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## PROLOGUE

Alex clenches his jaw as he listens to his mistress go on and on about their wedding. He glares at his left hand, where his expensive wedding band lays and starts moving it around his finger. He had never taken the ring off because he feared he'd lose it, even when he was humping and grinding on another woman.

The ring had too many memories to count, both good and bad. "The wedding planner thinks the wedding is not too soon. Honestly, if she can't plan it then we might as well cancel it..." Laila says the exact words Alex has been waiting to hear ever since he arrived. With a small smile on his face, he jolts up from the couch and nods. "Then we'll do just that, cancel the wedding."

Laila seemingly taken aback by Alex's words, stops smiling. She is not sure if she heard correctly and if she did, that he means it. "What?" Alex sighs as he realizes that he made his bed when he decided to be with Laila and abandon his wife at home. He realises he was a typical unfaithful man when he promised to

leave his wife and high school sweet heart to be with a fling he met at the club by chance. He knows that he must lie on this bed that he made all by himself.

“I'm a married man and my wife needs me to be there for her, to do right by her. This has been a good couple of months but

all good things come to an end, do they not?" Alex can see the wheels spinning at an incredibly fast pace inside Laila's head. He knew this would not be easy but he had to take a chance. His Jules needs him and he must be there for her her knight in shining armor, as he was the day they met.

"Now of all time, you remember that you are married? You are crazy if you think you can just use me then dump me like I'm nothing. You said you are going to leave that good for nothing woman for me, Alex. I can sue you for this!" Laila threatens, seeing red as she spews her words. He had expected her to lose her bananas for a while but she'll cool down and come to her senses. She will realize that he was never hers to begin with.

"I did not use you, it was infact, you who used me. But then if that's how you see it, at least you benefited from this ordeal. You can keep the house and the car, I'll have them transferred to your name by the end of business week. Stay away from my wife and I, goodbye." Alex makes means to walk out of the house with a triumph smile when he hears Laila continue to threaten him. "You will regret this, Alexander Collins. I will make your life a living hell!"

1

## JULIETTE

Disappointment, an emotion I feel everyday yet I cannot seem to get used to it. That is what I feel when I wake up and find that I am alone in this huge bed. I have been alone for a year yet I keep on hoping and praying that things will change. That he will come back to me, that things will go back to the way they were.

I groan as I stretch my arms then get out of bed. My mind drifts off in thought as I am fixing the bed. Alexander Collins, the man I have loved for as long as I can remember. I know that I will continue to love him even when he wants nothing to do with me. Because I continue to love him even after he has hurt me so deeply.

He has been doing this for years, leaving for work very early in the morning and coming back home late. In the first few weeks I would stay up all night waiting for him, hoping he'll hold me all night long but he would keep his distance. I would bring him lunch to work but sometimes his employees would not let me through.

The last few weeks, I would not give a damn. Thoughts of infidelity crossed my mind, but I refused to dignify them with

my attention. At some point, I decided to confront him but he would tell me that our expenses and this standard of living will not pay for themselves. I don't know if he thought I truly believed him but I didn't. He could do better.

If I knew we would go through such, I wouldn't even have bothered. After making the bed, I made my way to the bathroom to take a well deserved shower and freshen up.

I thought I heard a thud coming from downstairs while taking a shower. I wrapped a towel around my anatomy, slipped on my slippers then silently made my way down the staircase.

Alex would kill me should anything happen to his expensive furniture or mansion.

The thud came again. I picked up a bat that Alex left just next to the staircase then followed the thud which led to the kitchen.

I sighed out loud and put the bat down as soon as I came to sight with Alex.

"Oh, hey honey." He greeted after raising his head. He flashed his beautiful smile.

He was wearing his boxer pants and slippers then an apron over his chiseled torso.

"When did you wake up? I'm making breakfast and I was hoping I could serve it to you in bed but that doesn't matter because you're already up." He said.

"Br... Breakfast?" I queried.

That was abstruse to me. Alex never slept home and he certainly didn't make breakfast.

He stopped chopping and glared at me. I swear he was undressing me with his eyes.

"I'll pretend I didn't see any of this. Let me go back." I said then spun on my toes and hurried out.

Dream perhaps? That sounds about right.

Once in the bedroom, I applied body lotion and put on lounge tracksuits and socks. I threw myself on the bed and kept myself busy on my cellphone.

Alex is ten years older than me. We started dating when I was fourteen and he was obviously twenty four. We dated for three years until he surprised me by showing up at school with a box of chocolates, a bouquet of roses and a paperbag which contained a dress and heels.

"Alex, what are you doing here?" I asked and he smirked.

"Happy valentines day." He said then leaned in to kiss me. I backed away. He chuckled.

"You don't have to be afraid of anything, you know that." He said.



"What will people say? They'll call me all sorts of names for dating someone who's way older than me." I said looking down.

"Take this then." He said handing me the bouquet of roses and the chocolates.

"We're going to set things straight. We'll tell them I'm your... Relative." He added on with a stern look on his face.

"Okay then." I took the flowers and chocolates and led him to my friends who were waiting with folded arms and questioning looks.

"Uhm girls, this is Alexander Collins  
my..."

"Oh my goodness!" One of my friends shouted and I looked behind me only to find him kneeling down, holding a small box with a ring inside.

Tears immediately stung my eyes. I covered my mouth with my hand and swallowed the hard lump on my throat.

"Juliette Sherwood, my love." He said.

"Alex..."

"I'm asking you in front of everyone because I love you and I want to spend the rest of my life with you. I want to wake up with you in my embrace and go to sleep knowing I'm with the love of my life. Please marry me." He said.

I looked at Alex then at everyone else. I was getting no reaction but there were cameras all over.

"Say yes!" Someone from the crowd screamed.

I looked at Alex and thought. I'm too young and you're too old. What are my parents going to think? What will my friends say about me? What will the teachers say to me? What's going to happen to me?

I found myself looking into his ocean blue eyes. I love him, yes and I swore that nobody or nothing will separate us.

"Alex..." I called out.

"Yes." He said looking nervous.

"I'll marry you." I said. Everyone started screaming and I found myself smiling. He laughed and took the ring out and held my left hand and put the ring on my finger.

He got up and lifted me up. He spun me around then stopped and passionately kissed me. Everyone was still screaming then.

"I love you..." He whispered into my ear.

"I love you too." I whispered back.

I smiled at my memory then wiped my tears.

"Babe..." Alex called out, now next me. I didn't even hear when he got here.

I looked at him and he pecked my lips. He took my cellphone and checked what I was busy with.

"You still have these?" He asked and I nodded.

"I'll never lose these pictures. It was one of the best days of my life." I said smiling.

"Remember how nervous you were?" He asked and I laughed.

"I feared what people were going to say. A seventeen year old dating a twenty seven year old man." I said.

"A twenty seven year old man who loved you to the moon and back." He said.

"And the seventeen year old loved you more than you could possibly think." I said tapping his nose.

"I knew when she agreed to marry me in front of everyone that she loved me." He said.

"And I still do. I love you a lot." He said.

"Not more than I love you." He said.

"Right, I'm starving." I said licking my lips.

Alex is a good cook but he barely cooked for me. My mouth instantly watered at the sight of the food. I extended my hand to reach out for the eating utensils but he held me hand.

"Huh-uh." He said stopping me.

"Allow me..." He said and I shook my head and chuckled.

I watched as he cut the bread and stuck the fork onto the eggs, the bacon, the tomato, the lettuce, and everything else I couldn't mention then fed it to me.

I closed my eyes while chewing to savor the deliciousness of the meal.

"Don't moan." He said and I stopped chewing and looked at him.

"You'll make me horny." He said and I laughed.

"Stop fooling around, I'm hungry." I said and he laughed.

"So, what were you doing with the bat?" He queried and I laughed.

"I heard a thud while taking a shower so I assumed there were criminals in the house. Well, I had to go and check so I took the bat for protection." I said.

He put the eating utensils down and reached out for my coffee and handed it to me. He looked down as if feeling guilty of something then looked up again.

"I know I've been too busy for you, sometimes I didn't even come home but that will change from now on. I'll have time for my business and my family." He said.

Astonished, I swallowed my coffee hard.

"Is there something wrong?" I queried.

"No. I'm just feeling guilty for doing you wrong. I promised you and swore in front of god and everyone that I will love you even in sickness and in health but instead I distanced myself from you. I don't know what would've happened to me should you have left me and some dude from somewhere took you." He said and I chuckled.

"I'm glad you stuck around and tolerated my crap." He added.

"Your crap is my crap, you know that." I said and he chuckled.

"Open wide." He said and I did. He stuffed the food inside my mouth then leaned in and pecked my lips.

"Well, I took a few days off so what do you want to do?" He asked.

"Really?"

"Yes. I want to spend some quality time with my wife." He said.

"Well, anything?" I asked and he nodded.



2

ALEXANDER

"Its beautiful, isn't it?" She asked looking at the sun setting.

I turned to look at her, lying on my chest with both my hands against hers and our fingers intertwining.

"Yes, beautiful." I responded.

She really was beautiful, more than you could imagine. Her aquamarine eyes sparkled whenever she smiled like she was and when she did, I swear the heavens opened up.

Her long brown silky hair complements her pale skin tone. She has small cherry pink lips that taste of strawberries and a heart of an angel.

Losing her would be like digging my own grave. Cheating on her was the worst decision I could make, especially knowing very well that she doesn't tolerate cheating. She could love you like nobody's business but cheating is a deal breaker for her.

"I had a great day." She said playing with my fingers.

"Me too. I wish we could do this every single day." I said and she giggled.

Sexy.

"We should probably go." She said trying to sit up straight but I tightened my hands and pushed her back down.

"Alex..."

"We'll go after the sun has set. I still want to bond with you." I said.

She sighed and rested back. I felt her nerves relaxing and I found myself smiling.

What did I do to deserve this beautiful work of art lying on my chest? Whatever it is, I'd do it a thousand times to keep her to myself.

We silently sat back and watched as the sun set, leaving a beautiful glittery orange finish off of the lake right next to the lawn. Extremely beautiful.

The next morning, I succeeded in making the breakfast in bed. She was sleeping peacefully, snoring lightly with her lips slightly apart.

I put the tray of breakfast aside then climb on top of the bed. I caged her between my arms then pecked her lips countless times until she awoke.

"Morning, beautiful."

She blushed and looked away. I sat on my buttocks and watched as she sat up. She yawned and stretched her arms then turned to me.

"We've been married for seven years and you're still shy? I mean, you've orgasmed for me and made me cum but you're still shy?" I queried.

She never ceased to appal me with her shyness. Her cheeks turned scarlet and she quickly covered her face with her hands.

"I missed you, the gorgeous expression you make when you orgasm, your sweet moans, your glow after making love..." I said smiling.

She nudged me while laughing shyly.

"Alex, stop it." She said still looking away.

I chuckled then turned to take the tray of food from the nightstand and put it on my laps.

"Hungry?" I asked and she nodded vigorously.

We asked each other a few questions about our plans for the day while feasting on the English breakfast I had prepared.

I love how she beams up whenever she comes to sight with food. Not any food though, delicious, scrumptious and mouthwatering food. And no matter how much she eats, her body is always chiseled and in place. She has a small waist with small perky breasts and a flat stomach. She has a bullethole with strong thighs and a bubble butt. In my opinion, she's perfect.

I dropped her off at her mother's house and made my way to work.

Now that I've seen the light, broke it off with Laila and bonded with my wife, things should fall into place.

I was very broken when I found out that Juliette was infertile and I wouldn't have any children. I distanced myself from her and became belligerent towards her.

That's where Laila came in. I met her at a gala. She was clad in a black velvet body hugging dress that showed off her features and judging by the glances I was receiving, I assumed she was interested in me so I got to know her.

We started fornicating a few weeks after the gala and that's when I totally distanced myself from Julie. As time went by, I realized that what I was doing was very wrong and I broke it off with Laila.

I had promised her a whole lot of things - a mansion, a car, a wedding, money, you name it. But then those things were nothing compared to my Julie. Laila was and still is nothing.

I picked up my cellphone from my desk and quickly dialing Juliette's number and awaited her to pick up but it rang until the call ended. I called her again and it remained unanswered.

I called her countless times but she still didn't answer. I started panicking as a thousand thoughts crossed my mind. She's with her parents, what could go wrong?

'She might have fallen on top of a nail

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ran over by a car, the house imploded, she was kidnapped, or she might have committed suicide. Who knows?' My inner voice said.

I got up from chair and grabbed my car keys and cellphone then rushed out of the office. Once in my car, I called her mother and she answered after a few rings.

"Mother, where's Juliette?" I queried in a state of anxiety.

"Alexander, she's here with me." She said, softly.

"Tell her to stay put, I'm coming to fetch her." I said rushing through the traffic.

"But..."

"Mother, please. I'm only a few minutes away. I'll be there in no time." I said then hung up.

Her not answering or attending to my calls daunted me. I had never been so anxious in my life nor dazed. I was definitely not ready to lose her and I doubt I ever will.

I pulled up by the gate where she was waiting with her mother then got out to open the door for her. I watched as they shared a quite long and comforting hug before she got inside the car. I jogged back to my side then drove off.

A feeling of delight washed over me as soon as I set my eyes on her, glad she's fine and not in any kind of trouble.

"So, you're not going you explain yourself?" She asked, looking at me expectedly.

"You're the one who should do the explaining here, why weren't you answering my calls?" I asked back.

She folded her arms and looked out the window.



"I left my cellphone in my bag and helped mother in the garden. What's your story?" She asked with confidence.

"I was worried about you because you weren't taking my calls. Do you blame me?" I asked and she shook her head.

We silently drove back home after I had decided to finish off with work at home. She disappeared into the bathroom while I changed into comfortable clothing then went to work in my office.

While busy, I received a call from a private number... Strange.

"Alex, its Laila." She said. I removed my cellphone from my ear in attempt to hang up then I heard her pleading.

"Please don't hang up, please." She beseeched.

"Talk." I said, sternly.

"I'm sorry. For threatening you and for everything else I've done. Please come back, I miss you." She whimpered.

"Laila..."

"Alex, I love you and I know you love me too. You don't love her, Alex. You love me." She said.

"Laila, don't patronize me." I said.

"Alex, please come back to me. I promise, I'll change. I'll do everything you want, I'll..."

"Laila! I want you to lose my number and stay the hell away from my wife and I. I don't love you, I have never loved you and I never will. Now go hang yourself." I said with gritted teeth then hung up.

I turned my cellphone off then buried my face in my hands. What have I gotten myself into?

There was a soft knock on the door that made me raise my head then Julie walked in holding two cups of coffee. She was clad in a lace nightdress with a matching silky red robe and her slippers.

"I brought coffee." She said with a polite smile.

I sat back on my chair and made way for her to settle on my lap then she handed me a cup.

"I'm not disturbing, am I?" She asked and I shook my head then took a sip of my coffee. No one makes coffee like she does. Its just the way I like it- strong and black, no sugar and with a touch of love.

"Is everything alright?"

"Yes, all is well. I'm just a bit strained because of a certain business deal." I lied.

"Okay, dinner will be ready in a few minutes." She said getting up from my lap then made her way out.

3

JULIETTE

We silently ate our dinner while watching a movie on Netflix. He was too quiet for my liking. The Alex I know always had something to say.

He always commented on what the characters were doing, saying and often mocked them of their looks, but not tonight.

"Alex..." I called out to him.

"Mmhh?" He responded without taking his eyes off the plate.

"I know there's something bothering you, what is it?" I asked. He raised his head and looked at me, forcing a smile.

"What makes you think there's something bothering me?" He asked back.

"Did I do something wrong? Do you not like the food? Is it work? What is it?" I asked.

"I'm fine, honey." He said.

I could hear him sigh out loud and I couldn't help but wonder... "Alex..." I called out. "I said I'm fine!" He yelled, sending shivers down my spine.

Never in my life had I seen him so... Furious. Alex gets angry, yes but he normally doesn't yell at me. He'd rather ignore me until he has calmed down, so suddenly seeing this side of his scared me to death.

As lachrymose as I am, when I sensed my eyes were watery, I quickly got up and rushed to the kitchen just in time for them to roll down my cheeks.

I put my plate in the sink, wiped my tears then held on to the sink and sobbed lightly. My marriage couldn't fall apart just after working on it.

Where did I go wrong?

I felt hard hands on my waist followed by hot breath on my neck. I automatically knew it was Alex, I mean its just the two of us.

"Babe, I'm sorry." He said, softly.

I tried to get out of his hold but he tightened his grip. "I know you're only trying to help but I just pushed you away. I'm just so stressed, I can't even talk about it. I don't want any harm to come your way, I'm sorry for hurting you." He said then nuzzled my neck followed by my ear.

I bit my lower lip as I was starting to get aroused, the affection was too much for me. I was literally going through a dry spell after a year of Alex not touching me.

"Am I forgiven?" He whispered into my ear.

"A... Alex..." I softly moaned his name.

"Sshh, hush. Let's go to bed." He whispered again and I nodded.

The following morning I was meeting up with my friend, Nahida. She's my High school friend and a very good one indeed that's why I still kept her as my friend.

"So, you're smiling." She said dragging me out of my cloud of thoughts.

"You're also smiling."

"Not your usual smile." She said.

"Oh really now?" She always said I had a fake smile and that she could tell I was going through a lot of pain.

"That's not what I meant, your smile is too bright, its blinding me." She said putting her sunglasses on then slouched.

"Argh, stop it!" I said throwing a sealed packet of sugar at her. She laughed and I joined in.

"But seriously though, you're glowing." She said.

"That's a good thing

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right?" I queried and she nodded. "So tell me, what's going on?" She asked as curious as ever.

"Well, something is going on and its something good." I said. As if pulling her attention, she sat up straight and leaned in closer.

"Well, Alex and I are working on our marriage. Its been a week now and things seem to be falling into place." I said then giggled. She smiled.

"So last night, he made an effort to touch me at least. We did not make love but he touched me."



"What really happened?" She asked trying to get more out of me.

"He kissed me with passion and love. He made me pop with just his tongue and boy, it felt good. We shared a shower together and he just couldn't get his hands off me." I said then bit my lower lip. "Well, thats a start, right?" I queried and she squealed.

"Its not a start, you guys are making progress. I just think he wants to start small since you guys haven't been intimate for over a year now. I doubt he wants to make you feel uncomfortable all of a sudden. He just wants to remind you that he's still the gentleman you fell in love with." She said.

She might be right. I understand where he's from. We've always spoke of having a big family with lots of children but when he found I couldn't fall pregnant, both our worlds shattered.

I also wouldn't touch myself after finding that out and now I think he has accepted. All I had to do was to give him some space.

"Does that mean he has forgotten about having children?" I queried.

"No. I think he has made peace with the fact that you can't bear him children and if you can't then no one else will for he's not ready to explore other options." She said and I nodded. Sounded about right.

After meeting Nahida, I joined Alex for lunch at the office. He had invited me over and I honestly couldn't wait.

"Alex... I'm ready." I said, shyly.

"What do you mean?" He asked, looking perplexed.

"I mean I'm ready to... You know." I said looking at my fingers.

He lit up instantly but tried to hide it. He knew what I was talking about and he just couldn't wait for me to be ready.

"Just please take it easy, I know you were going through a dry spell and..."

"I'll be gentle, I promise." He said and I nodded. He tipped my head with his fingers then slowly leaned in to capture my lips, kissing me softly.

"Juliette, Julie!" Alex called out to me, looking worried.

"Uhm... You were saying?"

"You zoned out again?" He asked and I nodded shyly. Alex detested the anathema of repeating himself for whatever the reason was and seeing him get angry at me again was not on my wish list for the day.

"Thought so. I was asking about your meeting with Nahida." Surprisingly, he repeated himself.

I gaped at him for a few seconds before I could respond to his query. "Well, it went well. We we're just catching up on life, nothing much." I said then shrugged.

"Well..." There was a soft knock on the door which then swung open and Avela, Alex's personal assistant walked in.

She's a beautiful Xhosa girl with a petite bubble body and short hair. I always get jealous that she spends more time with my husband than I do. And the clothes she wears...

"Mrs Collins, Mr Collins, there's a miss Laila at the reception waiting to see you." She said looking at Alex. "She said its urgent." She added on.

"Did it look urgent to you?" He asked.

"She looked rather desperate to me." She said. Alex looked at me then chuckled. "Tell Laila I'm busy having lunch with my gorgeous wife." He said then stole a kiss from me.

"O-kay..." She said then I assume left judging by the sound of clicking heels.

"Who's Laila?" I asked after breaking the kiss. He shrugged.

"Maybe she wants to apply for a post." He said and I nodded.

"You were saying...?"

4

ALEXANDER

I made sure to notify Juliette that I'll be home late because of a last minute meeting which completely wasted my time and everyone else's too. It was one helluva meeting, two hours of my life I'll never get back.

"Alex!" A feminine voice called out my name as I was about to open the door. I stopped on my tracks and turned to look behind me.

Laila...

"Alex, please hear me out."

"Laila, what do you want?" I asked with a stern face and husky voice.

"I want you to hear me out, please." She said, pleading.

"What is it that you want to tell me that I don't know?" I queried.

"Why did you leave me, Alex?" She queried. I chuckled then sighed out loud.

"You're too brazen for my liking, too scrubby. You're not ready to be a woman, not even a wife. You're just a pain in the arse and you are certainly nothing compared to my gorgeous, adroit and affable lovely wife." I said smirking.

"I want you to cogitate about your decision, have sympathy." She said.

I laughed at her, long enough to exasperate her before I could respond to her dumb statement.

"You know what, get yourself a new brain since you can't use your current one. I don't know how and I most certainly don't

care. Now get out of here and stay away from my wife and I or I will kill you, Laila!" I said, artlessly.

She shook her head then walked out. I shook my head with regret before rushing to my car. I wonder what it is that I have gotten myself into...

When I arrived home, I found Julie sleeping on the couch with her novel on her chest and an empty bottle of wine next to her.

I threw my bags on the single couch then carried her bridal style up the stairs to our bedroom. She kept on mumbling but I couldn't really get a word she wanted to say. Of course she was drunk, wine is no child's play.

Didn't even bother with taking a shower, I just undressed and got under the covers with her, holding her in my arms, feeling her heart beating and listening to her light snores.

I was woken up by cries right after midnight, Juliette's cries. I bet she tried her best to muffle her sobs but I could hear them all the way from dreamland for I am a light sleeper.

"Babe... Julie..." I called out to her.

"Mmhh?"

"Are you okay?" I asked and she nodded.

"Then why are you crying?" I asked and she denied crying.

"Look at me." I said.

"What for?" She asked and I chuckled.

"I want to see my gorgeous wife's visage." I said. I assumed she wiped her tears before she could turn to look at me.

I tipped her head with my fingers then locked her lips with mine. I let her hand travel all over my torso whilst mine also traveled to places only I have ever seen and touched.



I broke the kiss then held both her hands tightly together.  
"Alex, please..." She beseeched.

"First, tell me what's wrong?" I said

She looked down and tried to free myself from my hold. "I'm sorry..." She apologized.

I tightened my grip and held her in place. "Look at me. I'm your husband, okay? You can confide in me." I said then pecked her forehead.

She sighed out loud then grasped onto me. "I had a dream, a beautiful one in fact. We were at the beach, running around and chasing our babies." She said then burst into tears.

Seeing her like that broke my heart. I knew she was hurt but not like this. This is much worse than I thought. She was more broken than I was and I added to her pain by distancing myself from her when she needed me the most.

"Hush

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don't cry." I said pulling her closer then caressed her back. "What did I do to deserve this?" She asked in between her anguished cries and it saddened me that I couldn't answer her question.

"Its not your fault, babe. Don't forget that everything happens for a reason." I said not knowing what else to say.

"B... But why m... Me?" She whimpered. I pecked her forehead and caressed her back. I let her fall asleep in my embrace and when she did, I took time to meditate on my truths, truths that needed to be buried twelve feet under.

I love her, more than you could ever think and to let her slip through my fingers would be the most humongous blunder I'll ever make.

I woke up earlier than I thought so I could work from home. I didn't want to be behind with any work but I also wanted to spend the day with my baby. She needs me, more than I could

possibly think and what type of a husband would I be to let my wife go through hurt all on her own.

After a few hours of work, I made her breakfast then served it to her in bed, still warm. I knew she wouldn't eat much so I made her soft porridge. She likes it served with butter and a lot of sugar, that's one of her comfort foods.

Anyone could tell she wasn't feeling good. Even a deranged person could tell. Her smile was forced and she looked weak. I destroyed her.

"Aren't you going to work?" She queried and I shook my head. "I'll be spending my day with you." I said with a big grin plastered on my face.

