emhlophe

(Mehluko rubbed his face)

Ayabonga : Hey (She smiled)

Nkos'inami : Jesus! Cava the smile

Mehluko : Ayabonga, this is Nkos'inami.... My cousin

Ayabonga : Nkosi

how are you?

Nkos'inami : I'm in love. How are you?

(Ayabonga laughed)

Mehluko : Inami. This is Ayabonga... Muzi's...

Ayabonga : Nothing

(Ayabonga's face was blank)

Mehluko : Ook...

Nkos'inami : Zalo you can go. I'll find you at home

Mehluko : Oh...alright

(Mehluko shook his head and walked away)

(Soon after he got home Nkos'inami followed)

Nkos'inami : She gave me her number.

(Nkos'inami smiled looking at his phone)

Nkos'inami : Do we have bread?... Damn! Isibabuli lethekeni.
Look at this

(Nkos'inami showed Mehluko Ayabonga's display photo on
whatsapp)

Mehluko : Yah

Nkos'inami : Yah? Is that all you can say

Mehluko : Umawengcosi ka Muzi lo zalo. It won't work

Nkos'inami : Abasavalani (They broke up) Fuck! even if they
were still dating, that wasn't going to stop me.

Mehluko : Inami!!!!

Nkos'inami : What?

Mehluko : I'm trying to sort things out with Muzi so please leave Ayabonga.

Nkos'inami : No Meh.

Mehluko : Inami yazi uMuzi wenzani bro wami? He saw me with Ayabonga and you know what happened after that? I was arrested for rape. Rape Inami!!!

Nkos'inami : He did what?

Mehluko : Exactly!

(Nkos'inami placed his phone down and he laughed)

Nkos'inami : I'm going to show Muzi. I'm going to show him flames in a short space of time. Uzungazi

Mehluko : Ey ey ey. Inami, just leave it.ok?

Nkos'inami : No.

Mehluko : Maybe you need to go back to Port Shepstone.

(Nkos'inami laughed)

Nkos'inami : I promise you by the time I go back to Port Shepstone Bayabonga will be begging me to take her with me
(He smiled)

Mehluko : Ayabonga

Nkos'inami : That's what I said.

(Nkos'inami looked at Ayabonga's picture again)

Nkos'inami : She just changed her DP. Do you know what that means Meh? Ufuna ukuchaza ubhuti Nkosi (He mimics a woman's voice)

Mehluko : Oh no.

(Mehluko rubbed his face. He knew that there was no way to change Inami's mind and he was worried about what was going to happen next)

Mehluko : Do you even love her? I mean she is not even your type. You like them natural, zalo. Abo brown skin girl with a bit of meat and Ayabonga is not even close

(Nkos'inami chuckled)

Nkos'inami : You don't get it zalo. This is not about Ayabonga anymore.

(Mabaso walked in and he was drunk. He looked at Nkos'inami)

Mabaso : What is he doing here? Yabonake lo usizela nenkinga nenkinga. Nkosi! bhantinti (jailbird) . You are here?

(Mabaso laughed and drank his beer)

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Nkos'inami : Malume

Mabaso : Yah. What are you doing here?

Nkos'inami : I'm here to see you

Mabaso : Liar. You are here to hide. What? Are police looking for you?

Nkos'inami : No malume

Mabaso : Oho. I don't want troubles here Nkosi.

Nkos'inami : I know.

Mabaso : I want to kill Muzi. Where is my knobkerrie? Ushise inqola yomfana wami

Mehluko : Baba it wasn't Muzi

Mabaso : It was him. Everybody saw him, you gave that dog your blood Mehluko and that is what he did? I'm going to kill him

Mehluko : Since when do you kill people?

Mabaso : I'm going to start with him

(Nkos'inami laughed)

Nkos'inami : I'll help you

Mabaso : You want Nomusa to kill me?

Mehluko : Oh you want to kill people but you are scared of dying?

Mabaso : I'm too young to die Mehluko

(Nkos'inami and Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : Baba how old do you think you are?

Mabaso : It doesn't matter. Ngisabamba izingane mina bafana

Mehluko : You mean Rebecca?

(They laughed)

Mabaso : Nkosi I don't like what Muzi did. He is disrespecting me. He is abusing my son and he is not going to stop if I don't teach him a lesson.

Nkos'inami : Don't worry about it Malume

Mabaso : Nkosi if something happens to you Nomusa will never forgive me, please don't do anything to Muzi. I know you

(Nkos'inami sighed)

Nkos'inami : Malume I....

Mabaso : No Nkos'inami!

Nkos'inami : Ok... Meh let's go and buy bread

Mehluko : Sho

Mabaso : Ningiphathela u beer

Mehluko : No

Mabaso : Shut up. You don't have money

(Nkos'inami laughed)

Nkos'inami : I'll sort you out malume

Mehluko : Aowa! Inami. He is drunk already

Nkos'inami : Not until I hear him singing Dolly Parton's songs

Mehluko : Weeeh. Let me go

(They laughed. Mehluko and Nkos'inami walked out. They saw Rebecca on their way)

Rebecca : Bafana

Mehluko : Oledi

Rebecca : Meh can I talk to you for a moment?

(Mehluko looked at Nkos'inami)

Mehluko : Yeah yeah yeah.

Nkos'inami : I'll go

Mehluko : Sho

(Nkos'inami walked away)

Rebecca : Who is he?

Mehluko : Oh Nkos'inami. He is my cousin

(Rebecca smiled)

Rebecca : I'm glad you have someone around.

Mehluko : Eish yah

Rebecca : I heard about what Muzi did.

(Mehluko sighed)

Mehluko : Yaaaah

Rebecca : Bad things happen to good people. You don't deserve all that

Mehluko : I guess it's life Mah

Rebecca : We don't need people like Muzi in this community.

Mehluko : But there is nothing we can do about it.

Rebecca : Yes but one day he will meet his match.

Mehluko : Yeah

(Mehluko didn't know what to say when it comes to Muzi)

Rebecca : I spoke to your father last night and I told him that I want you to come and help at my tarven for now until you get back on your feet.

(Mehluko smiled and rubbed his hands together)

Mehluko : Ngempela?

(Rebecca smiled)

Rebecca : Yes my boy. You need money, lama girlfriends enu adinga imali. What do you call it...? Girlfriend allowance.

(They laughed)

Mehluko : ta... I mean thank you Mah.

Rebecca : It's ok mfan'wam. You can start anytime when you are ready

Mehluko : How about tomorrow morning?

Rebecca : No problem. Anytime

Mehluko : Ngiyabonga Mah

Rebecca : Where is he?

Mehluko : Who? My father?

Rebecca : Yes. He was drunk

Mehluko : I left him at home

Rebecca : Good. I don't want him walking all around Khayelisha when he is drunk. Akabambeki, he fights with everyone. (She laughed)

Mehluko : Eish I know.

Rebecca : I need to go now

Mehluko : Oledi?

Rebecca : Yes my boy

Mehluko : I think he really loves you

(Rebecca smiled)

Rebecca : He makes me happy. I just want to know if you are happy.

Mehluko : I am and he has changed.

Rebecca : I'm trying. We need to make that house a home. You need your space

Mehluko : I don't know w.....

(Rebecca shook her head with a smile)

Rebecca : Don't say anything

(Moments later Nkos'inami came back)

Rebecca : Nkos'inami I'm glad to meet you. Last night we didn't get to talk

Nkos'inami : I'm glad to meet you too malumekazi (He emphasized)

(Mehluko looked at him and scratched his head. Rebecca smiled)

Rebecca : I need to go

Mehluko : Yes of course. Ngiyabonga Mah

(Rebecca walked away. Mehluko and Nkos'inami went home)

Mehluko : And?

Nkos'inami : You are calling her Mah already?

Mehluko : I call every old woman by Mah. Zithini ngawe?

Nkos'inami : I don't trust her

(Mehluko laughed)

Nkos'inami : Uyasineka u Meh

Mehluko : Uyagula wena Inami. You don't trust her or you just don't like her?

Nkos'inami : I don't know. Malumekazi was buried as in yesterday but already this woman is opening her legs for ankeli shuthi ubemfuna vele

Mehluko : Come on Inami. What could she possibly want from your uncle? Ankeli yakho ayina nix.

Nkos'inami : Says the person who was almost kidnapped for his blood. That's very rich coming from you Meh

Mehluko : Udinka ukuthi she wants your uncle's blood? (He laughed) Eh monna! Malome wa hao doesn't have Rhnull.

Nkos'inami : Mxm.

Mehluko : I can't believe you right now. You've been preaching about happiness and now you are complaining. Inami, not everything is about you. Ok? Or me. If Rebecca makes your uncle happy, why can't they be together? You want baba to sit around and cry about my mother? Aphuze utshwala waya waya?

Nkos'inami : That's not what I want.

Mehluko : Just leave them,badala and they know what they are doing.

(Nkos'inami sighed)

Nkos'inami : Fine.

Mehluko : Uyekele iskhwele.bro you... (He paused when his phone rang) Eish I forgot to call Moy'omuhle this morning.

Nkos'inami : Is that her?

Mehluko : Yeah.... Yah Mamah (He answered)

Moy'omuhle : You don't love me anymore

Mehluko : No baby that's not true. I was about to call you now

(Moy'omuhle laughed)

Moy'omuhle : I believe you sthandwa sami

Mehluko : No you don't.

Moy'omuhle : I miss you

Mehluko : Nami ngyakukhumbula

Moy'omuhle : I'm listening to Beyonce

Mehluko : Oh yeah?

Moy'omuhle : I love you Meh

Mehluko : Nam ngiyakuncanywa blind Mamah.

