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My Mother's Wish by Nomcebo Myeni

Insert 1

At Ntando's house...

Ntando walked through the gate carrying his backpack and went to the back where his house was. He passed his brother's wife, Gabi hanging his brother's clothes on the line and greeted her. She greeted him back and he proceeded to his house.

He smiled seeing the door opened, that meant his girlfriend, Solomon was in.

He stepped in and dropped his backpack on the single leather couch in front of his small tv then went to the bedroom where he found her laying on her stomach in her panties.

He leaned over and bit her ear slapping her butt softly as she turned facing the wall then continued sleeping.

He shook his head and went to undress before jumping into the shower and took a quick shower then stepped out with a towel wrapped around his waist.

He wiped his body and lotioned his body then packed her school books before waking her up.

The pregnancy was doing the most on her, she was tired and moody most of the times. It was a miracle that she reached the second month with her mother not noticing anything. Especially with her unstable emotions that fluctuated more than the stock market. That was kind of expected though with a supportive baby daddy like Ntando who would literally hunt down a lion for its liver if it happened she craved for it.

They were in it together, she was carrying their baby after all and his duty was to make the pregnancy comfortable and help with her studies where he could.

He was grateful for a brother like Lucky for allowing him to stay with them without contributing on groceries and other household necessities. The money he made in the filling station went to his savings since he wanted to further his studies in the near future, the rest went to his toiletries and his woman. He was well aware that when the baby arrived a lot of things had to change because, babies were hella expensive!!

She buried her face on a pillow and huffed then got up and switched off the fan.

Ntando: We don't greet each other anymore?

Solomon: I forgot.

He chuckled and squeezed her ass kissing her neck as she rolled her eyes then went to the bathroom to wash her face.

Ntando: Did you finish your Economics assignment?

Solomon:(spat the mouthwash in the sink) Yes. You can check.

Ntando: Why would I? You wouldn't cheat on yourself.

Solomon: Since you treat me like a baby.

Ntando: I wanted to make sure you didn't forget. I got the pictures you wanted.

Solomon:(wiped her hands) Thanks I'll give them to Notha tomorrow.

Ntando: You're always cheating.

Solomon: You don't know that girl. She's always complaining and she wants to have everything done her way so I don't want to argue with her hence I volunteered to print the pictures for the group.

Ntando: I see.

He thoughtfully looked at her as she put on her dress. She always allowed people to have their way with her. It was safe to say

she had no backbone.

She never fought for herself but always surrendered. It worried him but he didn't know how to voice his opinion about it incase she misunderstood him.

She picked her bag and took her phone as he stood up and followed her.

At Solomon's house...

She found her brother's wife car parked in the driveway and sighed sliding her hands in her hoodie pocket then went inside. She smiled and picked up her niece, Angel from the floor as Slindile came from the bedroom holding her bag.

Slindile: Soso hey.

Solomon: How are you?

Slindile: I'm good. Is everything okay?

Solomon: Yeah, I'm fine why are you asking?

She chuckled and tucked her weave behind her ear hanging the bag on her shoulder.

Slindile: Nothing.

Solomon: Oh.

She shushed Angel and put a pacifier in her mouth and watched her as she calmed down the she pulled her cheek.

Slindile quietly watched her as she avoided her gaze and sighed feeling sorry for her. She has been observing her for sometime and her suspicions were correct, she was indeed pregnant. She wasn't worried about her brother but rather her mother. For someone who worked with kids everyday, her approach when it came to parenting was weird. But then she was her mother in law, she could never speak ill of her no matter how wrong she was.

Her phone rang from her bag and she reached for it and silenced it when she saw the caller id.

Slindile: I have to leave my husband is calling me.

She nodded and handed the baby to her laughing. It was funny how she always referred to him as 'my husband' or 'my love' because she didn't want to use his name. She wouldn't use it to because till that day she still asked herself what her mother was thinking naming her kids like that?

Slindile walked towards the door and turned looking at her then called her before she disappeared down the passage.

Slindile: Soso.

Solomon: Huh?

Slindile: Do they know that you're pregnant?

Solomon:(swallowed) How do you know?

Slindile: I know a pregnant woman when I see one. Did you go to the doctor?

Solomon:(softly)Yes, he confirmed the pregnancy.

Her mother, MaCele walked in carrying the kid's clean uniform...

MaCele: Pregnancy? Umithi Soso?

Solomon: Mama?

She snorted in disbelief and dropped the clothes on the couch resting her hands on her waist then looked at them as they stared back at her guilt stricken...

2

At Solomon's house... MaCele: I'm talking to you Solomon.

Solomon: Mama...ummh... MaCele:(snapped) Hey la!!

Solomon&Slindile: Yes I am...No she's not. MaCele: Which one

is it? Solomon: I was going to tell you. MaCele: When? When

you're in labour? Heh Soso is this your house? Solomon: No

mom. MaCele: Slindile. We'll see you tomorrow. Slindile: Ma...

MaCele: Tomorrow Slindile, can I have a moment alone with my daughter? She turned to Solomon and mouthed 'I'm sorry then went out...

MaCele: Slindile. Slindile: Mama? MaCele: I would

prefer it if you didn't tell Mbali. Slindile: I won't tell him.

MaCele: Thank you. She turned to Solomon as she sucked in a

breath frightened. She was scared of her mother more than

anything and she always listened to her and at that moment

she regretted not breaking up with Ntando when she instructed

her too. What she feared the most was being kicked out of her

home. MaCele: Who's the father? Solomon: Ntando.

MaCele:(scoffed) The petrol attendant? Are you being serious

right now? What are you going to feed the baby? Petrol and

diesel? Solomon: I'm sorry. She clapped her hands together and

clenched her fists angrily. MaCele: I'm nyorry!! Yazi uyisphoxi

sento, isdwedwe esihamba silala nje nezinja nxa! A petrol

attendant out of all people? Wasn't there anyone better for you

out there? Yazi awunangqondo wena, udina kabi!! Her chest

rose and fell as Solomon stood by rubbing her sweaty palms

together apologetically with tears streaming down her cheeks. Her hands shook in anger, she literally saw her future down the drain. History was repeating itself, did she have to allow a mere petrol attendant to knock her up? Those thoughts filled her mind angering her even more. How could she be so stupid? She wondered which muti that piece of trash used on her beloved daughter. Solomon saw the fury in her mother's eyes and covered her face with her hands as a sob escaped her mouth. She had disappointed her more than words can say. If it was any other day, she would be on the floor probably miscarried if not half dead. Her mother knew how to discipline a child and everyone in their neighborhood was aware of that. Others called it abuse but she called it discipline-to her that was what it was. Solomon: I'm sorry mama

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please tell me what would it take for you to forgive me. I'm willing to do anything. MaCele wiped a lone tear on her cheek and walked past her to her bedroom as Solomon slid down the wall crying... At Mbali's house... Slindile parked her car in the garage and stepped out taking Angel with her. She found her husband, Mbali making dinner in their kitchen. She placed Angel on the counter and greeted him as he smiled and kissed her lips before turning to Angel who giggled when her father tickled her. Slindile: I'll be back. He nodded and placed Angel on

his shoulder and turned to the stove stirring on the pot and then lowered the heat before closing the pot. She dropped her bags on the single couch in the corner of the room and kicked off her shoes taking off her jewelry and her clothes then removed her weave. She charged her phone and picked up the dirty clothes to the laundry basket then went to the bathroom. She was in turmoil, she has never lied to her husband before and what her mother in law was asking her was close to impossible. She thought of the anger that was in her eyes and Solomon's fear and bit her lower lip scared on her behalf. What is she kept quiet only to wake up to the news of her in a coma? What if she actually lost the baby through her mother's beating? Was she gonna be able to live with herself knowing she could've done something? She stepped inside the bath tub and closed her eyes allowing the warm water to soothe her muscles as exhaustion left her body. Why did God choose this kind of person to be her mother in law? She couldn't stop thinking about the drama that was going on in that house since MaCele's rational thinking was on minus. A while later she stepped out with a towel wrapped around her head and another one around her body. She found Mbali seated on the carpet with Angel in between his legs with his head rested on the edge of bed and his eyes closed. Slindile: You done? Mbali: Yeah. I'm too tired today, I just need my bed. Slindile: I'll run the bath for you later. Mbali: Thanks. He opened his eyes and

looked at her as she started lotioning her body. Mbali: Is there something I should know? Slindile: Like what? Mbali: You're my wife, I know you. Slindile: I don't know what you're talking about. Mbali: Babe? Are we lying to each other now? She sighed and went to him... Slindile: I do have something to tell you and please don't freak out. Your mother asked me not to say anything. Mbali: I'm listening. Slindile:(cleared her throat) Soso is pregnant. Mbali: What? Slindile: I understand how it looks like right now but this is your sister and I can't imagine what she's going through right now. What if she beat her again? Do you remember what happened when she found out that she was not a virgin anymore? She landed in a coma. Mbali: And this time around she might kill her. Slindile: Maybe if we go there she won't do anything to her. Mbali: You think so? Slindile: Yeah. Mbali: Okay, we'll leave. She nodded and wrapped her arms around his neck resting her chin on his head as her mind went down the memory lane. A rainy Saturday morning, she had requested to see Angel the previous day so she came in early because she wanted them to bond. She found her laying on the ground behind the house unconscious her body covered in marks. The lies that followed after that as everyone tried to cover up for her still made her stomach turn till today. That was when she lost all respect for her mother in law. At Solomon's house... Later that evening she got off the phone with Ntando and laid on her back eating raisins as the

door flew open and her mother got inside wearing tracksuits. She quickly removed her earphones and jumped off bed as warm urine flew down her legs. Solomon:(crying) Mama I'm sorry. She walked around the bed and removed her hoodie then handed her two pills and a bottle of water. MaCele: Drink this. Solomon:(shaking) Ma? MaCele: I said drink. She took the pills and drank them... MaCele: You'll leave that boy alone. I don't know what do you see in him when there are guys like Kabelo who can provide everything for you. But no you don't want him because he's serious about you, you want the one who's only good of groaning and grunting ontop of you. Talk about a waste of sperm!! She walked out banging the door behind her as she placed her hand on her chest relieved. Solomon:(tearfully) God thank you!!

3

At Solomon's house...

Earlier that morning she rose up from her nightmare drenched in sweat and closed her eyes gasping for air as her chest rose and fell. A sharp pain struck her abdomen and she flinched and murmured getting off bed. Her eyes fell on her bloody pyjamas and she swallowed walking to the bathroom as an urge to pee took over.

She sat on the toilet seat and grinned holding her thighs tight looking up as another pain struck her abdomen the pain shooting straight to her heart paralyzing her joints.

She exhaled and grunted pushing as blood clots came out. She screamed in pain as the room spun whilst she bled profusely.

She blinked her eyes as her vision blurred then pushed the last huge blood clot and then fell on her knees holding onto her abdomen.

Solomon:(softly) Mama...Sliiii!!

She laid on the floor and dragged her heavy body to the door. She pushed the door and clenched her jaws in pain then shut her eyes resting her forehead on the tiled floor as everything became dark...

In her mother's room...

She yawned and sat up straight talking to her colleague on her phone.

MaCele: Are you sure it'll work.

Colleague: Ofcourse it'll. By the end of today it'll be done.

MaCele: I hear you.

Colleague: Don't worry, everything will be fine you don't even have to feel guilty about it. You did what any good mother would've done.

MaCele: I hope so.(sighs) I don't want her to struggle, that boy is not coming from a well off family and his situation is depressing.

Colleague: Ai shlobo forget about that one I'm sure he'll leave her.

MaCele: That would be great, Kabelo is there I don't know why she doesn't want him. Kabelo has money and he has a car. Dating him will be very beneficial to her but my daughter keeps on disappointing me.

Colleague: All kids are like that. They need us as parents to show them the light.

She got off bed and went to take out clothes to wear to work as they continued chatting with her colleague...

Meanwhile Slindile stretched her arms walking to the bathroom as Angel crawled to her grandmother's room.

She screamed when she saw Solomon laying unconscious on the floor.

Mbali rushed to the bathroom and crouched next to her shaking her. He felt her pulse and picked her up.

Mbali: Get the car keys.