She handed me the half full bowl of porridge then laid down and covered herself with the duvet. "I want to be alone and I most certainly don't need your pity." She said, softly.

"Juliette, look..." She cut me midsentence.

"Alex, go to work. They need you more than I do." She said.

I sighed then put her bowl on the nightstand. I got off the bed then got inside the duvet. I wrapped my hands around her waist then rested my head on her back.

"Alex..." She called out.

"Sshh, let's go to sleep."

A few minutes later, she was sound asleep, snoring lightly. She even looked disturbed in her sleep or was guilt getting the better of me?

I either had to tell her and she'd leave me or keep it a secret and she never finds out... What she won't know won't kill her, right? But it would kill me. I rather it kills me than her because I won't be able to live with myself after seeing the pain in her eyes.

I struggled to fall asleep but I did and it was short because she woke me up, telling me she needed to pee. She didn't come back to bed but instead I heard water running.

A bizarre but also daunting thought crossed my mind. What if she already knew about my fornicating? Well she couldn't possibly have but she might have found out. That's why she doesn't want to be close to me. Or maybe I'm not close to her and in the problem.

I jumped off the bed, denuded myself then headed to the bathroom. She was taking a shower, a warm shower. Well, I need a cold one.

I stepped under the shower head, behind her and wrapped my hands around her small waist. She tried to fight me off of her but I pressed her against the glass.

"Alex, let go of me!" She shouted. I turned her around then pinned both her hands against the glass.

"I love you, Juliette Collins and you're not alone in this. We'll get through this together." I said searching for her eyes.

"Then why did you let me go through it alone for an entire year? Why couldn't you at least be there for me? Why now?" She asked in between her sobs.

"Juliette..."

"No Alex, answer me!" She yelled.

I pressed my body against hers then rested my forehead on hers. "Its only now that I've realized how you're also feeling. I've been insensitive and thinking for myself only forgetting that its not your fault but I now want to change that. I want to fix our marriage and reconnect. I want us to help each other and stand by each other. Baby, there's no turning back now, we're moving forward. I love you, okay?"

5

JULIETTE

A week had passed already and things were still not well between Alex and I.

I was dejected, morose and suffering but he went on with his life like nobody's business.

I needed him, more than anyone but he had no time for me. He detested me, he even missed both my birthday and our anniversary.

'In sickness and in health' my left butt cheek. This marriage was a sham, a big fat scam. The way he treated me means he denigrated me, he derided me and was derisive towards me.

I abhor him for letting me go through the hurt all on my own. He knows how much I have sacrificed for him yet he still had the audacity to treat me like a dilapidated aircon.

I removed the covers off of me then diffused my hands and legs over the spacious bed and sighed out loud. I pretended to be asleep but I couldn't really sleep. The dream was haunting me, as if trying to send me a message I couldn't get or maybe I was digging way too much into unnecessary things, a dream is just a dream, right?

After a few minutes, I dragged myself off the bed to the bathroom to take a warm shower. Waking up was becoming a mission. I've realized that there's actually nothing to wake up for. Regarding my marriage, I'm hopeless. If Alex wanted babies from me and only me that meant he wasn't ready to explore other options and if not so then I don't know what he really wants from me.

I denuded myself, threw my clothes in the basket then stepped under the shower head. I turned the taps on then reached out for the sponge and gel.

"Mr and Mrs Collins, good to see you again." The doctor said while shaking Alexander's hand. I just nodded.



"Please, sit..." He said pointing at the seats. I couldn't wait to sit down, I was scared. My legs were shaking and wobbly, my entire body was numb.

My fingers were crossed and I had been praying since before we even took the tests.

Alex took my hand into his, pecked it and squeezed it.

"Unfortunately, I have bad news solely." The doctor said.

I sighed out loud then, I knew it was over for me. Bad news meant I was either sick or I couldn't have children.

"In this case, I much prefer it if my patients were to be left alone to think after viewing their results. I rather you see for yourself than to be told by me." He said pushing the brown envelope towards me.

I just looked at it until I felt the warmth of my tears rolling down my cheeks. Tears of anguish...

Alex on the other hand waited for the doctor to walk out before he could let go of my hand and view what was in the file, my results.

His breathing instantly escalated followed by a hard bang on the desk that sent shivers down my spine. He was furious.

He got up from the desk and stood by the corner of the room then threw fists on the wall. I got up and headed his direction.

"Don't touch me!" He snapped as I was about to place my hand on his shoulder. "Don't you dare touch me." He whimpered.

"Alex..."

"Juliette move away from me

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I don't want to hurt you!" He yelled. I took a few steps back and stepped on my results. I picked them up and immediately squashed them into a ball.

After bathing, I put on my sleepwear then headed to the pantry to get myself a bottle of red wine and a glass, I then headed back to bed.

I needed the wine more than anything. My heart was throbbing. Pain has nothing to do with the heart, yes but I felt as if it had stopped pumping blood nor beating against my chest. I felt as if I was taking in carbon dioxide and breathing out oxygen instead.

I instantly fell back into depression and I'd rather get drunk than talk to the bottle than to cry and not talk at all. I couldn't speak to Alex. I felt as if he was pretending. I felt as if he wanted to stay in this marriage because of his own personal reasons instead of his own will and love.

I decided to put the glass aside then sipped from the bottle of wine as I scrolled through our pictures on my cellphone. I had failed Alex, yes but he had failed me too. As a matured man and my husband, he was supposed to understand, console in me and allow us to try other options but he decided to go his way.

For an entire year, he had been doing this his way and alone then all of a sudden he wants us to fix things?

What was he doing the entire year? Who was he with? Was he cheating on me? Was he lying to me? What was happening in his life?

I got hungry after finishing the entire bottle of wine. My world was spinning, my vision was blurry and my hearing was echoed. I couldn't see where I was going nor think straight, all I wanted was food. I knew just then that I was drunk, to the core.

Wasted!

I held on to the wall as I went down the stairs and I honestly couldn't believe I fell off the bed...

As soon as I came to sight with the stove, I knew I was in the kitchen. I didn't know what I was touching nor what I was doing, I just wanted food.

Something fell and by the sound of it, it broke. I just chuckled and shook my head then continued moving around the kitchen doing whatever it is that I was doing.

I felt a sharp pain on my hand then on my feet and sobered up as soon as I came to sight with blood, a lot of blood. I hyperventilated, panicked, went on my knees as I couldn't take the pain I felt on my feet and crawled around the kitchen until I couldn't feel anything anymore, I felt lightheaded but body less.

"Alex..." I slurred my words before gravitating to the floor.

"I will be keeping her over for a few more days to monitor her. Her blood pressure is a little worrying." A manly voice said. I slowly opened my eyes and looked around.

I saw a man wearing a white coat with a stethoscope hanging around his neck stand with... Alex? Oh yes, him. There was also a heart monitor machine on my side and I knew instantly that I was in hospital.

I tried to sit up straight but my body was aching. Both Alex and the doctor turned my direction and Alex quickly rushed back to me and helped me sit up straight.

"What happened? What am I doing here?" I queried, curiously.

"You... You stepped on top of broken glass and it got into your skin. Also on your palms and knee caps." He said and I suddenly remembered the amount of blood I saw.

"You had also lost a lot of blood but you're okay now. The doctor will keep you in for a few more days before you can come back home." He said in a husky tone. I just nodded and rested my head back.

The doctor checked up on me then left Alex and I to be alone. He looked fatigued and anxious. He had blood shot red bulging eyes and messy hair. His tie was untied and he looked like a hot mess.

We didn't talk until the visiting hours were over and he had to leave. He made sure I ate, took my medication then kissed me goodnight. He waited for me to fall asleep before he could go. He seemed angry but disturbed too. What really happened?

6

ALEXANDER

I couldn't sleep. Images of her lying lifelessly on top of broken glass that was surrounded by that much amount of blood kept on appearing on my mind.

She couldn't have tried to kill herself, the glass was scattered on the floor but what really happened? Why would she step on top of the broken pieces of glass and cut herself too?

She had been depressed for a week now but... I actually couldn't put my finger on what had happened. If it were on purpose, why did she do that?

The following morning, I cleaned the bedroom before heading to take a shower. I found an empty bottle of wine next to the bed on her side. She was slowly turning into an alcoholic, not good at all.

After cleaning up I quickly showered then packed a basket of most of her favourite food then packed comfortable clothes for her and her toiletries accompanied by her cellphone then left for the hospital.

She was awake when I arrived and seemed like I was early too. She flashed a weak smile when she saw me walking in. I pecked her forehead then sat next to her and placed the basket and bags on the floor.

I took her hand into mine and pecked it. "How are you feeling?" I queried, she shifted uncomfortably and cleared her throat before responding. "Better, I guess."

"You're up early..." I said hoping to get a response. She looked at my hand against hers, our fingers intertwining for the longest time. I knew just then that she had zoned out. She always did this. Whenever I told her she should visit a psychologist, she'd tell me she studied medicine and she knew everything about the human brain.



"Babe..." I called out. She blinked, good. "You were saying...?" I shook my head and reached out for the basket of food. "Hope you're hungry, I packed most of your favorite food I could find in the house." I said.

Even at her weakest, she could still beam up. No one, I repeat, no one loves food like she does. I helped her sit up straight then ate with her while making small conversation.

"So, when am I getting out of here?" She asked. "Tomorrow... The doctor said he wants to make sure you're good to go so he's keeping you overnight." I said.

She sighed out loud. As a qualified doctor, she loves being in the hospital but only to help others, not the other way around.

Here's the thing about my Juliette, she has low self esteem, no confidence in herself whatsoever. She even considers herself a dim wit, hence I allowed her to stay at home and I'd take care of her.

She's a bright eyed girl

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very clever. She just lacks potential.

"Tell you what, I want us to go on holiday, Dubai." I announced. I had been thinking of going on holiday with her. We needed the break, away from people we may know and to fix our marriage.

"That's a good idea I guess. I don't know when last I went on holiday." She said then took a bite of her nugget. "I also want to tell you something..." She said. I nodded giving her a go ahead. "I want to start working." She said and I couldn't help but grin.

She needed to work, keep herself busy, challenge her mind instead of turning herself into an alcoholic. Plus she'd make a sexy doctor and a good one. With her gorgeous bright smile, everyone will love her.

I should've been worried about her being a sexy doctor? I wasn't. My muscles are not there for decorations. I didn't spend years on the gymnasium for nothing. I kill.

"That's great. That is so wonderful." I said getting up. I actually wanted to hug her but... It was great that she were to put her knowledge to great use and she needed to see more people.

I pecked her lips then sat down. We ate in silence until her parents barged in with roses and balloons. I had forgotten I called them and told them about Julie.

"Oh my baby..." Her mother said with watery eyes. I could tell both her parents were worried to death. Her father on the other hand kept on glaring daggers at me. I felt as though he still had not accepted me. There's something about him that sent shivers down my spine.

I left the Sherwood family to be alone and headed to speak to the doctor. He did confirm that he would be discharging her the next day and told me to take very good care of her. He said a

holiday is a very good idea for she might suffer from nervous breakdown.

He said she's still too fragile to have a normal life that she's used to. She'll become very depressed, anxious and tired and also recommended a psychologist for her but I knew very well that she wouldn't agree to it.

I signed her discharge papers and went back to her ward. She was smiling but I could tell she was pained. Her parents were sitting on both sides of her bed.

I went to get them coffee then left for home. I told her I'd see her later but I couldn't stand there and watch as they went on like nothing was wrong. I felt at fault and I was trying my damndest to clear the guilt. I couldn't tell her the truth. Not at this stage of her life.

I booked plane tickets to Dubai and our stay at one of the best hotels for two weeks. Dubai was perfect for her state of mind... She would get to see the humongous desert, the miracle garden and many more beauts of Dubai.

I returned to the hospital later in the evening when her parents had left and I could tell she was feeling better and lighter. That's the mother daughter relationship for you, those people tell each other everything.

"So, I booked our flights to Dubai, takes off later tomorrow." I announced. She chortled. "When will I get the time for shopping?" She asked.

"Oh come on, you'll do more shopping when you get that side, besides, you already have a lot of clothes." I said.

"But still..." I cut her midsentence cause I knew she'd win.

"Alright Mrs Collins, online shopping, now." I said taking my cellphone out. She always shopped on my cellphone, it was nothing new.

"And I'll also need you to cut out on the wine. It's the reason you're here." I said and her facial expressions changed.

"Well, it's partly my fault but..."

"Let's do some shopping, you also need to cut out on suits because wow..." She said trying to change the subject.

"Yes ma'am."

She turned my cellphone on and stared at the wallpaper for the longest time. It was a picture of her and myself with her favorite teddy bear. It was the biggest bear I had ever seen and I knew she'd love it.

"Alex..." She called out, in a more softer tone. "Why is this happening to me? Why can't I bear children?" She whimpered.

7

JULIETTE

I needed the holiday. Dubai is what I needed, away from everybody and to fix my marriage. To heal and to love again.

Alex and I spoke. We cried together, laughed together and confided in each other. He touched me and made love to me, not once but all day everyday. It was a good idea, just what I needed.

"You're up early." He said turning to me. I turned to the side and cupped his face. "Good morning." I said, flushed.

"And why are you so happy?" He queried.

"I don't see the reason not to be happy." I said, blushing.

He pouted, signaling me to peck his lips, more than once.

"Okay now get up, you have to go to work." I said lightly slapping his cheeks.

"Aren't you joining me for a shower?" He asked and I shook my head. "I have to start on breakfast." I said.

We both split ways and I headed to the kitchen while he took a shower. I could've joined him but I prefer food.

I started on breakfast and finished on time. He walked in smelling and looking divine as always, clad in his midnight blue suit and sneakers with his hair neatly combed. Not forgetting his expensive golden watch from Prague and cologne all the way from Russia.

Alex is allergic to ties and he likes showing off his chest for god knows why cause he's married. I was however insecure. His female staff and colleagues were beautiful.

Stunning with bodies to die for, who wouldn't get jealous?



"Are we going to eat or you'll keep on drooling over me?" He asked, taking me off my cloud of thoughts.

I shook my head and handed him his plate and eating utensils. I took a seat too and indulged.

Later on, I met up with Nahida and Uminathi. My two best friends and quite frankly, I'd say they're my only friends.

They wanted to see me as soon as I landed but we only landed last night, just before midnight.

They were sitting outside of the cafe and had already ordered for all three of us.

"So, how was Dubai?" Nahida asked. I just smiled. "I have no words for you shame." Uminathi said.

I didn't know what to say. "It was heaven." I told.

"Okay, we're making progress..." Nahida said. "It was beautiful, hot, mind blowing, mood elevating, slow, passionate, sexy and..." I slurred then bit my lower lip.

"Is it me or she's talking about sex?" Uminathi asked. "Well at least Alex touched her and actually made love to her." Nahida said.

I chortled before taking a sip off my coffee. "She's lovestruck." Uminathi said before her cellphone rang and she excused herself.

"So, what really happened?" Nahida asked. "It was beautiful, friend. Felt like we had just gotten married and we were on honeymoon. We talked things through and he finally made love to me. I'd do almost anything to live like that." I said.

"He also said he'd like to try other options." I announced. Her eyes popped open and she had almost choked on her coffee.

Weird... Weird I tell you.

"Uhm girls, I gotta rush..." Uminathi said taking her bag from the chair. She pecked both our cheeks then jogged to her car.

"She's changing... I mean, she's glowing

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gaining weight, she eats like nobody's business and the Uminathi I know doesn't wear slippers except when at home." I said still analyzing her as she disappeared into the distance.

"She's pregnant." Nahida said. Now I choked on my coffee. "The same Uminathi who hated men with passion?" I asked.

"Well, while you were going through your own problems, she fell in love, went on dates and fell pregnant." She said, her face emotionless.

"Have you met him?" I asked and she shook her head. "And I don't like him already." She said.

Well congratulations to her... At least one of us is going to be a mother.

"Well, tell me more about Dubai." She said and I grinned almost immediately.

While chatting, a bunch of red roses were delivered to me. Well, they smelt like roses, that's if you were expecting me to say they smelt good. They also came with a note. Alex...

It read as follows - "Hope you enjoyed your day, I'll see you soon."

"From Alex?" She asked and I nodded.

"Well, it doesn't exactly say that but I know they're from him." I said.

We chatted for a few more minutes before we parted ways. We spent the whole day together as if we had nothing better to do.

I got home, took a well deserved shower and started cooking. I put the roses in a vase of water then placed it by the window in the lounge.

I felt hard hands around my waist followed by wet pecks on my neck. "Hey..." That was Alex's voice. His cologne filled my nostrils and I suddenly felt my heart beating hard and fast.

"Hey..." I greeted back. I tried to turn but he held me still. I was antsy, feeling his boner on my back.

"I love you, do you know that?" He asked, seductively biting the outsides of my ear.

"Alex..." I called out, breathlessly.

He turned me around, cleared the counter in a swift, he lifted me up and placed me on the counter. He placed his hand on the nape of my neck then pulled me in for a kiss.

My legs automatically spread and my hands traveled all over his torso.

Without breaking the kiss, I helped him take his jacket off and he took my robe off. I helped him unbuckle his belt and he took his pants off followed by my underwear.

There was a knock on the door which disturbed us. I furiously jumped off the counter to attend to it and came to sight with a bunch of flowers after opening the door.

I picked all of them up then headed in. I threw all of them on top of one of the couches and rushed back to Alex. We had unfinished business...

I woke up in the middle of the night, hungry like nobody's business. I made myself a quick meal then headed back to our room together with my meal and the bunch of flowers that were delivered earlier on.

I sat on the couch and ate while reading the letters on the flowers, letting Alex sleep in peace. He didn't have to send so much flowers though.

In one of his sweet letters, a small box fell. A red velvet box. Inside, a beautiful blue diamond ring. I put it on my finger and scanned it, it was beautiful, very beautiful.

Why would Alex get me another ring? Well the other one was a white outdated diamond, that's why. I grinned then headed back to bed, with my new ring on my finger.

Darn Alex...

## ALEXANDER

By the time I awoke, she wasn't in bed nor anywhere in our bedroom. I got off the bed then rushed to search for her.

She was downstairs preparing breakfast, almost done if I'm not mistaken. She was clad in a satin black and white striped shirt with black jeans and I guess heels because of how tall she suddenly was and also the clicking sound against the tiled floor added to my guess.

She had tied her hair into a very neat bun, leaving her silky hair sheen and shiny. She had light make-up on with red lips. She was also wearing her silver watch with its matching bracelet and a... Blue diamond ring?

"Where's your ring?" I ask instantly, almost panicking.

"Good morning to you too, my dear husband." She greeted, grinning.



"Juliette, where's your ring and where did you get that ring from?" I queried, yelling. She cringed and put her cooking utensils on the counter. She turned the stove off and removed her apron.

"Are you going to answer me? Where are you even going?" I yelled again.

"Remember the flowers that were delivered last night? They came with a red velvet box with this ring inside." She said forcing a smile.

"Who are they from?" I asked, she shrugged. "I don't know, you?" She said, unsure of what she was saying. I could tell by the tone of her voice, how she said her sentence and by tilting her head.

I shook my head in frustration. "I didn't get any flowers, not for you or anyone." I said.

"And the ones I got earlier yesterday?" She asked. "What are you talking about? I didn't get you any flowers." I said, exasperated.

"So this is not my ring and you didn't get me any flowers?" She asked, teary.

"Yes." I said. She bit on her lower lip and nodded while taking the ring off.

She put it on top of the counter then walked away, to the lounge. I obviously followed her.

She picked up her handbag and fiddled inside it and took out her ring, the one I bought.

"Happy?" She asked forcing a smile.

"Juliette..."

"I'm going to work, I suggest you help yourself." She said then walked away.

I sighed and threw myself on the couch. I ran my fingers through my hair then screamed.

Damn Laila!

A few minutes later, I gathered myself and got ready for work. I took the ring with

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I had to verify that it really was the ring I bought for Laila or not.

There was a soft knock on the door before it swung open and Avela peeked before getting in.

"Sir..." I nodded, motioning her to sit down. "Remember the time I asked you to help me choose a ring?" I queried.

"The blue diamond ring?" She asked back and I nodded.

"Is this the ring we went with?" I asked handing it to her. She analyzed it before nodding. "Yes sir."

I sighed out loud then excused her with no further clarification. I sat back and took my cellphone and called Laila who answered instantly.

"I thought you'd never call." She said, softly.

"Didn't I tell you to stay away from my wife and I?" I asked, furiously.

"You did but didn't I tell you I'd destroy you if not your little childish marriage?" She asked.

"Laila, I will kill you." I said.

"Does wifey enjoy wearing your mistress's ring? A blue rock worth hundred times her hair if not thousand?" She queried.

"Stay the hell away from us." I said gritting my teeth.

"I don't get to listen to you anymore. I'm my own woman now. Mark my words Alexander Collins, I will destroy you." She said then hung up.

I furiously threw my cellphone across the room then screamed. I slid everything off my desk and turned it over.

The door barged open, forcing me to stop halt in my tracks. "Is everything alright, sir?" Avela asked. I ran my fingers through my hair and placed my one hand on my waist.

"Yeah, everything is fine. I was just... Close the door on your way out and tell everyone to get back to work." I said then turned and made my way to the glass.

With Juliette mad at me and not answering my calls and Laila's childish obsession over me, my life is turning into a mission and a half.

I had also forgotten that it was her first day of work and she needed all the confidence she could get. What a husband!

I couldn't work until lunch time. I asked one of the cleaner's to clean my office while I went to the hospital to check on Juliette.

She still wasn't taking my calls. I knew this because I saw her hanging up and continuing with life like she didn't just hang up on her hubby.

I cleared my throat, fixed my tie and smiled as I made my way to where she was seated. "Ladies, Mrs Collins." I greeted then pecked her cheek.

"Alex..." She said breathlessly, looking perplexed too. "Ladies, can I steal her from you. We have a lunch date." I said taking her arms into mine and pulling her up.

She unwillingly got up and dragged her feet as we walked out. I opened the door for her, waited for her to enter then jogged to my side.

"Where's your handbag? Is it safe?" I asked and she just nodded. "Its in my office." She said. I smiled then started the engine.

She had her arms folded throughout the drive and she looked out the window until we had reached our destination.

"Are you still mad at me?" I asked. She didn't respond. "Jules, please talk to me." I beseeched.

"And say what?" She asked, surprisingly in a calm manner. "Why didn't you tell me sooner that you didn't get me any flowers cause you clearly saw me bringing them in?" She asked.

"My mind wasn't there. I just wanted to touch my Jules." I said.

She chuckled then shook her head. She mumbled something then turned to look out the window again.

"Can we at least eat then you'll get mad at me all you want? I've already ordered." I said and she shyly nodded. Her and food... Danger to me.

We went inside the restaurant and we were served immediately. We feasted on and I listened to Jules talking about her day so far and her patients.

Doctor Jules Collins.

"Are you even listening to me? You didn't even touch your food." She said pulling my plate to her. I watched as she switched our plates and she just dug in.

I couldn't eat, not after finding out that Laila is trying her damdest to break us apart.

"Alexander Collins!" She yelled, banging on the table.

"I'm sorry, I just have a lot on my mind." I said and she rolled her eyes, folded her arms and sat back.

"You know what? Take me back to the hospital since you have no interest in me whatsoever." She said already wiping her hands.



## JULIETTE

"Are you okay though? I didn't tell you because I didn't want to upset you." She said from the other line.

"I'm fine, Umi. I wish you the best. Congratulations once again." I said with watery eyes. Saying those words was a challenge. I wasn't jealous, I was hurt. Uminathi wanted nothing to do with men and she didn't picture herself having children but I on the other hand even spoke about having a baby in my sleep.

Sigh.

"You know you can tell me anything, right?" She asked and I nodded, forgetting she can't see me. "Sure." I said.

"Alright, I'll call you later, I love you." She said. "Love you... Too..."

When I got home, I kicked my heels off, denuded myself then got into bed.

LAs if I didn't have a husband who was acting up on me and a mysterious person busy sending flowers, together with a ring. Not just any ring - a blue diamond.

One that was cut and named the Star of Africa then used on the Imperial State Crown, a blue diamond.

"Jules..." I was woken up by Alex's voice. He had brought me dinner and coffee. "I'll run you a warm bath after eating. I'll be in my study if you need me." He said then left.

I put on one of his baggy t-shirts, washed my hands then ate. I could never get over Alex's cooking, no matter how mad I was at him.

I busied myself with my cellphone while eating. I found myself looking at Umi's pictures on Instagram. No baby daddy's

pictures. She didn't even announce that she has a bun in the oven.

Soon after, I was notified of a text from a private number, strange. It read as follows, "Hope you loved my gifts. More are coming.

xoxo

Yours truly"

I dismissed the text and went on with my business. After eating, I went on and ran myself a bath and soon after, Alex joined in and we went to sleep.