Moy'omuhle : Now I can't wait to see you. Let's go out baby

Mehluko : Eish joe! Out? Vandaag?

Moy'omuhle : What? You're busy?

Mehluko : No no no. I just wanted to spend some time with Luya. It's been a while, you know.

Moy'omuhle : Aahh baby! That is so sweet. Luyanda is so lucky to have you

Mehluko : Ah! come on.

Moy'omuhle : I'm serious sthandwa sami.

Mehluko : Yah. Maybe. I'll see you tomorrow

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later?

Moy'omuhle : No problem baby.

Mehluko : Sharp

Moy'omuhle : Bye. Love you

(Mehluko hung up and Nkos'inami laughed)

Nkos'inami : I still can't believe you are in a relationship with one woman. It's so unlike you.

Mehluko : It's called growing up... anyway Rebecca gave me a job

Nkos'inami : Serious?

Mehluko : Yeah. I'm starting tomorrow

Nkos'inami : Into e grand leyo. Do you want to work there?
Wena nabantu it's just water and oil. Especially drunk people

Mehluko : I know but I need money so I don't have a choice.

Nkos'inami : I do have money and you don't have to go and work there if you don't want to.

(Mehluko chuckled)

Mehluko : You are not planning to move to Khayelisha. Are you?

Nkos'inami : No. Not Khayelisha but no matter where I am, I can send you money.

Mehluko : Witholaphi lenyuku? you are not working mos

Nkos'inami : I am a man with a plan. Always

Mehluko : Yeah. Ay no ngyakuzwa. ta nja ka but se ke oa tsoenyeha. I'll take that job

Nkos'inami : Ok

(Later that evening Mehluko was fast asleep when Nkos'inami woke him up)

Nkos'inami : Meh wake up

Mehluko : No

Nkos'inami : Moy'omuhle is outside

(Mehluko sat up quickly)

Mehluko : What?

(Nkos'inami laughed)

Nkos'inami : I'm serious. Uyenzeni lengane?

(Mehluko rubbed his eyes and unlocked his phone)

Mehluko : Nothing....Damn it's 23h00. Moy'omuhle is crazy

(Mehluko wore his t-shirt and jeans)

Mehluko : Give me that jacket...Where are you coming from at this time?

Nkos'inami : Meh, why do you love this jacket so much?

Mehluko : I don't. Your jacket is ugly as fuck but I need it right now....Aibo where is Luya?

(Mehluko looked around with his eyes wide open. Nkos'inami laughed)

Nkos'inami : Aibo Meh since when do you sleep like a baby? U Luya uhambe no malume

Mehluko : Oh yaah. Now I remember. Shit! What is wrong with me? Where are you coming from?

Nkos'inami : From Ayabonga

Mehluko : At this time?

Nkos'inami : Yah. Go Meh, Moya has been outside for too long

Mehluko : Yeah yeah yeah.

(Mehluko wore the jacket and walked out. He went to Moy'omuhle's car. Moy'omuhle kissed him as soon as he settled down)

Moy'omuhle : I missed you so much. I hope I didn't wake you up

Mehluko : You did but it doesn't matter. When will you stop coming to Khayelisha at this time of the night? You know I hate it and I told you

Moy'omuhle : Nothing is going to happen to me baby

Mehluko : Oh because your brother is a gangster?

(Silence)

Mehluko : I'm sorry, I didn't mean that.

Moy'omuhle : I couldn't go to bed without seeing you

Mehluko : Let's go to Khayelisha BnB. It's not a good place for you but if you don't mind

Moy'omuhle : I don't mind baby. Of course I don't but I don't have money

Mehluko : I'll take care of it. I'll be back now

(Moy'omuhle was so excited. She loved Mehluko. It was like Mehluko was the only man in her world. Few minutes later Mehluko came back)

Moy'omuhle : Please drive. I'm tired

Mehluko : No

Moy'omuhle : Come on baby. We are going to section E, it's 20 minutes away

Mehluko : You can't keep your hands to yourself when I'm driving

(Moy'omuhle laughed)

Moy'omuhle : I will, I promise.

Mehluko : Ok

(Mehluko drove to Khayelisha BnB)

Mehluko : When are you going back to work?

Moy'omuhle : Tomorrow night

Mehluko : Ok. Are you hungry?

Moy'omuhle : No

(Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : Mamah are you sure?

Moy'omuhle : I know I eat a lot but I'm fine. Thank you very much

(Moy'omuhle crossed her arms and looked out the window)

Mehluko : I love you

Moy'omuhle : No you don't (She mumbled)

(Mehluko drove to Debonairs)

Moy'omuhle : Baby I said I'm fine

Mehluko : No...You are working the night shift for the whole month?

Moy'omuhle : Yes baby and then next month I'm working day shift

Mehluko : Ay ay ngathi wi security Mamah

Moy'omuhle : So it's only security guards who work the night shift?

Mehluko : I don't know

(They laughed. Later they were in bed)

Moy'omuhle : Thank you for the pizza. I enjoyed it

Mehluko : Oh so you were hungry?

(Moy'omuhle laughed and hit him with the pillow)

Mehluko : What? I'm just asking sthandwa sami (He laughed)

Moy'omuhle : I want to ask you something serious now.

Mehluko : Sho

Moy'omuhle : Your cousin and Ayabonga, are they an item?

Mehluko : No

Moy'omuhle : I saw them kissing baby. I swear

Mehluko : Hhe! Already?

Moy'omuhle : Huh?

Mehluko : They are kissing already?

Moy'omuhle : So you knew?

Mehluko : No Mamah. Yah Ayabonga gave Nkos'inami her number but that was all

Moy'omuhle : I just hope Muzi won't mind. You know how crazy he is

Mehluko : I told Inami to stay away from Ayabonga but he didn't listen.

Moy'omuhle : Ayabonga and Muzi broke up months ago.

Mehluko : But your brother is still obsessed with her

Moy'omuhle : Muzi thinks he owns everyone (She sighed)

Mehluko : Please don't tell him about it

Moy'omuhle : Oh no. I won't. Never!

Mehluko : ta... You know, I just want Muzi to accept our relationship. Moy'omuhle I want this whole thing to be over. I want to sort things out with Msizi....I just want peace and happiness.

Moy'omuhle : I know baby and you will get all that.

Mehluko : Hopefully

(Mehluko sighed and kissed Moy'omuhle's hand)

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(The following day Mehluko went home. He found Nkos'inami still sleeping and he got ready for work. Mehluko saw condom wraps on the floor and he got angry)

Mehluko : What the fuck!... Nkos'inami wake up!

(He shook him roughly. Nkos'inami opened half his eyes)

Nkos'inami : Yini Meh?

Mehluko : What is wrong with you?

Nkos'inami : Nothing....Meh why aren't you sleeping?

Uyosebenza ka Rebecca zalo la eduze. Just sleep

Mehluko : You fucked Ayabonga? In this house?

(Nkos'inami was shocked)

Nkos'inami : Who told you?

Mehluko : Just look around Inami. What if i tayma lingene la labona le nonsense? Yazi Inami you always want to prove him right

Nkos'inami : Oh fuck!

(Nkos'inami jumped out of bed and picked up condom wraps)

Mehluko : Aibo ama rubber amangaka. Niyahlahlanya yini nina?

Nkos'inami : She kept asking for more so I....

Mehluko : I don't want to hear it. I'm off to work

Nkos'inami : You call it work zalo? (He laughed) I'll come and see you at work

(They laughed)

Mehluko : Fuck off!

(Mehluko took his phone and walked out)

2 MONTHS LATER

(Nkos'inami is still in Khayelisha. The guys who are extending the house are almost done. Mehluko is still working at Rebecca's tarven and Rebecca is paying him well. His relationship with Moy'omuhle has been going really well as well as his father's and Rebecca, their relationship is going well. Ayabonga is going crazy over Nkos'inami and she has been asking him to stay every time Nkos'inami wants to go back to Port Shepstone. Msizi forgave Mehluko for giving Muzi his blood, Mehluko still wakes up every day and goes to Msizi's

house to help Msizi take a bath. Rebecca has been a lifesaver when it comes to Luyanda, she does everything for her.)

Mehluko : Ay nja yami. We are done here. Let me go to work

Msizi : ta nja yami. No Bongz uthole ispani

Mehluko : For real?

Msizi : Yeah ka Mr Price

Mehluko : That's better. At least he is working now

Msizi : Yah hey. Manje awusho zikhiphani between uzalo lakho no Ayabonga?

Mehluko : Ey nja yami I don't know if they are in a relationship or what but it's something like that.

Msizi : He is asking for trouble, Meh. He doesn't want to have Muzi as an enemy. I promise you if Muzi finds out about this shit will go down

Mehluko : I know

Msizi : Speak to him.

Mehluko : I tried but I will try again

Msizi : Ay no Ayabonga u weak maarn ay.

(Mehluko chuckled)

Msizi : Serious. Firstly it was you and now your cousin.

Mehluko : No no no not me

Msizi : That's because you showed her earlier that you were not interested.

Mehluko : Ay angazi lutho. I have to go ndoda

Msizi : Sharp

(Mehluko walked out)

(Later that day Mehluko was busy wiping tables when Muzi and his guys walked in. Muzi looked around)

Muzi : So this is where you are working now?

Mehluko : What, you want to burn it down?

(Muzi laughed)

Muzi : No. I've ran out of petrol

(Mehluko shook his head)

Mehluko : This is all a game to you Muzi. It's all funny

Muzi : Give us beer bar man

Mehluko : I'm not a bar man

Muzi : I see

(Mehluko served them and he went back to the counter. Muzi stood up and walked towards him.)