She ran to their bedroom as her mother appeared tying her robe.

MaCele: What is going on?

Mbali: We found Soso on the floor. I'll explain later....Sli!!!

He went to the garage as Slindile paced behind her and placed Soso at the back and jumped inside bringing the engine to life.

Mbali: Go to work, I'll update you.

She nodded and opened the gate then he drove out silently praying that she lives.

At The Bay Netcare...

Hours later MaCele walked inside the reception in her formal wear carrying her bag and walked to Mbali who was seated on the waiting chairs his head rested on his knees.

MaCele: Baby.

He lifted his head to her and swallowed looking at her with reddish eyes. She held her bag tight as her heart pounded...

MaCele: Is she okay?

Mbali: I don't know, nobody is telling me anything.

MaCele: What? You've been here for hours and they aren't telling you anything, what are they doing inside with my child?

Mbali: Calm down, no news is still good news.

MaCele:(shouting) No I...

Mbali:(snapped) Stop with the melodrama!! Maybe you should've stayed at your work than coming here to start with your nonsense. We both know you don't care about Soso so don't pretend like you do.

She clenched her jaws and gave him a backslap and he shut his eyes caught by surprise.

MaCele: You don't get to talk to me like that. I'm not your mate!

She clicked her tongue and went to the receptionist.

MaCele: Goodmorning, I'm here for my daughter Solomon.

Receptionist:(chuckled) Who? So...

MaCele:(annoyed) Solomon Masondo awuyeke ukuphapha wenz umsebenzi wakho neshiya el'tshekile.

She cleared her throat and fixed her top...

Receptionist: The doctors are still busy with her, you can wait for them.

She went towards Mbali who got up as soon as the doctor approached shoving her stethoscope in the pocket of her white coat.

Doctor: Solomon Masondo.

Mbali: How is she doing?...I'm her brother.

Doctor: Oh....She's fine but she lost the baby. When she arrived here, it was too late.

Mbali: What?

Doctor: Yes

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but we've managed to stop the bleeding and cleaned her up. She's back in her ward you can go ahead and see her.

MaCele: Thank you doc.

Mbali: What caused the miscarriage.

Doctor: We're still running...

MaCele: Stress or maybe the baby wasn't meant to be. Let's go.

She held his hand as the doctor led the way and left them next to her ward.

He looked at her mother and took a deep breath then stepped inside.

He faked a smile seeing her laying on her back with a pink cannula in her hand. He stood next to the ECG monitor as her mother pulled the chair and sat down.

Mbali: I'm sorry.

Solomon:(shut her eyes) It's okay.

She lazily wiped her tears as her mother looked at her with an emotionless face.

MaCele: What did the doctor say? Will this affect you in future?

Solomon: She doesn't know yet, she'll confirm everything once the results are back.

MaCele: I see...

Mbali: How are you feeling? We can get you a psychologist if you like. Losing a child isn't easy.

Solomon: No I'll be fine.

MaCele: Hawu Mbali psychologists are for white people. Soso will be fine.

Solomon:(crying) Can I be left alone?

Mbali: Ofcourse, mama let's go.

MaCele: But...

He held her hand and she got up and they left.

It broke her heart to know that her own mother was responsible for the death of her first child. She wasn't ready for a child but abortion was not an option. It would've been better if she beat her like she always did.

Ntando was definitely going to lose his mind when he found out. Her heart was broken beyond repairs.

She started wheezing feeling suffocated as her chest closed in on her.

Doctors flooded her ward and quickly attended to her as she slipped out of consciousness.

In the parking lot...

MaCele opened the door and Mbali angrily shut it...

Mbali: It was you right?

MaCele:(annoyed) What now?

Mbali: You killed her baby?

MaCele: Why would I do that?

Mbali: Mama, you had no right to make decisions for her!

MaCele: Mbali Masondo step away from my car and stop teaching me how to parent my child!!

He deeply exhaled and walked to his car as tears filled his eyes. He rested his arms on the steering wheel and his tears fell. He hated being powerless and his mother instilled so much fear in them that ended up making them powerless. They had no say whatsoever, her word was law!!

Meanwhile in MaCele's car she connected her phone to the Bluetooth and drove out of the parking lot...

MaCele: Shlobo I feel so guilty.

Voice: Ahh it's nothing, that's normal you'll get used to it.

MaCele: She's broken, her eyes are lifeless and I'm scared that one of these days she might take her own life. Soso is weak and she easily succumb to pressure, I can't lose my child.

Voice: You won't lose her. I'll call you later, I have a period in grade 10.

MaCele: Okay.

She hang up as she continued driving.

At Ntando's house...

He laid on the hammock next to the pool holding his diary and cellphone.

He read an email on his phone and blinked his eyes re-reading again. His bursary application has been approved. He placed his fist on his mouth and shook his head not believing his eyes.

He tried calling Soso but her phone rang unanswered, he sighed looking at the time, she was probably still in class. He opened his banking app and looked at his savings so far then smiled. Everything was looking up. He was going to use the money to

pay for the nanny and maybe her registration fees if it came to that.

Baby mama was too smart to be a stay at home mom.

Even though he was going to school, he was keeping his job. That job kept him in line and he wasn't letting it go just like that.

He closed his diary and placed it besides him then took a sip on the juice and laid down smiling hopefully...

4

At The Bay Netcare...

The next day Ntando walked into Soso's ward and licked his dry lips before settling on the chair besides her bed. He glanced at the drip of morphine running directly to her IV and brushed his exhausted face frightened. His pregnant girlfriend was lying in a hospital bed and he didn't want to listen to all the voices in his head.

His brother texted him and he fished for his phone in his backpack and sighed upon reading his text. He wanted to know how her sister in law was doing? What was he supposed to tell when he also didn't know how she was doing or rather, didn't want to know how she was doing.

Her mother had found out about the pregnancy before they could announce and that alone sent shivers down his spine.

It was during the midnight when he chose to listen to the voicemail messages since he was bored and stumbled upon hers where she was telling her about the recent developments.

He came from work straight to the hospital after calling her friend, Lethu who filled him in about where she was admitted.

She slowly moved her hands and opened her eyes then removed the oxygen mask over her face.

He held her hands as the wave of relief skyrocketed in his body.

Ntando: Babe how are you doing?

She slowly shut her eyes and laid still processing the events of the previous day's.

He got up and called the doctor then went back to her.

She opened her eyes and shook her head crying.

Solomon: I'm sorry Ntando, I really am.

Ntando: It's okay my love, I understand.

The doctor stepped in with a nurse and tilted her head to the side reaching for her pen and went to open her medical file.

Doctor: Ms Masondo. It's good to have you back.

Solomon:...

Doctor: Your results are back.(glanced at Ntando) Do you need privacy?

Solomon: He's the father.

Doctor: Okay. Your results are clear, no foreign substances.

Solomon: Are you sure?

Doctor: Yes and the heavy bleeding didn't affect your uterus. Miscarriages are a common thing to expecting mothers especially when you're in your first trimester.

Ntando: Whoah! She miscarried?

Doctor: You didn't tell him?

Solomon: No.

Doctor: Oh okay, I'll prescribe some medication and then discharge you.

Solomon: Can I get something for the pain?

Doctor: Okay I'll prescribe something for the pain.

She closed her file and walked out. Ntando held her hand and kissed it wiping her tears with his thumb.

Ntando: It'll be fine. We'll be alright.

Solomon:(crying) Please hold me.

He removed his backpack and got on bed holding her in his arms as tears filled his eyes. He couldn't believe his ears, just like that the baby was no more?

In the parking lot...

A light skinned gentleman stepped out carrying balloons and flowers. He fixed his expensive suit and locked the car before walking inside.

He asked to see Solomon in the reception and she directed him whilst other workers admired him. He was a clean gentleman and definitely rich, his hair cut suited him.

Receptionist: One night only Jesus is all I ask for.

In her ward he knocked once and invited himself in. Ntando turned to him and slowly got off bed sitting on the chair.

Solomon: Kabelo, what are you doing here?

Kabelo: I heard that you're hospitalized and thought I should pay you a visit. These are yours.

He handed the flowers and balloons to her and she smiled receiving them. They reminded her of a certain movie and thinking about it brought a smile on her face. She leaned over smelling them and then thanked him. Ntando cleared his throat

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she swallowed snapping out of it.

Solomon: Ntando this is Kabelo my, my friend. Kabelo this is Ntando my boyfriend.

Kabelo: Nice to meet you Ntando.

He extended his hand for a shake, he frowned looking at his hand then his eyes fell on his expensive watch. He turned to Solomon with a straight face feeling disrespected.

Kabelo: How are you feeling?

Solomon: Still in pain but I'll be fine.

Kabelo: They should give you something for the pain. When are they discharging you?

Solomon: Today.

Kabelo: I can give you a lift if you want. Taking taxis might not be ideal for you.

Ntando: No we'll be fine.

Kabelo: Okay. Let me leave you, I'll come by and check up on you in your house.

He hugged her and pinched her cheek stepping back.

Kabelo: Next time my bra, take her to the hospital. Illegal abortions can kill her...call me if you need anything.

He walked out. Ntando stood up and took his backpack then walked out without saying anything.

She looked at him leaving whilst frozen in spot. So her mother did abort her baby and sent Kabelo to destroy her relationship while at it? Why did she hate her this much?

In the parking lot Ntando saw Kabelo stepping inside his blue Ford Raptor and swallowed as tears burned his eyes. He's probably the reason his baby got aborted. He was definitely rich and maybe her mother approved of him. But a whole abortion? He wasn't rich but he was going to provide for his baby.

This was like a slap in the face, after all the plans they made together? She just had to flush everything down the drain because a rich guy came into the picture?

Kabelo honked besides him...

Kabelo: You good?

Ntando: Yeah I'm fine.

Kabelo: I see...

His window went up as he drove out.

At Solomon's house...

Later that day she was sitting in her bedroom with her sister in law. She sadly looked at her as she narrated what went down at the hospital.

Solomon: I don't know why my mother doesn't want to understand. I love Ntando and he loves me too but she's adamant that I have to be with Kabelo only because he promised to marry me? I don't want to get married, I'm still young. I need to travel the world before tying myself into marriage.

Slindile: Nothing is going to change unless you change your attitude towards her. You're too submissive it's not even cute. She's your mother not God, at some point in your life, you have to stand up for yourself.

Solomon:(crying) I'm scared, I'm scared of the curses she'll rain upon my life and the beatings. I can't deal with that.

Slindile: It's either that or....

A knock sounded on the door and it opened and Kabelo stuck his head in...

Slindile: Aike kufeziwe!!

She got up and left. Kabelo walked in carrying 2 brown paper bags.

Kabelo: How are you feeling?

Solomon: What are you doing here?

Kabelo: I told you I'll come over. I brought you something to eat and some medication.

Solomon: Thank you.

Kabelo: You're welcome.

She opened the other paper bag and smiled when she saw her favorite.

Kabelo: Look I'm sorry for what happened earlier today. Now that I think about it, I was wrong. I want you to know that I have no intentions of destroying your relationship. I love you yes but I'll never hurt your feelings in any way.

Solomon: It's okay. Just don't do it again.

Kabelo: I won't.

A man who knew when he was wrong and knew how to correct himself was such a turn on. This Kabelo guy kept on amazing her.

5

At Solomon's house...

Kabelo woke up and looked around the unfamiliar room then looked besides him. He relaxed when he saw Solomon peacefully sleeping on his arm. He gently pulled his arm and got off bed then wiped his sweat putting his shirt on.

He looked at the time and quickly put on his shoes as Solomon's phone rang.

He silenced Ntando's call and sneaked out of the room. He wasn't supposed to sleep there in the first place but excitement got the better of him, he couldn't believe that he was finally in one room with her after all the begging and the help of her mother.

He sat in his car anxiously waiting for someone to open the gate for him. He couldn't wake her up not after the pain she was in the night before.

A while later the gate slid open behind him and he quickly stepped on the accelerator and reversed out. He slowed down and drank water from his bottle then threw it out the window and continued driving as the window went up...