The following morning, Alex went for a jog and left me to rest. We bathed together, he helped me make breakfast then he drove me to work.

My day went on pretty well I guess and right after my lunch break, things were hactic. I was so busy, its not even funny.

My last patient was Laila, Laila... I didn't catch her surname. The nurses could've done what she came for but she refused and asked for a doctor.

However, I didn't have any problem with doing my job.

She had to get stitches and unlike other patients, I think I liked her more. She was submissive and calm throughout. We also had a light conversation and she asked to take a picture with me, I obviously agreed.

"You're so beautiful. I love your hair and I wiiiished I had your eyes." She said in a melodramatic tone. I giggled, I hope my cheeks didn't disappoint.

"Honestly, you are more beautiful I mean look at yourself." I said and she chortled.

"What's funny?" I queried. "If I were more beautiful, my man wouldn't have left me for another woman and he definitely wouldn't have done this to me." She said pointing at her cut.

I gasped and stepped back. "Did you report him? Open a case against him?" I asked. She shook my head.

"Even after all the pain he has caused me, I still love him dearly. So, I'll just avenge myself." She said. It's not my place to judge honestly. We all have different views and choices.

If Alex were to cheat on me, I'd leave his ass without hesitating whereas others would stick around and try to make things work. Others leave and return knowing very well that things will never be the same again then jealousy and insecurities come in and destroy the marriage.

I would however spare myself the stress and forgive him but I'd never want to see him again. I don't know how people befriend the very same person who ruined their chance at finding love and a happily ever after after wasting tons of years of their lives

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the same years they would never get back, gone with the time.

"Well, Jay Z did cheat on our beautiful goddess. Looks don't really matter at this day and age." I said trying to brush her off. She chuckled.

"What would you do if your husband were to cheat on you?" She asked. I chuckled.

"I saw your ring by the way so I assumed you were married." She said, as if she read my mind.

"What if I was married to a woman?" I asked. "Then that would make me a goddess, the second holy spirit, god's wife." She said. We made eye contact then burst into laughter, her sense of humour is on another level.

"But if you decide to be gay, give me a call." She said and I chortled, she didn't.

"I'm serious." She said. My facial expressions changed, I felt as if I was hit by a train. She can't be bisexual.

"If my husband were to cheat on me, I'd leave his sexy ass." I said trying to brush her off again.

We then again had a light conversation about medicine, hospitals, etc. Until I finished and told her when to come to get the stitches removed.

When I arrived, Alex was home and he was cooking. Are my thoughts that loud? Because I was thinking of how much I'd appreciate a hot plate of food prepared by my husband.

I closed the door then walked past him without greeting. I was still mad at him. You might not understand but Alex and I have been through a lot. I didn't even want a new ring until I saw that blue diamond ring but anyway, it doesn't matter.

"Jules..." He called out. I stopped on my tracks, heaved out a sigh then spun on my heels.

"I just ran you a warm bath, I hope you're up for that." He said and I nodded.

After the hectic day, I needed to soak myself in warm water with all the necessary items needed to help me relax.

After soaking myself, I headed downstairs and dished up for myself. I watched a movie while eating and Alex joined me later on.

He looked quite disturbed. "I'm sorry." He said. I turned to look at him and found him staring at me. His eyes were watery and were turning red.

"I'm sorry, Jules." He said. He sounded broken, as if he was about to cry.

"Its okay love, its just a meaningless ring and a bunch of flowers." I said trying to soften him up.

"Then why aren't you talking to me? If they were meaningless you wouldn't be mad at me." He said and I shook my head.



"I was just excited to get a new ring and I can't wear a ring from someone I don't know." I said.

"Then I'll get you a new ring. Which one do you want? Rose gold? Silver? Black diamond? Mystic topaz? Blue diamond? Ru..." I cut him midsentence.

"Alex, I don't want another ring. I don't want you to get me a new ring because you feel forced to. Let's just get this one polished and move on with our lives." I said.

"Move on with our lives? You're leaving? You want to leave me, don't you?" He asked. His breathing has increased and his eyes are piercing through my flesh.

"No, I'm not going anywhere love." I said.

"Then why are you moving on with your life without me?" He queried. "Why don't you want a ring from me? Don't you love me anymore? Are you seeing someone else? Is that it?" He asked, now with tears streaming down his cheeks.

I cupped his face and pecked his lips. "I love you, Alex and I won't leave you. I'm here to stay, okay? Remember our vows? I'm not leaving you baby, I'll always be here." I said.

He nodded and rested his head on my laps with his hands in mine.

Hearing his light sobs, I intertwined my hands with his and played with his fingers.

On his left hand, I came to sight with a wound. I could tell it was still fresh because he didn't have it last night plus the blood had dried out.

I hoped he didn't do anything stupid, especially with his zany behavior. What happened here?

10

ALEXANDER

I woke up on Jules' bosom feeling better than before. Rejuvenated rather. I should be after the wonderful night I had and what I planned for us today.

I couldn't wait to get on with my day and plans so this day could end already. Not literally end but heading towards the end of the day, thats what I'm talking about.

Then again feeling as good as I was feeling, I made breakfast and finished in time to serve it in bed.

Everything about her was attracting me. She was a magnet and I a coin. She was sugar and I water, actually you get what I'm saying.

After getting ready I dropped her off at work then headed to work. I barely did any work but I did something business related. After that, Avela and I moved to what mattered most.

I had planned the perfect evening for us that would end in the dirtiest and sexiest way possible.

"Mr Collins, your delivery is here." She said while peaking through the door. I nodded and she walked in holding a plastic bag from my favorite jewelry store.

She handed me the plastic and I fiddled through it and took out the black velvet box it came with. Inside, a beautiful rock fit for a goddess was staring at me, shining its way through my heart.

"She'll love this." She said and I smiled. I knew she would hence I chose this one.

I opened the other rectangular box with a matching necklace inside except it had our names put together in mystic topaz, just like her ring.

Alexiette... Different and weird to others but I love it.

"Now that is beautiful." She said and I chuckled at the thought of her already wearing it.

"Not more than her." I said.

"You really love your wife, don't you?" She asked and I blushed.  
Oh god!

"More than anything and anyone." I said.

The day went by pretty slow with me trying to get everything together within the short period of time I had but I wanted this evening to be perfect so voila!

I looked at myself in the mirror then complimented myself. I was wearing a velvet navy blue suit with a white T-shirt underneath and white sneakers.

She loves it when I'm dressed like that. She loves the way the suit hugs almost every inch of my body and she can't get her eyes off my chest.

I put on my watch and applied my cologne. I combed my hair then headed downstairs to make sure everything was in place.

I had set up a candle light dinner date with her favourite food prepared and it was only that one time I was allowing her to drink wine, just to calm her down. Plus it will get her horny.

I was also going to massage her and just make sure she loosened up before this went any further, I don't want surprises to spoil our evening and I made sure to keep this on the low cause if Laila was to hear about this, she'd barge in here again and try to attack me but I'll beat her to it again.

I'll kill her this time.

The door banged, dragging me off my cloud of thoughts. Jules appeared looking fatigued. She dragged the bag with her eyes half closed and threw herself at me.

"Hey baby." I greeted then pecked her forehead. She chuckled before looking up at me.

"What's going on here?" She asked. "Let's get you in relaxed first." I said then in a swift lifted her up.

I carried her bridal style to the bathroom where I ran her a warm bath. I kind of knew she'd arrive home looking like a dead man walking hence the warm bath with rose petals essential oils, candles, light music and winery.

I watched as she sank inside the tub and heaved out a sigh of relaxation as the water came in contact with her skin.

I handed her a glassful of her favourite wine then sat on the corner of the tub. I massaged every inch of her body, trying to get her to relax.

She only got out when the water was getting cold.

"Alex, stop it..." She said softly as I nibbled on her ear.

I blew in her ear then trailed down her neck to her broad back where I planted wet kisses.

She moaned lightly then turned to face me. "Alex..." I shut her up with a kiss. She wrapped her arms around my neck then kissed me back, hungrily.

My hands travel all over her body while hers are just on my neck. Her sweet moans in between our kiss had me getting hard.

That wasn't part of our plans but it had to happen. I banged her against the wall and snatched the towel off of her. I lifted her up without breaking the kiss then cupped her breasts.

"Alexander..." She called out.

"Baby..." I responded.

She shook her head then pulled me in for a kiss. Her hand trailed down to my cock of which she cupped and massaged.



I threw her on top of the bed then took my clothes off. I hovered over her then pulled her in for a kiss. She took my cock into a hold and gave it a hand job.

Unable to hold it in anymore, I shoved myself deep inside of her and awaited her to adjust before furiously thrusting inside her.

I wasn't even looking for the best rhythm, I just wanted to come inside her.

She grasps onto me and started moaning out loud while I groaned in her ear. I can never get enough of her warm and tight pussy.

I fastened the pace while her moans turned into screams and she wrapped her legs around my waist. "Ah... Ah.. Alex, I'm coming!" She screamed.

That was music to my ears. I slowed the pace then started pounding deep and hard inside her. She tightened her grip all over me then called out my name as she came.

I then thrust in faster again so I could reach my climax. I could feel it coming as my cock started twitching inside of her.

I groaned out loud as soon as I spew my seeds out deep inside her. I collapsed on top of her then pulled her in for a kiss.

I gently rolled off of her and lied back. After getting a hold of her breathing, she laughed then turned to face me.

"What's funny?" I asked.

"Nothing. Was this part of your plans?" She asked and I chuckled.

"This was meant to happen after everything else but I guess my dude down there failed to hold it in." I said.

She rested her head on my chest then drew circles around my nipple. I pecked her sweaty forehead then laid back. We were in that position for quite some time until she broke the ice.

"I'm hungry." She said and I laughed.

"You're always hungry, Jules." I said.

"But after what you did to me, I'm ravenous." She said.

"Okay, let's go get you stuffed." I said then stole a kiss from her.

I got off the bed and made my way to the bathroom.

"Don't you dare, woman.!" I yelled and she chuckled. She had a tendency of staring at my buttocks and biting her lower lip and I know she did that, I could feel her eyes piercing through my flesh.

"I have all the right to look at that fine ass!" She yelled back.

11

JULIETTE

I was seated on the kitchen counter next to Alex who was seated on the high chair. We were both feasting over a light conversation about sweet nothings.

I don't know how many times I've said this but I'll keep saying it for as long as Alex cooks. I can never get over Alex's cooking. He could turn a regular creme brulee into something out of this world.

What I hate is that he cooks better than me but what can I say? If you can't beat them join them.

"So, what was the occasion for tonight? Any plans I didn't know of?" I asked and he just shrugged.

I intensely gazed at him until he sighed and put his plate down. "Well there was an occasion, alright but you ruined it." He said and I gasped dramatically.

"No offense."

"None taken." I said with my hand on my chest. He took my hands into his and pecked the both of them countless times.

"You know how much I love you, right?" He asked and I playfully shook my head. He chuckled. "Jules, I'm serious. Please work with me here." He said and I nodded.

"As I was saying, I love you, a lot. To the moon and back if possible. My love for you is a red rose, beautiful and dangerous. Its beautiful in a way that people envy it but they can't touch it because of the thorns around it." He said looking away. I searched for his eyes until they met mine.

He looked saddened once again, tearful as well. I removed my hands from his and cupped his cheeks.

"You know you can always talk to me, right? I'm not only your wife, I'm your best friend, your walking diary. I'm whatever you want me to be except for something bad." I say and he nods.

He places his hand on top of mine closes his eyes. He runs my hand over his cheek then sniffs.

"I can't live without you, Juliette. You scared the shit out of me that day and I can't help but think I'm pushing you away once again and this time, I know you won't stick around for my shit." He said and I chuckled.

"I told you, I won't leave you. I'm not going anywhere." I said.

He removed my hand from his cheek and rested his head on my thighs. He wrapped his hands around my waist and tightened his grip.

Alex has been acting quite strange lately, I was worried sick about him.

"What if I did something bad." He asked. "Something like...?" I queried.

"I don't know, cheating perhaps." He said and I sighed out loud. Why would Alex ask such cumbersome queries.

"Alex, its me. The teenager you met years back. The shy, terrified and lost girl you helped find her way back home safe and sound. The girl who felt unworthy of your love but you showed her just how much she was worthy. The Alex I know would never hurt me in anyway because he knows I don't tolerate cheating. He knows very well that that's the kind of pain that breaks me to heart and bits. My Alex would never cheat because he loves me and sees only me as his queen." I said. He didn't respond.

I just sighed and ran my fingers over his hair. Did he cheat on me? He couldn't possibly. Could he though? No

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I doubt it. What if he did cheat on me? No, my Alex wouldn't do that to me.

"What if I cheated on you and you found out months or even years later." He said. "I'd still leave. I don't see the point of staying in a marriage where secrets such as that are kept.

Why would you even cheat? If you want to cheat then you can but just know that our marriage is over." I said and I felt his hands tightening around my waist.

"What if I was too drunk to even remember but I awoke in bed with some woman?" He asked.

"Did you ever cheat on me, Alex?" I asked and he instantly sat up straight and looked directly into my eyes.

"No. No no no no no, I would never do that to you, baby. I'd do it all, but I would never hurt you like that." He said.

"Then why all these questions?" I asked. "I don't know, I just thought of them." He said then got up from the high chair to put our plates in the sink.



He handed me a dish cloth to wipe my hands then he wiped his. He threw it across the room then carried me into his arms to our bedroom.

He carefully placed me on my side of the bed then disappeared into the bathroom. He came out seconds later then threw himself on top of the bed.

I rested my head on top of his chest and he wrapped his huge muscular arms around me. He told me about the candlelight dinner before kissing me goodnight.

The next morning I woke up feeling better, like a lot of weight has been lifted off of my shoulders.

Alex was asleep when I headed to the bathroom. To my surprise, it was clean. No rose petals, candles and everything else that was here last night. I guess he cleaned up while I was asleep.

I headed to the basin to brush my teeth and something shiny blinded me on my left hand as I washed my hands. I paused and looked at my hand.

Tears prickled my eyeballs as I came to sight with a black mystic topaz ring on my finger. The tears made their way out and I wiped them while smiling in disbelief.

"Like what you see?" I turned to face him then nodded. I ran towards him and jumped on top of him. He caught me then spun me around.

He pecked my lips before putting me down. "I knew you'd like it." He said and I laughed, still in disbelief.

"Well I kind of struggled with choosing the one fit for you but when I saw this, I had to get it for you." He said. "I was planning on giving it to you last night and something else but like I said, you ruined our plans." He said and I chortled.

He told me about the candlelight dinner but he just said it was because I deserved it. He didn't tell me about the ring and something else.

"What's that "something else"?" I asked out of curiosity.

"Let's take a shower first then I'll give it to you." He said.

After taking a shower and dressing up, I sat in front of the mirror to comb my hair. I was in a good mood today and I don't think it has anything to do with the ring. I woke up like this!

I was also in no mood for make up but I applied just a tint of it and to compliment my dress, I applied a blood red lip stick.

"Beautiful." He said then pecked my cheek. I blushed.

"Remember I said I got you something else?" He asked and I attempted to turn to see what it was but he held me in place and chuckled.

"Relax..." He said. "Close your eyes." He added and I did just because I wanted to see the "something else" that he got me.

I felt something cold on my neck and I knew immediately that it was a necklace. I quickly opened my eyes and...

"Oh my gosh, Alex! This is so beautiful." I said.

"You think?" He asked and I nodded looking at it.

"Alexiette... I hope you like it." He said.

"Our names into one and in mystic topaz, I love it." I said.

"Really? I could get them to redo it. Change the name too. Juliander, anything you want." He said and I got up and turned to him.

"Its perfect baby, I love it." I said then pecked his lips. His hands settled on my waist and he leaned in to kiss me.

12

JULIETTE

All heads were turning with me as I passed by. Was my happiness that visible? We will never know.

I prefer leaving my work at work hence my jacket, stethoscope and everything else remains in my office.

Once in my office, I threw myself on my chair then sat back and relaxed. I had one helluva night and morning, memories to never forget.

Cheers to that!

There was a knock on the door which then slightly opened and a pair of eyes peeked through. I chuckled then Dr. Marshall entered.

He cleared his throat then sat on my desk. He placed the black box wrapped in red on the desk followed by two cups of coffees.

"So, you're not going to greet me?" I queried with a polite smile plastered on my face and he chuckled.

"I am, I was just looking at your sexy self." He said and I shook my head.

He likes taking chances...

"Hi Juliette." He greeted.

"Hi James." I greeted back then got up and put on my coat and hung my stethoscope around my neck.

"I hate to say this but you're glowing." He said and I chortled before sitting down.

"My husband made sweet love to me, why wouldn't I glow?" I queried. He rolled his eyes then handed me coffee.

I looked at it for the longest time and he sighed. He took it from my hand and took a sip from it then handed it back to me.

"See, no poison or love potion." He said and I nodded.

"What's in that box?" I asked and he chuckled.

"Came in for you, anonymously." He said pushing it towards me. I took it and put it on the floor.

"You're not going to open it?" He asked and I shook my head. "I have a busy day ahead of me so I have no time for gifts and I most certainly have no time for a chitchat but thanks for the coffee." I said getting up.

He got up to and made his way to my side of the desk.

"Juliette..." He called out.

"What?"

"Can't you see that..." The door barged open and a nurse peaked through.

"Thank goodness, we need you both in the emergency room, now!" She yelled and we quickly stormed out and followed her.

There goes my warm coffee.

Before my lunch break, I was working from the emergency rooms. It was hectic, people got hurt last night, its not even funny.

While eating, I decided to open my gift but I could only take off the ribbon because there was a knock on the door before it open and Laila walked in. What is she doing here?

"Hey..." She greeted with a grin.



"Hi... What are you doing here?"

She placed her brown paper bags and her handbag on my desk then made my way to me. She pecked both my cheeks and sat on the desk in front of me.

"I bought lunch. There were so many accidents last night so I figured you'd be busy and you haven't eaten anything good." She said handing me a paperbag.

"Oh, that's so thoughtful of you." I said.

"I know." She said grinning.

We ended up eating together on the couch with her making jokes. I did say her sense of humour is on another level.

"Beautiful necklace..." She said and I looked at the name. "My husband got it for me. He had both our names as one because we are one." I said and blushed.

She tipped my head with her fingers and ran her thumb over my lips with our eyes locked. For some reason, I wasn't bothered.

"What if I told you he doesn't deserve you?" She asked and quite frankly, I couldn't respond.

"What if he's not who you think he is?" She asked and I swallowed hard.

"What if he did something bad and it felt so good

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just like what I'm about to do to you?" She asked and I still couldn't respond.

She slowly leaned in and I couldn't even move from where I was sitting.

She instantly captured my lips and locked them into hers while sticking her tongue down my throat.

Strangely, I responded to that.

She broke the kiss and I didn't dare open my eyes. I was both flushed and embarrassed by what just happened.

"This was not supposed to happen..." I said panting.

"But it felt good." She said and I shook my head vigorously then opened my eyes.

She was looking at me like a piece of meat, warm steak straight from the grill.

"You loved it." She said and I shook my head.

"Of course you did." She said and I got up.

"Laila, this was a mistake and I think you should go." I said and she chuckled.

She quickly pecked my lips then got up without complaining. "I'll see you around." She said then made her way out and closed the door after walking out.

After work, I threw myself on the bed for a few minutes before feeling hard hands on my back, massaging the hell out of me.

I couldn't help but to moan.

"Rough day?" He queried in a husky tone. I nodded.

"Tell me about it." He said. He sat next to me and I sat up straight. He patted his laps for me to sit and I did just that with him laying back on the headboard with his hands behind his head.

I sighed out loud then looked down. "I kissed someone." I said then looked at him to check for his reaction. Ire?

"No, she kissed me... I just kissed her back." I said the last part in a whisper.

After what felt like hours but was only a few seconds of silence, he chortled.

When I looked at him, he even had tears rolling out. "What's funny?" I asked and he burst into laughter.

"If you had kissed a guy then I probably would've gotten mad but since it was a woman, I don't have a problem." He said and I sighed out loud.

"But it felt so good..." I said and he chuckled.

"Better than me?" He asked and I nodded with a smirk plastered on my face.

"Oh really?" He asked and I nodded still.

He placed his hands on my waist and pulled me closer to him. His lips locked with mine and he kissed the hell out of me.

"So hers is still better?" He asked and I shook my head. "Good."

We headed to take a shower then had dinner. I remembered that there's something I didn't do. I most certainly didn't check what was inside of the box that was delivered for me at work.

Once in our bedroom, I opened it and dropped it to the floor immediately.

What kind of sick bitch does this?

I sank to the floor and hugged my knees to my chest.

"Hey, hey, what's wrong?" Alex asked.

"Why were you screaming, what's wrong?" He asked again and I just pointed at the box. I didn't even noticed I screamed.

My cellphone then vibrated from the bed and Alex checked it out.

"Hope you liked my gift, are you up for the next one?" He read.

"This is not even the first time this person texted you, why didn't you tell me?" He asked and I cringed.

"I thought it was nothing serious, a secret admirer perhaps." I said then buried my head between my thighs.

I felt his presence next to me then he pulled me in for a tight hug. "I'll find out who its from and I'll deal with that psychopath, okay?" He said and I nodded.

13

ALEXANDER

I watched as she peacefully fell into slumber. She struggled to sleep after what happened but I'm glad she finally did. I slipped out of bed and made my way to my stash to pour myself a shot of whiskey.

I gulped it down my throat then poured a half full glass of more whiskey then sat down on one of the couches and watched as she lightly snored her fears away.

What kind of sick game is this?

Jigsaw?

I found myself listening to the endless tone of Laila's caller tune in my office with the bottle of whiskey in my hand.



The fear in her eyes was like getting stabbed in the heart. She was so terrified, its not even funny.

"Hey, lover boy? How's my girlfriend doing?" She asked.

"On which level of craziness are you at, Laila?" I queried. She chuckled.

"Liked my gift?" She asked then laughed.

"Laila, whose finger is that?" I asked, half yelled.

"I knew you'd like it..." She said.

Furious as ever, I jumped off my chair and threw my glass against the wall. "Whose finger is that, dammit! Why would you even send that to my wife?" I yelled. She laughed still.

"I'm not done yet, Alexander. More is yet to come, I will destroy..." I screamed and threw my cellphone across the room.

I threw myself back on my chair then downed the bottle of whiskey like it were water.

Fuck! Fuck! FUCK!

Once the bottle was finished, I rested back on my chair to calm myself down before heading back to bed which was a mission because I felt the world spinning.

Well I made it to bed, alright. I wrapped my arms around her waist and pulled her closer to me. She mumbled something which was obviously not clear and I dismissed it.

"Sshh, hush baby, let's sleep." I said then pecked her back and instantly fell asleep.

Next morning I didn't go to work. I was working from home cause Jules needed me and luckily, it was her day off. I had her friends come over and also tightened security, we don't know what that deranged psychopath is capable off.

After making breakfast for all of us, I took it to the lounge where they were sitting. She looked comfortable with her head rested on Uminathi's little bump and when I occupied the space next to her, she rested on my chest.

I had a hard time with deciding whether to call them or not because I thought she'd breakdown with Umi being pregnant but she looked unbothered.

I would've called her mother to come comfort her but my mind convinced me otherwise. I didn't want her father thinking I can't protect his daughter and that I was never even good enough because of the age difference.

"This has got to be the best pancake I've ever tasted." Umi said. Jules chuckled then looked at me. I couldn't help but steal a kiss.

"You guys have got to be the cutest couple I've ever seen."  
Nahida said and I chuckled then broke our kiss.

"Aren't you hungry?" I asked Jules and she shook her head.

"Come on babe, you have to eat. Just five spoons of your porridge then one pancake." I said and she snuggled closer.

"Baby..." I called out softly and she looked at me and gave me her puppy eyes.

"Please eat, one spoon even." I said then she sighed out loud.

Nahida handed me the bowl of porridge and I started to spoon feed Jules and I forced her to finish the porridge. I've been telling her that breakfast is the most important meal of the day but does she listen? Not one bit.

I even had to bathe her because she woke up with her mind a billion kilometers away from life.

I left them to chat and headed to my office to work. I did say I'll be working from home, didn't I?

I worked the hours away until the girls announced that they were leaving. Jules felt much better, I could tell with the way she was grinning soon after.

I settled next to her and took the chocolate truffle from her bowl and threw it inside of my mouth. She gave me a death stare and I chortled.

"I'm not scared of you, Jules." I said and she clicked her tongue then snuggled closer to me with her entire body all over me.