Mehluko : Dammit (He murmured)

Muzi : Where is your brother?

Mehluko : I don't have a brother

Muzi : Whatever that fool is to you

(Damn! He found out. Mehluko faked a smile)

Mehluko : I don't know what you are talking about

Muzi : What is his name,gents?

Nkosi (One of his guys said)

Mehluko : Oh jah. He is not here as you can see

Muzi : You like acting dumb. Huh?

Mehluko : I don't know

Muzi : Your girlfriend didn't go to work today, She is sick.

Mehluko : I know. She told me

Muzi : And wena? Is there anything you want to tell me?

Mehluko : No

Muzi : Mehluko you know there is only one reason you are still alive and that is because as stupid as you are you still know how to make Mo happy. I don't want to take that away from her. I still don't believe that you gave me your blood and even if I believed you, I was still going to kill you because I don't care.

Mehluko : Yah vele winja Muzi and you don't care about other people.

Muzi : Yah. You know I'm glad that you know me very well and you know me more than anyone else in this township and I believe that you know how I feel about Ayabonga. Am I right?

Mehluko : Wrong

Muzi : If you touch my baby mama you die, Mehluko. Simple as that. Wena I knew that you didn't touch her but I was teaching you a lesson to never touch anything that has my name on it. You play far from my things because I hate it when people touch my things or even look at my things. You understand?

(Muzi was busy playing with his bottle of beer. He stopped and looked at Mehluko)

Mehluko : Sho

(Muzi smiled)

Muzi : Good. So I believe that you will have a word with your brother and tell him ukuthi ashifte because we don't want anymore blood. You just lost your mother and a girlfriend a few months ago and I don't want you and your family to sing amagugu alelizwe ayosala emathuneni. It's too soon Meh

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don't you think?

Mehluko : Why don't you tell him yourself? Are you scared of him?

Muzi : Scared?

Mehluko : Yeah. Are you scared of him?

Muzi : No no no. You see Meh I'm trying to uuuhh.... How do I say this? I'm trying to build a relationship between our families, you know.

(Mehluko chuckled and packed the beers inside the fridge)

Mehluko : Muzi you really think I am a fool.

Muzi : We didn't get a chance to grow up in a happy family, ok I did but Mo didn't and I don't want the same thing to happen to our children. I want our children to grow in a happy and loving

family, with no hate and no drama. So if I kill your brother you and I won't get along

Mehluko : Not that I understand where this is going but Muzi I don't want us to be friends.

Muzi : Me too, but what choice do I have? You came to our lives and now you are not going anywhere because ubambise ingcosi yasedladleni!! (He yelled)

(Mehluko dropped a bottle of beer on the floor and Muzi's guys stood up. They pulled out their guns)

Muzi : Relax majita

Mehluko : What?

Muzi : You don't know? I out engezwa noma isikora? Ey o bhari. You think Mo is just sick? Mehluko thina o Zulu do not just get sick. Call her, She will tell you.

Mehluko : Wait wait wait. Moy'omuhle is pregnant?

Muzi : And you are going to stop fucking around with these other bitches. Mehluko, that kid is not going to grow up without a father. You are going to be there for my sister, every step of the way. Yangthola?

Mehluko : Yah yah yah. No man. Pregnant?

Muzi : Yes, pregnant. You know what that means right? You need a proper job, not this shit. You need money. Mehluko I'm not going to take care of your baby

Mehluko : I don't want you to. I can take care of my baby. I don't need you Muzi

(Muzi laughed)

Muzi : Are you sure?

Mehluko : Yah.

Muzi : I'm not here to congratulate you. I'm here to tell you to tell leyanja yakini ihlukane no Ayabonga ngoba if he doesn't, Kuzonyiwa blind!

(Muzi fixed his cap)

Muzi : Gents? Asvaye

(They all stood up and walked out. Mehluko looked at the pieces of glasses that were all over the floor. He took out his phone and dialed Moy'omuhle's number)

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Moy'omuhle : Baby

Mehluko : Why did you send your brother to come here and tell me that you are pregnant?

Moy'omuhle : Baby please calm down

Mehluko : Don't tell me what to do. I asked you a question

Moy'omuhle : Baby I'm on my way to Khayelisha. I wanted to tell you today

Mehluko : Fine

(Mehluko hung up. Few hours later Moy'omuhle arrived)

Mehluko : Oledi I need to go out for a few minutes

Rebecca : No problem. I'll call Scelo to come and help. You can go

Mehluko : Thank you

(Mehluko went to Moy'omuhle's car. He got in)

Mehluko : Why are you eating stones?

Moy'omuhle : Umcako baby

Mehluko : Let me see

Moy'omuhle : You want to eat it?

Mehluko : Yah

(Moy'omuhle smiled and gave him. Mehluko threw it out of the window. Moy'omuhle's mouth was gape open)

Moy'omuhle : Hau!... Yazi Meh u wrong

Mehluko : I told you a long time ago to stop eating dirt. Are you a pig?

Moy'omuhle : It's not dirt, umcako Meh.

Mehluko : And now that you are carrying my baby, you won't be eating that shit anymore.

Moy'omuhle : It's going to be a long 7 months of my life

(Moy'omuhle rolled her eyes)

Mehluko : Moy'omuhle you are really pregnant?

(Moy'omuhle had a wide smile on her face)

Moy'omuhle : Yes baby. I wanted to surprise you but Muz'okhulile ruined the surprise

Mehluko : Surprise?... Ok ok ok how did he know that you are pregnant?

Moy'omuhle : He found me vomiting in the bathroom and the next day him and Lee bought me two pregnancy tests and both were positive....Mehluko wait, you don't seem happy about this.

Mehluko : I am

Moy'omuhle : You have a funny way of showing it, yazi ngisho umuzi ujabule okudlula wena. U Muzi cabanga, my brother.

Mehluko : Ufuna ngithini Moy'omuhle? You want me to be happy for what exactly? There is nothing to be happy about. I don't understand why this baby decided to come now.

Moy'omuhle : Mehluko what do you mean?

(Mehluko sighed and rubbed his face)

Mehluko : Moy'omuhle I don't have a job.

Moy'omuhle : Baby you don't need a job. I know how much you try sthandwa sami with or without a job and this baby is so lucky to have you as a father. Stop stressing, this baby will be fine. I promise you

Mehluko : I don't know Mamah. The timing is just wrong

Moy'omuhle : The timing is perfect

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my love. Mehluko I am so happy about this pregnancy. I know I sound ridiculous right now but I'm happy ukuthi ngikhulelwe ingane yakho. I wanted this

Mehluko : Why Moy'omuhle? Moy'omuhle I have nothing and I still don't understand why you love me so much to a point that

you wanted to have a baby with me, knowing very well that I have nothing. I can't even afford you so I don't know how I'm going to afford you and our baby

(Moy'omuhle kissed Mehluko passionately. Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : Uvusa ezinye izinto ke manje

(Moy'omuhle smiled)

Moy'omuhle : Mehluko Mabaso ngiyakuthanda. I love you for who you are not what you have. I appreciate you, I appreciate all the effort you put into this relationship. Meh awusebenzi but indlela ozama ngayo sthandwa sami (She sighed) One would swear that I have a boyfriend who is employed and earns a good salary. Mengingana petrol you make a plan, mengingenayo imali you always make a plan (Tears rolled down her cheeks) Everything you did proved to me that you are a man. Windoda emadodeni and I promise you ukuthi lengane ngeke iswele lutho. Believe me sthandwa sami.

(Mehluko wiped Moy'omuhle's tears and kissed her hand)

Mehluko : I'm just hoping that soon I'll get a job.

Moy'omuhle : Even if you don't, it won't change anything. (She smiled)

Mehluko : Your brother knows about Ayabonga and Nkos'inami.

(Moy'omuhle deep sighed)

Moy'omuhle : It took him long enough. Yazi baby I don't want u Muzi to use our baby to fight his battles

Mehluko : What do you mean?

Moy'omuhle : No nothing. Please try to speak to Nkos'inami and tell him to leave Ayabonga. We don't need stress right now

Mehluko : I know but the problem is Ayabonga now. She is the one who is running after Inami, last night I had to sleep at Msizi's house because u Ayabonga ubelapha edladleni.

Moy'omuhle : Aibo baby what about Luyanda?

Mehluko : She spends a lot of time at Rebecca's house now.

Moy'omuhle : Why didn't you call me

Mehluko : Because I was tired and I knew that calling you meant we had to book somewhere and you were going to keep me all night.

(Moy'omuhle laughed)

Moy'omuhle : I'm not that bad

Mehluko : You are Mamah

Moy'omuhle : My mother told me to resign from work

Mehluko : What? Why?

Moy'omuhle : Because I'm always sick and going to work is just too much for me.

Mehluko : Yabona Moy'omuhle your pregnancy is stressing me already. I feel like I'm the reason you have to put your life on hold now

Moy'omuhle : No baby. My family just feel sorry for me but I promise you mase ngibe lethile I will go back back to work... I will get a new job.

Mehluko : You make it sound like it's so easy to get a job

Moy'omuhle : In my world it is. Baby I work in a call center with years of experience

Mehluko : Yeah right....Mamah I need to go now. We will talk about this later

Moy'omuhle : Ok baby. I need to check on Muzi's daughter, it's been a while.

Mehluko : Oh these are her teddy bears?

(Moy'omuhle laughed)

Moy'omuhle : Yeah I bought it for her.... Oh and I bought you lunch baby

Mehluko : You didn't have to.

Moy'omuhle : You don't want my food?

Mehluko : Haa! You cooked?

Moy'omuhle : Yes baby. Kanti what's my name?

(Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : Ey uyaphapha yoooh.... Anyway thank you Mamah.