Ntando saw the familiar car and his heart skipped a bit when he caught a glimpse of the driver. In his white shirt with the sleeves rolled up, it was obvious that he spent the night with his girl. Defeated with his mind filled with different questions, he called Soso again and it still rang unanswered. He bit his lower lip and shut his eyes as his head ached. He rubbed his eyes and walked away adjusting the straps of his backpack.

His day was already ruined but he couldn't bring himself to break things off over the phone. He wasn't going to do that, there was an explanation for all of this, was there really an explanation or his love for her was making him stupid?

Whatever it was, she still owed him an explanation. She owed it to him to fill that piece of the puzzle in his head. What was wrong with keeping the baby? What was lacking in their relationship? Why lie and scheme to the point of ending up in a hospital bed?

He stopped a taxi and jumped in then closed the door. Tears burned his eyes and he looked out of the window as they rolled down his cheeks dropping on his fist. He sniffed and cleared his throat whilst wiping them as a lump formed in his throat. A lady seated besides him saw that he was crying and offered him a handkerchief which he gratefully received. He bit his lower lip concealing his cries as his heart shattered.

Saliva filled his mouth and his stomach turned. The lady stopped the driver and allowed him to pass after opening the door for him. He stepped out and bent over throwing up as passengers looked at him with eyes full of pity. One of them handed him a bottled water and he rinsed his mouth and drank then went back inside.

He mouthed thank you to the lady and faked a smile heaving a sigh...

Meanwhile Solomon woke up alone in bed and yawned stretching herself then reached for her phone. She saw missed calls notifications from Ntando and sighed then placed her phone back getting off bed.

Atleast the pain has eased up. Surprisingly the medication Kabelo brought helped her a lot. She made her bed and prepared for school making a mental note to call Ntando back when she got time.

When she finished packing her books Kabelo called her...

Solomon:(putting on her shoes) Hello.

Kabelo: Hey, up already?

Solomon: Yep bright and early.

Kabelo: That's great to hear. Can I take you to school if you don't mind?

Solomon: Won't you be late for work?

Kabelo: No, I can always move my meetings for later. You come first.

Solomon:(blushed) Okay you can come.

Kabelo: I'll be there in less than 30.

Solomon: I'll wait.

She hang up and went to the mirror to fix her hair.

Entertaining Kabelo felt wrong but now that she was getting to know him, he wasn't that bad. Maybe she hated him because her mother was forcing him down her throat, other than that

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she was wrong about him.

Nigga was smart and outgoing. If it wasn't for him, she would've been still depressed because of the miscarriage. He managed to lift her spirit and make her see the good in all that was going on.

Everyone left for work leaving her in the house, she waited for a few minutes and he finally arrived and took her to school...

At Solomon's school...

She was seated with her friend, Lethu during their lunch break. She pressed on her phone and turned the screen to Lethu who curved his lips down uninterested. She sighed and closed the app Kabelo installed for her the day before.

Solomon: You'll die young.

Lethu: Mxm this guy has you wrapped around his finger it's not even funny.

Solomon: He's not it's just that I think I judged him too soon.

Lethu: Really now? You know I know guys like Kabelo. They're very persuasive and they make sure that they only show you the side they want you to see. This one can sell milk to a cow, that's how dangerous they're.

Solomon: You're being dramatic.

He shifted closer to the window and placed his right foot on the edge of the table looking down at her sitting on the chair. She was too naive it was depressing.

Lethu: I'm a guy and I know how we operate. Don't be fooled by age, he might be old with money and everything but he's still a guy and we don't lose our ability to fool women as we grow older but we become more dangerous due to the experience. If you think I'm heartless wait until he reveal his true colors. I hope by then it won't be too late because when guys like him dribble a woman they send you straight to the rope.

He took a bite of his apple and raised his eyebrow at her chewing as she leaned back thoughtfully feeling discouraged.

Later That Day...

She stood by the gate waiting for Kabelo who pulled over in front of the gate after a while in his Audi RS5. He stepped out and went to open the door for her as her schoolmates watched her with gossiping eyes...

Kabelo: Sorry I'm late I was held up at the office, you good?

Solomon: I'm good, you?

Kabelo: Now that I've seen your pretty face, my day is better.

Solomon:(blushed) I hear you.

Kabelo: Wanna grab something to eat before going home?

Solomon: I feel like having KFC wings. You don't have somewhere to be right?

Kabelo:(changed routes) I've made enough money for us today, after this I'm going home.

Solomon: Can you please switch off the aircon?

Kabelo: Okay.

He switched it off and continued driving as she dozed off on her seat.

He bought wings for her and then passed by the filling station on his way home.

Ntando walked up to his car...

Ntando:(recognizing him) You again? How much?

Kabelo: R500 diesel.

He nodded and frowned seeing Solomon sleeping on the passenger's seat.

Kabelo: Eh baba are you doing it or kanjani?

Ntando: Sorry.

He swallowed and walked away. He took out his bank card and pressed on his phone passing time.

Ntando absent mindedly filled his tank. He was brought back to earth by the 'thunk' sound. He widened his eyes looking at the amount on the pump's screen. Kabelo stepped out and angrily looked at him as he turned pale in fear...

Kabelo: What kind of nonsense is this?

Ntando: It was a mistake I'm sorry.

He clicked his tongue and reached for his wallet and put his card back pulling five R100 notes.

Kabelo: I said R500 not a full tank.

Ntando: Please my man I won't be able...

Kabelo: That's on you.

The manager walked over as other workers watched the commotion.

Manager: Is everything okay?

Kabelo: I said R500 but your worker just filled my tank and now he expects me to pay for a full tank. I'm not doing that!

Manager: Is that true?

Ntando: It was a mistake.

Manager:(looked at the screen) You call this a mistake? My bra, you'll pay for this fuel.(to Kabelo) I'm sorry man, this doesn't usually happen here.

Kabelo: If you keep people like this here then I feel sorry for this filling station because it'll lose its customers faster than he can regain his senses.

He got into the car and drove off as he returned the nozzle to the pump. His manager shook his head angrily and walked back inside as he sadly watched the car disappearing into the traffic whilst his life crumbled down.

6

At Kabelo's house...

Kabelo drove past the roundabout with a water fountain in the middle and pulled over in front of the garage then turned to Soso in the passenger seat.

Kabelo: Wake up... Babe?

He smiled and leaned over kissing her. She felt his soft lips on hers and slowly kissed him back with her eyes closed. Her heartbeat picked up as he deepened the kiss. He held her neck and broke the kiss resting his forehead on hers...

Kabelo: You know I love you right? I'll wait until you're ready to love me back.

Solomon: Kabelo...

Kabelo: You don't have to say anything.

He pecked her lips and removed his seatbelt then got off the car walking around the car to open the door for her.

Kabelo: Come let me feed you. I'll take you back later.

She got off the car and followed him inside whilst he carried his bag.

He held her from behind as they went up the stairs until they reached the door.

They found a woman in her mid fifties in the kitchen cooking.

Kabelo: Unjani ma?

Her: I'm good. How was your day?

Kabelo:(smiled) Better than yours obviously.

Her:(rolled her eyes) Mxm.

She looked at the woman and felt intimidated. He shouldn't have brought her home knowing that he was staying with his mother. He directed her to the black leather couch and she smiled thankfully. Looking at the big tv mounted on the wall

was better than looking at two people chatting happily without acknowledging your existence. From the little she saw, the woman didn't like her.

Kabelo: I'll be back. Are you comfortable or you would like to change?

Soso: I'm fine thanks.

Kabelo: Ok.

He pinched her cheek and flashed a sincere smile before walking to his room.

Moments later the woman placed a glass of freshly squeezed orange juice in front of her.

Her: How are you?

Solomon: I'm fine thanks and how are you?

Her: I'm good. Does your parents know you're here?

Solomon: No.

Her: Please focus on your books and forget about boys.

She walked back to the kitchen without waiting for her reply. She made sandwiches for them whilst stealing glances at her. She looked too young for Kabelo but she couldn't say much since she was only a helper. Kabelo respected her so much but that didn't mean she had to overstep boundaries and poke her nose where it didn't belong.

Kabelo came down the stairs wearing sweatpants and a vest and walked past her...

Kabelo: We'll be in the garden.

Her: Okay.

He held her hand and directed her to the back. They sat down on the chair facing one another with a round table between them.

Kabelo: Why are you so shy today?

Solomon: I'm not. I wasn't expecting to see your mother so soon.

Kabelo: That's not my mother. She's my helper but she practically raised me so...

Solomon: She wasn't wearing the helper's uniform.

Kabelo: I don't want her to wear it. She's like my mother and wearing a uniform will kind of limit her in doing and saying certain things. She only wear what she's comfortable in and I'm fine with that.

Solomon: I see.

Kabelo: You don't have anything to worry about. You won't meet my mother, relax.

The helper placed the sandwiches in front of them and a glass of milk for him and a glass of juice for her.

Kabelo: Thank you ma.

Her: Do you need anything else?

Kabelo: We're fine. We won't need anything.

She nodded and walked back inside. Solomon saw a swing at the far end and smiled.

Solomon: You have a swing?

Kabelo: Yep...you can eat.

He leaned back with his legs crossed whilst looking at her as she began eating.

He wasn't hungry and he didn't know why did she make food for him.

Minutes later she sipped on the drink and pushed the plate away from her as he glanced at his wristwatch.

Solomon: You're not hungry?

Kabelo: I enjoy looking at you eating. You're beautiful.

Solomon:(blushed) Thank you.

Everything the guy did just impressed her more. For the first time she looked at him in nothing but admiration without feeling guilty about anything.

Kabelo: You're welcome to feed me though.

Solomon: Hawu serious?

Kabelo: Ummh. Come and sit on my lap.

He patted his lap and she got up and went to sit on his lap as he raised his eyebrow biting his lower lip. She blushed

he cupped her face and intensely kissed her. She kissed him back as her heart pounded whilst he pulled her towards him as her whole body came alive. She released a soft moan as he went down her neck unbuttoning her shirt and cupped her breast. Her panties soaked as she ran her fingers on his head whilst his dick expanded. He removed her shirt and brought her nipple to his mouth.

Solomon: Kabe..lo

She badly wanted to stop him but her body was responding so well to his touch. She felt his finger on her entrance and bit her lower lip throwing her head back opening her legs wider for him.

He smashed his lips on hers and rubbed her clit whilst fingering her.

She moaned louder as her legs shook whilst a sudden wave of extreme pleasure hit her. Her vaginal muscles constricted as she spasmed on his fingers.

He turned her towards him and lowered his pants together with his briefs exposing his curved erect dick.

He lifted her skirt as she knelt on either sides of him. He shifted her panty to the side and slowly pushed himself in blocking her entrance. She widened her eyes as he squeezed himself in and deeply exhaled feeling her walls expand in accommodation of his dick.

She tried to move her waist but stopped feeling a lil bit of discomfort. He lowered himself and held her thighs pumping from beneath. He bit his lower lip and pumped faster breathing heavily as she moaned his name enjoying that dick.

She used to enjoy sex with Ntando but that dick was thick and his strokes were faster.

Looking at his expression as she enjoyed her set her over the edge as he tapped that spot over and over again.

Solomon: Kabelo....oh baby...I love you...

She graced that black cock with her juices as his muscles constricted and he gave her a deep stroke and shot all his seeds inside her groaning.

His dick softened inside her and she got off him straightening her legs whilst catching her breath as his semen went down her thighs.

He popped his knuckles and reached for his milk gulping it down and then stood up lifting his pants.

Kabelo: I'll meet you in the car.

Solomon: Oh...okay.

He went to the house to clean himself up as she put on her shirt while his semen leaked on her panties.

Her phone received a message, she stopped buttoning her shirt and read the message.

Ntando: You're busy entertaining other men when we've just lost our baby. How is that supposed to make me feel? Are we even together or sengijola ngedwa?

She rolled her eyes and typed a message then continued buttoning her shirt.

Solomon: The baby is dead. It's not coming back, I can't live my whole life mourning a dead person. It wasn't even a baby Ntando.

This relationship is boring me right now. I can't discuss a baby all the time. Let just end it...

7

At Solomon's house...

The next morning she wrapped a towel around her body and went back to her bedroom passing her mother in the passage.

MaCele: How are you feeling my baby?

Solomon: I'm fine ma, the medication Kabelo gave me really helped.

MaCele: He's so sweet.