We were watching one of her favourite movies, The Transporters: Refueled. She preferred that one than the rest of the transporters and I didn't blame her because I for one preferred this one.

When the movie ended  
she was already all over me, its the wine.

Wine is said to make women horny. This wine was making her an alcoholic and a sex freak, I don't even know who told Nahida to come with wine cause she already has a stash of wine in the pantry.

I returned the kiss and she helped me to take my T-shirt off. She gripped onto my arms as I sucked on her neck.

Her moans! FUCK!

She suddenly screamed and got off of me. "What? What is it?" I asked looking where she was looking.

"Oh my god! I'm sorry." She said then covered her face with her hands.

"What is it?" I asked and she shook her head.

"I thought I saw that finger and... Holy shit! I'm sorry." She apologized. I sighed out loud.

"I think I should get you a therapist, someone who will be able to help you." I announced after some time.

She glared daggers at me. "What? Do you think I'm crazy?" She asked and I shook my head.

"No, oh no. I just think you need professional help, thats all." I said and she chuckled.

"Professional help? You think I'm crazy?" She asked and I shook my head.

"No baby, no. I just think it was a traumatic experience, that's all." I said.

"You think I'm crazy, Alex? I am your wife! We've been married for years now and you've known me almost my entire lifetime and you now want to call me crazy?" She asked and I just looked at her, speechless.

I should've probably told her the truth, that way, she wouldn't have to go through all this. I should've told her the truth so I wouldn't have to see her like this, calling herself crazy and stuff.

Laila sending a human finger to my wife means she's also capable of sending an entire head, I mean whose finger is that?

I actually shouldn't have cheated in the first place to avoid such things. How am I to break it to her without having her leave my ass and never looking back?

"Baby, come here." I said taking her hand into mine. I pulled her towards me and she gravitated on my lap. She curled up on top of me and clinged on me for her dear life. My T-shirt was drenched in her tears already.



"I have to tell you something." I said and she broke into more sobs.

"Whose finger is that? Why would someone even do that, to me? What did I do to deserve all of this? Where did I go wrong?" She asked and I rested my head back.

"Answer me, Alex. Please answer me." She beseeched.

"Baby, please. I have to tell you something." I said then looked at her.

"Sure." She said softly.

Her cellphone vibrated from the coffee table and she quickly reached out for it.

She covered her mouth then sank to the floor and burst into more tears.

I picked up the cellphone to view what she was viewing and felt anger building up inside of me.

I threw her cellphone across the room then turned to look at her. She was no longer sobbing but laying still on the floor.

I kneeled next to her and checked her pulse, still breathing. Breakdown, she hadn't fully recovered from breaking down.

I have to end this. Laila is going to pay for this. She softly mumbles as we went up the stairs with her small anatomy on my arms.

Once in our room, I carefully placed her on our bed then reached out for my cellphone which was in bad condition and called her.

"You really love me, don't you?" She asked.

"Laila, what is wrong with you?" I asked and she chortled.

"You are dead meat, Laila. DEAD!" I yelled then hung up.

14

JULIETTE

I found Alex pacing around the house, looking all sorts of stressed. I placed my bottle of water on top of the counter then made my way to him.

"Hey, handsome." I said wrapping my hands around his waist. He sighed out loud then turned to me.

He cupped my cheeks then pecked my lips and wrapped his arms around me. "I was worried sick. Where were you?" He asked after breaking the hug.

"Out jogging, I read about it in the internet. Its said to help clear the mind and honestly, it works. When last did you go for a jog?" I asked, teasing rather.

"Baby, you can't leave the yard. Not when were going through such a tough time." He said and I chuckled.

"Your security had me followed with two guards who were armed so I was safe." I said.

Its true. I don't know who jogs with a gun but they did it, for my safety and under Xander's orders.

"Even so, I don't want you going out anymore." He said.

"Well, I have to go visit my friend. Is that okay with you?" I asked.

"Who? Nahida? Umi? Both?" He asked and I shook my head.

"My new friend." I announced.

"New friend? I didn't know you have a new friend. Do I know her?" He asked and I shook my head.

"Perhaps you do or you don't, who knows?" I took a sip of my water after shrugging.

"If I don't know her then no, you can't go." He said and I made my way to him.

"Alex, relax. I'll be fine plus I have to get out of the house and get a breather. Let's go take a shower so you can go to work." I said pulling his arm.

After showering, I put on a black turtleneck top with black cargo pants and white sneakers. I tied my hair to a pony tail then searched for my cellphone.

Alex had it thrown across the room and it's now in a bad condition. He also disappeared on me as I was sleeping. I wonder where he went but that's honestly the least of my worries.

When I found my cellphone, I grabbed my handbag and car keys, kissed Cancer good bye then headed to Laila's house.

I don't know where he got my cellphone number but she called and invited me over at her house or rather, apartment. Its a beautiful two bedroom apartment with a double garage.

She also has a beautiful black and white range rover whereas I have a red and ruby red land rover range rover. She must be monied.

"Hi." I greeted as I made my way in.

"Hey..." She greeted back then made her way to me. Her hands rested on my waist and she pecked my lips.

Awkward! I looked around with my lips pressed together and she searched for my eyes. "You look beautiful." She said and I blushed.

"You look more beautiful when you smile." She said and I blushed again.

"Thats more like it."

"Stop it!" I said then moved away from her and made my way to the lounge.

"Beautiful home." I complimented.

"Yeah, my ex boyfriend purchased it for me, as well as the car." She said. Oh!

"Would you like anything to drink?" She asked and I nodded as I occupied the comfortable looking couch on her lounge.

"Red wine will do." I shouted.

She came back a few minutes later with a glassful of red wine and a glass of juice.

"You don't drink?" I asked and she chuckled. "I used to, hence I have the wine. I'm just laying off alcoholic beverages." She said.

"Reason being?" I asked and she chuckled. "I was advised to for I was turning into an alcoholic." She said.

We conversed about what has been happening in my life lately over wine and weed. Yes, she had a stash of weed and I also told her everything. I mean the finger

the picture of the hand without a picture, the flowers, the ring, everything. She seemed shocked but we just brushed everything off because of the weed.

"I don't understand what kind of sick fuck does that, I mean what have I..." She cut me midsentence.

"I love you." She announced.

"What?" I asked in disbelief. I swear I sobered up immediately.

"I love you, Juliette." She said. I chuckled.

"No, this is not right. I'm hearing things now. Are you sure this weed is not expired or something?" I asked.



She shook her head then pulled me closer to her. Our lips locked and we hungrily kissed.

I broke the kiss then backed up. "This shouldn't be happening." I said.

"No, this should be happening. I love you and I've loved you for some time now. I've actually loved you from the very first day I met you." She said.

"I'm married, Laila and I'm certainly not bisexual." I said sternly.

"I know that! You don't have to like me back but please allow me to experience this." She said with pleading eyes.

"I'm married, Laila, happily married and I'm definitely not your rebound. You may be bisexual and shit but I'm..."

She attacked me with a kiss and refused to break it. She inserted her hand inside of my cargo pants and thongs then rubbed my clitoris with her fingers.

So good...

"You like that?" She asked and I nodded. I tried to muffle my moans by biting my bottom lip but I couldn't for she was rubbing harder on my clit.

"Laila..." I called out. "Yes?" She responded, softly.

"Please... Stop." I said in between my moans.

"Should I?" She asked then slowly inserted a finger inside my cookie. She has got to be shitting on me.

"Ah no, don't stop." I said and she chuckled then nuzzled my neck. Her other hand cupped my breast through my T-shirt then pinched my nipple. I couldn't help but moan louder.

My cellphone rang from my handbag. "I have to take the call." I said and she didn't stop. Instead, she inserted another finger inside of me and thrusted in faster.

"Laila, please stop! It might be important." I said but she didn't stop.

"Laila, stop it!" I yelled and she stopped then sat back. "Okay, fine!" She raised her hands up as a sign of defeat.

I gathered my strength before rushing to answer my cellphone.

"Hi love." I greeted after answering the call.

"Hey babe, are you okay? I called earlier on and you didn't pick up." He said.

"You called?" I asked.

"Yep. Anyway, I was checking on you. When are you planning on going back home?" He asked and I turned to face Laila who was seductively sucking on her two fingers she used to finger me and I instantly pictured the finger that was sent to me.

My breathing elevated. I dropped my cellphone then gravitated to the tiled floor. Lights out.

I woke up with Laila staring at me. She looked worried but tried to hide it - couldn't have fooled me.

"Hey baby." She greeted while brushing my hair. I smiled then sat up straight.

"What happened?" I asked. I couldn't really remember everything but I did feel lightheaded and dizzy.

"You fainted while talking on the phone. It was just twenty minutes thought and I think its best you leave when you're feeling better." She said and I nodded.

"And I know just how to make you feel better." She said.

"Laila look, I'm not into women and I'm happily married. This is wrong." I announced and she chuckled.

"I know that but I'm failing to understand cause you're responding to my touch." She said.

"It was the wine, it made me horny." I responded.

"Oh really?" She asked hovering over me.

I slightly pushed her then rolled off of the bed. "I have to go." I said then rushed out.

What is happening to me?

Alex understood the kiss but I doubt he'll take this lightly.

15

ALEXANDER

When Jules returned, I was already at home.

"I ordered take outs and I already ate. I'll be in the gymnasium if you need me." I said then made my way to the gym.

She did mention that she was heading to visit her mother. I'm now afraid of her mother's response to everything that has happened cause I know she told her everything.

Having to think that I'll lose her after confessing, I don't know. I'm not ready to lose her but yet again, I can't live like this anymore.

I took all my anger out on the punching bag, punching it like there's no tomorrow. I punched harder while screaming until I felt small and soft hands on my stomach. I stopped then turned around and came to sight with Jules.

I melted at her embrace. I can't do this anymore.

"Xander, look at me." She said cupping my face. "Hey, look at me." She said and I did.

"We always go through hard times but we have to look at them and deal with them face to face. We always fall but we have to get up and dust ourselves clean. We confuse our enemies and kill them with kindness or even hit them with a baseball bat."

She said and I chuckled. "We'll get through this, okay? We're strong."

They're no match for us. That finger and hand mean nothing to me. Then can send the entire body or even the head, I don't care. I don't care what you did to them or why they're doing this but we'll get through it, together!" She announced and all I could do was nod.

"Please don't leave me." I whimpered. "I won't make it through life. I won't be able to live without you." I said and she shook her head.

"No, don't say that to yourself. I'm not leaving, I'm not going anywhere, okay?" She said and I nodded vigorously.

"I'm not going anywhere, I'm here to stay." She said taking my boxing gloves off.

She threw them to the side then walked me out of the gymnasium to our bedroom. I hate doing this to her.

As grown as I am, I shouldn't be acting so weak in front of her but that's how much I love her. I can't stand what's happening and I also can't lose her. She's my life.

The next morning, I woke up with a clear mind. Coming clean is all I have to do.

She was in a good mood. She was so enthusiastic, I couldn't help but not tell her. I didn't want to spoil her mood. I'll tell her at night.



We took separate showers because when I woke up, she was already done with almost everything, she was just preparing breakfast.

I put on a caramel brown suit with a white short sleeve T-shirt underneath and white sneakers.

I combed my hair then made my way downstairs and found her already eating. Her smile widened when she saw me.

I tried to hold myself but a lot of emotions were brewing inside of me.

This was probably going to be the last time I saw her gorgeous and amiable smile that just brightens the entire room effortlessly.

Probably the last time to taste her food.

Probably the last time seeing her even.

"Jules, I love you." I said.

"I love you, Xander." She said and I forced out a smile, which obviously appeared as a weak smile.

"Alright, I have to go. I'll see you later." She said pacing around the kitchen. She pecked my lips then jogged out.

I honestly felt like ending my life. I could already imagine the pain in her eyes, the anguish in her cries and the hurt in her words. I've already lost her.

Once at work

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I couldn't really get anything done. My focus was nowhere to be found and time was barely ticking. I couldn't stomach anything during brunch and lunch and Jules wasn't answering my calls. I bet its a busy day with all the sirens I've been hearing.

I took a good look at my office and all I could see was Jules. All the memories we've had here, good and bad. We've made love here, argued here, I've fucked her senseless in this very same office and we've simply just had lunch in here. Life is going to be hard, harder than anything in the world.

When it was my time to knock off, I couldn't help but rush home. Jules was still not taking my calls. She didn't call or text to tell me she'd return late because she's having a busy day or anything, she was simply not taking my calls.

I called her mother and she didn't know anything about her whereabouts. I called Umi and Nahida but they also didn't know anything. I called her workplace but they said she disappeared right after lunch and never returned.

I called Laila and she just acted like her usual self - a pain in the arse and an exasperating little bitch.

There were ten minutes left before it was ten o'clock and by ten, I was heading to look for my wife.

The tracking company was useless, refusing to tell me where my wife's car is.

I poured myself another shot of cognac and gulped it down my throat then frowned at its bitter taste.

The door instantly opened and Jules walked in looking drained. I rushed to her and pulled her in for a tight hug. She didn't hug me back. She looked like she had been crying.

"Are you okay? I was worried sick about you, I almost looked up for a SWAT team to look for you." I said and she just walked past me. I followed her.

"I've been meaning to tell you something but I don't think you're in the right state of mind to hear it." I announced.

She threw herself on top of the couch then chortled. Her chortle then turned into sobs.

"I thought we were okay." She said. "I thought we were in love. I thought we were one." She said. "But we are one. We love each other." I said occupying the space next to her.

"It's not my fault. I'm not at fault for not being able to bear you any children. But for you to seek comfort in another woman's thighs?" She asked and I swallowed hard. Did Laila... Holy shit!

"Wait, that's not even the best part. You get her PREGNANT?" She shrieked.

"What?" I queried in shock.

"You knew I've always dreamt of having my own children yet you still went on and impregnated another woman. You lied, Alex. You lied to me! You told me you have never cheated on me!" She yelled.

"Babe..."

"Okay fine, you cheated, so what? DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT A CONDOM IS? You fuck your mistress then come back to me and fuck me too? You freaken impregnated her!" She cried.

I tried to touch her but she cringed.

"Don't you dare, Alexander Collins, don't you dare!" She yelled.

"Jules..."

"We are so done! You ruined everything. You broke my heart, my trust, my spirit and the hope I had for us. You broke our marriage. You ruined my life." She said taking her ring off.

"No, baby please." I beseeched.

"I HATE YOU!" She shrieked then threw her ring at me. She snatched her necklace from her neck then threw it at me.

"I freaken curse the day I met you!" She yelled then threw the box she was holding at me.

She jumped off the couch then ran up the staircase. I opened the box then came to sight with three positive pregnancy tests, Laila's diary and our pictures.

I tossed it to the side then made my way up the staircase. She had all her suitcases on top of our bed and she was already pacing up and down with her clothes.

"Juliette, please."

"When were you even going to tell me?" She asked. "I wanted to tell you tonight but you went awol and..." She cut me midsentence.

"Tonight? After all this time? After all the things I had to go through, you wanted to tell me tonight?" She asked.

"Juliette..."

"DON'T!" She said, firmly then disappeared into her walk in dressing room. I turned to her suitcases and took out everything she packed in side of them.

"You're mine, you're not going anywhere." I said.

"YOU'RE MINE!"

16

JULIETTE

I've been fighting and arguing with Alex since last night and we both didn't get sleep. He had my clothes all over the room. I couldn't pack with him unpacking everything I had packed and throwing them across the room.

I ended up settling in the corner of the bedroom and he just sat on the corner of the bed. He let me in on what made him cheat on me, which made me feel worse than I already had.

He told me everything, how he and Laila met, that she's the one who has been sending those 'gifts' and that he bought her the apartment and car.

And I also told him about Laila and all the things we did or rather she did to me.

"When I get up from here, I'm going to pa..."

"NO!" He yelled.



"Alexander..." I called out, softly.

"I said NO and that's final." He said firmly.

I buried my head between my thighs.

"She's beautiful, clever and pregnant. What is it that you want from me, Alex? I'm useless. I'm stupid and I can't bear you children. She has everything that men want in women and I'm just there." I said.

"Don't tell me that shit." He said.

I kept quiet and so did he but only for a while.

"Let's face it, we're over. I won't be able to trust you nor allow you in my life ever again. You have ruined my life, Alex. You broke the heart that's supposed to love you so what am I going to love you with? What if we try other options but they fail then you cheat again? I can't go on with this marriage, Alex, I just can't. I love you, I love you a lot but right now, I just need to be alone. I need a marriage break, to think things through.

To decide on what to do. This marriage is broken and it won't be easy to mend. Please don't make things difficult, just let me go. You have a baby on the way and you should be focusing on that. Focus on your business, build an empire for your unborn child and start a new life. Laila is a wonderful woman, I'm sure you'll have a beautiful family." I said.

I watched as he wiped his tears and tried to pull a strong face.

"Let me go. I promise you, we'll be fine separately and you would have long forgotten about me in a few days to come." I said.

"I don't want to forget about you. Baby please, I won't make it without you." He said and I shook my head then chuckled.

"You made it without me for an entire year with another woman, you'll make it now too with the same woman who's carrying a child, that's what you've always wanted

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right?" I asked.

He got up from the bed and made his way to me. He took my hands into his then pulled me up and tightly hugged me.

"You said you won't leave me..." He whimpered. I couldn't help but uncage more of my tears.

I've always said I'd leave his ass should he cheat on me and I thought it would be easy but this is cumbersome. This is way beyond me.

Either way, it has to be done.

"You promised to be loyal to me. You vowed to stay with me in sickness and in health but you went and cheated on me." I sobbed.

His arms around me tightened as he squeezed me for dear life. "Please make this easier and let me go." I beseeched.

"I can't, I can't do that. I just can't." He said.

"You have to, its the only way out." I said. He broke the hug then looked at me in the eyes.

"I'm sorry." He apologized. "If that's what you really want then I'll let you go but you're always welcome here. If the world is getting on your nerves, come back. If you need someone to talk to, call me or even come over.

And always remember that I love you and I'll never stop loving you." He said and I nodded forcing a weak smile.

There goes my marriage of seven years.

He pecked my forehead then let go of me and walked out of the bedroom. I threw myself on the bed and laid there for a few minutes just to calm myself down and think things through.

Yes, I have to go. I can't stay here nor be with him even.

When I had gathered my strength, I picked up all my clothes, folded them then carefully packed them into my suitcases.

I washed my face and brushed my teeth, changed into comfortable garments then called in sick at work.

Laila, the person I confided in and trusted in was the person behind my pain. She was there all along and I let her in.

I asked the guards to take my thousand bags to my car while I took one last tour of this house. It was great while it lasted, I chuckled at my thought.

I felt Xander's arms around my waist followed by a peck on the neck. He smelt fresh, I guess he decided to take a shower after trashing his office while I was packing.

"I love you..." He said. I wanted to say it back but I couldn't bring myself to.

The cat that always catches other people's tongues caught mine.

"I'll get the divorce papers and send them to you." I said as I snuggled away from his grip then turned to him.

He wanted to say something but I could tell he was too drained to say anything so he just nodded. I went on my toes to peck his lips then walked out.

Once in my car, I started the engine then drove out without looking back. I had booked myself a penthouse at embassy towers and I'll be staying there until I get my life pieces together.

I checked in and had my bags sent up. I didn't even bother to unpack because I wasn't planning on staying long - this place is fucking expensive.

I soaked myself in a tub of hot water while sipping on my favourite red wine.

"Its me and you against the world. The only person I trusted with my life was toying with me but I know you'll never disappoint. Its you and I against the world and we'll destroy their fucking flat asses." I said looking at my bottle then chortled.

It was pretty lucid that I was wasted and it was no use denying it because I was wasted and I knew it. Denying wasn't helping anymore, the truth always finds the way out.

I know that for I have experienced that. All of our dirty laundry will soon be out to play, no point of denying. Rather do it now, face the consequences and dance to the music before your past catches up to you and ruins everything. Your life, your marriage, your opportunities and your happiness.

Rather lose it all now then slowly build yourself up and regain your might than to fall when you have nothing and no one, that way you'll always be down.

"Take it all, take it all, take it all, take it all..." I sang along to Kiana Ledé's take it all while crying.

17

ALEXANDER

(FOUR MONTHS LATER)

"How is she doing?" I asked looking at Umi, impatiently awaiting her response.

"She's getting better. She's overcoming her depression and I think getting her a psychologist was a great idea." She responded.

I sighed then sat back and smiled to myself as a pang of nostalgia hit me hard.

"I miss her." I said and she chuckled.

"We all miss her, our old Julie. The Julie whose smile brightened up the whole room. The one whose eyes sparkled when she laughed." She said and her smile appeared on my mind.



These have been the longest four months of my life. Like she said, she did send the divorce papers to me three weeks after her departure but I sent them back to her, unsigned.

Laila also threatened me into living with her otherwise she'd abort the baby. She's now seven months pregnant and exasperating doesn't even begin to describe her.

Umi on the other hand is eight months pregnant and I know her baby will be beautiful. She's carrying a girl. Well, Laila and I are carrying a boy.

Since Uminathi lives with Jules, she told me that she has been in a relationship with a certain Doctor James Marshall but they haven't been explicit yet which is good but was still able to break my heart so I tried giving Laila and I a shot but its just not working.

I cleared my throat then focused on what I called her here for. Jules never left the house during the four months unless going to work and I haven't seen her since so this is me shooting my shot.

"So, I'm hosting a gala dinner at my mansion tomorrow night and I'd like you to come." I said. Having told her that, I knew that Nahida would also come and the both of them would try to convince Jules to tag along and if not, they'd force her.

"You'd like me or your Jules to come, Mr Collins?" She asked with a smirk plastered on her face.

"Well, there's no Umi without Jules now is there?" I asked and she chuckled.

"I'll convince her, force her even. But we don't have anything to wear." She said and I chuckled then reached out for my cellphone and called Avela in with the dresses she had picked out for them.

I watched as she picked a black open back body hugging dress with a black fur coat which I assume is for Nahida and a black mermaid dress with glitter on the trimmings and that one should be for her.

"I don't really know about Julie. Her fashion sense is on another level." She said and I smiled.

I reached out for my drawer and took out a box from House of CB, all the way from London.

I personally ordered a dress for her because I wanted us to match. The theme was all black, yes but Jules and I were going to be in black and red.

She loves red!

Well, I'll be in a red and black tux and she'll be in a red dress and black heels. Yes, I got her heels as well, even went as far as getting her hair accessories and jewelry.

"Oh my goodness, Alex!" She shouted taking Jules' dress out of the box. "She is going to be snatched!" She shouted once again and I chortled at her silliness.

Well, she was going to look snatched because I mean, why wouldn't she? She's my Jules.

"But why is it red?" She asked and I smirked.

"Oh, you sly fox!" She shouted again. God this woman!

Just then my receptionist called me to tell me that Laila is forcing her way up. Avela quickly helped Umi package the dresses then they both left just in time for Laila's arrival.

"Why is your receptionist so bad mannered? Doesn't she know that I'm the future Mrs Collins, carrying a mini Collins too?" She asked then threw herself on the couch.

"Good morning

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Laila." I greeted while massaging my head. Yep, thats how bad she was.

"Hi baby. Royalty missed his father and I missed my man." She said.

"I'm sure you did."

She sighed out loud and jumped off of the couch. "Can't you at least pretend to be happy?" She asked.

I sat back on my chair and slightly spun. "That's because I'm not happy, Laila. As grown as you are, I'm sure you know that pretending is like getting a sucker punch. Its not going to help but you're going to suffer." I said.

"Whatever. Is your suit ready for the gala? I don't want the press and the paparazzi to have a lot to write about tomorrow." She said and I chuckled.

She thinks she's my wife this one, I'm going to burst her bubble.

Well, even so, she's right. Jules and I have become the talk of town ever since Laila leaked a video of me talking with Jules on call regarding our divorce.

I know! Laila is crazy, that's not even negotiable.

"My suit is fine, just awaiting me to put it on. Is your dress coming together?" I asked and she beamed up.

"Its anything but nothing you've ever seen, darling." She said. I wonder how she'd look in it with all the weight gain and zero exercise.

"Laila, why are you here?" I queried.

"Royalty missed his father." She said.

"Couldn't you wait for me to arrive home?" I asked and she shook her head with a polite smile plastered on her face.

Sigh.

The night I had been awaiting finally arrived and nothing could bring me down. My happiness was clearly expressed. Anyone could see how excited I was just by looking at me.

The mansion was redecorated and looked completely different for the evening. While getting ready in my bedroom and Laila somewhere in the house, guests were starting to arrive.

I was most excited to see Jules. This dinner and all these sealed deals really meant nothing to me without Junior Mrs Collins.

After getting ready and taking a good look at myself, I could officially say that I was ready for war. I looked "snatched" as Umi said.