(Mehluko kissed her cheek. He brushed Moy'omuhle's stomach and he felt emotional)

Mehluko : Why now kodwa mfan'wam? Huh?

(He kissed Moy'omuhle's stomach and Moy'omuhle smiled)

Moy'omuhle : This is not a boy

Mehluko : It is (He sighed)

Moy'omuhle : Baby don't worry we are going to be fine

Mehluko : I don't know Mamah but I want to believe that.

Moy'omuhle : We will be fine. Now here is your food...I'll see you before I go back home, right?

Mehluko : Yeah yeah yeah of course. Call me as soon as you are ready to go

Moy'omuhle : I will. Kiss kiss

(They kissed and Mehluko went back to work)

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Mehluko : Ey mfethu inkinga ngenkinga

Scelo : What problems?

(Mehluko sighed)

Mehluko : Nothing I can't handle

Scelo : Maybe you should go home

Mehluko : Are you sure?

Scelo : Yeah I'm sure. I'm not busy today so ngizoliphusha
ithesho

Mehluko : ta mfethu

Scelo : No problem. I'll tell i oledi that you had to go

Mehluko : Dankie

(Mehluko went home and he found Luyanda and his father)

Mabaso : You came back early

(Mehluko brushed Luyanda's head)

Mehluko : Yeah. I'm not feeling well

Mabaso : Ivukile I bipolar?

Mehluko : Baba I'm not bipolar

Mabaso : Ok. Talk to me

Mehluko : Where is Inami?

Mabaso : Spending Muzi's money nale ntombazane yakwa Shozi. Nomusa's son doesn't listen and he is going to die
Mehluko

Mehluko : No one is going to die tayma

Mabaso : You out of all people know how crazy Muzi is.

Mehluko : But he will never kill Inami

Mabaso : Keep telling yourself that

Mehluko : Luya I need to talk to baba

Luyanda : Ok give me your phone

Mehluko : No

Luyanda : Why?

Mehluko : Luya not now

Luyanda : Why ungasangniki?

Mehluko : Ey stop asking me questions Luya. Please

Mabaso : He will give you later princess.

Luyanda : Ok

(Luyanda headed out)

Mehluko : Wait

(Mehluko took out his phone and deleted nudes that Ayabonga sent him)

Mehluko : Here. Take it

(Luyanda smiled and took his phone. She walked out)

Mabaso : And?

Mehluko : Moy'omuhle is pregnant baba

(Mabaso stood up.)

Mehluko : She is pregnant tayma

Mabaso : I always thought you were smart kanti you are stupid
Mehluko. You are stupid, stupid!

(Mabaso was sweating)

Mabaso : How could you? You think the money you get from Rebecca's tarven is enough for you to impregnate someone? Mehluko, how are you going to take care of that baby? What about the damages? Huh? How are you going to pay for inhlawulo?

Mehluko : I will come up with a plan baba

(Mabaso was pacing around, he stopped and grabbed Mehluko by his t-shirt)

Mabaso : What plan?

(He was staring into Mehluko's eyes and his eyes flashed with anger)

Mabaso : What plan? You've brought the Zulu's into our lives for good. That gangster Muzi is now going to be part of our lives forever? What were you thinking?

(Mabaso pushed Mehluko to the bed)

Mabaso : I thought people were lying about you and that girl.
Mehluko I don't want her here. You think you are a man now,
right? Usuyamithisa? Let me tell you something you don't
know, umzali ngeke ehlale phansi kophahla lomunye umzali.
You need to get out of my house

Mehluko : Baba!

Mabaso : What? You've messed up your life before it even
begins. You have no idea what it means to be a father,
especially when you don't have a job. I will not be part of the
miserable life that you created for yourself. Do you understand
me!? (He yelled)

Mehluko : Where do you expect me to go?

Mabaso : Niyenzelephi leyongane?

(Silence)

Mabaso : Exactly! Go there.

Mehluko : Baba you need to calm down and let us talk about this.

Mabaso : Wait wait. You didn't bring her to this house? Please tell me you didn't.

Mehluko : I didn't

Mabaso : Good. Now pack your clothes and fuck off!!!

(Nkos'inami walked in and looked at them)

Nkos'inami : What's going on?

Mabaso : You too Nkosi. Pack your clothes and get the hell out of my house!

Nkos'inami : Aibo zithini?

(Mehluko chuckled)

Mehluko : Your uncle is acting all crazy. After everything I've done for this family, he is telling me to go. Go where?

Nkos'inami : What happened?

Mabaso : Mehluko you and Nkosi do not listen to anything I tell you to do. Nkos'inami why are you here?

(Silence)

Mabaso : I told you that I don't want troubles here but guess what? You are bringing them. Why are you boys bringing the Zulu's back in my life?

Mehluko : What do you mean?

Mabaso : Get out Mehluko!!!!

(Mehluko shook his head and walked out. He took a taxi to town and he stood by the bridge. There were people taking pictures with cameras. Mehluko took out his cigarette and he started smoking. He was lost in his thoughts when he was interrupted by someone who was standing behind him)

Hi

(Mehluko turned around and a white guy was standing there with his camera and a notepad)

Mehluko : What the fuck do you want?

(The guy looked at the people who were with him)

My name is Ronald I...

Mehluko : Listen here. I'm not interested in anything you have to say

Ronald : I think we have found our guy

(Ronald smiled looking at his friends)

Mehluko : What are you talking about?

(Mehluko was confused)

Ronald : My name is Ronald and I'm the producer of the new telenovela that will start in a few months. We are here to take some pictures of this place since some of the episodes will be....

Mehluko : Wait wait wait. How is that my business? Am I disturbing something by smoking here?

Ronald : No no no sir. You came at the right time. The person who was going to play a leading role dropped us at the last minute and I'm wondering if you would like to come and audition for that cast. I think you are perfect for it.... Samantha what's your take on that?

Samantha : Yeah yeah yeah. you're right

Mehluko : Me? Why?

Ronald : Please give it a try Mr...

Mehluko : Mehluko Mabaso

Ronald : Yes. Mr Mabaso

Mehluko : No I'm not good with all of that. I'm not an actor

Ronald : And how do you know that? Have you tried it before?

Mehluko : I just know. Look, mlungu people are born with these talents and unfortunately I'm not part of those people.

Ronald : How about you give me your contact details and I will give you mine too. I want you to consider this whole thing before you make your decision. Here, take my card and give me a call if you change your mind and decide to come for the auditions. Please write down your name and your cell number on this page

Mehluko : No

(Mehluko grabbed his card and he walked away without giving Ronald his requested information. He went back to Khayelisha and he sat down on the side of the road. It was already dark and to his surprise the streets were not busy. A lady jumped out of the taxi

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she was probably coming back from work. She walked a short distance and 3 guys came from nowhere, they followed the

lady. Mehluko knew what was going to happen next and he stood up and walked towards the lady)

Mehluko : Don't even think about it boys... this is my girlfriend so don't you dare.

First guy : Ey fuck! Meh siyathesha la. Tell your girlfriends to be careful next time

Mehluko : Ey fakok!

(The lady was confused. Mehluko pulled the lady's bag and the guys walked back)

Mehluko : Sisi, listen here. You can't be walking on these streets at this time of the night. This is Khayelisha and next time tell somebody akuhlangabeze. Here is your bag

Lady : Yazi ngivele ngabona ukuthi otsotsi laba. Thank you so much my brother, thank you. Let me... (She opened her purse)

(Mehluko stopped her.)

Mehluko : Don't. Please Go home

Lady : Thank you. I don't know where my husband is, I told him ukuthi engihlangabeze.

Mehluko : I'll walk you home.

Lady : Ngiyabonga. This place is not safe, especially for us women but I guess I was lucky enough.

(Silence)

Lady : My name is Lethithemba ngowakwa Mkhathshwa

(Silence)

Lethithemba : Ungisize kakhulu. I work at Checkers and today it was very busy so we finished late. I don't know what was...

Mehluko : Sisi wami I don't want to talk so if you don't mind.

Lethithemba : Oh ok

(Mehluko's phone rang and it was Moy'omuhle calling)

Mehluko : Mamah

Moy'omuhle : Where are you? Sengiyahamba baby

Mehluko : Eish I forgot. I'm not at the tarven

Moy'omuhle : I know. Where are you?

Mehluko : Estradini. Mamah lalela I'll see you tomorrow

Moy'omuhle : No Meh. I want to see you now, you promised me that you would see me later.

Mehluko : Moy'omuhle I can't do this right now. Sharp

(Mehluko hung up)

Mehluko : Sisi kanti where is your husband?

(Bonga's passed by with his father's car. Mehluko whistled stopping the car. Bonga reversed)

Bonga : Aw ezinye zazo. What are you doing here?

Mehluko : Out yami awuthathe le sesteri

Bonga : Yah? Ungakuwena?

Mehluko : No no no she is not my girlfriend. Cisho
bambkhuthuza

Bonga : Eish yabo laboskhotheni. They need to be dealt with.

Mehluko : Sisi please get in the car. He will take you home

(Lethithemba smiled)

Lethithemba : Thank you. Thank you

Mehluko : Ku grand

Bonga : Wena uya Waar?

Mehluko : I just need to clear my head for a moment. Please
take her home

(Mehluko walked back. A car was following him and for a moment he thought it was Bonga. He decided not to stop walking or even turn around)

I thought we agreed that you were going to stay away from these bitches

(It was Muzi)

Mehluko : I don't know what you are talking about

(Mehluko sat down on a brick and Muzi parked his car and opened the door)

Muzi : I see your brother didn't take your advice. He is still walking around with my baby mama holding hands

Mehluko : Maybe you should just leave them Muzi. Ayabonga is your baby mama not your wife.....Entlek wena why are you always in Khayelisha? Ulandela umawengcosi yakho?