Solomon:(faked a smile) Yes he is.

She quickly walked past her and closed the door behind her. She was aware that her mother liked Kabelo but it felt weird discussing him with her.

She dropped her towel and picked her ringing phone and answered putting it on loudspeaker...

Kabelo: Hey babe.

Solomon:(blushed) Hi.

Kabelo: What are you busy with today? Your man miss you so much.

Solomon: I'm only going to school then I'll come back home.

Kabelo: How about you skip? Only for today. I have these vouchers with me so what do you think?

Solomon: Babe I can't, we're having...

Kabelo: Please. I'm also not going to work. One day. People skip all the time you won't die.

She sat on the dressing chair looking at her naked body in the mirror and pressed her thighs together as her clit throbbed when he thought of that curved dick.

It was just one day, she wasn't going to fail because of that.

Solomon: You'll fetch me?

Kabelo: Ofcourse. I hope you don't mind when I bring my laptop and get some work done. I can't just go mia on my workers.

Solomon: I don't mind.

Kabelo: Okay. I'll see you in a bit.

She hang up and placed her phone against her chest smiling. When was the last time she felt like that when speaking to a man over the phone?

Kabelo was lively, fun and adventurous. He never asked for it, if he wanted to tap that, he just took it.

She chuckled thinking of him when he pulled over a few houses from her home and fucked the living lights out of her.

He owned that pussy and he was very vocal about it, he was going to stuff it with his cum whenever he felt like it.

At Ntando's house...

Lucky banged on the door wearing his formal pants with flip flops and black socks. He was running late but he couldn't leave without speaking to his younger brother.

Lucky: Eh Ntando I'm kicking down this door. Are you opening or not?

He clicked his tongue and banged on it again, after a while he opened in his boxers. Lucky shook his head and stepped inside the stuffy living room.

Lucky: What is the matter with you? Why aren't you dressed?

Ntando: I'm not going to work it's obvious.

He rolled his eyes and walked to his bedroom. Lucky roughly pulled him back...

Lucky: Yey wena I'm talking to you. What is the matter with you? You can't keep quiet and wallow in self pity and expect us to keep quiet too. You're going to tell me what's going on?

Ntando: Lucky when are you attending to your matters when you're nagging me all the time?

Lucky: I make time for them. Right now I'm dealing with you.

Ntando: She aborted.

Lucky: What?

Ntando: She aborted the baby and left me for a rich man. Can you please leave me in peace?

Lucky: That's all?

Ntando: What do you mean?

Lucky: Heh Ntando, you have work and school to prepare for. You basically have your whole life ahead of you and you want to drop everything only because one brainless bitch fucked you over? Life doesn't work like that. It hurts yes

I mean that was your baby but life goes on. Go in there and prepare yourself for work. Be in the car in 30.

Ntando: Can't I...

Lucky: No. You're not a child anymore uyindoda Ntando you don't have time to get weak and drop the ball. Welcome to the dating game, I told you that this thing of yours was a stupid harlot with no backbone. I wouldn't be suprised if her mother put her up to it. You don't need someone like that in your life. Hurry.

He walked out and he huffed and went to take a quick shower before getting dressed and made his bed.

His eyes fell on her picture on his bedside table, he sighed sadly and reached for his backpack and phone.

He still needed to see her for closure, he refused to believe that it was really over. Her Soso loved him, the hurtful messages she sent the day before were a mistake.

What hurt him more was that he couldn't call her anymore since he was blocked.

His brother stuck his head in...

Lucky: Eh baba let's go.

Ntando: I'm coming.

Lucky: When?

He clicked his tounge and walked out.

At Mbali's house...

Slindile put on her watch and picked her bag ignoring Mbali who was talking to her.

He gripped her upper arm and she turned annoyed.

Slindile: What do you want?

Mbali: Babe this is my mother, she needs this.

Slindile: And I'm your wife. We aren't buying your mother an SUV only because her neighbor got one last week angikho that dizzy mina.

Mbali: You mean my mother is dizzy?

Slindile: If the shoe fits wear it Cinderella. I won't have your mother messing up our finances only because in her mind she's cashing in on her investment. No forget about it.

Mbali: My mother needs this car. If you don't want us to buy her then maybe I married a wrong person.

Slindile: Yeah maybe you did. I don't care about all of that, your mother must take her toxicity elsewhere ngeke ngizwe ngaye NEVER!!

She grabbed her car keys and walked out leaving him fuming in anger. If they didn't buy the car she wanted, she was going to make sure that they never hear the end of it.

At the hotel...

Kabelo popped the pills in his mouth and took a sip on water then opened his laptop whilst waiting for the pills to start kicking in.

Solomon laid in bed nude whilst taking photos admiring her man as he focused on the laptop biting his lower lip.

The man was gorgeous even if she said so herself. Everything about him was mesmerizing and it just left her heart jumping with joy.

She never saw herself falling for a light skinned guy but Kabelo was different, maybe losing that baby wasn't such a bad thing. It scored her a man, not just a man but thee Kabelo.

3 MONTHS LATER

8

At Solomon's house...

She angrily pulled her report card from Slindile who shook her head and scoffed picking her bag.

Slindile: I told you this was going to happen and you thought I'm being jealous.

Solomon: You didn't say anything, stop going through my stuff.

Slindile: I wasn't going through your stuff.

Solomon: I don't care because I'll tell my mother about it. You're invading my privacy and that's not cool.

She hang the straps of her bag on her shoulder as she walked past her to pick her books on the table. She turned to her.

Slindile: We can get you a tutor if you want. If you get these marks in your final exams you might as well forget about going to varsity.

Solomon: I'll speak to Kabelo.

Slindile: And he'll get one for you?

Solomon: What is that supposed to mean? Ofcourse he'll do it.

Slindile: It's just that the last time I checked you were his sex toy.

She clicked her tounge and walked to her room bumping on her shoulder on purpose. She mouthed okay and picked her bag from the floor. She wasn't going to push the matter further, Soso wasn't her responsibility. Whatever she did with her life had nothing to do with her.

She saw her mother in law driving through the gate and quickly walked out through the back door.

She was not in the mood of discussing a car she wasn't going to buy even if she was held at gunpoint.

At Ntando's house...

Ntando walked through the gate holding his bag and went to his house. He found the door opened and stepped in, the smell of cleaning detergents filled his nostrils. He smiled and placed his bag on the couch and went to the main house.

He found his brother's wife cooking in the kitchen and her daughter watching cartoons holding a pack of chips.

He knocked and got in, she saw him and smiled closing the pot and greeted him. He walked towards the couch and stood in front of TV, she saw him and dropped her chips getting off the couch screaming.

Ntando: Hey baby.

Olwethu: Daddy Ntando!!

She kissed his cheek and brought her hand to his face. He laughed and fished for a few coins in his back pocket then placed it on her hand. She hugged his neck and got off running to her mother.

Ntando: You're the one who cleaned?

Gabi: Yes, it was too stuffy and dirty.

Ntando: It wasn't that bad.

Gabi: Ofcourse it was

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What brings you here?

Ntando: Hunger. I don't have food in my house, times are rough. Noodles aren't cutting it anymore.

Gabi: Serves you right. You should stop listening to your brother. She survived on noodles and cereals in varsity and you think he can tell you anything about economizing?

Ntando: Are you being serious right now?

Gabi: You don't know that man, stop listening to him. Uzok'faka straight ehlathini.

She opened the fridge and took out the leftovers and dished up for him then warmed the food in the microwave.

Ntando: Sis' Gabi?

Gabi: She came here 2 weeks after you left to fetch her stuff.

Ntando: Oh, how was she doing? Please tell me the truth.

Gabi:(sighs) If you insist, she came with a blue Ford Raptor and she looked happy.

Ntando: How was the driver?

Lucky got in and dropped his bag on the couch and car keys...

Lucky: She was with her boyfriend.

Gabi: Babe!!

Lucky: What? They kissed in front of us they obviously wanted us to tell him.

Ntando: I see.

Lucky: Yeah.

He kissed his wife and shoulder bumped with him...

Lucky: What are you doing here?

Ntando: Hayibo!!

Lucky: What?

Gabi: He dropped by to see us.

Lucky: Dropped by? What about school?

Ntando: I'll worry about school later.

Gabi: He has no food in his house.

Lucky: So? Wadakwa ngayo imali lo ngenzeni mina?

Gabi: But babe...

Lucky: Hayi!! This one is irresponsible. The next thing he'll fail.

Ntando: I won't.

Lucky: You better.

Ntando: Can you please borrow me your car?

Lucky: Angfuni. You want to check on that harlot who has already moved on with my car? Udakiwe!..babe I'll be in the bedroom...Wena I'll give you money for groceries but you have to return back to school.

He nodded as Gabi placed his food in front of him. He faked a smile and started eating.

He thought of Soso and his boyfriend, that arrogant guy who nearly ruined his life and sighed as his food lost its taste. He swallowed and stood up then placed it in the microwave.

Ntando: I'll come and eat later.

Gabi: Okay.

He smiled briefly and walked out. He shook his head feeling pathetic. She made it clear that she doesn't want him anymore but his stupid self was still looking forward to them being together again.

At Solomon's house...

Lethu was seated on the dressing chair looking at his watch and Solomon walked in holding a pregnancy test then placed it on the dressing table then stepped back.

Lethu: 5 minutes right?

Solomon: Yeah.

She bit her nails tapping her foot on the floor nervously.

Five minutes passed and Lethu leaned over looking at the pregnancy test then leaned back disappointed.

Lethu: Ntwana second pregnancy in one year? If irresponsible was a person.

Solomon: What?

She went to check and swallowed...

Lethu: I told you though.

Solomon: What am I going to say to my mother?

Lethu: We don't know.

She covered her mouth and deeply exhaled as her phone rang.

Solomon: Babe.

Kabelo: Soso, I'm coming to fetch you. Please get ready.

Solomon: Ummh babe, we need to talk.

Kabelo: We'll talk when you get here. I'll call you.

He hang up and she sighed licking her lips.

Lethu: That attitude from baby daddy? You might as well say goodbye to your relationship.

Solomon: Can you please keep quiet?!!

He shrugged then laughed annoying her.

9

At Kabelo's flat...

The security opened the gate and he drove through as the security saluted him. He honked and went to park in the underground parking then stepped out. She got out and he locked and went to the stairs going up to his flat.

They arrived at the flat and she rubbed her palms together nervously looking around the room.

He placed his car keys on the kitchen counter his eyes set on her.

Kabelo: Is everything okay?

Solomon: Yes.

He shut his eyes and rested his hands on the table feeling dizzy. He turned away from her and dropped his head as the room spun.

He stayed like that for a while then slowly walked to get water from the fridge.

Solomon: Are you okay?

Kabelo: Yah yah I'm good. Sorry for scaring you.

His phone vibrated and he reached for it and cancelled the reminder before he disappeared to the bedroom.

He locked the door and went to drink his medication before he went back to the living room whilst his dick expanded in his pants lifting his zipper. He slid his hand in his pocket hiding his boner then sat down.

Kabelo: You said you want us to talk.

Solomon: Ummh yes, I...there's something I would like to tell you. First I would like you to know that it wasn't my intention. It just happened nje I...

Kabelo: You're pregnant?

Solomon: Yes.

Kabelo:(smiling) Serious?

Solomon: Yes I'm pregnant.

He pulled her towards him and kissed her then hugged her.

Solomon: You're not angry?

Kabelo: I was supposed to be angry?

Solomon: I'm sure this isn't the news you were expecting.

Kabelo: Yeah but the baby is here, we can't unpregnant you now can we?

Solomon: No we can't.

He placed her head on his lap and looked down on her.

Solomon: So when are we going back to your house?

Kabelo: Soon

as soon as they're done with the renovations we'll go.

Solomon: I see.

He took a deep breath as sweat coated his forearms. He removed his shirt and clenched his jaws as his dick twitched in his pants poking her on her shoulder.

She lifted her eyes to him when she felt his dick and got up taking off her dress as her pussy throbbed with need.

He quickly took off his pants and grabbed her neck kissing her then laid her on the couch and positioned himself between her legs.

He squeezed her sensitive breasts and rammed inside her and grunted as beads of sweat formed in his forehead.