As I walked out of my bedroom and locked it too, I was met by Laila. This woman is going to be the death of me.

She was clad in a loose satin black dress, a fur coat over her shoulders and black comfortable slippers.

Simple yet beautiful.

We hooked hands then made our way down the staircase where the guests were. Some were already nibbling on snacks with glasses of their preferred beverages, great.

I introduced Laila to a few of my associates but only as the mother of my child. That's what she is so...

I spotted Uminathi and Nahida in the crowd then rushed to them. "Hey..." I greeted and they greeted back.

"Now I fully understand why the red dress." She said and I smirked.

"Is she coming?" I asked, curiously.

"Well, she flat out refused. She said she wasn't ready to see your face.

Sorry, I tried." She said then took a sip of her juice.



I swallowed the thick lump that suddenly formed on my throat as I slowly made my way through the crowd. I always forget to save room for disappointment, however, the show must go on.

I grabbed a glass of whiskey, downed it then grabbed a glassful of champagne and a fork. I lightly hit the glass with try fork vigorously to get the attention of the guests.

I loathe speeches. I only did them cause Jules always had a way to convince me to...

I cleared my throat to project my voice then raised my head. The French doors swung open and all I saw was red.

All heads turned and all eyes were on her. Laila grabbed my arm and whispered with her teeth gritted.

"What is she doing here and why is she matching with you?"  
She asked.

A smile slowly formed on my face and I chuckled in relief. "Alex, I'm talking to you!"

She slowly made her way in and I couldn't help but stare at her every single move. Only when the press started taking pictures of her did I burst my bubble.

Happy doesn't even begin to describe how I felt.

"Ladies and gentlemen, may I please have your attention..." I said and everyone turned to me.

## JULIETTE

I looked at the dress that laid on my bed. How could Alex expect this of me, to show up in front of all those people after what I dragged him through?

Why wasn't he giving up after all these newspapers? Why a red dress in a black themed gala? Why the invite in the first place?

"You can do it for yourself, for Alex or for myself even but stop punishing yourself. You may think Laila won this game except this wasn't a game at all. If there's anyone who loves you in this world except your parents and your best friends, its Alexander but whatever you do, its your choice." Uminathi said before she left.

She was trying to convince me to go to the dinner since last night and before she left, she told me that.

Taking her words into consideration, I dropped my towel to the floor then applied some lotion.

Its funny how I kept on taking her words into consideration and moving on then getting cold feet and stopping but I think I'm certain now, I'm going to the gala party and I'm ready for the press cause they'll obviously notice that I'm in red and they'll think I have a motive.

Once done, I combed my hair and applied a tint of makeup with a blood red lipstick to go with the dress.

I sprayed on my fragrance before putting on my heels and dress which was quite a mission because of the back but I succeeded.

I sat down before my mirror and braided my hair then tied it up with the hair accessories that came in with the dress.

I didn't open the jewelry box because I knew that the mystic topaz necklace was inside and the moment of truth proved my hunch to be correct.

I held it in my hands then stared at it for the longest time. I can't do this.

Its just one night, Juliette. One night.

Sigh.

I put it on, followed by my bracelet and the ring, I put it somewhere in my clutch bag.

I called a cab while gathering some of the things I needed. The cab arrived in five minutes and I was good to go.

My intestines were doing back flips and the spaghetti dance inside. I was so shaken, I couldn't even breathe properly.

"Are you alright miss?" He asked and I nodded then forced a weak smile. Oh gosh.

I haven't been driving ever since I moved in with Umi so I wasn't about to drive myself tonight.

I also moved in with Umi because she asked me to otherwise, I would've moved to an apartment or something.

I didn't want to purchase anything like a house until the divorce was finalized but Alex was giving me a hard time.

Each time I sent the papers to him which is probably countless, he'd send them back unsigned and I'd always smile when I found he hadn't signed them as if I didn't want him to but I also kept on sending them back.

I'm not sure I'm ready to see him and Laila dancing the night away. Longest night of my life.

When the cab pulled up on the driveway, a lot of cars were already parked outside and the French doors were closed. I guess I have to pull the Cinderella stunt now.

I could already hear the strident of babbling people and the music that was playing.

I paid

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got out of the cab then slowly made my way to the door. After meditating whether to enter or not, I pushed the doors open then stood at the threshold as my eyes dragged themselves to Alexander Collins who looked like his net worth, shit.

Handsome is an understatement when it comes to this man. He was wearing a black and red tux which meant he was matching with me...

We made eye contact and kept our eyes locked for what felt like hours until gasps dragged me back to life and I could see that people were staring at me.

I could see Laila pulling Alex's arm now and then and whispering at him but Alex just had his eyes on me.

I sighed out loud and strided into the middle of the crowd.

With a fork and a glass on his hands, Alex requested to be given attention as he smiled and said his speech.

"Hey girl..." Umi greeted and I instantly smiled and sighed out in relief. The attention I was getting from all these people sent shivers down my spine so seeing my friends next to me was relaxing.

"How did you find me?" I asked and they both chortled.

"You're the only one in a red dress so it was easy." Nahida said and I nodded then focused my attention on Alex and his speech.

"This deal means nothing to me if I can't celebrate it with my loved ones for they are the ones who kept on motivating me to not give up, to keep going and not to look back." He said looking at me with an unhidden grin on his face making me blush.



"The loved ones that are rare to find and very easy to lose..."  
He said and earned a few gasps from the crowd.

They also got the message? Now this is awkward.

"I hereby propose a toast - To your beloveds, to success, to love." He said raising a glass of champagne he got from a waitress.

"Here here." They said raising their glasses. I had no glass but that didn't matter cause I couldn't take my eyes off of Alex and neither could he so my surroundings didn't really matter.

He got off the stage and I turned to my friends. "I have to go to the loo." I said then ran off without hearing their response.

Now that the speeches were out of the way, I didn't want the paparazzi on my face asking me thousand senseless questions based on what they've made up.

I didn't go to the bathroom but I went to Alex's office. I remember this is where I always hid when he hosted events and I was tired.

There was this comfortable couch by the corner of the room where I just slept the evening away and some novels to help me when I was bored.

I ran my index finger over his desk from one corner to the other then smiled at the pang of nostalgia I had gotten.

"Is this where the lady in red is hiding?" A familiar manly voice startled me and I quickly turned only to come to sight with Alex.

I didn't hear him enter, was I that deep into my thoughts?

"You look ravishing" he complimented, striding towards me.

I took a few steps back until I felt my back against the cold abrasive wall of his office and before I knew it, he was in front of me.

I swallowed the huge lump of spit that suddenly formed in my throat.

"Alex..." I called out and he groaned. He caged me between his arms then whispered in my ear.

"You know why I bought you this dress?" He asked and I shook my head vigorously.

His hands traveled down to my waist and he pulled me closer to him. "I only bought this dress so I could take it off." He whispered in my ear and I released an uninvited moan. He groaned again.

That alone was enough to form a pool in between my legs. His smell, his voice, his possessiveness and everything else I have missed added to my pool, I swear I orgasmed on the spot.

Yes, I did.

He spun me around then pinned me against the wall. Why are you so submissive, Julie? This is the same man that cheated on you and impregnated that woman.

"Xander..." It came out as a moan. I turned around then attacked him with a kiss.

There was a sudden knock on the door which caused me to break the kiss.

"I missed you." He said then pecked my lips.

## ALEXANDER

I felt quite nostalgic about last night. I couldn't seem to get her out of my mind, she just popped up all the darn time and I was actually fine with it.

I woke up earlier than ever before. I managed to fit in a gym session and jogging then took a well deserved shower and made breakfast without rushing.

Jules, the things you do to me.

My door swung open and Avela entered with a newspaper on her hand. She placed it on the table and pushed it to me.

Just what I was waiting for.

"Early Reconciliation Day for the Collins." The heading read. I smiled to myself.

"You seem amused by this." Avela says. "I very much am amused by this, wouldn't you be?" I asked then drew my attention back to the newspaper.

"Reconciliation Day came very early this year for our favourite couple. Twenty six year old doctor, Juliette Sherwood- Collins and thirty six year old business tycoon, Alexander Collins who have been married for over five years and were on the verge of divorcing due to cheating and results of pregnancy were spotted together throughout the gala dinner that was hosted in the Collins mansion. They were clad in matching coloured outfits and couldn't take their eyes off each other. They had disappeared into Mr Collins' office for quite some time during the gala and when they did come out, they didn't want to answer any questions from any journalist. Could it be that they are terminating their divorce?" I read then looked at Avela.

"Answer the question." She said and I shook my head.

"Thats not all dear, it goes on... "Home is where the heart is, a man can cheat but he will always find his way home.

No one really knows what they were doing in the office but whatever it was, was meant to happen and could contribute to termination of the divorce. They love each other, no one will come between them and destroy what they have." Those were

the words of the famous daughter of one of the business tycoons, Jason Mnyanda and rich and highly requested painter, Zinzile Mnyanda - Uminathi Mnyanda." I read then looked at her again.

"So what happened in the office?" She asked.

"A lot happened."

"And have you spoken to her since last night or rather this morning?" She asked and I shook my head.

"I called her countless times but she didn't pick up. Since its her day off, she might be sleeping the day away or maybe I called too early, I don't know but whatever it is, she needs time to think things through." I said.

"You're still keeping track of her workdays? What kind of love portion did this woman feed you?" She queried while getting up and I just chuckled.

I picked up the newspaper and looked at the pictures of us they took, great stuff.

Thing is, I hired a journalist to print this out and to take random pictures of Juliette and I in case she showed up. There was also a camera in my office with the footage of what happened and I couldn't seem to stop watching it.

The way she responded to my touch was just mind blowing and when she orgasmed on the spot, she just drove me insane.

There was also something about the way she kissed me. I'm not imagining things, I just felt something different, a stronger bond perhaps, who knows?

Laila on the other hand was mad at me. I knew this because she was giving me the silent treatment but I wasn't bothered.

The door swung open then Uminathi entered. "Hi hi..." She greeted.



"Hi." I greeted back.

"How are you?" She asked occupying the seat on the other side of my desk.

"I'm well, as you can see. How are you? How's my Jules?" I couldn't help but to ask.

She grinned at me.

"She's smiling... I went to check on her this morning and found her already up. She had her knees hugged to her chest with a pillow in between. I could tell she was crying but she managed to smile." She said.

My heart softened up.

"I need to see her." I said and she shook her head.

"Give her time. She's confused, okay? One minute she hates you and the next she realizes how much she loves you. You hurt her

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you hurt her to the point she started losing her mind, remember? She's doing well in her therapy sessions and she's healing from the pain, the breakdowns and everything else. We both know she'll come around but for now, let's leave her be. Capeesh?"

I nodded. If I could, I would go see her but Umi is right.

We had a little chat before she decided to leave and I was left with a whole lot of work on my hands.

I worked the evening away with Jules popping up on my mind every now and then.

Come to think of it, I couldn't wait for Laila to give birth so I could fight for full custody over Royalty then get her out of my life.

I wouldn't want my son to grow up without a mother but Laila is not deserving of becoming a mother.

I'm not a horrible person, am I?

Laila gave him the name Royalty. I was hesitant of it at first but I think I made peace with it.

"Sir, miss Laila said to inform you that she's on her way to the hospital for her check up. And senior Mr Collins will be here any minute now." Avela announced before excusing herself.

As busy as I was, I couldn't attend her daily check ups with her and she always insisted on going alone.

Quite bizarre but I didn't mind.

The door swung open and father made his way in. I stood up and made my way to him. We shared a manly hug before taking our seats.

I had never seen father smile unless he was with mother. She had her ways to make him soften up but since she had passed on, he was known as a grump.

We got the greeting out of the way and he went straight to what he came here for. "How is Juliette?" He queried.

"She's getting better. I had the chance to talk to her at the gala dinner." I responded.

"I saw the newspaper, I read it too." He announced. "Juliette reminds me of your mother. Short, bubbly, beautiful, respectful and smart. Silky brown hair, aquamarine sparkly eyes and pale skin. She resembles your mother in so many ways, if I didn't know better, I'd say your mother had an illegitimate daughter." He said.

I hate to admit it but it's true. Jules resembled mother in so many ways. Other than loving her wholeheartedly, she reminded me of mother.

"You didn't handle things the right way, son. Marriage is not a child's play. You didn't cheat because you sought comfort but you cheated on your own will. You made that choice. When I cheated on your mother..."

"You cheated on mother?" I asked in disbelief. He nodded.

"I did but it was long before we got married. I cheated on her countless times and funny enough, I always returned to her and apologized that's because I loved her. I didn't want to lose her so I tried proving to her that I'm a changed man and that required giving her time to herself, to think things through and decide on what she really wanted."

I swallowed hard at the thought of giving her more time on top of these long ass four months I had to suffer. But that is probably no match for the year she suffered.

"I can't give her more time, father. These have been the longest and most cumbersome four months of my life." I said.

"More cumbersome than the twelve months of anguish she had to put up with?" He asked.

The guilt!

"I want you to see the light here, son. I'm only advising you and not shooting your ass because I like her. If you fail to keep her then I'll marry her plus I think she likes them old, more matured and monied." He teased and I couldn't help but to laugh.

"But honestly son, just give her a few more days and tell her to call you whenever she's ready so you can talk things through and see if you won't be able to mend her broken heart." He said.

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JULIETTE

"I need more time, mother." I said then looked at her.

"Time is not at a standstill, awaiting your decision. Time is moving and the world is a very dangerous place. Life is unfair and anything is possible." She said.

I swallowed the huge lump stuck on my throat then wiped my tears. I knew very well what she meant.

"He might die any moment now and believe me you, you'll regret not forgiving him for the rest of your life. You'll be miserable for the rest of your life and you'll die from depression." She said.

No, he won't die. He can't die. He wouldn't dare die on me.

"Why can't you admit it? You miss him and you love him." She said.

"He hurt me, mother!" I snapped. I couldn't bring myself to forgive him because I always thought of how much he hurt me and I promised myself that I would never forgive him but its been hard lately.

With James on the other hand requesting to see me, he obviously saw the newspaper. I don't know how a picture of Alex and I kissing in his office was taken but it was.

I honestly didn't know how to feel about and around James. Our kisses were just plain boring and whenever he touched me, I felt uneasy.

There was zero connection between us, zilch. I felt nothing about him but as much as love is blind, I doubt he even noticed that he wasn't making me happy.



"Don't you think he feels bad? You're punishing him way too hard now, even I can feel his pain." She said.

"But you can't feel your own daughter's pain?" I asked.

She sighed out loud.

"That's not what I mean baby, and you know it." She said.

Oh do I?

"What I'm trying to say is that marriage is not a child's play and I've been telling you. Your father may not be too fond of Alex but he did confess to liking the idea of having him as his son-in-law. Thing is, we can't imagine you with someone else and we know how much you two love each other regardless of the age difference. We know no man can ever make you as happy as he did. Let's let the pain out of this for a second.

You've been happy for over nine years with him, it's just that one year where things went awry, am I wrong?" She asked and I shook my head.

"The pain matters, yes but your happiness matters more. I'm not asking you to forget, I'm just asking you to try and forgive him, for your own sanity." She suggested.

I nodded and got off her bed. "I have to meet up with James, I'll call you later on." I said.

I took my handbag from the couch then made my way out. I pecked father's cheek then made my way out.

I was back to driving again and jokes aside, I missed it. I missed my car. I missed my roaring engine. And I missed my loud as music.

When I arrived at the eatery we were meeting at, I rushed inside and immediately spotted him sitting at the far corner of the room drinking water.

I slid into my seat then looked at him

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awaiting him to say something.

"I saw the newspaper." He said and I sighed out loud. I knew it.

"Everyone saw them." I said and he chuckled.

"What were you thinking?" He asked.

"I wasn't thinking at all." I said.

"You said you hate him. Now you go and kiss him and god knows what else you did." He said and I chortled.

"I can't just hate the man I've been married to for seven years." I said and he chuckled.

"What are you trying to say?" He asked.

I sighed then sat back. "This is not working." I announced.

"What is not working?" He asked.

"Us, me and you. We're not working and... I think I haven't moved on from Xander." I said.

He laughed while shaking his head. "You can't break up with me." He said.

I'm honestly not going to go through with this. I pushed my seat back then got up. He jumped off of his seat too.

"We're still talking, where are you going?" He asked.

"This is not up for discussion, James. You're old and matured, I'm sure you understand. We're over." I said then spun on my heels in attempt to walk off.

He grabbed my arm and tightened his grip. "You owe me an explanation." He said.

"You're hurting me." I said softly.

"Start talking, why are you breaking up with me?" He asked.

I couldn't respond, his grip tightened whenever he uttered a word. He was hurting me. My arm was officially ablaze.

"Let go of me." I said firmly. He chuckled. "James, let go of me!" I snapped.

"You don't call the shots here, start explaining yourself." He said whilst I wrestled myself out of his hold.

"Do you have any idea how long I've waited to date you. I had to watch that loser fetch you from school every single day and he'd kiss you in front of me. The audacity, his audacity!" He yelled.

"James, let go of me!"

"Does it hurt? Its hurts, right? That is nothing compared to what I'm feeling now. You can't break up with me, in fact, we're married." He said then pulled me to him and forced to kiss me.

He suddenly fell to the ground, followed by Alex who punched the hell out of him.

It happened so quickly, I didn't even see when Alex arrived or how that one punch made James fall to the ground.

Other male customers had to force Alex to stop and they held him so he couldn't run back to finish James off.

I personally would've let him finish him off but I knew Alex and his temper. He wouldn't have stopped punching him cause he gets angry so fast and takes a whole lot of years to calm down.

I would sometimes get terrified when he shouted at me cause I could see the anger in his eyes. The Alex I married never shouted at me so his ire really terrified the shit out of me.

Oh right, videos. Front cover of the newspaper again tomorrow morning.

I was tired of this.

Umi softly caressed my hair after I rested my head on her huge belly. "Bad day?" She asked.

"I broke up with James." I said and she remained quiet. I could literally feel her smiling.

"And no, he didn't take it too well hence he was a little rough with me then out of nowhere, Alex comes and saves me from him with so many punches, I swore he died. And he scared the shit out of me. " I narrated.

"Alex loves you." She said.

"How do you know that?" I queried.

I sat up straight then hugged my knees to my chest. I laid my head on my knee caps, focusing my attention on her.

"He told me so and he's been for the past four months. He's remorseful about what has happened and he has been for a long time." She said.

"What do you mean he's been for the past four months?" I asked.

She sighed out loud.

"Alex found you the psychologist and he has been paying for your sessions.

He's the one paying for your medication. He asked me to update him on your health and you in general and I have been. And I don't leave a day without him telling me he loves and misses you. He's been trying to forget about you but he didn't succeed especially with Laila driving him crazy. He's miserable, babe." She said.



I couldn't help but feel guilty. I was the one feeling guilty but I'm the one who was wronged. How the hell does the universe work?

"Please talk to him. Tell him how you feel and what you think. Be honest with him and cry if you have to." She said then got off the bed.

## ALEXANDER

The drive to the airport was silent. I didn't want to talk to her and I didn't want to hear a single word from her mouth.

When we arrived, I helped her with her bags then led her inside. Her plane was leaving within ten minutes so waiting was really not an option.

On the other hand, the excitement that was brewing inside of me was overpowering my anger.

Laila was heading back to Singapore to visit her mother and tell them about the pregnancy. An entire week of freedom and a clear head. I didn't realize how much she was stressing me.

But not more than the look that was on Jules' face earlier on. She looked terrified, like she feared me.

The look on her face however kept on haunting me but I managed to get some work done. With my head all over the place, I doubted this company would stand strong.

Should it happen to collapse, it would be my fault. I wish Jules could forgive me and return to me.

Seeing her with that man broke me, it made me so frustrated I started lashing out on Laila until I saw Jules getting up and that James bond wanna be dude grabbing her arm and I could tell she was hurting.

With each punch, I felt better and better. I could feel my anger leaving my system and knowing that I protected Jules from that crazy piece of shit made me happy until I possibly saw the look on her face.

She cringed when I passed by her and she stepped away from me when I tried to touch her. After asking whether she was okay or not, she shook her head then ran out.

When I ran after her, she had already disappeared and there was no sign of her car.

Laila caught up with me together with her take outs and we silently made our way to the car.

I silently drove as she ate and I kept on shutting her up whenever she tried to talk. All I wanted was some peace and quiet, so her talking would've made me angry.

Sad part was that Laila knew how to piss me off. Whatever she said and whatever she did was to spite me. Ever since she moved in, I had forgotten what peace was.

She threatened her way into my mansion and I had no choice but to let her in.

I remember I slapped her so hard that day

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the day after Jules left. She came to visit and to tell me she really was pregnant.

She just laughed at me and threw her results on my face. "I'm pregnant, lover boy now deal with it." She said placidly.

"When are you ever going to stop lying?" I queried and she chortled.

"I don't care what you think and I most certainly don't care what you say. I also don't care about this thing developing inside me because I'm going to kill it anyway." She said.

"You wouldn't dare." I said and she smirked.

"Last time I checked, its my body and terminating this pregnancy would crush you so hard, you'll kill yourself instantly but I might just not, only on ONE condition." She said.

I sat down sighed out loud.

"What do you want?" She asked.

"To move in with you. I want you to love me again and spoil me like you did before." She said.

I obviously agreed even though I failed to love spoil her. After years of trying to get Jules pregnant, I couldn't help but agree to her terms and conditions. That baby was my weakness and he still is.

Once she gives birth, I'm going to love him so much, he won't need a mother figure in his life.

I'm only disappointed with the fact that Royalty won't have a beautiful and balanced home cause his mother is a lunatic and his father is a depressed fool.

Of all Jules' things, she left or rather forgot her scarf. Its this black scarf that you can wear with almost anything and at any time.

I think she only left it because she didn't see it from the corner of the room because I threw her clothes all over the room as I was unpacking her bags.

I got the scarf for her when we were in Dubai. I could tell by the way she was staring at it that she liked it so I purchased it.

Her scent was all over it hence I hid it from Laila. Whenever I thought of Jules which was all the time, I would reach for it and cover my face with it and take in her scent while thinking of her innocent smile.

That woman is powerful. She attracts both genders. I honestly question Laila's intentions with Jules. There's no denying that she's bisexual, that I've always known but was she pleasuring Jules to spite me or she really was interested in her?

As long as she never answers me, that question itself will remain unanswered.

I gulped my whiskey down my throat then headed to the master bedroom with Jules' scarf draped over my neck.

## JULIETTE

I knocked on the door and waited patiently for it to open. That's if it was going to open but after the mission I had to go through at the gate, the door had to open and it had to be opened by Alex.

As I was about to knock again, the door opened and before me stood Alexander Collins. I swallowed the thick lump stuck in my throat before I could say anything.

"Jules..." He called out and flashed a weak smile. I too tried to smile but it felt rather forced.

"May I come in?" I asked and he nodded then moved away from the door for me to enter.

Once in, he closed the door then leaned against it with his back. He scanned me from head to toe before looking into my eyes.



Silence engulfed as I was trying to figure out what to say. "I don't even know what I'm doing here." I said then chuckled. "Didn't I perhaps leave anything that belongs to me here?" I asked looking around the house.

"Not anything I can think of." He said in an abrasive tone. I pressed my lips together then nodded.

"Would you perhaps like anything to drink?" He asked and I shook my head.

"I should probably go before Laila returns." I said. I was still standing at the same spot though.

"NO!" He snapped. "I mean please stay longer." He said moving away from the door. "Just have one glass of winery then you can go." He added on, passing by me. I shook my head.

"No, I should go." I said making my way to the door.

"Jules..." He softly called out. I stopped on my tracks and turned to look at him. He slowly made his way to me and once in front of me, he took my hands into his.

I swallowed hard as our fingers intertwined and I felt my eyes glowing. "I love you, Jules." He said.

My heart melted at his words but I told myself to stay put and stay collected. I told myself not to fall into his trap.

"No you don't." I said. He shook his head and leaned in closer. I stepped away from him. "I should go, I don't even know why I came here in the first place." I said then spun on my heels and made my way to the door.

He gripped on my arm and pulled me back to him. My bosom hit his hard chiseled torso whereas my eyes met with his. We locked contact for some time until I felt prickles in my eyes. I blinked and looked down and let my tears run free, uncaged in my eye sockets. These were tears of anguish, of the anxiety I had over him. The depression I suffered from and the regret for loving him. He tipped my chin and raised my head a bit.

"I love you, Jules." He said.

"No, you don't." I said in a softer tone while shaking my head.

"Yes I do." He said.

"No, you don't." I whimpered.

"YES I DO! Listen to me Juliette, I love you!" He yelled.