(Muzi laughed)

Muzi : I grew up on these streets, Mehluko. You see, my father used to love it here and at first I thought it was innocent. I followed him around and my people told me that no i tayma linesijehana khona hier (My father had a girlfriend here)

Mehluko : And you decided to join him and find yourself a girlfriend too?

(Muzi chuckled)

Muzi : I had no problem with that but you know when the problem started?

Mehluko : I don't but I bet you are going to tell me.

Muzi : When he started hitting my mother. I had to take Mo away to protect her from seeing that side of our father.

Moy'omuhle thinks our father was innocent, she thinks he was a perfect father but I guess it's better that way.

Mehluko : I guess your mother is attracted to abusive men

(Silence)

Muzi : Mehluko tell your brother to stay away from Ayabonga. I'm telling you this for the last time...Believe me if I got my own father killed then trust me your brother means nothing. Take precautions

(Muzi closed his door and drove off. Mehluko stood up with his hands behind his head. He couldn't believe what he just heard from Muzi)

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(Mehluko went home and he found his father sitting outside. He took a crate and sat down. There was silence just music from Rebecca's tarven)

Mehluko : Nkos'inami needs to go back to Port Shepstone tomorrow before something bad happens to him.

Mabaso : Things are already bad Mehluko.

Mehluko : He is still alive baba and he needs to go before Muzi kill him.

Mabaso : What about my wife? What about your mother?

(Mehluko looked up at his father who was leaning on the door)

Mehluko : This has got nothing to do with my mother tayma.

Mabaso : You don't know what you are talking about Mehluko. Sakhiwo Zulu didn't die, he is still messing up with my life ngisho esefile. (He chuckled) That man has a way of bringing his family closer to me and it doesn't matter if he is dead or alive. He always wins

Mehluko : Baba ukhuluma ngani?

Mabaso : Mehluko do you think I chose this life? Ukuba isidakwa? No I didn't. Your mother drove me to alcohol.

Mehluko : My mother?

Mabaso : Your mother. I did everything for that woman but no

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it wasn't enough for her. She cheated on me

Mehluko : Baba come on. My mother would never do that.

Mabaso : She woke up everyday and she told me that she was going to work. I believed. One of the days she came back late from work as usual and I was standing here waiting for her. A very expensive car dropped her off. I asked her ukuthi ekabani and she told me it was one of her colleagues.

Mehluko : Colleagues?

Mabaso : That's exactly what I asked her. I asked her ukuthi kanjani because she was working as a domestic worker emajaridini? She said I know nothing about her life. Time went by and she didn't come home at all. When she did come home wengafuni ngimthinte. We had a blanket that separated us every night. Mehluko that life was too much for me and I started drinking

Mehluko : I don't believe this baba.

Mabaso : It's ok. What I want you to know is that your mother was not perfect. Your mother died from HIV and Tuberculosis.

(Mehluko stood up and kicked the crate)

Mehluko : What?

Mabaso : Sakhiwo Zulu infected my wife with HIV. Muzi's father killed your mother

Mehluko : No baba

Mabaso : Luyanda is not my daughter

Mehluko : Baba what are you saying?

Mabaso : u Luyanda akayena u Mabaso. U Luyanda uwu Zulu

Mehluko : No baba. Kanjani? Luyanda is your daughter.

Mabaso : No she is not. I raised her, you raised her but akayena owalayikhaya. Your girlfriend and Muzi are her family. She is their sister.

(Mabaso walked away. Mehluko walked inside and he watched Luyanda sleeping. He sat down next to her and she brushed her hair. It broke his heart that his sister had to grow up without any of her parents. Muzi took away her father's life. Mehluko sat down on a chair and he looked at the card that he took from Ronald)

(The following morning Nkos'inami came back)

Nkos'inami : Aibo zalo did you sleep?

Mehluko : No. Where are you coming from?

Nkos'inami : Khayelisha BnB

Mehluko : I see. Inami today you are going back to Port Shepstone

Nkos'inami : Uyangitshela noma uyangibuza

Mehluko : I'm telling you

Nkos'inami : Oh yah. No zalo I'm not going anywhere
okwamanje

Mehluko : Nkos'inami If you don't go Muzi will kill you. Inami he
killed his father

Nkos'inami : Ok

Mehluko : Ok?

Nkos'inami : What do you want me to say? Meh, I'm not scared
of Muzi and I told him yesterday. If you guys are scared of him
then that's your problem not mine. Muzi can't dictate my life

Mehluko : Inami we have bigger problems. Please leave Ayabonga

Nkos'inami : Problems will always be there Meh. You don't understand life zalo. I don't know if you are slow or what.

Mehluko : Luyanda is Muzi's sister

Nkos'inami : Hhe?

Mehluko : Yah

Nkos'inami : Hhaibo wena Meh. So her father is Muzi's father?

(Mehluko looked at Nkos'inami)

Mehluko : You knew about this?

Nkos'inami : I knew that Luyanda akayona ingcosi ye ankeli but I didn't know ukuthi ubani I tayma lakhe.

Mehluko : I see. No wonder your mother hated my mother

Nkos'inami : Ey I don't know Meh

Mehluko : No I'm serious. Those people hated my mother. I remember telling them that my mother was sick and they asked me stupid questions.

Nkos'inami : You need to tell Moy'omuhle about Luyanda.

Mehluko : No I won't. ULuyanda akahlangani nabantu bakwa Zulu especially Muzi.

Nkos'inami : Don't be selfish Meh. Luyanda deserves to know her family

Mehluko : We are her family!

Nkos'inami : This kid deserves better Meh and you can't give it to her so myise edladleni lakhe.

Mehluko : Ungangidakelwa wena! I will make sure that Luyanda gets everything she wants. Even if it means that I have to go out there and rob people

Nkos'inami : Usuyasangana ke manje. You want to go to jail for stupid reasons?

Mehluko : O batla kereng? Luyanda ke ngcosi yako dladleng and she is not going anywhere....I don't know what to do anymore. Le Moy'omuhle o pregnant.

Nkos'inami : Ithi uyagingqa

Mehluko : I'm telling you the truth....You know what let me call these people.

Nkos'inami : What people?

Mehluko : Some people who told me about some stupid telenovela and they told me to come for auditions

Nkos'inami : Abanye be TV futhi?

Mehluko : Yah.... Where is this card now?

(Mehluko looked around and he found the card)

Nkos'inami : Yee zalo uyabona kodwa ukuthi you are meant for bigger things in life.

Mehluko : Inami these things are not paying much and this is a once off thing so what will happen after that? I need a decent job. fast

Nkos'inami : Give it a shot. You'll never know maybe this is what you are good at

Mehluko : I know it isn't but it's worth trying right....Fuck! I need to go to the tarven

(Mehluko looked at the time)

Nkos'inami : It's still early

Mehluko : I know but I still need to go to Msizi's house

Nkos'inami : Ebaba awume kancane indaba zo Msizi. His mother will take care of him

Mehluko : No zalo. Msizi is in that wheelchair because of me so I have to do this

Nkos'inami : Just stop Mehluko! When will you ever stop blaming yourself for other people's mistakes?

(Mehluko's phone rang. He checked the screen and it was Moy'omuhle. He took a deep sigh)

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(Moy'omuhle and Mehluko were sitting in Moy'omuhle's car)

Moy'omuhle : You look tired. Long day?

Mehluko : Yeah

Moy'omuhle : Are you ok?

Mehluko : Yes Mamah I'm fine

Moy'omuhle : I see. Muzi said he saw you with a woman

Mehluko : Oh so I'm being watched now, everywhere I go?

Moy'omuhle : That's not what I said

Mehluko : Ey Moy'omuhle I don't have time for your brother's shit.

(Mehluko opened his wallet and took out R1000.)

Mehluko : Here. For your doctor's appointment tomorrow

Moy'omuhle : You gave me money last week.

Mehluko : I get paid every week Moy'omuhle

Moy'omuhle : No keep it. I don't need it

Mehluko : I nonsense ke lo ongitshela yona manje.

Moy'omuhle : Oh is that so?

Mehluko : Sthandwa sami. I don't want to fight with you

Moy'omuhle : Who said anything about fighting?

Mehluko : No one

Moy'omuhle : When am I meeting with your father?

Mehluko : Soon

(Mehluko was busy putting the money in Moy'omuhle's purse)

Moy'omuhle : Everyday is soon. Which date is soon?

Mehluko : What's your problem today?

Moy'omuhle : I don't have a problem

Mehluko : Uzohlangana no baba just give me time. Naye he is still busy ngoba kwakhiwa nje lapha edladleni

Moy'omuhle : I see

Mehluko : You see what? Your mood swings are driving me insane

Moy'omuhle : Ungangihlanyeli mina Meh. You came here udiniwe

Mehluko : What are you talking about? You know what? I better go

Moy'omuhle : Enza okubonayo ke.

(Mehluko chuckled and shook his head)

Mehluko : Utshela mina lokho? Serious?

Moy'omuhle : What do you want me to say? I see that you are in a hurry

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your girlfriends are waiting for you so go.

Mehluko : What girlfriends?

(Moy'omuhle was wiping her tears already)

Mehluko : Mamah please don't do that. Ok I'm sorry

(Mehluko pulled her closer and kissed her. Moy'omuhle laughed)

Mehluko : Lesisu siyakuhlanyisa sthandwa sami

Moy'omuhle : No. You are driving me crazy

(They laughed)

Mehluko : Ngiyakuncanywa yezwa?

Moy'omuhle : I love you too baby and I don't want us to fight.