She gasped holding his arms tightly biting her lower lip as he began moving...

At Solomon's house...

MaCele sneaked out her male friend and then went to water the garden whilst looking at the delivery truck offloading new couches in her neighbor's yard.

The gate closed as Mbali drove in and parked in the driveway. She clicked her tongue at Mbali for blocking her view and then went inside the house.

Mbali sat on the chair in the veranda as she walked towards him then stood in front of the fireplace her hands rested on her waist.

Mbali: You said it was urgent.

MaCele: When you drove in what did you see?

Mbali: Cars why?

MaCele: You didn't see anything else?

Mbali: Was there something I was supposed to see?

MaCele: Yes, a delivery truck in my neighbor's yard.

Mbali: Was it supposed to come here?

MaCele:(sadly) Why are you mocking me? After everything I did for you? Now I'm supposed to watch other women enjoying the fruits of their labour while my own son takes me as a joke.

You father died when you were still in primary school and I raised you to be the man that you're today and you can't even buy me a small thing.

Mbali:(leaned back) Is this about the car?

MaCele: I carried you for nine months and got operated when giving birth to you but you're still ungrateful.

Mbali: Ma I don't have money. I also have my family, a child to raise and a wife to take care of. What you're asking for is a financial setback.

MaCele: Awu? Only because it's your mother? If Slindile asked for a car you were going to buy it.

Mbali:(sighed frustrated) Ma I don't know what you want me to say It has been months already and you're still talking about one thing. I can't buy that car. You have to understand.

He got up and went inside whilst his mother followed behind him.

MaCele:(angrily) You know you're useless. I should've aborted you or suffocated you with my breasts. You're nothing but a lapdog who's led by a woman. If the tables were turned Slindile was going to do it but because it's you, you're not going to do it because you're weak. You disgust me. Nothing will go well for you. I wish that your marriage crumble. You're nothing but a disgusting weak excuse of a man ingakho bekugqokise nejazi nje.

My agemates are progressing in life but I'm not only because I stopped following my dreams whilst raising you ufelwe uyise

manje sengiyinja kuwe. Ulalela umfazi kunami ngiwunyoko ngikzala...

He choked on water and placed the glass on the table walking out through the back door as she followed behind him cursing him.

He rushed to his car and drove out. He pressed the button and the gate slid closed as she continued shouting.

He drove for a while with tears blurring his vision then pulled over next to the road and rested his forehead on his forearms crying.

Nothing he ever did for his mother was good enough.

He built her a house immediately when he started working and now he was forced to buy a car only because someone else did it. Someone who doesn't have a wife. Someone who's not swimming in debts because of his parent. Someone who enjoys their money the way they see fit without having a second person influencing their financial decisions.

She was the reason they fought with his wife but still that wasn't enough.

He was forced to ask for advances at work when he was falling behind on bills because of unnecessary debts he had to pay off for his mother.

He lifted his head and wiped his tears then reached for a bottle of water taking a sip then took a deep breath then continued driving.

Meanwhile in his mother's house....

Kabelo parked by the gate and went to take the shopping bags for Solomon in the boot then handed them to her.

He pinned her against the car and kissed her lips passionately as butterflies filled her tummy and her panties soaked.

He reached for his wallet and pulled a few notes then dropped them in one of the bags.

He pecked her lips and went around the car as she opened the gate and walked in.

Kabelo took a deep breath and pressed on his phone for a while before he reversed and drove off without looking back...

10

At Solomon's house...

Solomon sat on a stool in front of her mother having breakfast. Her mother stared at her for a while then took a long sip on her coffee then sent the cup back on the table. She was happy that she was pregnant with Kabelo's child. He had promised to marry her a long time ago, the pregnancy came at a right time.

She nervously took a bite on her pancake waiting for her mother to say something. At least now the cup was down, that was something. She mentally slapped herself for risking her life like that, anything was possible with her mother. In a second that coffee could've been spilled on her before she could say sorry.

MaCele: Does he know?

Solomon: Yes he knows and he's happy.

MaCele: That's good. He must come and ask for your hand in marriage since he said he was going to do it. You're carrying his first child he needs to do right by you.

Solomon: Marriage mama?

MaCele: Yes, you can't pop a baby for nothing. He has to pay.

Solomon: I'll talk to him.

MaCele: Don't worry I'll talk to him.

She faked a smile and turned to her plate. The conversation was taking an awkward turn, discussing her boyfriend like that was putting her in an uncomfortable position.

MaCele: Leaving that boy wasn't so bad now was it? I told you but you thought I was being unfair. Soso I'm your mother, I know better.

Solomon: I see.

MaCele: Yes, now you're carrying his heir, someone who'll inherit his wealth someday. Kabelo is filthy rich

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you can tell from the cars he's driving and he'll take care of you. You'll live the life you never imagined. You'll live in a house like the ones in Tob billing. How is his house anyway?

Solomon: Beautiful...

MaCele: And screams money. You hit a jackpot in Kabelo. If he wants you to move in you'll go. Infact you have to propose the idea to him. I don't mind. You're old enough anyway.

At Mbali's house....

Slindile hung the laundry on the washing line then went back inside the house. Angel started crying in the kitchen crawling out as her feet bleed. A few pieces of the broken plates cut her hands, she sat down and cried louder seeing blood in her hands.

Slindile placed the basket in the living room and went to check on Angel.

She gasped looking at her and quickly bent over picking her up and went to her bathroom whilst shushing her.

She took of her clothes and bath her before applying antiseptic on her cuts and then covered them with a bandage.

Meanwhile Mbali tied his shoelaces in the bedroom and grabbed his wallet and car keys walking out. He met Slindile in

the passage holding Angel in her arms. He sighed and walked past her.

Slindile: Where are you going?

Mbali: Out.

Slindile: I saw that, where?

Mbali: Can I get peace in my house? If you're not accusing me of cheating you're interrogating me about my movements. I'm not your child Slindile.

Slindile: Can you please look after her for me?

Mbali: I need to meet up with Khulekani it's important.

Slindile: More than your child? She'll hurt herself...

Mbali: I'm sorry but I need to leave.

Slindile: If you leave then don't come back.

Mbali: Suqala umsangano ke manje.

He clicked his tongue and left.

She sadly looked at him and went back to their room.

An hour later...

He pulled over in a friend's house and stepped out walking to the door. He knocked and stepped back as the door opened and a young boy appeared smiling revealing his two missing front teeth.

Sihle: Uncle Mbali unjani? Dad is at the back and mom is in the kitchen.

Mbali:(chuckled) I'm fine Sihle how are you?

Sihle:(licked chocolate off his fingers) I'm fine come in.

He shook his head chuckling and walked in as his friend's wife came from the kitchen wiping her hands on her apron.

Ntombi: Mbali it's you, Hey.

Mbali: How are you?

Ntombi: I'm good. He didn't give you any problems?

Mbali:(glanced at Sihle) He wasn't that bad.

Ntombi:(laughing) That's a modest way of putting it. He's in the garden.

Mbali: Oh.

She led him to the kitchen where he walked out through the backdoor.

He found Khulekani seated reading a newspaper. He felt his footsteps behind him and lowered the paper looking at him and closed it placing it on the round table in front of him. They shared pleasantries and then he took a seat.

Khulekani: I saw your text last night. Are you sure?

Mbali: Yeah I'm sure.

Khulekani: I mean you just took a loan from the bank, an advance will take a huge knock on your finances. After it you'll be left with close to nothing.

Mbali: She gave valid reasons and I want to get one for her and move past this.

Khulekani: What reasons? I know your mother so what reasons are you talking about?

Mbali: Khule I just want to move past this and focus on my family.

Khulekani: Don't do something that will break your marriage. Slindile is your wife, you need to listen to her or else she'll leave. Don't allow your mother to manipulate you like this.

Mbali: Did she say something to Ntombi? About leaving me?

Khulekani: No.

Mbali: That's better.

Khulekani: Nothing is better. You can't allow your mother to destroy your marriage. You're married to Slindile not your mother. You're not obligated to give in to her ridiculous demands. How are you going to take care of your family whilst drowning in debts? Don't make her regret marrying you.

Your mother is getting between you two. Explain to her why you can't do everything for her anymore. She's working, it's high time she started using her money.

You built her a house, bought her a car, you're paying Soso's school fees, buying groceries for her and taking care of your family ontop of that. You can't do everything at once especially when you're living from paycheck to paycheck. You love her yes but this is too much.

Mbali: You don't know her she's...

They were interrupted by Ntombi who came from the house carrying two plates on a tray.

At Solomon's house...

Later that day she checked her phone for any missed calls and sighed looking at the time. She missed her Saturday class because he usually picked her up on Saturdays but that day he didn't.

She rebooted her phone and waited for a call until she dozed off on the couch.

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11

At Mbali's house...

Slindile dragged Angel's suitcase across the living room and placed it next to the door and went back to her room. Mbali followed behind her and held her hands then emptied her bags throwing the nappies on the floor.

Mbali: Stop this madness! My daughter is not going anywhere.

Slindile: Mbali let go of my hands.

She pulled her arm and clicked her tongue then picked the nappies from the floor shoving them in her bag.

He snorted and went to take Angel from her crib walking to the door.

Slindile pulled his arm as Angel buried her face on her father's chest.

In her mind Mbali was being unreasonable. Their finances weren't allowing them to continue staying with her. Staying with her family was better but Mbali wasn't having it. To him

that was going to make him look like a failure to his in laws.
What kind of a man failed to take care of his own child?

Mbali: You'll hurt the baby. Her cuts are still painful stop acting like a madwoman.

Slindile: You're not leaving with her. I told you she's going to live with my mother.

Mbali: Udakiwe!

She popped her eyes out and chuckled in disbelief then zipped the bag walking out.

Mbali grabbed his car keys from the counter and walked out.

Slindile followed behind him and held his arm before punching his back screaming whilst her lips trembled. She was getting angry and frustrated.

Mbali clicked his tounge and turned to her with a mean slap that sent her to the ground. She lifted her head and spat the soil as he went to strap the crying Angel on her seat.

He locked the car and walked to the house where he took his phone and remote then left...

At Solomon's house...

Solomon turned to Lethu after trying Kabelo's number to no success.

Solomon: Voicemail again.

Lethu: I saw this coming.

Solomon:(snapped) Can you please stop stressing me! He'll return my calls when he receives my texts.

Lethu: We both know that's not true.

Solomon: He's happy about our baby. Stop being negative.

Lethu: If you say so.

Solomon: Can you please take me to his flat?

Lethu: How is that going to help you?

She sucked her teeth and combed her short hair before taking her bag.

Solomon: Let's go before my mother returns from church.

He shook his head and they left...

At Kabelo's flat...

They pulled over by the gate and a security guard walked up to their car as Solomon stepped out.

Solomon: Sawbona baba.

Guard: Yebo ndodakazi. Ngingaksiza?

Solomon: I'm here to see Kabelo.

Guard: Who's that?

Solomon: He's the father of my child. He lives here. We were here the day before yesterday. I know his flat number.

Guard: I know everyone in this building and believe me we don't have any Kabelo here. Do you atleast know his surname?

Solomon: Yes it's...

She bit her lower lip thoughtfully as a realization hit her. She didn't know his surname. She only had his name.

Solomon: I know his flat. Can I atleast come in and show you?

Guard: It doesn't work like that here. I'm sorry. Please leave.

He left her standing like that and she licked her lips and went back to the car.

Lethu: What is it?

Solomon: He said he doesn't know him.

Lethu: Are you sure he lives here?

Solomon: Yes he's renting.

Lethu: Then we'll go to his house.

Solomon: Yeah that's better.

She pulled the seatbelt and swallowed releasing it. She didn't know his place.

Solomon: Actually I don't know the directions to his place.

Lethu: You said you went to his house?

Solomon: He..I was sleeping on the way there and when we came back he gave me bottled water and I dozed off.

Lethu: What? How are you going to get hold of him?

Solomon:(crying) I don't know. I don't even know his surname. I feel so stupid.

Lethu: Vele you're stupid. How can you fuck a nigga this long ungamazi nesbongo?

He reversed and drove her back home.

At Solomon's house...