I then broke into more tears, tears with heartbreaking sobs. He pulled me into his embrace and pecked my forehead countless times. I tried my damdest not to feel balmy into his embrace but I failed. I thought it was going to be easier than this but I lied to myself. I stretched my arms towards his back and clung onto it for my dear life.

"I know I hurt you but I didn't mean to. I can't live without you, Jules, please don't leave me." He said in a whisper.

"You hurt me, Alex. You hurt me and it hurt more knowing you didn't bother to tell me. You were planning on keeping this from me." I cried.

"I didn't want this, okay! I knew you were going to leave me hence I didn't tell you." He said.

I tried to move but he tightened his hands around my small anatomy then pecked my neck.

"You impregnated her. You knew how much I wanted a baby. You lied to me, Alex! You lied..." My words slurred off as I broke into more tears.

I've always wanted a baby and now someone who was going to use this blessing to keep a man who doesn't even belong to her was receiving it and was going to use it to her advantage. Why can't I have a baby of my own, just one baby?

"I've never meant to hurt you baby, I'm sorry. I was broken, I just needed a stress reliever. I didn't want it to get this far." He said. "Please don't leave me

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Jules, please." He whimpered.

I grasped onto him and buried my drenched visage on his neck, taking in his intoxicating scent into my nostrils.

"You hurt me..." I whimpered.

"I know baby and I'm sorry. I'm so sorry my love." He said. He let go of me then took my hands into his and looked deep into my eyes.

I shook my head and looked away. He kneeled down with my hands still in his and pecked them countless times.

"Please Jules, please." He said and all I could do was to shake my head.

"If you walk out on me, I'll... I'm going to kill myself - yes! I'll stab myself to death or rather I'll cut my wrists then drown

myself. I'll drink my way to hell for hurting you and you'll never hear from me ever again." He said. I removed my hand from his and covered my mouth while shaking my head.

He got up from the floor and rushed to the kitchen drawer. He took out a long sharp knife and cut himself.

"Alex..." I called out, softly.

"You want to leave me, right? Go and leave me be." He said.

He cut himself again and groaned louder than the first time which means the cut was probably deeper. I rushed to him and took the knife from him. I threw it somewhere on the floor then cupped his face.

"I'm not leaving, I'm not leaving you." I said trying to calm him down.

"You've said that before but you left. How do I know you won't leave again?" He asked.

"Believe me you, I won't leave you. I haven't signed the divorce papers and I won't sign them. I'll stay with you, I'll come back. I'll never leave you again, never." I said.

"You're not leaving?" He asked and I nodded. "Yes, yes. I'm not leaving."

I sat him down on the highchair then searched in the cabinets for the first aid kit.

This woman rearranged my kitchen, for what reason? When I found it, I jumped and rushed to assist him. A lot of blood was dripping out but luckily, the cuts weren't as deep as I thought they were.

"Are they painful?" I asked. He chuckled then shook his head.

I sighed out in relief.

After helping him clean and bandage his wound, I took out the divorce papers from my bag and searched for a lighter. When I

found it, I set them alight then left them to burn in the bin. I hope I don't get in trouble with the law cause this is illegal. But for Alex's sake, I had to do it.

After that, I made my way to him and pulled him into a tight hug. He lightly sobbed as I caressed his back. I broke out of the hug and wiped his tears. He wiped mine then pecked my lips.

I hung my arms around his neck then kissed him. He responded back with passion. I swear I felt all of his emotions through the kiss. The dedication, the love, the clamour, the delicacy and the regret.

He soon had his hands all over my body and the kiss was getting heated. I pulled out to breathe and looked into his eyes.

I could tell he was happy with my return. Well, I was almost happy too if not excited. I guess I didn't know how to tell him that I want to terminate the divorce.



His hands landed on my buttocks and he squeezed the living daylight out of them.

"Alex..."

His face disappeared onto my neck of which he sucked on like there was no tomorrow. He then left trails of kisses from my neck to the back of my ear.

He nibbled on my earlobe then whispered in my ear. "Allow me to pleasure you. Let me make love to you." He whispered and I immediately felt a pool in between my thighs.

I just nodded and felt myself elevating with his hands tightly under my thighs and my hands wrapped around his neck.

There's no denying my love for him, not one bit.

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ALEXANDER

I missed her and I wanted her to know that. I wanted her to feel it and I wanted her to enjoy it because I was planning on fucking the heck out of her tonight.

I carefully placed her on top of the bed then broke the kiss. She helped me take my clothes off before denuding herself. Once done, I hover over her then spread her legs open.

I couldn't help but to smile in disbelief as I came to sight with her coochie, my coochie I meant.

I haven't seen it nor had it in four months. I thought I'd never see it ever again. I thought I'd never see her ever again. I missed her, I missed us, I missed this.

I gripped her waist as I started sucking on her clitoris. She started moaning softly, her moans and breathing ascending as I licked harder and faster on her clitoris.

She suppressed my head and wrapped her legs around me as she was nearing her climax. I could feel her clitoris throbbing as I sucked on it.

And how she almost wanted to cry when she was close to reaching her orgasm. She always did that and I secretly liked it.

She screamed out loud as she climaxed then grabbed on the sheets. In a hurry to insert my twitching shaft inside of her, I hovered over her and kissed her whilst rubbing my cock against her entrance, extremely wet entrance at that.

She broke the kiss by gasping as I slowly inserted my shaft inside her, making sure to insert all of it and fill her up. She was warm and tight like always.

She grasped onto me as I slowly started to move. "Are you okay?" I asked and she nodded vigorously then started to move herself.

I chuckled at that then gripped her waist and started thrusting. I watched as she bit her lower lip and squeezed her breast. She always did that to tease me and it always worked because I find her sexy and seductive without even trying.

Unable to control myself, I caged her in between my arms and captured her one boob with my mouth and started licking it while I thrust in harder inside her.

She was now breathing uncontrollably yet she ordered me to go deeper. She had her arms wrapped around me and she kept shoving her perky breast in my mouth.

When she wrapped her arms around my neck and tightened her hold, I knew she was close to her orgasm and that triggered my climax as I felt my veins twitching.

She pulled me in for a kiss then broke it when she was close to coming. She looked into my eyes then screamed out loud. I loved it when she did that.

Her screams drove me crazy and I groaned out loud in her ear as I came inside of her. I then collapsed on top of her and started pecking her neck.

"I'm not done with you." I whispered then pecked her lips.

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I was proud to say that I fucked her to sleep. I caressed her lips with my thumb as she lightly snored away.

Beauty isn't even close to describing her. She's way beyond that.

I looked at her for what felt like the longest time then stole a kiss. I could stare at her for hours without getting tired.

I got out of bed

put on my boxer briefs then headed to the kitchen to get myself a glass of water.

I didn't know how Laila was going to take this or how she was going to react to this when she returned from her parents' house and quite frankly, I gave zero fucks.

I just hoped nothing happens to my baby. I felt Jules' small arms around my waist followed by her head on my back. When did she wake up?

I gulped the water down my throat then turned to face her. She was wearing my T-shirt which was much bigger on her and she looked sexy. She stood on her toes and pouted, I knew just then that she wanted a kiss of which I gave to her after cupping her soft cheeks.

"Why are you up so late?" She queried.

"I just needed a glass of water. You drained me. I thought you wouldn't even make it to round three but you went over it." I said. She blushed then looked down.

"Where is Laila?" She asked. "Maybe in her room, I don't know." I lied.

She looked way too calm for someone who didn't know where Laila was. Even after I lied to her, she remained calm.

"I'm joking, she's at Singapore. She left yesterday after the fight broke down." I said. I also came to the realization that we have a lot to talk about hence I picked her up and put her on the counter then grabbed a chair for myself then sat in front of her with my head on her thighs.

"What were you doing there?" She asked.

"We were getting food." I responded.

She looked down then up then to the side. "What's wrong?" I queried. She usually did this when she wanted to hide her tears.

"How did we get here? One minute we're happy and the next we're dealing with fingers from Laila then we split and now we're here, how?" She asked.

"Its my fault and honestly I do regret my actions." I said.

"I know you do and Umi told me everything." She said. "So are you coming back?" I couldn't help but to ask. Curious is my middle name.

She nodded.

"And its not because I think you'll have suicidal thoughts should I leave, I've been dreaming of this day for the longest time. I tried to convince myself not to allow you to overpower me but I was lying to myself. I wanted you next to me with each passing day and now that it's here, let's make the best of it." She said.

"Whatever do you mean?" I asked.

"Its either you make me food or you fuck me back to sleep."  
She said.



"Why are you so dirty?" I queried and she chuckled.

"I mean it, Xander. Either you make me real food or you feed my throbbing pussy, now which is which?" She asked and I smirked.

We all know which one it is.

I slightly spread her legs then tapped on her bulging clit. She gasped.

This is going to be a long ass night.

LAILA

I caress my baby bump while breathing in the intoxicating chemicals of the doctor's office.

I didn't want things to turn out this way and I most certainly didn't want this baby but now that its here, I can't help but love it.

Yes, I didn't want it, I just wanted to have fun with Alex and I didn't mean to fall in love with him.

In the process of hurting him I didn't mean to fall in love with Juliette and I also didn't mean to hurt her in anyway. I thought I was just trying to spite Alex only to find I had fallen head over hills for her.

I know they're probably together which is why I extended my stay here.

I know I was a nuisance to Alex and honestly I'm tired of forcing things.

And I'd rather die than to have this baby killed.

I know Juliette has always wanted a baby and I know she'll have a hard time loving my baby but I hope and pray she will be a better mother than I had imagined myself to be.

"Laila, do you realize what this is going to do to you?" The doctor asks. I wipe my tears then look at him.

"I can't do this surgery doctor. I have done a lot of bad things and I know that my baby will be well taken care of." I say.

"Baby, please think about this." Mother beseeches.

"I'm already damaged, mother. Its only a matter of days then I'm completely damaged. There's nothing we can do now, its too late."

24

JULIETTE

I lightly caressed my lips with my thumb and bit my bottom lip as last night's event crossed my mind. I took a look at my reflection on the mirror and got to see how glowing I was.

Red nose, rosy cheeks and sparkling eyes. I don't know when was the last time I felt like this.

He wrapped his arms around me then placed sweet soft kisses on my neck that trailed off to my shoulder.

I missed him. More than I could ever imagine.

There was something about him that attracted him to me more than he already was. There was something about him that changed and I was loving it.

And the way he touched me was electrifying, the way he kissed me was unforgettable and the way he fucked me left me begging for more.

I had to beseech him until I couldn't anymore. I wanted what I wanted so I took it.

"You smell good..." He complimented now caressing my arms with his hands.

"I have to go to work so don't distract me." I said.

He chuckled then pressed his back against mine and I could feel his boner. "This is what you do to me." He whispered in my ear.

"Take a cold shower, we'll deal with that later." I said and he chortled.

"You're evil, woman." He said. "I learnt from the best." I responded.

He spun me around and kissed me, devouring my lips like there's no tomorrow. Without breaking the kiss, he placed me on top of the basin counter and spread my legs.

He loosened the towel that clung onto my bosom then cupped my breast. This man of mine is officially a sex addict.

This man right here was going through a dire dry spell.

He had my legs on his shoulders and my arms around his neck. That was downright hardcore and I loved it. He was hitting all the right spots and I was quite submissive for a person who was going to work and didn't want any distractions. A few more hard strokes and I came then he followed soon after.

Kill me now!

After he had left me sitting on top of the basin counter, he returned with a warm wet towel and wiped me clean then helped me off of the counter.

My legs were shaky and I felt as if they were going to fail me. I finished up preparing for work then headed downstairs to get breakfast.

I don't know how but he had some of my clothes delivered to the mansion. When I woke up, my suitcase was already here.

I felt his hot breath hitting my neck as I was making eggs. "Alex, you're going to make me burn myself." I said and he chuckled.

"I didn't ask you to be so beautiful." He said and I blushed then turned the stove off. I moved the pan to a cold plate then turned to face him.

My hands rested on his broad shoulders then I leaned in to peck his lips. Luckily, I was wearing heels so I didn't have to stand on my toes.

"I think you should start wearing your scrubs so that your colleagues don't drool over you at work." He said and I chortled.

"Which colleagues?" I asked.

"Especially the doctors, like James. Should he even breathe out a word to you, tell him I'm not only going to break his nose but his spine." He said and I chuckled.

"I doubt there'll be anymore bone breaking from now on." I said tapping his nose.

He quickly stole a kiss.

The intercom came on and the guard informed us of the incoming guests.

I opened the door for them and they entered. "Babe, what's going on?" Alex asked and I smirked.

"Thank you for coming on such short notice. Please make this house spotless. If you find a cockroach or anything that looks like one, throw it away. I need you to clean the entire house except the master bedroom. PLEASE have this house cleaned up by lunch break. Is that okay with you?" I asked and the team leader nodded.

"Right, let's get to work." He said and ordered his team on what to do, how to do it and where to do it.

"Babe, what's this about?" He asked taking a seat on the high chair.

"Oh, it's nothing, really." I said brushing him off.

We quickly had our breakfast and after all the struggle I had to go through with Xander, I finally made it to work. He literally tried to force me to call in sick so I could spend the day with him but he ended up understanding that I couldn't call in sick because the mansion was being cleaned.



"Someone is in a good mood." Monica

a benevolent patient said dragging my mind off my cloud of thoughts.

Monica is an old woman who has been in the hospital for weeks now and quite frankly, she was my favourite patient.

I could easily open up to her and she ended up teaching me a few Zulu words here and there. She's not the deep Zulu like from KwaZulu-Natal but she is Zulu.

"Yebo, ngijabule kakhulu mama. (Yes, I'm very happy.)" I managed to say. She chortled then patted her side of the bed and I settled next to her.

"Well, spill." She said.

"Well, my husband and I are back together and..." I looked down then blushed. I couldn't really finish my sentence, the level of disrespect there is a big no no.

"And you had a busy night, I get it." She said. "I'm just glad you're feeling better than the last four months." She said.

"I couldn't have done it without you, mama." I said then pecked her forehead. She smiled then encouraged me to get back to work.

Just as I was about to leave her ward, my cellphone vibrated from my coat. I smiled when I came to sight with the caller identity.

"Missed me already?" I asked after answering the call.

"Why wouldn't I miss my gorgeous Jewel, one that you can't find from Sephora even?" He asked and I blushed.

"Since when are you so cheesy, husband?" I asked and he chuckled.

"Since I got you back in my life." He said. "I can be cheesier than that." He added on.

"Oh really?" I asked.

"Of course, listen to this. If you were a strip of DNA, I would be RNA so I could unzip your genes." He said and I laughed.

"How stupid can you be?" I asked.

"Okay, listen to this one. Do you have a bandaid? Cause I just scraped my knee falling for you." He said and I bursted out in laughter again.

I quickly covered my mouth as the nurses who were passing by gave me puzzled looks.

"Alex, you're going to get me in trouble. I'm not even allowed to be on call." I said.

"Tell you what, you turn my software into a hardware." He said and I blushed.

"You're like a burger, I wanna bite you in the buns where the beef is." He said and I went scarlet again.

"That's quite disgusting regardless of me talking to my cheesy husband on call while standing in the corridor." I said and he chuckled.

"Well guess what? My dick just died, mind if I bury it deep inside your pussy." He said. "And it won't be disgusting when I do." He added on.

"Xander!" I yelled trying my damdest not to yell. He chortled.

"Anyway Mrs cheesy, how about we go out for lunch?" He asked and I chuckled and shook my head.

"You should've said that from the beginning. I'm ravenous anyway, please come pick me up?"

"I'm on my way."

25

ALEXANDER

"What do you mean you'll be staying longer?" I asked.

"I mean just that, its not like you care anyway." She responded.

"I obviously don't care about you, I care about my baby." I said.

"Its just a week Alex, I'll be back next week." She said then hung up.

That bitch!

A week had passed already and Jules had officially moved back in. Now Laila extended her stay in Singapore for god knows why.

I sat up straight then rubbed the sleep off my eyes. I got out of bed then stretched. I looked at the bed and Jules wasn't there.

A disturbing sound from the toilet drew my attention and I ran there to check. Jules was kneeling down in front of the toilet with her head inside the toilet bowl.

"Jules?" I called out then rushed to her. She was puking.

I held her hair up for her and slowly caressed her back so she could let it all out. Once done, she got up from the floor, flushed the puke then made her way to the basin counter to rinse her mouth.

I followed her and sat on the corner of the tub. Once done, she wiped her lips with a towel then made her way out. I followed her once again.

She threw herself on top of the bed then covered her head with a pillow.

I lied next to her then ran my fingers through her hair. "Babe, what's wrong? Should I call the doctor?" I asked and she shook her head.

"Should I call the hospital and tell them you won't make it then cause you clearly can't go to work?" I queried and she nodded.

I got up from her bed, took her cellphone from under her pillow and called her workplace.

I then laid next to her and she rested her head on my chest and started to sob lightly. I caressed her back then pecked her forehead.

"I'm late..." She said.

"What do you mean you're late?" I asked, quite puzzled.

"My periods are late." She said and a smile slowly formed on my visage.

"Then that means..." She cut me midsentence.

"I'm infertile, Xander. We can't be pregnant, I'm infertile." She said in between her sobs.

"But you are showing most of the symptoms." I said and she chuckled.

"You mean vomiting, eating like there's no tomorrow and no sign of periods?" She queried.

"Maybe my menstrual cycle is changing and I'll be starting with my periods soon. That's the only reason." She said.

I sighed out loud then got off the bed and headed to the bathroom to run us both a warm bath. I had decided not to go to work, I couldn't leave her to be alone at this time of need.



I threw in bathing salts which not only smelt good but also had a way of calming her down.

I returned to the bedroom then denuded myself and helped her take her nightdress off. I carried her bridal style to the bathroom then carefully put her inside of the tub before stepping in and taking a seat.

She tied her hair into a bun before resting on my chest. I splashed water all over her body in order for her to relax and she did.

"You know, I desperately want to have children with you. I didn't mean this Laila thing." I said.

She chuckled.

"You and me both. I was actually excited until I remembered that I'm actually infertile." She said.

"Do you still want to have babies with me?" I asked then swallowed the thick lump of saliva that formed on my throat.

I was quite nervous with her response. She took what felt like the longest time to respond.

"Of course I do." She said and I instantly sighed out loud in relief.

"Great because I did a little bit of research about how we can get babies." I announced.

Indeed I had spent quite some time researching of ways to get us babies. We were told that there were other options but we were not told which options those were.

"You mean Intrauterine Insemination and In Vitro Fertilization?" She asked.

"Yes, that." I said.

She chuckled. "I've been hoping and wishing not to take that route. They have some serious side effects but its a risk I'm willing to take." She said.

I didn't really read up everything about them, I was just so excited to find that we could have babies together.

"Good cause I scheduled an appointment at the hospital for when you're off which is the day after tomorrow." I said.

"WHAT?" She queried sitting up straight. She was more of astounded than anything, her facial expression said it all.

"I'm sorry, I was just so excited but I can cancel the appointment if you want." I said.

"Alex, I don't think I'm ready to have babies

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not now. Can't Laila give birth first?" She queried and I chuckled.

"We're not going there to get the treatment done, we're just going to get the both of us checked up then find out more information about these fertility treatments." I said.

She rested her head back on my chest. "I'm sorry, I'm just... I don't think it'll be easy dealing with Laila so I just want to get that out of the way. Doing these treatments will require us to be strong, healthy, stressless and in peaceful surroundings." She said and I nodded.

"I know that, now let's clean you up." I said reaching for the sponge.

Later on, we found ourselves resting on top of our bed with food packages all over.

After bathing, we headed to get ourselves junk food that we could nibble on while binging on Showmax, Box Office and Netflix.

"That was one sad movie." She wiped her tears then chuckled.

I honestly don't get how women are so sensitive. When one cried on TV, Jules cried along with them. I mean its just a movie, these people are acting.

"Or rather, you're exaggerating." I said and she elbowed me on the chest.

"Ouch!" I pretended to be hurt and she smirked. "You're so insensitive." She said and I smirked and turned to her.

I wrapped my arms around her waist then kissed her for dear life. I squeezed her bubble butt still kissing her like there's no tomorrow.

My cellphone rang from the nightstand and I ignored it and continued to heat up our mini session.

It rang again. "Ignore it." She said softly in between her pants then pulled me back in for a kiss. Her cellphone now rang.

This person better have a good reason for this. I reached for her cellphone and answered it then put it on loud speaker.

"Hi, Juliette." The manly but also familiar voice greeted.

Oh shit, its father! Jules looked at me with the weirdest look I've ever seen on her.

"Hi, father." She greeted back.

"Took you long enough. I hope you're well, I called Alexander and he didn't answer his phone. I would say he was in a meeting but he didn't even go to work." He said and I swallowed hard.

"Father... Uhm Alex didn't go to work because he was looking after me. I don't really feel well." She elaborated.

"Oh, that's quite disappointing. I wanted to invite the both of you over for dinner." He announced and Jules' eyes popped open.

She looked at me and I shook my head. "We'd love to." She responded.

Damn, she never listens to me when it comes to food.

"Oh great then, I'll see you two in three hours." He said and hung up.

I glared daggers at Jules and she just shrugged. "I couldn't say no to a five course meal." She said.

Sigh!

Father loves Jules to the point he would do anything for her. Whenever he invited us over for dinner, We'd have a five course meal with some of Jules' favourite gourmets.

He's even learn Jules' favourite wine. Tisk tisk tisk.

"So now you're feeling well?" I queried. She shrugged then disappeared to the bathroom.

The things I go through.

## JULIETTE

I would say that I looked snatched in my black body hugging dress and Alex in his tux.

Mr Collins was so excited to see the both of us so happy regardless of everything that had happened. Well I never thought we'd get here but now that we are, I'm appreciating the love.

He captured my lips and kissed me passionately as he slowly thrust in and out. My wall clenched around his shaft and before I knew it, I exploded.

I moaned out his name and he followed suit.

I watched as he rolled off of me while we both glistened in our sweats, panting to catch our breaths. I turned to touch him and he slightly moved his body to the side.



"Don't touch me, woman." He said and I looked at him, puzzled.

"What's wrong?" I queried.

"Are you trying to kill me? What if I had an asthma attack?" He asked and I chortled.

"Baby, you don't have asthma to begin with." I said still trying to touch him.

He flinched as if in pain.

"Well if I did, I would be long dead by now." He said then got off the bed and made his way to the bathroom.

I love how we have a vivid glass shower so we both can see what's happening inside.

He was going to be destroyed when he finds I'll be going on my period, that's why the long night. Yes, we didn't sleep. We'd get

that five minute break but then we'd wake each other up and continue our session.

When I was tired he'd tell me about the dry spell he went through for four months and now he was the one tired.

I chuckled then got off the bed and put on his baggy shirt. I wasn't going to join him for a shower even though he looked so damn sexy in there with the water dripping down over his hard perfectly sculpted abs to his big cock all the way to the tiled floor.

Or rather how he had his arms flexing and his fingers running over his wet silky hair and water running over his pinkish lips.

And cut!

I made the bed then headed out to make breakfast. A descent breakfast with no eggs. They made me feel quite nauseous hence I didn't make them.

I didn't want to vomit over the food cause I most certainly was not going to start over with the breakfast.

He wrapped his arms around me, peck my cheek then headed to take a seat.

I placed the food on the counter and left him to eat whilst I took a quick shower. I was surprisingly slow this morning, I bet it's nothing coffee can't fix.

I rushed to finish and ended up not applying any makeup but a lipstick and my hair tied into a simple ponytail.

I just put on a simple body hugging dress and a pair of matching heels.

Downstairs, Alex was still eating while busy on his personal computer. I shut it down then sat next to him.

"This is the reason your breakfast is unfinished and cold." I said.

"Baby, I was busy."

"No electronic devices such as cellphones, laptops and and and in the kitchen, you made that rule, remember?" I queried.

"But you know I didn't go to work yesterday." He whimpered.

"I didn't go to work too, my love." I said then pecked his lips.

I swiftly placed five pancakes on my plate and squeezed maple syrup on top of them.

I grabbed a fork then dug in while making myself a cup of coffee.

When I finished up, he was also done. I grabbed my handbag and cellphone then we headed out.

He grabbed my arm and I came to a halt. He wrapped his arms around my waist and pecked my cheek. "I thought I told you to start wearing your scrubs to work." He whispered and I chuckled.

"Argh, we're going to be late." I said wiggling myself out of his hold.

"Do you know how much I love you?" He asked and I shook my head.

"I'll tell you in the car." He said then let go of me.

While driving, I placed my hand on top of his and smiled at his handsome serious self. He looked sexy when driving.