Mehluko : I know Mamah

Moy'omuhle : We promised each other that if there is a problem we talk about it

(Silence)

Mehluko : Mamah tell me.... Do you ever think that maybe Muzi was behind your father's death?

Moy'omuhle : How?

Mehluko : That, maybe he sent people to kill him?

Moy'omuhle : When our father died Muzi was all over the place. Our mother was sick

Mehluko : Sick?

Moy'omuhle : Yes. My mother is...(She swallowed) She is.... Her HIV status is positive

Mehluko : Oh ok

Moy'omuhle : But I'm fine we are all fine...I'm not sick Meh

Mehluko : Mamah relax

Moy'omuhle : Muzi blamed our father. Ethi ugulise u Mah but I don't think he killed him. Baba was killed by Muzi's enemies

Mehluko : Yeah yeah yeah. So your father was a skirt chaser?

Moy'omuhle : That's what my mother said but I refuse to believe that. Baba was a great father

Mehluko : You don't know that

Moy'omuhle : What do you mean?

Mehluko : Nothing... Does he have any other children
ngaphandle kwakho no Muzi.

Moy'omuhle : I don't know. Uthi u Mah wathi ubaba khona
ingane ezayo but he died without showing us leyongane and no
one told any of us anything about that child.

Mehluko : Would you like to meet her?

Moy'omuhle : Her?

Mehluko : I mean that child.

Moy'omuhle : I do. U Muzi wazama ukwibheka but our mother
told him to stop.

Mehluko : Why?

Moy'omuhle : I don't know. Why are you asking me all this?

Mehluko : I was just trying to make a conversation

Moy'omuhle : About something like this?

Mehluko : I don't know much about you Moy'omuhle and I was.... Forget it.

Moy'omuhle : I understand baby and I don't blame you

Mehluko : Since you don't want us to talk about your family let me tell you about what happened. The other day I was walking around lapha esthawa and this producer told me to come for auditions

Moy'omuhle : Are you serious baby?

Mehluko : Sho. They will give me a call soon to let me know when I should come for the auditions

Moy'omuhle : You never told me that you were into that kind of stuff.

Mehluko : I'm not but I have to get in on every door that opens. Things are different now. We have a baby on the way

Moy'omuhle : I know my love but don't put yourself under unnecessary pressure

Mehluko : Kumele ngilethe ingeza muzi

Moy'omuhle : Don't worry about those things. We don't believe in such things in my family

Mehluko : Kanjani manje?

Moy'omuhle : Don't worry about it Meh.

Mehluko : I will do it soon Mamah

Moy'omuhle : I know but don't stress yourself about it
sthandwa sami

Mehluko : I just want to do the right thing

Moy'omuhle : I get that.

Mehluko : How is my boy today?

(Mehluko kissed Moy'omuhle's stomach)

Moy'omuhle : Your GIRL is doing fine. She is making me sick

Mehluko : This is not a girl mamah

Moy'omuhle : The scan will confirm soon and if it's a girl you will be there to watch me when I'm giving birth and if it's a boy you won't. Deal?

Mehluko : Ay ay ay Mamah. Ie deal Ie

(They laughed)

Moy'omuhle : Come on baby

Mehluko : Ok fine. We have a deal... Vele umfana lo. U BnB ka baba

(Moy'omuhle laughed out loud)

Moy'omuhle : You are calling him BnB?

Mehluko : Wenzelwe e Khayelisha BnB mos

(They laughed)

Moy'omuhle : Ok ke baba ka BnB

Mehluko : Yeah Mamah lo u Celwenkosini BnB Mabaso

Moy'omuhle : Celwenkosini?

Mehluko : Yes

(Moy'omuhle kissed Mehluko's cheek)

Moy'omuhle : I love you baba ka BnB

Mehluko : I love you too Mamah

Moy'omuhle : BnB and I need to go now

(She laughed)

Mehluko : Hau imani kancane

Moy'omuhle : It's getting late my love

Mehluko : Ok let's go to the BnB. I need you tonight

Moy'omuhle : Let's go (She smiled)

Mehluko : Come and sit here. I'll drive

27

(It was Thursday morning and Mehluko was getting ready to go to Rebecca's tavern)

Mehluko : Luyanda finish up. I'll leave you mawungaqedi

Luyanda : I'm done. Where is my bag?

Mehluko : There it is.

Luyanda : Tonight I'll sleep at Mah Rebecca's house

Mehluko : Ok.

(Silence)

Mehluko : Can I ask you something

Luyanda : Yah

Mehluko : Luya do you like to stay here?

Luyanda : Yes kancane

Mehluko : Kancane?

Luyanda : Phela Maka Mehluko is no longer staying here so it's boring now

Mehluko : So you don't want to stay with me anymore?

Luyanda : I do but wena you are always working. Akusafani njengasekuqaleni

Mehluko : But if I don't go to work I won't have money to give you

Luyanda : Ngiyazi

Mehluko : Ok ngenza isbonelo neh? What if bathi wena you have another family

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would you like to meet them?

Luyanda : Another family kanjani manje?

Mehluko : Ngenza I example mos. So?

Luyanda : I don't understand your example

Mehluko : Ok let's try again. Mhlampe bathi wena you are not baba's daughter and your father is somebody else. Would you like to meet your father's family?

Luyanda : Now?

Mehluko : No not now Luya

Luyanda : When?

Mehluko : Luya phela ngenza isbonelo

Luyanda : Ok so your example ithi ngiya nini?

Mehluko : Would you like to meet them?

Luyanda : Ay my father is at Mah Rebecca's house.

Mehluko : Eish Luya why uzenza dom manje? I'm saying what if bathi lo baba oka Rebecca is not your father and your father is someone else would you like to meet with them? That family?

Luyanda : Mhmm... Yes

Mehluko : Are you sure?

Luyanda : Yes

(Mehluko sighed)

Mehluko : Ok

Luyanda : Why are you making examples?

Mehluko : Because you are always asking me questions so it was my turn today

(Luyanda laughed)

Mehluko : Uyazi ngiyakuncwanywa angithi?

Luyanda : Yes and I love you too

Mehluko : Come here

(Mehluko kneeled down and hugged Luyanda)

Mehluko : Now give me your bag and let's go

Luyanda : Ok...Bhuti Nkosi didn't come back last night

Mehluko : Uyamazi nje but he will pick you up from school

Luyanda : Ok.Here is my bag....Your phone is ringing

Mehluko : Where is it?

(They looked for Mehluko's phone and they found it. Mehluko answered)

Mehluko : Hello

Mr Mehluko Mabaso Good morning my good sir

Mehluko : Morning

You are speaking to Menzi Gweva from Transnet engineering department

(Mehluko wanted to scream)

Mehluko : Oh my goodness!

(Menzi laughed)

Menzi : So you know what this call is about? That's good. Please come for the interview on Monday at 09h00 am and when you get here please ask for Raphael Mpungose. I will email you all the details and required documents

Mehluko : Mr Gweva thank you so much sir. I'll be there

Menzi : Nice one...I'm looking forward to seeing you mfoka Mabaso

Mehluko : Same here. Thank you

Menzi : Ayke have a great day ahead

Mehluko : You too sir thank you

(Menzi hung up)

Mehluko : Yeeees!!!

Luyanda : Yini?

Mehluko : This one is mine Luya. I can feel it

Luyanda : Ini?

Mehluko : You won't understand. Let's go

(Mehluko was so excited and he couldn't wait to tell Moy'omuhle)

Luyanda : You got another job?

Mehluko : Yah. My dream job

Luyanda : Ngempela?

Mehluko : Yah. I know I'll get it and now I'll be able to provide you with anything you want and take you to good schools

(Luyanda smiled)

Luyanda : Ujabulile ngempela yazi Meh. You were not this happy when you got a job at the tavern

(Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : I told you that you wouldn't understand. Come

(Mehluko locked the door)

28

(Later that day Mehluko met with Ayabonga and he told him about the call he received regarding the job interview.

Moy'omuhle was so happy for him)

Moy'omuhle : Baby these are wonderful news

Mehluko : I know Mamah. Eish I waited for so long to get that call

Moy'omuhle : Wow look at God

Mehluko : He answers prayers neh even if we don't go to church

(They laughed)

Mehluko : But what if I don't get this job?

Moy'omuhle : Trust me, you will get it.

Mehluko : I really hope so. BnB deserves the best Mamah

(Moy'omuhle rubbed her stomach)

Moy'omuhle : I'm so blessed to have you in my life. Thanks to Shoprite and that trolley

(They laughed)

Mehluko : Mamah you almost broke my ankle.

Moy'omuhle : Ihaba! (She laughed) Yooo! You were so angry

Mehluko : I got dumped that day

Moy'omuhle : Are you serious?

Mehluko : Yeah ngangisuka kwenye ithekeni and that day she told me that it was over between us because she was pregnant ingane yenye I out

Moy'omuhle : And then you met your baby mama

Mehluko : Yes sthandwa sami. Come here

(Mehluko kissed her and looked into her eyes)

Mehluko : Moy'omuhle ngiyakuncanywa blind and thank you for being patient with me

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I know that sometimes I fuck up. I know that I'm not the perfect boyfriend for you but thank you for sticking around sthandwa sami.

Moy'omuhle : Yeah yeah. Sometimes you ignore my calls ngingazi kwenzekeni (She laughed)

Mehluko : I know Mamah but ta. You are the most amazing woman I've ever met and I'm glad that you are pregnant. I trust you with my baby. Fuck! I love you woman

(Moy'omuhle blushed)

Mehluko : I have something really important to tell you about.

Moy'omuhle : Yeah?