Later that day Solomon told her mother about her dilemma. She took a deep breath and then tried his number. It didn't go through.

MaCele: He's probably held up somewhere.

Solomon: Since yesterday mama? He left me period.

MaCele: Yey! So what are you going to do? He'll call stop getting impatient.

Solomon: Ma he's not coming back. I'll just abort this baby.

She slapped her hard across the face. She screamed as she bit her tongue seeing stars.

MaCele: Noone is having an abortion in my house.

Ungazodakwa. On a Sunday you're speaking about abortions skhohlakali! Kshuthi ujwayele ukuhushula izisu? Noone is aborting here if you want to do that unholy act, pack your bags and leave my house. Uhambe uneka ididi leli umusuthola umvuzo usufuna ukuhushula sdwedwe!

Ngike ngizwe kthiwe uskhiphile uzolala uybamba ngamazinyo ngalelo langa!!

She clicked her tongue and stood up walking to her room hurling all kinds of insults to her.

She covered her mouth with her hands crying as her mother's words pierced through her heart.

7 MONTHS LATER

12

At Solomon's house...

She sat on the couch and unbuttoned her dress at the top breathing heavily and removed her shoes as her swollen feet throbbed.

She reached for the remote and switched on the aircon before opening her bag. She took out her phone and maternity card and then called her mother...

MaCele: Soso yini?

Solomon: I think I'm in labor. My...

MaCele: Manje if you're in labor you're calling me? Am I a doctor or midwife? Soso awyeke iscefe. Call an ambulance if you think you're in labor ungyeke.

She hang up and Solomon grinned as a sharp pain struck her abdomen. She spread her legs further apart resting her hands on the armrest as beads of sweat formed on her forehead.

She slowly stood up and went to the bathroom to pee. She finished and stood up then sat down once again feeling an urge to push.

She remembered what they told them at the clinic and stood up walking to her room after flushing. She picked the baby's bag and went to the living room. She dropped the bag and rested her hands on her knees screaming.

She started feeling the pains the day before and right now they were 10x worse.

Warm liquid flew down her legs as she screamed painfully her breathing coming out in gasps.

She slowly reached for her phone and called the ambulance then dropped her phone on the floor feeling her back on fire.

She removed her dress and laid on the floor still in pain. Contractions hit her harder and she lifted her legs and started pushing whilst crying.

She did breathing exercises and pushed harder clenching her jaws as her chubby face uglified. She pushed once again and the head popped out followed by the body. She threw her head

back breathing heavily as the baby's cries filled the whole room. She tried to get up but her eyelids felt heavy as they slowly closed.

Minutes later an ambulance drove through the open gate and parked in the driveway. They went to the house and knocked. They knocked again and opened. They saw Solomon lying unconscious with her unconscious baby inbetween her legs....

Minutes later they walked out with Solomon on a stretcher whilst another paramedic held the baby.

At Mbali's workplace...

He picked his bag and car keys and went to his car. He drove to the hospital dialing his mother.

MaCele: This keeps on getting better. Why are you calling me?

Mbali: Soso is in hospital.

MaCele: Okay?

Mbali: She gave birth.

MaCele: I'm at work Mbali so what?

Mbali: Aren't you going to visit her?

MaCele: Uyangsanganela wena.

She hang up and he threw his phone on the passenger seat then continued driving...

At Queen Nandi Hospital...

Mbali stepped inside Soso's ward and sighed sadly looking at her with an oxygen mask over her mouth. A nurse got in and checked her vitals then wrote everything on her file.

Mbali: Sorry, where is the baby?

Nurse: He's in an incubator for now but I can take you to him.

Mbali: It's a boy?

Nurse: Yes are you the father?

Mbali: No.

Nurse: Oh.

She led him to the children's ward...

They stopped in front of him.

Nurse: This is him.

Mbali:(knod his head)....

He looked at his tiny body connected to the pipes and swallowed. He didn't even ask what was the problem with him. What if it was serious and he died?

Solomon wasn't going to survive that.

He stared at his chest as it rose and fell.

Was she going to love him though? She was so emotionally detached to him during pregnancy.

Despite that

Advertisement

he needed to live maybe she might warm up to him overtime.

He brushed his face frustrated. Who was going to help her with the baby since their mother was always busy with her stuff?

Things were still rocky between them since their last conversation months back. She wasn't going to allow them to take Soso.

His mother was the most impossible being ever!!

A while later the nurse came back and asked him to allow the baby to rest. He nodded and left...

Mbali: What is the problem with him?

Nurse: His lungs are underdeveloped and he suffered cold during birth but he'll be fine.

Mbali: Are you sure?

Nurse: Yes. Don't worry. You can confirm with the doctor.

Mbali: Later for now let me go and get something to eat for her.

Nurse: Okay.

He passed by her ward and found her still unconscious then left...

At Solomon's house...

Mbali stood on the veranda with his mother standing in front of the door blocking him from entering.

Mbali: You won't have time for her mama.

MaCele: Don't call me that. Soso is my daughter. You're not going to use her to make yourself feel better. You want her to disrespect me like you.

Mbali: This isn't about us. Soso needs to be with people who care about her.

MaCele: And that is you? Don't start with me. Please leave my house.

Mbali: But ma...

She went inside the house and took the kettle with boiling water then went back to him.

She opened it and splashed the boiling water to his direction. He jumped and fell on his butt as some of the water burnt his arm.

He grinned standing up and quickly removed his jacket...

MaCele: Leave my house. You abandoned us I don't want you in my yard.

Mbali: That's not true.

MaCele: I don't care. You chose your wife over us. Over me your own mother who carried you for nine months. Now I'm a useless dog to you, you're an ungrateful trash!

He went to his car and drove out with one arm...

13

At Queen Nandi Hospital....

Mbali walked in carrying a brown paper bag. He found Solomon sleeping. She felt his footsteps and opened her eyes. He smiled briefly and pinched her cheek...

Mbali: Hey mommy. You awake?

Solomon: You came?

Mbali: Wasn't I supposed to come?

Solomon: No I wasn't expecting you.

Mbali: I brought you something to eat. Have you seen the baby?

Solomon: Yes.

Mbali:(sat down) He'll be fine don't stress.

Solomon: The doctor said the same thing. I just...

Mbali: What?

Solomon: I was eating well and taking my vitamins. I don't understand why would my son get sick.

Mbali: He'll be fine. It's not your fault.

Solomon: Is mom coming?

Mbali: Focus on getting better and stop stressing yourself. That boy will need breastmilk when he wakes up.

Solomon: Mbali she's not coming?

Mbali: Angazi Soso forget about her. She'll see you when she's ready.

Solomon: When will that be? She has been giving me a cold shoulder ever since Kabelo ghosted me.

Mbali: Angazi Soso! When she's ready.

He got up and pecked her forehead...

Mbali: I need to go to work. I'll see you. Call me if you need anything. Sli will come and see you later.

He walked to the door and she called him.

Mbali: Yes.

Solomon: Thank you for coming.

Mbali:(smiled) It's nothing. Don't sweat.

He walked out.

She sighed looking up. She found herself thinking about Ntando. Where would they be if she didn't mess up? He didn't leave her when he found about the abortion surely they were going to be alright.

That guy loved her she was just blinded by Kabelo and his money.

Now she was stuck with a fatherless baby and no matric. She was too focused on Kabelo failing was bound to happen.

How was life going to be since her mother was also acting up? She also had no means of taking care of the baby. Babies were ridiculously expensive to maintain, it was insane!

She rubbed her eyes and bit her lower lip tearfully. Her life was messed up and it was all because of her!

At Solomon's house...

MaCele dragged her suitcase to the car and placed it on the boot talking to his male friend on the phone.

Voice: Maybe if you stayed for atleast two weeks and show her how it's done before leaving.

MaCele: No that's not happening. I'm not going to put my life on hold because of Soso. She's a woman right now. I took care of her whilst she was pregnant now it's time to enjoy my freedom. I don't have a baby why should I limit myself?

Voice: I'm just saying. She doesn't know anything about babies and besides you can't leave her in that house alone. Why don't you ask Mbali to take her in?

MaCele: What? Over my dead body! She needs to learn. If I don't do this

she won't learn. I'm giving her tough love she'll be strong.

Voice: You way of parenting is...

MaCele:(annoyed) What? If you don't want me in your house say so. Don't use my daughter as an excuse. I raised these kids alone and they turned out fine so what are you saying about my parenting skills?

Voice: Nothing. You can come...I'll call you later. I'm still busy with something.

MaCele: Okay I'll see you later.

Voice: Ok. I love you.

MaCele:(blushed) I love you too.

She hang up and smiled stepping inside her car and then drove out playing gospel music.

At Queen Nandi Hospital...

Slindile placed her bag ontop of the cabinet and sat down holding her hands whilst looking at her.

Slindile: How are you feeling?

Solomon: I'm feeling better now that he's getting better.

Slindile: That one is a fighter like his mother.

Solomon: I suppose.

Slindile: I got you something to eat I know your brother brought you things you're not going to eat especially in your state.

Solomon:(chuckled softly) How did you know?

Slindile: I'm a mother. I know these things.

Solomon: Thank you.

Slindile: When are they discharging you?

Solomon: When Yamkela is fine.

Slindile: You can come to my house if you want. I can apply for a leave at work and help you with the baby.

Solomon: I'll ask a permission from mom and come.

Slindile: I hear you even though I don't see her agreeing to that.

Solomon: I'll try because I know her. If I leave without her permission she'll come and cause drama in your house.

Slindile: I see.

They continued chatting until the visiting hours were over....

At Mbali's house...

Slindile finished dressing Mbali's wound on his arm and got off bed going to the bathroom. He removed his pants and got on bed leaning against the headboard.

She went to lotion her hands and removed her silk gown getting on bed after switching off the light leaving the side lamps on.

Slindile: I was thinking of getting a crib for Yamkela since they're going to be moving in with us.

Mbali: Babe we talked about this. I don't want any drama. She'll go and live with my mother.

Slindile: I passed by your mother's house and she was not in and besides Soso is going to need help. Your mother is busy so she can't help her.

Mbali: I have a burnt arm because of her, so please. Soso will have to forgive me.

Slindile: I'll talk to your mother please. She's your sister my love. Mbali: Slindile...

Slindile:(gasped) Haaa don't call me like that.

She peeled off the blanket and straddled his thighs holding his neck. She kissed his lips and dry humped him running her hands on his chest.

His dick jerked and he held her neck and flipped her over getting between her legs as she tilted her head to the side opening her legs wider....

A WEEK LATER

14

At Mbali's house...

Slindile finished preparing the guestroom for Soso and then went to the kitchen where she found her husband having breakfast with their daughter on his lap.

She took the baby from him and sat down pulling Angel's bowl towards her.

Mbali: You're working from home today?

Slindile: No I took a few days off from work. Soso will need all the help she can get. Your mother is still MIA?

Mbali:(wiped his lips) Yep and I don't care anymore. Mom is just being unnecessary dramatic.

Slindile: Don't mind her. We'll help Soso without her permission.

Mbali:(stood up) You're right. Let me leave you.

He kissed Angel's forehead and his wife's cheek before he took his bag from the counter and his car keys.

He walked to the door buttoning his suit as Slindile continued feeding Angel.

Mbali got in his car and drove out listening to the radio. He found himself wondering about the outcomes of taking Soso in. He loved her so much but he was really not ready to deal with their mother because of her.

Maybe everyone was right, their mother was really dictating them and re-living her life through them. He shook his head and increased the volume, that was crazy, their mother sacrificed her life for them. He loved them and took care of them when they lost their father to asphyxia.

He could still see him seated on the couch gasping for air whilst punching his chest. He watched him struggling to breathe until he took his final breath. He was young and clueless. Everytime he reminded himself that it happened long time ago and that it wasn't his fault even though his mother was always there to remind him. Funny enough he ended up believing her. Maybe it was his fault afterall.

At MaCele's workplace...

During her lunchbreak MaCele entered her friend's office holding her lunch.

Her friend explained an equation to one of her student's whilst she quietly listened.

They did two more and finally concluded as she leaned back listening her student reciting a few laws.

Friend: If you remember that you won't go wrong. The chemistry part isn't complicated

you're the one making it complicated by trying to invent your own equations.