The drive to the hospital was quiet with just his music playing. When we arrived, he parked the car, unfastened the seatbelt and changed his sitting position and faced me.

He took my hand into his and pecked it. "I love you, Jules. I don't want to lose you again and I'll make sure that doesn't happen. We'll overcome every challenge together as one. I know its going to be hard raising someone else's baby and I know it'll sadden you because you've always wanted to have babies of your own but please don't punish Royalty because of his parents' sins. Please baby, please." He said. I was dumbstruck, I had nothing sensible to say.

I was still angry at him but that was somehow overpowered by love. Him bringing this up angered me, I would never do that to anyone, let alone a baby.

"I... I have to go." I said after swallowing the huge lump stuck on my throat.

He squeezed my hand. I sat back and looked out the window. He made me face him then wiped my tears.

"You know we're going to have to talk this out, right?" He asked.

"I don't want to talk about it." I mumbled.

He placed his hand on my cheek and leaned in to kiss me which went on for quite some time. When he broke the kiss, I looked away.

"I love you. To the moon and back, forever and ever. I'd do almost anything and everything to keep you mine and to ensure that you're mine only. If I must die then do be it, that's how much I love you." He said and I nodded.

Looking at the time, I still had a few minutes before I could go inside so I kicked my heels off then placed my legs on the seat and rested my head on his chest with my arms wrapped around his torso.

He kept on caressing my back, kissing my forehead, running his fingers on my hair and telling me he loves me.

When it was time to go, he gave me a long kiss and wished me luck. In my office, I put on my coat and hung my stethoscope and got my day started.

I had my fingers crossed when it came to James, I didn't want to bump into him or to see him even or him seeing me. I know he hasn't been working since the day Alex manhandled him and I hope he doesn't return.

I hope he got a transfer or something because I wasn't about to share lunch with him.

I took a sip from my cup of coffee then returned my eyes to my cellphone screen. "Hi." A familiar male voice startled me.

I looked up to check whom it was and it was James. Is the universe shitting on me or something? I said I don't want to see this man!

"Hi James." I greeted forcing a smile, my voice quite shaky too.



"Good to see you, why are you sitting alone?" He asked and I swallowed hard.

"I just wanted to be alone. In fact, I have to go..." I said trying to get up but he held my hand.

There goes my plan.

"Julie, please." I sighed then sat down.

"I'm sorry, I'm really sorry. Its just that I've been waiting for you to date me for the longest time and even though I knew you were using me as your rebound guy, I was still perfectly happy to be the one to drive you to sleep and kiss you awake. I was content with having lunch with you and speaking alone cause your mind would drift off to your husband. I didn't mean to hurt you and that time I said we're married..." He chuckled and ran his fingers through his hair.

"I also didn't mean that." He added on.

When I saw Alex making his way towards me, I retrieved my hand. "Its okay, I forgive you." I said then got up and met Alex halfway.

"Hey gorgeous." He greeted then kissed me with his one hand on my waist and the other on my butt.

When I broke the kiss, I wiped my lipstick off his lips then bit my lower lip. We locked contact until his eyes drifted off to James then back to me. I shrugged.

"We should probably go." I said.

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ALEXANDER

She walked out of the bathroom with tears in her eyes. I doubt those are tears of joy cause she even looked drained. Her tears had even drenched her T-shirt.

She threw the pregnancy tests at me and threw herself on the bed then covered her head with a pillow.

I analyzed all of them and they came out negative, all three of them.

"Baby... Jules..." I called out and she cried out loud.

I shouldn't even have bought these but I was just so curious. I saw how she puked the other time, how she didn't make any eggs yesterday morning, her late periods and how much she had been eating.

Jules ate a lot, yes but she was starting to eat a whole lot of bizarre food. I just needed to clear the air. I had hopes for us falling pregnant without anyone's help but seemed like it was impossible.

I rested my head on her buttocks and wrapped my arms around her. Her cries broke my heart to get core. I doubt she'll even want to go for our appointment.

She eventually stopped crying but we remained in the same position for quite some time. She had removed the pillow from her head and was just staring into the space.

I went and called the doctor to make our appointment a house call because I knew she wouldn't want to go.

I left her to bath while I kept myself busy with work and when she finished, I took a quick shower.

I made her breakfast and she didn't even finish one quarter of it. I messed up, didn't I?

"Baby, please eat." I beseeched and she shook her head. I forced her to at least finish her coffee and when she did, I took the tray of remaining food to the kitchen then joined her in bed.

I caged her legs with mine and her head with my arms then kissed her. She wrapped her arms around my neck and deepened our kiss.

"I'm sorry, I was just so excited. I wasn't thinking straight, I just have high hopes for us to fall pregnant." I apologized and she just smiled and nodded.

"I love you so much and I'm happy to hear that even after all we have been through you still have high hopes for us." She said and I smiled.

"The doc should arrive any minute now." I said getting up from the bed. I helped her up and carried her down to the lounge.

I headed to make us a snack and after sitting down, the intercom went on and security told us Doctor Russell was coming through.

I headed to open the door for her. She had all the necessary equipment with her, that explained all the thousand bags she was carrying.

I helped her with some of her bags and led her to the lounge where we were seated.

She advised us to head to a bedroom instead because she'd have to check on Jules then also take blood tests to clear the air.

Jules had a whole lot of questions for her while she was being checked. Judging by the way she was flinching, it was painful.

She then drew her blood, mine too. She said a mouthful of things about sperm count, fertilization and a whole lot of things I didn't catch before we all sat down.

"So, the two most common fertility treatments are Intrauterine Insemination and In Vitro Fertilization. IUI is when healthy sperm is collected and inserted directly into your uterus when you're ovulating and IVF is when eggs are taken from your ovaries and fertilized by sperm in a lab, where they develop into embryos." She elaborated.

"Which one is highly recommended?" I queried.

"IUI is considerably less effective than IVF which means IVF has a considerably higher success rates than IUI." She answered.

She went on and informed us on everything we needed to know and answered our queries too, I wasn't happy with the side effects.

Jules accompanied her out and came back with a bowl of berries. She laid next to me and wrapped her one hand around me.

"Love..." She called out.

"No." I said.

"Baby, this is our only chance to finally start a family of our own." She said and I sat up straight.

"How the hell are we going to start a family of our own if you die? Do you even think I'll love the baby?" I queried and she shook our head.

"Its worth a try and if I do get ectopic pregnancy then we'll undergo the necessary surgeries." She said.

My cellphone rang and it was Laila. I was in no mood for her, especially when Jules wanted to kill herself.

"I rather not have babies with you if it means losing you." I said.



My cellphone rang again. "It might be important." She said and I still didn't answer.

"Chances of ectopic pregnancy are high and you know you like making decisions without consulting with me so no." I said.

My cellphone rang again and I ignored it. "But baby, I might not get ectopic pregnancy." She protested.

"Then what about the other side effects? Ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome

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premature delivery, Cancer, miscarriage even? I don't want to put you through that. I don't want you having suicidal thoughts because you feel you're useless. I rather we adopt." I said.

She wiped her tears. "You're selfish, you know that? Just because you're getting a baby of your own now I must not?" She asked and I shook my head.

"You are selfish! How am I going to live without you? How am I going to love and live with something that caused your death?" I queried, more of yelled at her.

"This conversation is over." She said.

Just then, her cellphone rang. She reached for it and put it on speaker, she always did that with foreign numbers.

"Juliette, hi its Laila." She said.

Jules and I looked at each other in the eyes before turning to the cellphone.

"Is Alex there with you? I called him and he's not... Ah!" She screamed.

"Whoa, Laila! Calm down and talk to me, Alex is here with me, you're on loud speaker." Jules said.

"You need to get here, I think I'm going into... Ah!" She screamed again.

I could see the worry in Jules' eyes, shit was getting real.

"Laila, honey please listen to me. Calm down, take a long deep breath and try to calm down." Jules instructed.

"I'm going into labor, you guys need to get here, please. Oh my fucken god!" She screamed.

"You guys?" I asked.

There was a bit of shifting before whom I assumed was Laila's mother spoke from the other line.

"Hi Alexander and Juliette. Laila has been getting cramps and pelvic pains and now, I think she's going into labour. Her pregnancy is the dangerous type of pregnancy so she needs you both here." She announced.

"We will be taking her to the hospital, please try hurrying up."  
She added on.

"Okay, we're on our way." Jules said then took the phone from my hand.

Dangerous type of pregnancy?

"Alex, we need to go!" She yelled getting off of the bed.

Dangerous type of pregnancy? Is that why she didn't want me going with her to her check ups?

"Alexander, snap out of it. Laila needs us!" She yelled. "Book us flight tickets to Singapore and a transport to the hospital when we get there." She ordered and I did as she instructed while she packed our clothes.

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JULIETTE

In a matter of what felt like a million years, we finally made it to Singapore and the hospital in which Laila was admitted in.

We ended up opting for senior Mr Collins' private jet in order to get there faster and we had a car rented while at it.

The receptionist assisted us and had us accompanied to the delivery room where Laila was. We were dressed in scrubs, hats, gloves and masks too.

When we entered, Laila was resting on the bed looking lifeless. She looked drained and she looked like she was half dead if there's such.

I could see some of her bones from her flesh and I noticed too of how much she had lost weight.

She was screaming while they were getting her baby out through caesarean. She was screaming throughout the session and to say I was traumatized would be an understatement.

My tears streamed out uncontrollably while Alexander was just standing at the corner of the room and staring into space.

She had her hand in mine and the other hand was intertwined with her mother's hand and when they finally took the baby out, she let go.

"Its a boy!" The nurse announced.

I looked at Laila and she was breathless. She was losing her breath and I hoped not her life.

"This is your baby now, please take care of him." She said breathlessly.

"What do you mean?" I asked in shock of what she just said.

"His name is Royalty. I know you'll make a better mother than I would ever. Please don't punish him for my sins, he's yours now..." She slurred off and her eyes remained opened and staring into the space.

"Do something, help her!" I yelled.

"Don't just stand there, do something!"

The heart monitor machine changed from the beeping sounds it made to a long irritating sound and the breaking lines on it formed a straight continuous line.

A placed my hand on her pulse and there was none. I shook my head then looked at the nurse.

"Time of death?" The surgeon asked.

I felt lightheaded before dropping to the floor and my vision blurred out.

×

I opened my eyes and shut them immediately because of all the light that was blinding me. I slowly opened them once again and looked up then came to sight with the white ceiling.

I tried to sit up straight but my arm hurt like hell. "Hey, be careful." Alex said then helped me sit up straight.

Laila's mother was in the room and so was a doctor. She was sitting on the corner of the room on a comfortable looking couch whereas Alex was sitting next to me and the doctor standing next to me.

"How are you feeling, Mrs Collins?" He asked.

"I thought it was a dream." I said shaking my head.



"Unfortunately you were not dreaming, Mrs Collins. Miss Laila Sunn has passed on." He announced.

I looked at Alex and there was no sign of even one vivid emotion on his face.

His lips had formed a straight line whereas his eyes were blood red.

"But how?" I queried. The doctor sighed.

"She was bleeding internally for quite some more than ten weeks now and she flat out refused. Her Fallopian tube ruptured when she was 16 weeks pregnant." I cut him midsentence.

"Ectopic pregnancy?" I queried and he nodded.

"And where's Royalty?" I queried.

"He was born prematurely so he was taken to an incubator and we'll be keeping him for a month or so until he has fully developed and can eat and breathe on his own." He said and I sighed out loud then rested my head on Alexander.

The doctor did say that he will be keeping me overnight for a few more tests before he could release me.

Mrs Sunn however left and Alex stayed over with me.

In regards with Royalty, he was so tiny and pale. He looked weak and he instantly reminded me of his mother.

I didn't think things would turn out this way and I didn't want them too.

I didn't get how Laila decided to let her tube rupture instead of undergoing surgery.

Her words haunt me every now on then. I most certainly didn't think I'd really love Royalty but it seemed like I was already head over hills.

He had a whole lot of tubes and pipes around his visage. Some were in his mouth and some in his nose. He was however cute.

He had his one hand formed into a fist. I extended my hand and stuck my pinkie finger inside his small fists and it tightened around it.

"Alex, look." I whispered, clearly smiling. He chuckled then pecked my cheek.

"In sorry, I know its going to be hard raising someone else's baby, especially Laila. Its my fault that she did what she did to you and I regret it. I need to know whether..." I pecked his lips.

"I'm no evil stepmother, Xander. If I were a mother, I know I wouldn't want anyone treating my baby like an animal. Not that if I could I would

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I wouldn't hurt anyone intentionally, especially a baby." I said.

"Besides, I think I love him." I add on.

His lips arched and he twitched. I softly chortled then turned to Royalty.

I personally like that he's pale, I won't be the only pale person in the house.

"We should go to sleep." He said and I hushed him.

"Let's wait for little Xander to sleep." I whispered, clearly excited.

He chuckled then shook his head. He went and sat on the couch that was at the corner of the room and I assume he dozed off cause I could hear light snores.

Little Xander here wasn't having any of what I was asking him to do but when he did fall asleep, I woke Xander up and we headed back to my ward.

I wonder how he'll turn out to be without his biological mother.

Once I had settled in, I told him to go get some rest and also check in at the hotel I booked us. He kissed me goodnight then left.

I had a lot running through my mind but I ended up falling asleep.

I was then woken up by Xander caressing my cheek. He seemed pretty excited but who wouldn't be when his son was finally out into the world.

"Morning baby." He greeted.

I chuckled then turned to him. "Good morning." I greeted back.

"How did you sleep?" He queried.

"I slept well, how about you?" I queried and he got up and helped me sit up straight.

He sat down then exhaled out loud. "I slept well my love." He said.

"I'm craving hot wings." I mumbled. The thought of hospital food sent shivers down my spine.

"I thought so." He said. He looked down and extended his hand then handed me a plastic. I opened inside and came to sight with the branding 'Wing Republic'.

I beamed up!

I hurriedly opened the box and took out a wing then stuck it inside my mouth, god I missed wings.

"You're officially the best husband in the world." I said and he chuckled. "I know, babe."

Just then, the doctor walked in followed by Mrs Sunn. The doctor was grinning whereas Mrs Sunn had a weak smile plastered on her visage.

"Good morning, I see you're already up and running." The doctor said and I chuckled.

Mrs Sunn made her way to the other side of my bed and pulled me in for a hug. I honestly feel sorry for her, Laila's death on its own was paining and traumatic.

"My condolences." I whispered then I heard her sniff. I caressed her back until she broke the hug.

We all turned to the doctor who had the biggest grin I've ever seen.

"Some people are really blessed. I don't know if this is good or bad news but Mr and Mrs Collins, you are pregnant." He announced.

"Huh?"

I closed my eyes and shook my head. "The tests came out negative." Alex said.

"Home pregnancy tests are not always accurate plus you're only heading to three weeks. You should try testing again after a week or so." He said and I shook my head.

"Stop messing with my head, please. Doc, this is not funny! I'm infertile, how can I fall pregnant?" I queried.

"Mrs Collins..."

"I'm infertile, do you know what that means?" I asked.

"Baby, please calm down." Alex beseeched.

I turned to him with tears suffocating my eyes. "Xander, he's messing with my head. I'm... I can't fall pregnant... Tell him to stop. This is not funny..." I cried.

Alex pulled me into his embrace and caressed my back while I clung onto his T-shirt.



## ALEXANDER

I watched as Jules hummed with little Royalty in her arms. After Laila's funeral, she didn't want anything to happen to Royalty.

She would sometimes sleep at the hospital because she didn't want to take her eyes off of Royalty regardless of her pregnancy.

She was most excited when we returned home with Royalty, she even quit work because she wanted to take care of our son. Yes, he's ours.

"Oh love, you're back?" She asked and I just nodded. I didn't want to make noise when I arrived because babies take time to fall asleep.

She pecked Royalty's forehead then carefully placed him in his crib. She stared at him for a few seconds before turning to me. She tilted her head signaling me to follow her.

We returned two days back and its only today that I went to work, it was really hard trying to work, I couldn't get my work done. I was worried about Jules, very worried.

Between me and you, I don't know how to feel about her, Royalty and the pregnancy. I was personally happy to know that we were pregnant and I understand that she was in shock but a week later, she took a test which came out positive and she was too excited.

I do understand because we didn't have to undergo infertility treatments.

My worries, she's too loving. She loves Royalty like she's his biological mother. I'm happy that she loves him but its not what I anticipated - late nights at the hospital, quitting her work, not getting enough rest because she's watching him...

I kick on my shoes, take off my suit and my T-shirt then lay next to her. I place my hands on her waist and peck her strawberry lips. "You know that I love you, right?" I asked and she nodded.

"Of course."

"Baby, we need to talk." I said.

"About what?"

"You, me and Royalty." I said and she chuckled. "I understand that you're grateful to have him because we thought you were infertile but we honestly have to talk." I said.

"Okay then, talk."

I sighed then sat up straight. She had her eyes glued to me, almost piercing through my flesh.

"First of all, thank you for loving and taking care of Royalty. Secondly, I'd like you to take it easy on him.

Thirdly, I'm going through a dry spell honestly. When are we going to have some 'us' time?" I asked and she chortled.

"I see what this is about. You're jealous of our little pal." She says then snorts.

"Okay, maybe I am a bit jealous but I'm not

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I'm worried. Why wouldn't I be when you barely sleep? You quit your job, Jules. Your life came to a halt, it literally revolves around Royalty. You barely allow anyone to touch him and you... Goodness me!"

She sat up straight still looking at me but her eyes are watery this time. "I'm sorry. I'm really sorry baby, I'm just worried about you." I apologized.

"I know and you have every right to be worried." She said then snuggled closer and rested her head on my chest.

"I thought I'd never have my own baby. I honestly thought you didn't want us to try other options but then you agreed. With that being said, I found out that Laila was pregnant.

The day I left this house was the day I lost faith in everything and everyone. I thought I'd never have a baby in my life. Even when I returned, I took tests and they came out positive." She said then wiped her tears.

"Royalty is a blessing in disguise. God knows what he's doing and there's a reason Royalty is here with us instead of Laila. As much as I love Royalty and I'm so overprotective of him, that will never change because I've been praying to have a child of my own. I know we're pregnant and when I do give birth, my love for Royalty will still be present and I'll still be showing it to him.

I'll try to make time for everything but please try to understand that I'm scared, I'm scared to lose Royalty. I fear that he might fall of his crib and hurt his head. I'm scared that if I hand him over to someone else, that person will drop him. I'm scared of leaving him elsewhere because he might cry his lungs out and... I'm just scared." She said.

I wrapped my arms around her and caressed her back whilst pecking her forehead countless times. Her words stung really bad. Its definitely not what I had anticipated.

When she was calm and had stopped crying, I forced her to sit up straight.

"As much as you love Royalty, please take care of yourself. Your health is also important especially now that we have a bun in the oven." I said and she blushed and looked down.

"I spoke to mother and she says she can babysit for the whole weekend. I'll take him to his grandmother tomorrow and fetch him Monday after work while you get call the rest you need, is that fine with you?" I asked and she nodded hesitantly.

"I trust your mother with our son, you should too. Don't worry, Royalty will be fine." I said and she just nodded.

We sat in silence until I heard light snores. She was asleep. I wiped her remaining tears then pecked her lips and let her drift away to her dreamland.

I carefully placed her head and anatomy on the pillows and got off of the bed. I sneaked out and went to check on Royalty.

He was also still asleep. Roy was so tiny and pale but the doctors cleared us on any kind of danger to him.

When they discharged him, he was able to eat and breathe on his own.

But since he was born prematurely, he was literally the size of bread and he was pale. Jules was excited because she wouldn't be the only pale person in the house.

I sometimes tease her when she blushes or when she's angry. Her cheeks turn rosy and her nose turns red. Her forehead sometimes changes to rosy too. But she's cute, I don't fathom how she gets sad when I tease her.

Back to Roy, he had little fists formed from his hands, both his hands. One was stuck on his mouth and the other was on the side. His small eyes flickered and I instantly knew that he was waking up.

This dude doesn't sleep. I chuckled at my thought.

He looked at me, still with his fist in his mouth. I have a feeling he's going to resemble me when he grows up. I don't know, its just a hunch.

He took out his fist from his mouth and yawned. He started sniffing and I knew that he was going to cry soon after hence I picked him up. He loves being in someone's embrace.

If you dare put him down, the whole world will come to a halt.

I hummed to him as we made our way downstairs. He was quiet and had his fist back in his mouth.

Jules - thank you good lord for bringing her into my life - had already prepared a bottle of milk for him and it was still warm. I just wiped it and handed it over to Roy who sucked the life out of it.

My baby was really hungry.

"I love you, Roy." I said then pecked his forehead.



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JULIETTE

"I told you not to come here without my princess." I said occupying the seat next to her.

She chuckled.

"Mother couldn't take her hands off of her. She's practically Zinzile's baby, she even has a nursery in the Mnyanda mansion." She said and I chuckled.

"So Alex took Royalty to your mother?" She asked and I nodded.

"He said I need to rest and take care of myself. He said its as if my life came to a halt plus I don't know when we last had sex." I said.

Looking at her, she was gaping at me. Her mouth dropped open and her grey eyes popped open.

"What? I know he's right okay but please don't blow it on my face." I said. I felt a slight sting in my cheek.

"Did you just slap me?" I asked in shock.

"And I will slap you again. How dare you make your man and your son compete for your attention." She asked.

"Excuse me?" I asked back. I didn't fathom what she was saying and I most certainly couldn't wait for her to get to her point cause there clearly was one.

"Baby girl, don't you learn? Knowing your relationship with Alex, he would fuck you all day everyday if he could." She said and I swallowed hard.

"Let me teach you something, as a wife and now a mother, your life is going to be in shambles but that's where parents and

friends come in. You have work, you have a man, you have your baby and you're pregnant." She said.

"Every morning you drop your baby off at your parents' house then go to work. Lunch time, you visit your husband and after work he fetches the baby. Bathe the baby, feed him and put him to sleep. Whilst he's sleeping, give your husband some, even if its a quickie." She said and I chuckled.

"But..."

"No buts! The only reason he brought this up is because he's worried about your health and he's not getting some." She said.

To be honest, I knew I was too focused on Royalty but I couldn't bring myself not to. He might not be my son but I love him like nobody's business and I don't want him to get hurt.

"Julie, draw up a schedule if you have to. Learn Royalty and understand him. Know when he eats, when he sleeps, when he

bathes, how long he sleeps and I don't like the fact that you quit your job." She said.

"I have my reasons, okay."

"Okay fine but please let this be a lesson. Use this weekend wisely. Get enough rest, feed your husband and draw up the schedule I told you about." She said and I nodded.

"You are the best friend I've ever had." I said pulling her in for a hug. "I know." She said and we both chortled.

She broke the hug and looked at me. "Go and change into comfortable but also better looking clothes. I'm taking you out." She said.

I looked at her hesitantly. "Go!" I didn't waste any more time, I dashed off the couch

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up the staircase to my bedroom.

I looked for a red and black skotch body hugging dress, the black T-shirt it came with and black velvet thigh high boots.

I put everything on and untied my hair. I grabbed my cellphone and my Prada handbag then headed downstairs.

"No makeup?" She asked and I shook my head. "You also have no makeup on." I said and she chuckled.

"Let's go, we're taking your car." She said and I shook my head and rolled my eyes, that is one argument I never win hence I didn't bother with debating with her.

We got into my car, fastened our seatbelts and drove off to the mall as she instructed. We listened to our music and jammed along. We listen to the same artists therefore the same type of music.

When we arrived at the mall, we met up with Nahida at Spur where we had our brunch. I ordered some for Xander cause I was planning on going to see him.

"Thank you girls, I needed your company." I said and they both agreed.

"Let's rush then before they close up." Nahida said getting up.

"Where are we rushing off to?" I queried and she chuckled. "To Bras N Things." Umi responded.

"What are we going there for?" I asked, appalled.

"For Bras N Things." Nahida said.

"We never go there unless to get intimate wear so who needs those because you two have wardrobes full of those?" I queried and they both chortled.

"Its you silly!" Umi said then continued laughing. "Now come on, let's go." Nahida said.

I rolled my eyes and got up together with my cellphone and handbag. They dragged me to Bras N Things and when we got there they made me sit down.

I watched as they roamed around the store looking for Lingeries. They returned with about six different lingerie and pulled me to the fitting room.

I denuded myself and fitted all of them.

"I think I like the red and black one. Its a full set plus its comfortable." I said and they nodded.

"I hate to admit it but you're right, I like it too. I think I'll get one for myself too." Umi said and I chuckled.

I knew she had it, we all knew actually.

We ended up purchasing two intimate wear sets. The red and black set is a two piece set. Its a lace lingerie dress with suspenders and matching stockings whereas the red set is a three piece set with a suspender belt and matching stockings.