Mehluko : I don't even know where to start

Moy'omuhle : Start from the beginning

(Mehluko sighed)

Mehluko : A couple of days ago my father told me something very disturbing

Moy'omuhle : Disturbing how?

Mehluke : He told me that your father and my mother were in a relationship

Moy'omuhle : No no no. No Meh please don't tell me that you are my brother. Is that why you were asking me all those questions about my father? Are you my brother Mehluke? But how?

Mehluke : Mamah listen to me. I'm not your brother but....

Moy'omuhle : But what? Yazi I knew it. I knew the moment you asked me about my father that there was more to it. I knew it!

Mehluke : Are you going to listen to me?

Moy'omuhle : Talk Mehluke

Mehluke : Why are you getting all so worked up pho manje?

Moy'omuhle : You just told me that my father and your mother were in a relationship so what now? Am I supposed to be happy about it? I know where this is going ngivele ngabona ngokubonga kwakho ukuthi something is coming. Break up with me. Angithi ilokho vele? Mehluko are you my brother?

Mehluko : No I'm not your brother. Luyanda is your sister

Moy'omuhle : What?

(Her eyes were wide open)

Mehluko : Yeah. My father told me a couple of days ago but Moy'omuhle listen I'm not telling you this because we want something from your family no si grand. I just want you to know nje that's all

Moy'omuhle : Oh my goodness! So Luyanda is the one that my father wrote on his will.

Mehluko : What?

Moy'omuhle : Yes. Baba left a will and there was Luyanda's name on it. Oh my God! I can't believe this

(Moy'omuhle put her hands over her head)

Moy'omuhle : Why didn't you tell me all along?

Mehluko : I didn't know.

Moy'omuhle : I saw Luyanda's name on that will but my mother said we shouldn't worry about it.... Oh no! I need to tell Muzi

Mehluko : No no no. Don't tell him now. I need to speak to my father first before you tell anyone about this

Moy'omuhle : No Meh. U Luyanda need to come home. Kubo

Mehluko : Kubo kwani? Luyanda has a home. Just because I told you she is your sister you think that you and your family could just take her away from us just like that? No Moy'omuhle u Luyanda akanidingi. Your father is the reason our mother died, u Muzi is a gangster and your step father beats up your mother every fuckin day so don't expect me ukuthi ngizoninika u Luya. Luyanda is my sister. We raised her

(Silence)

Mehluko : I'm sorry but Mamah you can't take her away from us.

Moy'omuhle : But she deserves to know her family.

Mehluko : I agree but not now. Let's give it a week or two then you can tell your family about her

Moy'omuhle : When can I see her?

Mehluko : I'll make time for you to meet her this coming weekend hopefully my father too

(Moy'omuhle smiled tears running down her face)

Moy'omuhle : Life is so full of surprises

Mehluko : I know. Please let's not rush this whole thing. On Saturday I will speak to my father and we will take it from there.

(Mehluko kissed her hand)

Moy'omuhle : Thank you for telling me about this.

Mehluko : Sho.... Aibo! Is that Inami?

(They looked out the window)

Moy'omuhle : Yes with Ayabonga

Mehluko : Inami doesn't listen yazi. What are they doing here?

Moy'omuhle : Maybe they are here to check on you.

Mehluko : Let me go and speak to them Mamah

Moy'omuhle : Ok baby. What time are you going to finish working today?

Mehluko : Today it's Thursday, right? So I'm finishing at 23h00

Moy'omuhle : Ok baby. I'll see you tomorrow

Mehluko : Ok Mamah. Call me when you get home

Moy'omuhle : Will do. Kiss kiss

(Mehluko kissed her for too long and Moy'omuhle broke the kiss and laughed)

Moy'omuhle : That's enough baba ka BnB

(They laughed)

Mehluko : Ngiyakuthanda yezwa?

Moy'omuhle : I love you too baby

Mehluko : And please don't tell Muzi about what we spoke about.

Moy'omuhle : I won't baby. Not okwamanje

Mehluko : Sho

(Mehluko kissed Moy'omuhle's stomach and got out of the car. He went back to the tavern)

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Mehluko : Zalo, Ayabonga

Nkos'inami : Eita Zalo

Ayabonga : HI Meh

(Nkos'inami and Ayabonga were playing snooker)

Mehluko : You don't sleep at home any more, zalo. Zithini?

Nkos'inami : My lady here has been keeping me busy

(Ayabonga and Nkos'inami laughed)

Mehluko : Ay ngiyabona. Ayabonga how is your daughter?

Ayabonga : She is ok. She is recovering

Mehluko : That's good

Nkos'inami : I ankeli isedladleni?

Mehluko : Yeah he is with Luyanda

Nkos'inami : What time are you finishing here?

Mehluko : 23h00

Nkos'inami : Eish ok.

Mehluko : What?... Eh zalo phela I got a call from Transnet

Nkos'inami : Are you serious?

Mehluko : Yeah they told me to come for an interview on Monday

Ayabonga : Wow that's great news

Nkos'inami : I'm happy for you zalo. Ngena la

(They fist bumped)

Mehluko : ta nja ka

Nkos'inami : Ey I'm going to spend your money Meh

(Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : I haven't got a job yet but you are already speaking about spending my money

Nkos'inami : Ey uyidle kabi inyuku yami wena

(They laughed)

Mehluko : Ngiyacava and I'll pay you back every cent if I score this job

Nkos'inami : This one is yours, zalo.

Mehluko : Yeah right

(Muzi walked in with his squad. Muzi laughed and clapped hands)

Muzi : The love birds of Khayelisha. Good evening everyone

(Muzi looked at Ayabonga and Nkos'inami then he looked at Mehluko and smiled)

Muzi : I feel generous today and I just want to buy everyone something to eat. Nkosi, what's your favorite meal? I know my baby mama here likes Macaroni

Nkos'inami : Ey fakof Muzi

(Muzi chuckled and winked at Ayabonga)

Muzi : Tell your boyfriend what's my favorite meal. Tell him
maka Olwethu

Ayabonga : Muzi please don't. I'm begging you

Muzi : Ok I'll tell him myself. I love blood, you know, I just enjoy
eating blood especially for stupid people. It tastes different so I
like it

(Nkos'inami laughed)

Nkos'inami : It's funny that you enjoy eating blood but you
almost died because you had no blood and the only reason you
are standing there is because of someone's blood. You are
weak Muzi but ke angikho lapho. You asked about my favorite
meal

do you really want to know? Fine I'll tell you

(Nkos'inami pulled Ayabonga by her waist, He kissed her neck and squeezed her ass. He smiled and winked at Muzi)

Nkos'inami : Really nice

(Muzi tightened his jaw. Mehluko swallowed roughly and cleared his throat)

Mehluko : I think you should go Inami.

Nkos'inami : Go where zalo? Ngidlala I snooker nje.

Muzi : Great! (He chuckled) Ayabonga, where is my daughter?

Ayabonga : She is not here

Muzi : What did you say?

(Muzi walked closer to Ayabonga and he looked angry)

Muzi : My daughter needs you now more than ever in her life but you are busy with every dick la ekasi. Ngikubuza ukuthi iphi ingcosi yami wena uthini?

Nkos'inami : Uthe ayikho hier

Ayabonga : No wait Nkosi I'll handle him. Muzi you don't spend time with your daughter anymore u busy no Lee. It's nice for you to say she is your daughter, she is your daughter. Umgcine nini Muzi? You can't even look at her after that accident and unesbindi sokuza la and ask me where your daughter is?

(Muzi looked at his friends and rubbed his face. Muzi pulled out his gun and Nkos'inami pulled out his. Mehluko was shocked)

Mehluko : Ok. Ngicela nibeke lezibhamu. I have customers here!

Muzi : Didn't I tell you ukuthi utshele lenja yakini ihlukane no Ayabonga? Huh Mehluko?

Nkos'inami : I am not going to do it. Muzi ngizokutshela weer weer. I'm not scared of you and I'll never be scared of you.

(Nkos'inami lowered his and tucked it in under his jacket)

Nkos'inami : You know where to get me mawungidinga Muzi. Nkosazana emhlophe let's go

Mehluko : Inami wait....

(Nkos'inami walked out with Ayabonga. Muzi smiled and shook his head. He rubbed his gun on his face)

Mehluko : Muzi listen I....

Muzi : No no no. I don't have time to listen anymore, Mehluko. I gave you enough time to speak to your brother and now your time is over.

Mehluko : Muzi I promise you ukuthi Saturday uyahamba u Nkos'inami.

Muzi : By Saturday it will be too late. Let me tell you what will happen on Saturday, yabona lapha edladleni lakho bazoba bacula "Njengembali eqhakaza namuhla ngakusasa isibune nya. Ngokunjalo kwangizuma ukufa ngisemusha ngiyingane nje" Do you know that song? Yah. Your family will be singing it on Saturday while your brother alele abheke phezulu lapha e morgue

(Mehluko had that cold feeling in his stomach when he heard those words from Muzi)

Mehluko : There is no need for all of that. Let me talk to Nkos'inami. Give me one last chance. Please

Muzi : Time is over. Gents asvaye

(They walked out. Mehluko shook his head and placed the dishcloth on his shoulder. He pulled out his phone and called Nkos'inami)

Nkos'inami : Zalo

Mehluko : Inami please go back to Port Shepstone

Nkos'inami : I will, ok? Ngiyahamba Sunday but before I go, I need to kill Muzi.

Mehluko : Inami shut up!!! What's wrong with you?

Nkos'inami : I'm serious Meh. I'm tired of this guy

Mehluko : Nkos'inami please be careful.