Student:(chuckled) We're not.

Friend: Yes you're. Angithi nazi konke ningama trend setter...(reached for her bag) I'll see you in class during my period.

She nodded and stepped out after greeting MaCele.

Friend:(smiled) How are you?

MaCele: I'm good, how are you?

Friend: As long as we're still breathing I guess we're fine.

She took a sip on her juice as MaCele opened her lunch.

Friend: How is Soso doing? Have they discharged her?

MaCele: They're discharging her today. I guess she's doing fine.

Friend: I'm sure you can't wait to be a grandmother again.

MaCele: Ai what is there to be excited about when she's having a fatherless baby?

Friend:(chewed and swallowed) Wasn't the father 'rich and successful' not so long ago?

MaCele: He is but he cheated and Soso left him. My daughter knows her worth she won't stand for a cheater.

Friend: She's right but now that the baby is here he has to take full responsibility. Don't punish an innocent child for his parent's mistake. You also needs to support Soso. I'm sure she doesn't know how to take care of a baby, she'll probably need help.

MaCele: What help? That person knows how to push out an entire human being so raising him shouldn't be a problem.

Friend: If you're so against her pregnancy why didn't you allow her to abort like the last time.

MaCele: That time was different the father was a useless thing working as a fuel attendant. I won't allow my daughter have kids with a broke man.

Friend: The father of this one is rich, help her then and stop bringing up excuses.

She slowly chewed and swallowed as the food lost its taste and sipped her drink then leaned back feeling challenged. She couldn't even voice out her disappointment without looking like an inconsiderate mother. She still couldn't believe Soso failed to keep a man. A man who was going to lay the whole world at her feet. Now she was going to be another girl from the hood with a fatherless baby.

At Queen Nandi Hospital...

Slindile picked the baby's bag and the baby as Soso slowly walked behind her.

Slindile: Are you okay?

Solomon:(chuckled) Kahle Sli.

She shrugged and went to the lift as it opened and few other patients went in with two doctors.

A male doctor smiled looking at them then slid his hands in his pockets. Slindile caught a glimpse of him looking at them and quickly turned looking ahead.

The elevator dinged and slid open then the two of them stepped out on the first floor. The doctor followed them.

Doctor:(to Sli) Ngcela ukuba istep father.

Slindile: Really now?

Doctor:(pointed at Soso) The mother is that one, You'll talk to her on my behalf.

Slindile:(sarcastic) My heart is melting.

He smiled cocking his eyebrow. Slindile shook her head in disbelief as he shrugged showing his Colgate smile.

Doctor: Atleast my pickup lines are still the ish thing.

Slindile: You're annoying.

He turned to Solomon and brought his hand to her for a shake.

Doctor: Benny Thethwayo.

Solomon: Patient of Queen Nandi Hospital.

Doctor:(impressed) Wow.(his pager beeped) Okay ke patient yase Queen Nandi I'll see you around.

He brushed her cheek and paced to the lift pressing on the button as it slid open and he stepped in. He blew her a kiss as it slid close.

Solomon: Nxa that one think he has an ability to resurrect patients from the dead.

Slindile: It was funny actually. I mean it got you smiling even though you were annoyed half of the time.

Solomon: Wow. Colgate smile hypnotized you?

Slindile: Lutho sisi. That one is your type. I like them tall and a little darker. Uwe ofuna labo yellow bone izinto ezi photogenic.

She laughed hurting her stitches as they walked to the car and bent over grinning.

Slindile:(chuckled) Sorry mommy you'll get used to it.

She placed the bags on the other seat and helped her get inside before handing the baby to her then jumped behind the wheel.

15

At Mbali's house...

Slindile handed the bowl with soft porridge to Soso and went to check on the baby.

She lifted him up and gently placed him on her shoulder.

Slindile: He's very sweaty I thought taking off his onesie will help him.

Soso: I switched on the fan for a while and switched it off but it didn't help him.

Slindile: I guess your room is too hot.

She placed him on bed and undressed him. He started bathing him on his basin as Soso ate the porridge.

Soso: Mbali has already left?

Slindile:(drying the baby) Yes he has an early meeting he'll see you guys later.

Soso: I see.

She quietly looked at her dressing the baby whilst eating. Her phone beeped. She took it out and looked at the screen.

There was a message

Advertisement

"Accept that call Solomon!"

Moments later her phone rang and she sighed picking.

Slindile placed little Yamkela on his blanket and went to dispose the water in the bathroom.

Solomon: Ma?

MaCele: Where are you?

Solomon: I'm at Mbali's house. Sli is helping me with the baby since...

MaCele: Did I say I can't help you?

Solomon: No but I didn't want to burden you.

MaCele: Please go back home Solomon Masondo.

Solomon: But ma...

MaCele:(snapped) Ey go back home and stop being a nuisance emzini yabantu.

Solomon: Okay I'll go back.

She hang up on her and she sighed blinking away her tears. Slindile came in just as the baby started crying.

She saw Soso crying and picked the baby then gave him his bottle.

Solomon: I need to go back.

Slindile: Your mother is back?

Solomon: I don't know but she wants me to go back.

Slindile: You can't move around with those stitches. You still need to heal you'll go back when you're fine.

Solomon: I don't want to fight with her.

Slindile: You won't I'll talk to her.

She finished feeding Yamkela and placed the bottle ontop of the dressing table then burped him before laying him on his cot then spread a mosquito net over him.

Slindile: He's sleeping get some rest too.

She nod her head and laid on her stomach putting her phone on silence.

At MaCele's workplace...

Hours later she called the house phone 3 times then called Soso on her phone. He clicked her tounge as the phone rang unanswered.

It was obvious that she wasn't back. Soso was really testing her patience.

She took a textbook and 2 chawks then went to class.

She started with the lesson. In the middle of the lesson she checked her phone and she still hasn't returned her calls.

She shut her eyes calming herself down. She was used to her kids listening to her even when she was wrong and that was unusual.

MaCele: Excuse me I'll be back.

She stepped to call her again her anger rising.

She clicked her tounge and called Mbali whilst pacing up and down.

At Mbali's workplace...

He walked to his office holding a file in his hand.

He chatted to his colleague for a while and then sat down leaning back on the chair heaving a sigh exhausted.

His phone rang. He glanced at the screen and closed his eyes feeling drained before he even picked.

Mbali: Hello.

MaCele: Where is my daughter Mbali?

Mbali: She's home.

MaCele: Which home because she's not in my house. Tell your wife to bring my daughter home.

Mbali: Soso can decide for herself.

MaCele: That's my child stop using her to strengthen your shaky marriage. I want her home when I get back. I'm not going to discuss that with you.

He rolled his eyes and hang up. His mother was being unnecessary and he wasn't in the mood for her drama.

At Mbali's house...

Soso tearfully shushed the baby as he wailed at the top of his little lungs. His sweat soaked her tshirt as she continued shushing him.

Slindile came in yawning and stretched herself before taking the baby from Soso.

She laid him down and he kicked his little legs whilst crying as he ran out of breath.

Slindile took of his damp vest and laid him on her shoulder rubbing his back.

Slindile:(pointed at the drawer) Get vicks in that drawer. Prepare bath water for him. He's very sweaty and his sweat is too salty. Soso: Okay.

She gave him the vicks and slowly walked out to get his water.

At MaCele's male friend...

MaCele finished packing her bag and zipped her toiletry bag as her male friend sat on the edge of bed looking at her.

Friend: You're being unnecessary for no reason.

MaCele: That is my daughter. I won't have Mbali and his wife spoil my child for me. The next thing she'll bring another child because she never suffered with the first one. I'm going to get her.

Friend: Okay.

MaCele: Are you on their side?!

Friend: Wee hayi!

He got up and went out leaving her shouting.

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At Solomon's house...

MaCele tried to call Soso the next morning and her phone went straight to voicemail.

She shook her head in disbelief and sat up straight leaning against the headboard. She found herself wondering where Kabelo was? Why would he play her daughter like that?

Everything seemed fine from where she was standing and there were no problems. He had absolutely no reason to ghost her like that.

Her daughter was going to turn into a laughing stock in the whole neighborhood. After everything she did to ensure that she had only the best in life.

She got him a wealthy boyfriend on purpose. She wasn't supposed to experience the pain of raising a child alone.

She sighed and got off bed dialing her son's numbers. His phone rang unanswered much to her annoyance.

She needed her daughter back home. The house was insanely huge without her and he wasn't used to being alone like that.

She got an idea but quickly did away with it. That was possible but the consequences were too severe.

She thoughtfully went to the bathroom whilst trying to find a solution for Soso's predicament.

At Mbali's house...

Mbali glanced at the screen and sighed putting it on silent and dropped it on his bag.

Slindile:(lifted her eyes to him) Your mother again?

Mbali: Yes. I know she wants me to return Soso back home.

Slindile: She's stubborn.

Mbali: I'll go and talk to her tomorrow because today she's going to work so she won't come here.

Slindile: I see.

He picked his bag and took Angel's backpack.

Slindile: Have a great day.

Mbali: Thanks. I needed that.

He kissed her cheek and led Angel out. Slindile went to the guestroom where she found Soso dressing up.

Slindile: Don't stress yourself it's probably nothing.

Solomon: I hope so.

She bathed the baby as Soso packed the things they were going to need.

His breathing was alarming as well as his sweaty and salty skin.

All of that was reminding her of Kabelo except that Kabelo used to wheeze too. The guy was on medication, that alone was enough to send a chill down her spine.

Her baby couldn't be sick

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she had no means of taking care of him since she wasn't working.

Slindile: Soso you fine?

Slindile snapped her from her train of thoughts. She faked a smile and nodded.

Slindile sighed sadly and patted a space besides her as the baby sucked on a pacifier wearing only a short-sleeved onesie.

Slindile: You shouldn't allow yourself to stress like this.

Solomon: I'm not. I'm just scared that he might be sick and I have no means of taking care of him.

Solomon: We'll help you out. I'm not going to lie and say motherhood is easy because it's legit not. Taking pictures of your baby and posting on social media is fun and all but a lot of shit goes on behind closed doors. There's no manual in this and unfortunately it's not for weaklings either. You need to start standing up for yourself. Your baby comes first. You can't let your mother stress you with her high expectations and all. You have to live your life. Soso's life not your mother's. Stop allowing her to right her wrongs with your life and take unnecessary precautions she should've took in her youth days.

You messed up and dropped a good guy we agree but crying yourself to sleep and allowing your mother to insult you about having a fatherless baby every chance she get is a big NO. I'm not telling you to disrespect her no but stand up for yourself. The next thing you'll suffocate Yamkela with those huge breasts because you'll look at him and see a source of problems.

Solomon: In a way he is.

Slindile: Because she forced you to have sex with a guy you barely knew?...Look you've been hearing that for a long time you ended up believing it. Your mother is the one playing dice with your life. She wants you to go back to her for what? To be her emotional punching bag?...your mother has a problem and it's not your fault. She might say it's you but it's not. You didn't ask her to keep the pregnancy or better yet have sex. You can't be punished just because her life apparently crumbled down when you born. No it doesn't work like that. Stand up to her and stop stressing yourself over unnecessary things. There are a lot of things to worry yourself with that her unending insults.

You need to rewrite your matric and go to varsity. Leave your mother's wing for the first time and make your own mistakes, learn from them and grow on your own without any external forces influencing your decisions.

She swallowed digesting her words as they weighed on her shoulders.

Slindile: Let me go and dress I'll see you in a bit.

She got up and left the room without waiting for her reply.

Later That Day...

MaCele pulled over by the gate and honked repeatedly.

Inside Slindile shifted the lace curtain to the side and saw her car.

She called Solomon and opened for her.

She drove in and stepped out leaving the engine running.

She found Soso and Slindile waiting for her in the living room.

Slindile: I'll give you space to talk things out.

MaCele: I'm not talking fetch your bags wena we're leaving....Why are you here? Awunakhaya? Ubundindwa lobu

ngeke ubuyeke? Usekuthembise eny' indoda lo ingakho ungafuni ukubuya kini? [You have no home? So you won't stop whoring? Did she promise you another boyfriend that's why you don't want to come back home?]

Slindile ignored her and went to fetch Yamkela's clothes in the washing line.