We passed by Chanel where I got black stilettos red bottoms. After that we returned to Spur to get my takeouts.

I dropped each of them at their houses and made it to Xander's office in time for lunch.

He pecked my lips and we settled on the comfortable looking couch on the other side of the room.

He poured me nonalcoholic wine and whiskey for himself and joined me. We ate away the lunch and when it was time to go, he held me back.

"Are you okay?" He asked and I nodded. "How am I supposed to believe that when you were about to walk out of here without kissing me?"



Besides, you've been stuck on your thoughts the entire time." He said and I swallowed the huge chunk of saliva stuck on my throat. "Besides, I told you to rest." He added on.

How do I tell him that I just purchased a lingerie set for him to rip it off tomorrow night? I didn't even fathom why I was feeling zany about this.

"I'm just... I'm worried about Roy but its nothing I can't handle." I said and he nodded.

I strided towards him and wrapped my arms around his neck. His hands landed on my waist and he kissed me.

"Happy now?" I queried and he nodded.

"Great, I'll see you at home." I said then walked out without hearing his response.

He was most probably going to try to convince me not to go or to get up to some mischief with him.

When I arrived home, I put my lingeries and heels away then tried to keep myself busy.

I learnt Roy's movements and I knew exactly how the schedule was going to be like. After drawing it up, I called mom.

She didn't answer at first but when she did, I couldn't help but yell at her. I was panicking and mad at the same time.

"Baby, calm down. Royalty is fine and he's asleep. I was putting him to sleep that's why I didn't take your calls." She responded.

I did my breathing exercises before I could say anything else. "I'm sorry mother, I'm just worried about him." I apologized.

"Relax, he's fine." She said.

## ALEXANDER

I got a call from Jules. "Hey Alex..." She greeted.

"Miss me already?" I queried and earned a chuckle from her. "Of course I do. I was just checking on you." She said. Now why don't I believe her?

"And I wanted to ask something." She said. I knew it! "You know I'd do anything for you my love." I said. She blushed. "Will you be able to get home earlier today?" She asked and my eyes widened.

"What for?" I queried, as curious as ever. My phone beeped. "I just sent you a text." She said. "Check it." She added on.

I opened the messages and received the photo she sent me. A photo of herself. It was a selfie of her, she wasn't wearing any clothes and she had her red lipstick applied on her lips.

She was biting her lower lip and she hid her breasts with her arms. Her hair was down and covering her shoulders.

I swallowed the huge lump that suddenly formed on my throat. "Xander, are you still there?" She asked. "Yes, yes... I'll make it home early." I told her. She chuckled before hanging up.

What is she playing at? I glared at the picture one last time before turning my cellphone off. She was teasing me knowing very well that I'd fall for it.

As time passed, I couldn't focus. I ended up staring at the clock just so I could get out of the office and see what my dear wife has in stock for me.

Once the clock struck five post meridiem, I jolted up from my chair and took my bag and cellphone into my hold then hurried out.

I bumped into Avela. "I'm so sorry..." I apologized. "Are you leaving already?" She asked and I nodded.

"Cancel or schedule the rest of my meetings if I have any, I'll see you tomorrow." I ordered. She nodded before walking away and so did I.

Once in my car, I turned my cellphone on and the first notification I received was another picture from Jules. It was a picture of her legs. She was wearing lingerie stockings and black red bottom heels.

I swallowed hard before placing the phone on the passenger seat. I then started the engine then drove off.

No scratch that, I sped off. I literally felt my car flying, that explains just how fast I was driving.

Once at home, I didn't even bother to park the car inside the garage. I took my belongings and rushed inside.

It was dark. The lights were off but candles were alight light enough to catch Jules making her way down the staircase with a rose in her hand, smelling it.

She was wearing a black and red lingerie with the same feels from the picture she sent me. She had on her red lipstick and her hair was down.

She slowly made her way to me and only stopped in front of me. "Hey baby..." She greeted before placing her hands on my shoulders and pecking my lips.

I involuntarily wrapped my arms around her waist and pulled her closer to me. She gasped as soon as she hit my chest.

I pulled her in for a kiss and lowered my hand to her butt ass I deepened the kiss. She broke it. "Join me for dinner? I made your favorite." She said softly and seductively.

Again, I swallowed hard. I didn't want to have any dinner even though she prepared my favorite. I just wanted the dessert, her. "Let's skip dinner." I whispered.

She shook her head then caressed my lower lip with her thumb. "It took me a lot of time to master your favorite dish. We don't want to spoil that now do we?" She asked. She was doing this on purpose.

She knew I'd flip for her, especially after all the time we didn't get intimate. She took my bag and cellphone into her hold then threw them to the couch.

She helped take my jacket off then threw it on top of my bag. She then slightly grabbed my tie and pulled me to the kitchen.

She sat me down then settled on my laps. She pecked my lips countless times before getting up. She dished up for the both of us before making her way to her seat.

We ate in complete silence. I kept on stealing glances at her and that seemed to amuse her because she smirked every time I did that.

I didn't even enjoy the meal because I wasn't really looking forward to that. Try eating while being seduced and tell me how it feels.

Once she was done, she pushed her plate aside then took a sip of wine from her wine glass. She then seductively licked the top then look at me in the eye.

I cleared my throat and loosened my tie before gulping my wine down my throat.

She got on top of the table and crawled her way to me. She then settled in the middle of the table and spread her legs wide. She licked three of her fingers before lowering them.



They landed on her coochie of which she started rubbing. She started moaning uncontrollably and my shaft down there couldn't take it anymore.

I cleared the table then pulled her by her legs to the corner of the table. She laughed at me before I pulled her in for a kiss. In a swift, I lifted her up and rushed up staircase to our bedroom without breaking the kiss.

Once inside, I threw her on top of the bed then denuded myself. I then hovered over her and tore her thongs before pulling her in for a kiss.

Ain't nobody got time for foreplay.

I rubbed my shaft on her wet entrance before shoving it inside her. I didn't even wait for her to adjust to my size before I started thrusting in, hard and fast.

I wanted to reach climax already but she felt too darn good for it to even end. I wanted it to linger. Her moans were driving me crazy and the sound of skin meeting skin filled the room.

She had her arms wrapped around me like she always does while I sucked on her neck. I started pumping in hard and her moans increased.

She grabbed my buttocks and squeezed them. "You like that?" I asked and she nodded vigorously. "Fuck me harder!" She shouted.

I pounded in hard and she started screaming. I knew just then that she was reaching her climax, well so was I. I slowed the pace then twisted my cock inside of her before pounding in harder.

I groaned out loud as I spew my seeds deep inside of her and she screamed out my name. Her breathing was uncontrollable and she was already sweating. Her hair was drenched with sweat.

I kissed her before lying down next to her, gathering my breathing and trying to get it together. "Don't ever tease me like that again." I said. She chuckled then straddled my laps.

"I want you deep inside of me, hard and fast." She whispered in my ear. That was enough for me to go hard again.

She grabbed my shaft and slowly inserted it inside of her then started moving. She twerked on top of me then rested her head back as she massaged her breast.

Fuck!

I cussed before wrapping my arms around her waist and I started thrusting from beneath. She grabbed on the sheets then started moaning.

"Ah! Fuck me like that." She ordered. I pumped harder than that, earning screams from her. "You like that?" I asked and she nodded vigorously. "I love that." She said in between her pants.

She bit her lip and started trembling before collapsing on top of me. I pounded harder so that I could finally reach my climax and she got off of me as soon as I came.

She rested on her back and tried to gather her breathing. I wasn't having any of that.

I jumped off the bed then pulled her to the corner of the bed by her legs. Seems like we're not sleeping tonight.

## JULIETTE

He rubbed my little bump then pecked my neck. "You should never torture me like that again." He said and I chuckled then nodded.

"You literally drained me." He said.

"That was my aim. I was covering for lost time." I said and he chuckled.

I sighed out loud and placed my hand on top of his. "I'm hungry." I blurted it out. "Baby, you ate a few minutes ago." He said. I sat up straight then fiddled with my fingers. "You said you'll take care of me. I'm now tired from the sexual activities we've been doing." I said.

He sighed out loud then nodded.

"Come on, let's go get you something to eat but first..." He unclammed my back and helped me out of the lingerie set then lifted me up in a swift and walked to the bathroom.

We stepped under the shower taps and he turned them on. He grabbed the shower sponge and gel then squirted the gel over the sponge. He handed me the shampoo to wash my hair whilst he washed my body, such a gentleman.

After the shower, he placed me on the dry side of the bed and applied lotion all over my body. He then dressed me up in my warm pyjamas.

I combed my hair and straightened it as he applied lotion and put on his sweatpants and a tee. My husband over here does not have pyjamas and I secretly like that - imagine your husband sleeping in pyjamas.

"Let's go get you fed, shall we?" He asked and I nodded. Once downstairs, he made me sit on the highchair as he quickly whipped up something for the both of us. Once done, he sat

next to me and we both ate over future plans, our babies' future plans.

"When are we going for our first scan and check up?" He asked. You could see the curiosity in his intimidating eyes.

"In two weeks..." I responded. "I've already checked in with my gynecologist so we shouldn't have a problem with appointments." I added on.

I yawned then put my fork down. "I'm sleepy." I said. "Have you been resting like how I instructed you to?" He asked and I nodded hesitantly.

He eyed me for a good minute before getting up. "I'll be working from home tomorrow, let's go to sleep." He said. He helped me up and we made our way back to the guest room where we'll be sleeping for the night since I squirted all over the sheets.

He lied down and I laid on top of him, cuddling him. He pecked my forehead and had a light conversation before drifting off to sleep.

When I woke up, he was staring at me. His stare was intense, he looked worried but he smiled immediately when he saw me looking at him.

"Good morning." He said running his fingers through my hair.

"Good morning baby." I responded.

He chuckled then pecked my lips.

"You called me baby?" He asked and I blushed then looked away.

"I love you, do you know that?" He asked and I nodded. "I know that you love me and I love you too." I say



"And I don't want anything to happen to you. I'll protect you with my life." He said.

He took my hand into his and pecked it. "Should anything happen to me, just know that I'll always love you.

You take care of our babies and love them as much as you can." He said. I was now getting worried.

I sat up straight and looked at him in the eyes. "Alex, is there something wrong? Are you leaving me?" I asked with tears already stinging my eyes.

He looked at me, failing to respond. I grasped onto his shoulders fighting to straddle his laps.

"Baby, why are you talking like that?" I queried. There was still no response. He enveloped me with his arms and caressed my back. He pecked my forehead. "I'm not going anywhere Jules." He said.

"Don't... Joke like that." I said in between my sobs.

"I'm sorry, I was just thinking ahead. Its been confirmed that anything is possible. God saw how great of a soul you are and he blessed us with two babies. He was just challenging you and you passed." He said.

"You're a wonderful person, a great friend, a blessing of a wife and a deserving mother. Sometimes I just feel like I don't deserve you but I don't let that pull me down. The fact that I'm a trying husband who is very much in regret of all the pain I caused you and Laila, that makes me feel like you couldn't have gotten yourself a better husband." He said and I chuckled.

"These past few weeks have been hard but with you around, everything felt light and it had meaning. I don't know what I'd do without you. My life would just end." He said.

"Xander..."

"Last night, it was different. With all the pain we went through, the happiness

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the passion, the love, the struggle, the trauma and everything else for that matter, it came back to me. It hit hard. I felt every emotion pouring out, with every moan and groan that filled the room. I felt more connected to you, I fell in love with you all over again." He said.

He wiped my tears then pecked my lips. He took my left hand into his. He slowly took my ring off and held it on his palm. "I broke my vows, the vows I made to you in front of god, the men of god, both our families and everyone else." He said. To say I was shocked and pained would be an understatement. I burst into tears at the realization of him leaving me.

"Alex, please... Please don't give up on us, we can work things out. We'll leave the past where it belongs and start our lives over, please." I beseeched. He just shook his head and turned to his nightstand.

I covered my face with my hands and just tried to convince myself that I was dreaming. "Jules, look at me." He said placidly.

I slowly opened my eyes. He was holding a ring, another ring. Looking at the way the two heart shaped mystic topaz dimes stared at me, I could tell it was brand new. This ring had the most diamonds I had ever seen on a ring.

"When I first met you, stranded in the middle of no where, confused and scared but still looked beautiful, my heart melted. I knew I was way older than you but like a werewolf, I imprinted on you. I promised myself to make you mine and mine alone and to never hurt you but to love and cherish you. You're the most wonderful woman I've ever met in my entire life and with that said, I don't want to lose you.

I learnt from you what love is. Never in my wildest dreams have I pictured myself committing to anything and anyone but you came into my life and nothing else mattered. I vowed to protect you and love you like you're the last person on earth and that's exactly what I'm going to do.

So with this ring, I promise to love you wholeheartedly and you cherish you till the day I die. I declare my love for you to be the most important thing in this world and my top priority alongside our babies. I tie my soul to yours and give my heart to you.

I promise to support and motivate you. I promise to be a faithful man and responsible husband. I promise to be with you and only you till we depart.

I promise to be with you all the way. You're the only woman I've ever loved so much and... Fuck the speech, I love you Juliette Collins. I love you." He said then slipped the ring onto my finger.

I shook my head then cupped his cheeks and locked his lips with mine. "I love you too Alexander Collins."

He wrapped his arms around my waist and I wrapped mine around his neck. I lightly sobbed with my head on his shoulder and his buried on my neck.

"I can't wait for our little angel to come out already, I know she's going to be just like her mother. Beautiful, strong and benevolent." He said and I chortled.

"What if it's a boy?" I asked.

"Nah, its a girl." He said.

## ALEXANDER

I was working from home the entire month. We were so close to giving birth that I decided to start working from home for I didn't want to miss my wife giving birth... The contractions, water breaking, breathing exercises, her yelling and dictating whilst in agony.

I wanted to be present when she gave birth and I wanted to just know the feeling, curiosity killed a cat.

I watched as she grasped at her straw, her smoothie half full on her glass. I was forced into massaging her feet. Well, they were quite swollen but I'm not complaining.

She's been melodramatic throughout the pregnancy but I enjoyed every bit of it - the morning sickness, the fatigue, the swollen feet, the cravings, the laziness, the hormones (crying and yelling for no reason, mostly about putting on weight). Umi suggested she joins her for yoga and I'm glad she did.

No matter how much weight my Jules put on, she was sexy as fuck but she was so insecure about her weight she ended up joining me in the gymnasium along side yoga and meditating of course.

"Mmhh, right there baby." She said and I chuckled. I hope she didn't acclimatize to the massages because after the pregnancy, I'm a busy man.

What I loved mostly was the love making. No matter how fatigued she was, the woman was never too tired for sex and to tell you it was great I'd be lying. It was hot, sexy, enjoyable - all the words in the dictionary similar to that.

When I was done with the foot massage, I settled next to her and she rested her head on my chest. I rubbed her big bump and she placed her hand on top of mine.

"Where's Royalty?" She asked and I chuckled. "He's still asleep." She nodded then sighed out loud.

We've been through so much together and I realized that we still have a long way to go but as long as I'm with my family, nothing else matters.

I've been trying to make up for my mistakes, not that I'm a perfect husband but I'm a trying husband and whatever I do is for my family.

She flinched. "Are you okay?" I asked and she nodded. She moved my hand to the other side of her belly. She's kicking.

"I can't wait for her to get out." I said and she chuckled. "What if its a he?" She asked and I shook my head. "Its a girl."

We decided to keep the gender a surprise. Even when we purchased things for her

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we purchased unisex items. I honestly wanted to have a girl. Maybe if God decided to bless us again it could be a boy but I wanted a girl, so she could be just like her mother.



"She's kicking again." She said then grinned. The kicks were not that strong hence I assumed its a girl. I don't know but if it were a boy, they'd be much stronger.

My hand still on her belly, "What should we name her?" I asked and she brightened up. She's been waiting to name our baby.

"Well, if it is a girl, I was thinking we should call her Nostalgia." She said and I meditated on the definition.

"Feeling of sadness mixed with pleasure and affection when you think of happy times in the past." I said.

It made perfect sense, after everything Jules and I have been through then we fell pregnant, she'll remind us of the nostalgic moments.

"And a boy?" She asked and I shook my head. "We already have a boy." I teased.

"Xander you know what I mean." She said and I shook my head. My gut feeling was telling me we were expecting a girl and I trust my gut.

I honestly couldn't wait, for everything. Taking my children to school, attending parents' meeting and games. I couldn't wait to reprimand them and to have paramount adult talks with them.

And I couldn't wait to tell them about everything, all about us. From the day we met till they grow old enough.

The day I saw her looking around uncomfortably and rubbing her hands on her arms to create heat. I remember that night like it was yesterday.

She looked so beautiful with anxiety clearly expressed in her eyes. I could see her glistening aquamarine eyes through the gloomy weather.

To the day I asked her to marry me, a young adult proposing to a teenager around her friends in the school grounds on Valentines Day.

To the day I made love to her for the first time. I can't seem to erase her terrified face on my mind but eitherway, she finally let me in.

To the day we got married, her petite body tightly hugged by that white sparkly dress. I don't regret putting a ring on it, that was one good decision I've ever taken.

I couldn't possibly miss the joy on father's face, he was one happy man. It was as if he was the one getting married to Jules.

Sometimes his love for Jules worried me. The love was just too much, it scared me. But she reminds him of mother and I fathom why he loves her so much but... It still worries me.

To the day I found out she was infertile. Her anguished cries haunt me till this day because of the bad choices I've made.

How could I forget the day James had the guts to walk into my house with a bouquet of cheap reeking flowers and chocolate truffles.

The look on his face when I sat him down and put my pistol in front of him is priceless, totally unforgettable.

I didn't fathom why he was so obsessed with Jules but I hope he got the help he needed and he won't be bothering us.

The guy could break into our house and watch us making love. But that's really besides the point.

The point is, I have a lot of stories to tell my babies and I hope some of them are educational.

Look at me, getting hit by a pang of nostalgia. "Xander..."

"Yes?"

"Are you okay? You've been stuck on your thoughts." She said and I shook my head then patted the empty space next to me so she could occupy it.

She made her way towards me with Royalty on her hold. She kept on pecking him vigorously before seating next to me. I took him from her and tickled him.

The guy is growing. Nine months ago he was born and in a few weeks, he'll have a sibling.

And Jules' love for him is astounding, one would swear she was his biological mother. Well cut it, Juliette Collins is one hell of a woman and I love her dearly.

"Jules..."

"Xander..."

"Are you happy?" She looked at me and smiled.

"I'm more than happy."

## ROYALTY

Who knew clouds could be so beautiful? Being so close to them makes them much more beautiful than when you're looking at the sky from below.

I shift my eyes from the window to my side where my little sister is resting with her head on my shoulder.

Who would miss Mr and Mrs Collins from the other side? Mother and father's love is clearly expressed through their heart warming facial expressions.

Its even more expressed when they start banging on the walls followed by mother's moans and father's groan then the dirty talk and father's name.

Mother is resting her head on father's chest whilst he keeps running his fingers through her long curly hair.

The love I receive from her is remarkable. I love that she has never tried to hide my biological mother from me, even though she's no longer alive and what I've heard about her is quite saddening but I couldn't have asked for a better mother.

I take a look at father and he winks at me before looking back at his wife. I have no words when it comes to those two.

Back at my sister, Nostalgia is just a darling. Just like her mother, she's gorgeous, strong, brave and kindhearted. She has her mother's eyes and her petite body.

I know its bizarre but sometimes I secretly wish we weren't related. She's too much of the woman I want to marry than my half sister but eitherway, I'll find the one.

But sometimes I just want to kiss the hell out of her then I remember that she's my sister. I have spoken to father about this, everyone in fact and I'm glad they understand because I mean no harm.

I still find it weird but I'm working on it.

When we land in Singapore, I close my novel and stuff it inside my bag before getting off the jet. Grandpa always lent us his jet until father got his own. For some cute reason, he named it Jules.

Singapore is such a wonderful place. Visiting grandmother is always the best cause we all love Singapore. I've even made some friends this side and well some of them are eyeing on my lil sis. They're always trying to dig in their claws into her flesh but eitherway, her brother has guns. Guns for days. I don't go to the gymnasium for fun.

When we arrive at grandmother's house, we're welcomed by her warm hugs and a mouthwatering aroma. We know for a fact that she cooked up a storm, she always does this.

We visit her once a year for my birthday, which is also the day mother died and it was after giving birth to me.



When I first found out, I couldn't celebrate my birthday but I got over myself and started celebrating it with my family. We'd first visit her grave with fresh lilies which were her favorite then light a candle for her.

We'd end our day with a feast prepared by the ladies and a few drinks with the guys.

After feasting, we all split up so we could rest. We were all jet lagged, especially Nostalgia. She was eating like nobody's business.

"Happy birthday... To you. Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday... To you. Happy... Birthday... To you." I'm woken up by Nostalgia's sweet voice. I chuckle then thank her.

She's still in her nightdress which is not a pleasant sight for me because... She's my sister, man.

She pecks my cheek then heads out. We had made a deal that we should be the first ones to wish each other a happy birthday on one's day and we've been keeping that promise.

After she walks out, I get off the bed and get my day started.

After all the birthday wishes, we did the regular. Visiting the cemetery, lighting a candle for her, celebrating and feasting.

Nostalgia and I on the other hand decided to watch a movie whilst the adults were talking about something that seemed dire.

Mother, father and grandmother take their seats on the couch then father clears his throat. "Roy, there's something we need to show you." He says. I shift uncomfortably before swallowing hard.

"Your... Uhm... Laila had a short video recorded just for you and she strictly wanted you to watch it today." Mother says and I nod hesitantly.

I hand them the remote control then look at Nostalgia. "Relax, okay?" She says and I nod.

We all turn to the screen. I'm in disbelief. I've only seen her in pictures and seeing her laugh, talk and smile is everything to me.

"Hey son. If you're watching then that means you're eighteen. First of all, happy birthday and I hope you have a great day with your beloveds.

Secondly

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I'm your mother, Laila. I gave birth to you on this day and died on this day after giving birth to you. I know this is something you shouldn't tell your child but you were conceived by some sort of mistake. I wasn't meant to fall pregnant but when I did, I fell in love with you.

Well whilst pregnant with you, I found that I had an ectopic pregnancy and I was told to terminate the pregnancy but I couldn't. I knew that by keeping you and giving birth to you, I'd die but I also knew that someone else would've mothered you better than I ever could.

Thirdly, I was a bad person. I almost broke a marriage apart and almost stripped someone of her life. I did incredibly shocking things and I won't say its because I was hurt and betrayed, that is no excuse.

Heart is where the home is - I knew your father was married and I knew he'd return to his wife someday but when the day came, I felt like a part of me was stolen from me and thereon I started the #mission\_break\_the\_Collins\_marriage.

With that being said, I did horrible bullshit that I can't bring myself to tell you myself but I'm sure Alex and Julie will tell you. Or your grandmother even.

I didn't mean to, I didn't mean to hurt anybody but I did. And before falling in love with you, I was planning on trapping Alex

with the pregnancy. I failed, I couldn't keep them apart. He didn't love me and I realized that I didn't love him too, I was just angry at him.

However, I was in love with your mother. Yes, I was bisexual and please don't judge me. Either way, the point is I'm a bad person and I don't deserve to be your mother.

Your mother is Juliette. She's going to love you until it's almost impossible to love anymore. I know that because if she doesn't, my ghost will haunt her and she'll learn to love you.

And lastly, I love you Royalty and I wish you all the best. Live your life to the fullest and make good choices. Learn from all our mistakes and become a better version of all of us. Make us proud and be the best you can be. Mommy loves you."

The screen goes blank. My eyes are still glued to the screen, in disbelief of what just happened. Mother's sobs bring me back to life. She's coupled up in father's embrace with tears streaming down her cheeks and a weak smile across her face.

I get up from my seat and kneel before mother. She pulls me in for a warm tight hug then pecks my forehead. "Thank you, mother. Thank god for everything. You managed to fill in Laila's place in my heart even though I knew you are not my real mother but from today, there's no such thing. You and Laila are both my mother's. You're both my biological mothers." I say.

She breaks the hug then looks at me. "We both know that's not possible, no matter what we do but you've always been my one

and only son. I love you dearly, both you and your sister, all of you." She says.

"I know it doesn't really change anything but I think it's time I adopt you. I know your father and I are married but I also want to feel like I'm fully your mother, legally." She announces.

I nod. I nod vigorously before pulling her into a tighter hug, more like squeezing her. Nostalgia, father and grandmother join in on the hug and it becomes a family group hug.

A warm hug filled with love.

**A hug that doesn't make me feels like a message from a mistress.**

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