Nkos'inami : Don't worry about me zalo

(Nkos'inami hung up)

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(30 AUGUST 2019. FRIDAY)

(Mehluko woke up and opened the door for Nkos'inami. The time was 06h00 am)

Mehluko : Wena usuyahlanya. Where did you get that gun?

Nkos'inami : I always had it

Mehluko : Inami please go back to Port Shepstone. Things are getting way out of hand manje

Nkos'inami : Relax zalo. Sunday I'm going. see, I even sent my mother a message telling her that I'm coming.

Mehluko : Ok fine. Utheni u Ayabonga?

Nkos'inami : Ayabonga will be fine. She will come and visit

Mehluko : Inami usuyamuthanda ngempela?

Nkos'inami : Eish yah zalo. I know we started this thing as a game but we've caught feelings now and there is no going back.

Mehluko : Just go away from Khayelisha, maybe no Muzi mengakuboni he will be less jealous and leave you guys.

Nkos'inami : Loyo ngizomucima nje

Mehluko : Stop talking about killing Inami! We are trying to fix things. Luyanda needs to meet with her family and Muzi is part of that family.

Nkos'inami : Then tell him to leave me the fuck alone!

Mehluko : Just go back home and this whole thing will stop.

Nkos'inami : Fine

Mehluko : u Luyanda uphethwe izinyo vandaag and she is not going to school so please keep your eyes on her.

Nkos'inami : Damn limuqale nini?

Mehluko : Last night. She was acting weird nje, ethuka and stuff. I hardly slept

Nkos'inami : Kanjani?

Mehluko : She was crying nje engibamba and she looked scared.

Nkos'inami : Ey zalo maybe she needs to go home. Kubo ka Zulu.

Mehluko : That's what I thought...I just hope she is going to be fine.

(Mehluko covered Luyanda with a blanket)

Nkos'inami : Eish nawe you look tired. How are you going to work looking like that?

Mehluko : I'm tired bro but I'll manage.

(Mehluko went through his phone)

Mehluko : Uuhhh Moy'omuhle is coming here.

Nkos'inami : She can't live without you. I swear to God plus ngoba e pregnant nje uzohlezi ela kuwena.

(Mehluko laughed)

Mehluko : I know....oh these people want me to come on Wednesday for auditions.

Nkos'inami : Serious?

Mehluko : Yaaaah. I just received their email now but I don't think I'll go there

Nkos'inami : No go. Your interview is on Monday so on Wednesday go for the auditions....just in case you don't get this job.

Mehluko : Yeah you are right.

Nkos'inami : I'm always right

(They laughed)

Mehluko : Ok ke Mr right. Awungenzele i 2 slice yebhaba phela

(Nkos'inami laughed)

Nkos'inami : Haa! You want me to make breakfast for you.
Uyahlanya

Mehluko : Uyonzi wangenzelani nje zalo?

(They laughed)

Nkos'inami : Ok cool. I'll make it for you. Get ready for work

Mehluko : ta bro.

(Mabaso walked in singing)

Mabaso : This time has gotta be our last time.... Oh this time
has gotta be our last time (He sang)

Nkos'inami : Now this is my favorite uncle. Yazi uncle Dolly
Parton needs to know how much you love her (He laughed)

(Mabaso looked at Nkos'inami. His eyes filled with tears.
Nkos'inami's face dropped)

Nkos'inami : Ankeli yonke into i grand?

Mabaso : I loved my wife Nkosi

Mehluko : Here we go again.... Tayma yazin? please try to stay away from alcohol tomorrow. We need to talk about something important regarding Luya

Mabaso : I know what you want us to talk about. My boy I'm drunk not stupid and I see that usufuna uku.... (He burped) ukuhambisa I princess yami ka Zulu. It's ok Mehluko, It's ok. The Zulu's are taking everything away from me. They are taking people I love but that's ok. I'll survive

Mehluko : Baba please lala we will talk about this tomorrow.

Nkos'inami : Ay zalo maybe kumele wihlehlele yonke le dai deng okwa nou. I ankele ayikho grand.

Mehluko : I know. He is just drunk and he is going to be fine tomorrow. No one is going to take Luya away from him. I don't know what he is talking about

Mabaso : Where is my princess? Last night she was sleeping when I left.

Mehluko : She is not feeling well, baba. Please don't wake her up

Mabaso : I'll take her to Ribs and she will take care of her

Mehluko : Ok.

(Mehluko finished doing everything and he went to Msizi's house. Later Moy'omuhle came to see him at work. Moy'omuhle was playing Unsteady by X Ambassadors)

Moy'omuhle : Tell me about this song

Mehluko : Ah come on Mamah. I explained to you

Moy'omuhle : No you didn't. You told me to play these songs whenever I miss you

Mehluko : Ay... How is my boy?

(Mehluko kissed Moy'omuhle's stomach and placed his head on it. Moy'omuhle laughed)

Moy'omuhle : What? Are you listening to his heart beat?

Mehluko : I'm just bonding with my son

Moy'omuhle : Ok ke baba ka BnB

(Moy'omuhle pecked Mehluko's lips)

Mehluko : I love you and thank you for this baby Mamah.

(Moy'omuhle smiled)

Moy'omuhle : I love you baba ka BnB wami....You look tired baby

Mehluko : I am. I didn't sleep. Luyanda was sick ubusuku bonke

Moy'omuhle : Oh my goodness where is she? Maybe I need to take her to the doctor

Mehluko : No she will be fine Mamah. You will see her tomorrow... Kiss me Mamah

(Moy'omuhle laughed)

Moy'omuhle : You are such a baby

Mehluko : Hau kiss me sthandwa sami

(Moy'omuhle kissed him and he pushed her away)

Mehluko : Ok stop. Sekuvuka ezinye izinto

(Mehluko played with Moy'omuhle's stomach)

Mehluko : Yah BnB ka baba...(He sighed) I love you my boy and I'm going to give you the world son.

Moy'omuhle : I'm getting jealous

(Mehluko laughed and sat up)

Mehluko : Eish seku 18h00.Iskhathi sijahephi kanti vandaag? I need to go back , sthandwa sami.

Moy'omuhle : Ok I'll see you tomorrow

Mehluko : Yah Mamah. Call me as soon as you get home

Moy'omuhle : As always....Please keep me posted about Luyanda

Mehluko : Sho. Kiss kiss

(They laughed. They kissed. Mehluko went back to the tavern.)

(It was after 23h00 when Nkos'inami came to Rebecca's tavern and it was raining outside)

Mehluko : Zalo what are you doing here?

Nkos'inami : Zalo I'm going to Khayelisha BnB with Ayabonga. U Luya ne ankeli they are here at Rebecca's house. I think they will spend the night

Mehluko : Ok. Pho where is Ayabonga?

Nkos'inami : I left her lapha ku Uber. Muzi is drinking outside with his friend so ubenqena ukungena.

Mehluko : Alright. Is the rain that bad outside?

Nkos'inami : Yah zalo. Usuyaphuma?

Mehluko : Yeah. I told Rebecca that I'm tired mina.

Nkos'inami : Sho. Here is the house key

Mehluko : Ngigaya I jacket phela vele wena there's Uber waiting for you outside.

(Nkos'inami laughed)

Nkos'inami : Ey usile Meh. I'll leave this jacket for you because you love it

Mehluko : ta Zalo (He laughed)

(Nkos'inami took off his jacket and gave it to Mehluko. Mehluko wore it)

Nkos'inami : I'll see you tomorrow ke

Mehluko : Sho. Use the back door. Kunodaka nga hier

Nkos'inami : Sharp zalo. Ngizokubona

(Nkos'inami walked out. Mehluko wiped the tables and Scelo walked in)

Mehluko : Ngiyavaya ke nou

Scelo : Ok Meh. No problem, See you tomorrow.

Mehluko : Sho

(Mehluko walked out and he was on his way home. He felt something stabbing him on his back and again on the right side of his neck)

I told you to stay away from Ayabonga Nkosi.

(That was Muzi's voice. Mehluko turned around and he saw Muzi running to his car. Mehluko touched his neck and he felt the knife that was left on his neck. Mehluko's hand was covered in blood. He was running out of energy but he walked home and managed to open the door. As soon as he walked in he fell down on the floor. He pulled out the knife from his neck and his blood was all over the floor. He searched for his phone in his pocket. He dialed Moy'omuhle's number)

Moy'omuhle : You miss me already baba ka BnB? (She laughed)

Mehluko : I'm dy.....I'm dying

Moy'omuhle : Baby I can't hear you. Please speak up

(Mehluko's phone fell off from his hand)

(I was there for everyone. I tried to save everyone but when I needed someone to save me,there was nobody. The person I saved from death is the one who killed me

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thinking I was Nkos'inami. even my golden blood couldn't save me this time. There was no light at the end of my tunnel, just death waiting for me. I closed my eyes and took my last breath as my life flashes before my eyes.)

Revelation 21:4 " He will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning

nor crying nor pain anymore for the former things have passed away."

In loving memory of Mehluko Mabaso

Born 18 November 1992

Died 30 August 2019

He was a Brother, a Son, a Friend and a Father. To Mehluko "tanja ka"

THE END

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Some of the events included in this book were based on true life events. The moral of the story was to remind us that when bad things happen it doesn't mean that God is never there, God is always there and he is the same God who said " When the time is right I the Lord will make it happen". Do what you love, Be happy and remember it's ok when there is no light at the end of the tunnel, it's part of life. Young people die in a process of reaching their goals, dreams. Not that they did something wrong but because nobody understands God's way of life. Remember to do what you love while you have time to do so because sometimes life is unpleasant and so unpredictable.

Most Importantly. You Don't Know What People Are Dealing With So Don't Judge them. REMEMBER TO BE KIND

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