MaCele: Solomon wee fetch your bags.

Solomon: I can't leave mama.

MaCele:(chuckled sarcastically) Askies? You can't what?

Solomon: I can't leav...

She slapped her across the face. She gasped holding her cheek and she slapped her on the other one.

She looked around and saw Mbali's play station and reached for it throwing it at her...

MaCele: Sif*b* ngiwnyoko ngikzala uthi cha kimi? Iles' isindindwa sika Mbali esikufundisa ukukhohlakala? One baby and you think you're a woman? Asilwe ke ntombi.[B*tch I'm

your mother and you're saying no to me? Mbali's harlot is the teaching you this wickedness?...Let's fight sis]

She removed her watch and glasses as she ran to her room. She paced behind her and held her dress slapping her cheek from behind. She screamed as her ear buzzed.

She tripped her, she fell on her back and she got ontop of her and punched her on the face. Her nose bled as her vision blurred because of the aching head and burning cheeks. She screamed for help trying to push her off.

Slindile heard her from the bedroom and ran to them. She walked in on Macele on Soso with both her hands pressed on her neck strangling her as she gagged and kicked her legs slapping her hands off.

MaCele: I brought you to this world and I can take you out. I won't stand for your nonsense!!

Slindile pulled her and she shouted at her shaking her big shoulders. Slindile bit her lower lip and placed her arm on her neck pulling her away.

She released Soso and held Slindile's arm.

Soso coughed trying to seat up as her stitches burnt paralyzing her joints with pain...

Slindile: Call the police!!

She slowly stood up and grinned walking to the bedroom to get the phone and called the police.

Slindile released her mother in law and stepped back her heart pounding thinking of the worst. What if she beat her too?

MaCele:(coughing) You're strangling me? Your mother in law? I gave birth to your husband!

Slindile:(shook her head) I didn't ask you. You shouldn't have if you didn't want to. Nobody forced you.

MaCele:(spat on the floor) You're evil I hope nothing good happens for you. You're rotten to the core and your day is coming.

Slindile: I don't care. You're so toxic and abusive it's disgusting!!

MaCele: I'll tell Mbali what you've done.

Slindile: I don't care.

Minutes later a police van honked by the gate.

She ran to the remote and opened the gate as MaCele banged her bedroom door.

The police got in and she immediately cried seeing them.

Slindile opened the door and came out with Soso who was shaking like a leaf besides her.

MaCele: There she is! She held me hostage.

Police 1: We receive a call...

Slindile: Yes she was attacking me after trying to kill daughter.

Police 2: You beat your daughter like that?

She stepped closer looking at Soso's swollen cheeks and bloody nose.

MaCele: I was disciplining her.

They looked at each other and shook their heads before cuffing her and took her with them.

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17

At the police station...

Solomon walked towards the parking lot where her brother was standing waiting for her.

He hugged her and rubbed her back then stepped back forcing a smile.

Mbali: How are you feeling?

Solomon: I don't know. I know I should be used to it by now but I'm not. She wanted to kill me. Maybe I'm being dramatic but her anger was too much, she could've killed me.

Mbali: You're not and I understand how you're feeling.

He looked at his watch and opened the door for her.

Mbali: Do you want us to pass by the doctor so that they'll look at you?

Solomon: No I'm fine. I only need painkillers.

Mbali: You sure? I heard that's a bit sensitive during the early days.

Solomon: I'm fine, really.

Mbali: Okay.

They got in and he drove her home.

At Mbali's house...

Minutes later he dropped Soso off and went back to work.

Slindile met up with her in the living room.

She led her to the couch and embraced her as she broke down crying.

What her mother did was hurting her. It was more than a beating, it was the things she said and the fact that she used that kind of 'punishment' knowing her condition. Was it possible to be hated by your own mother?

Was it hate per se or it was something more that they were all not aware of?

She was too angry at them, at their existence and everything that included them.

She was the most sweetest when she was with her church mates and colleagues but a complete different person towards them.

Was their presence unleashing the inner demon in her?

She gasped for air as her heart shattered, her heart was breaking

her mother was hurting her with her actions. Couldn't she just love them like other parents loved their kids?

Slindile: I'm sorry sis, you'll be fine. Don't mind your mother, she's dealing with her own demons that has got nothing to do with you.

She shook her head as mucus and tears met in her chin. She grinned her tears gushing out as her face uglified.

Slindile: Don't cry you're breaking my heart. Yami will not like your sad energy please don't think too much about her.

She tilted her head up blocking the tears that were threatening to fall. Soso finally calmed down and wiped her tears with her t-shirt.

Slindile: Come, I'll prepare you a bath and make you something to eat so that you'll drink painkillers.

She nodded and got up following her. She sadly looked at her silently thanking God for giving her a mother like hers. Not the best out there but she has never abused her in any form.

Later that day...

Mbali spread the mosquito net over Yamkela and joined his wife on bed.

He laid down and propped his elbow on a pillow looking at her. She placed her novel aside and laid down.

Mbali: How is she?

Slindile: I don't know, she was sleeping when I came in but I'll wake up and check her again later.

Mbali: Mom is too much.

Slindile: She is and I'm afraid at this rate Soso will end up killing herself.

Mbali: Hopefully it doesn't get to that.

She pulled his arm and laid on it.

Mbali: What do you want?

Slindile: Babe.

Mbali: No I know you.

Slindile: I was thinking, since our finances aren't that bad why don't we get her a tutor and have her rewrite. As long as she's here your mother won't stop terrorising us so it'll be better if she rewrite and go to varsity.

Mbali: Not bad. I'm only left with two months before I pay off my loan.

Slindile: Okay I'll talk to her and convince her to rewrite....

He looked at her as she spoke and smiled feeling blessed, that was a woman and a half!

Slindile: What?

He shook his head and she continued talking as he stared.

Slindile: What?

Mbali: You're amazing you know that?

Slindile:(blushed) Babe...

He leaned over and slowly French kissed her holding her neck as his dick hardened in his boxers. He broke it and sealed it with a baby kiss.

Mbali:(looked at Yamkela) Can't we send him back to his mother?

Slindile:(chuckled softly) No we can't.

He huffed and kissed her forehead and laid back as they stayed like that listening to each other's heart beats.

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18

At Mbali's house...

Mbali crouched next to Soso who was laying on bed staring into space.

Mbali: How are you feeling?

Soso: I'll be fine.

Mbali:(sighed) Please call me if you need anything.

Soso: I will.

Mbali: I'm serious sis, I'll be expecting your call.

She nodded and he pecked her forehead and stood up.

Mbali: I'll see you later, I'm leaving now.

He went out closing the door behind him as her phone rang.

She looked at the screen and answered knowing that if she didn't he was going to keep on calling nonstop.

Soso: Hello.

Lethu: Mommy I'm at the gate please open.

Soso: Where?

Lethu: In your house.

Soso: I'm not at home.

Lethu: Our baby has a step father already?

Soso: No silly, I'm at my brother's house.

Lethu: I'm coming.

He hang up and she sighed looking at the screen then got up. She grinned at her heavy head and placed her fingertips on the sides getting off bed.

Slindile got in holding Yamkela and smiled seeing her up.

Slindile: Yami, Say hello to mommy.

Soso: How are you?

Slindile: Good, you?

Soso: Better than last night.

She handed the baby to her and rested her hands on her waist.

Slindile: I've already bathed him and gave him his bottle, he'll go back to sleep any minute from now.

Soso: Thank you.

She looked at him laying on her arms sucking on his tounge and smiled briefly.

Soso: Where is Angel?

Slindile: Left with her father

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it's only us around the house.

Soso: I see.

Slindile: Let me take her so that you can bath.

She thanked her and went out with him as her phone rang. She picked without looking at the caller id.

Soso: You here already?

MaCele: Soso it's me.

Her heart skipped a bit and she sat on the edge of bed.

Soso: Ma?

MaCele: You think what you did is a good thing? Sending your mother to jail? Where there are hardcore criminals who rape people and kill them?... After taking care of you all these years you do me like this?...I loved and cared for you when your father left us and now I'm being sent to prison?...You think that girl will stand by you through it all?...Love you like a mother should?

Soso: Ma...

MaCele: Don't say nkla!! There are people without mothers out there who would do anything to have them back but you are sending yours to prison so that they can kill her....I hope you rejoice and have my corpse for dinner when they kill me in

here. You're cursed, nothing will ever go right for you....Getting me arrested so that you can live in peace under no supervision!!...I hope it was worth it Solomon Masondo and may your God bless you for what you did to me....

The call got cut and she swallowed digesting her words. She got up and made her bed blocking her words before they permanently resided in her mind.

An hour later her friend Lethu arrived carrying gifts for both of them. Slindile told him to rub the ashes in his hands before touching the baby.

Slindile: Don't be offended but we don't know where you've been especially in this cold weather.

Lethu:(laughing) Wow!! Soso tell her, I'm only focused on school enye nenye ngoybona when I'm working.

Solomon: We're talking about you here.

He rolled his eyes and played with the baby.

Soso watched them whilst her mother's words rang in her ears. Maybe opening a case was too drastic. What if they were raping her in there, she heard scary stories about jails. Her mother was a newbie what if they hurt her?

She has done worse and not once have they ever got her arrested, what if Sli was using her to settle out a score because of their misunderstandings?

Lethu shook her. She snapped out of it.

Soso: Huh?

Lethu: Where's your mind at?

Soso: Don't mind me. What is it?

Lethu: He's sleeping.

Soso: Oh.

She took him and he frowned looking at her sad face.

Lethu: Is everything okay?

Soso: Yeah I'm fine.

He nodded and she got up and went to put the baby to sleep.

Lethu: Don't you think she's depressed?

Slindile: I don't think so.

Lethu: Maybe I should take her out to a spa.

Slindile:(chuckled) Maybe.

Lethu: Is there something wrong?

Slindile: No you're right.

Lethu: Oh....I should probably leave. I'll come again and see them before I leave.

Slindile: Let me call her so that she'll walk you out.

She went to call her....

She got inside the car and he drove out.

Lethu: Where are you going?

Soso: Richards Bay.

Lethu: For?

Soso: I can't say.

He nodded and they left...

At the police station...

Hours later Soso and her mother walked out.

MaCele: Please go and fetch your bags and you'll not go back there ever again. Those people are poisonous to your soul.

Soso: Okay.

MaCele:(rubbed her arms) I'm sure those blankets had maggots. I'll never forgive you for this.

At Mbali's house...

Slindile looked at the time and called Lethu whilst shushing the baby.

Lethu: Hello.

Slindile: Lethu, hey it's Sli here, is Soso with you?

Lethu: No I dropped her in town and left.

Slindile: In town?...Wow! Okay. Thank you for your time.

She hung up and chuckled in disbelief.

Slindile: Ayi I give up!

19

At Solomon's house....

MaCele finished preparing for church and then left without waking Soso up.

A while later Yamkela woke up and started crying. Soso woke up and shushed him before getting off bed.

She changed his nappy and bath him before making his bottle.

When she finished she went back to her room to make her bed. She frowned looking around the house realising that something was missing.

The baby's crib! She went to lay him on her mother's bed then cleaned her room before placing him on it.

Her phone rang as she went out to look for the crib.

Soso: Hello.

Slindile: How are you doing?

Soso: I'm fine and you?

Slindile: Worried about you but I guess I'll get used to it.

Soso: Don't be I'll be fine.

Slindile: How is your mother?

Soso: She went to church...What?!!

She hurried towards the burnt crib and tearfully looked at its ashes.

Slindile: Hello...Soso?...

Soso: Hello. Sorry, I thought I saw something.

Slindile: Is everything fine?

Soso: Yeah don't worry, everything is fine....Let me call you later.

She hang up and bit her lower lip as tears burned her eyes. She thought her mother was joking when she said she'll burn it.

Her phone beeped, she looked at the bank notification and sent Slindile a text thanking her for the money then went inside the house.

A while later she walked out carrying the baby and its bag then went to get a taxi to town.

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Her mother returned from church and found the house locked. She hurried to check her room for her bags and sighed relieved seeing them.

She went to her room calling her...

Soso: Yebo ma.

MaCele: Where are you?

Soso: I'm in town.

MaCele: Who are you with?

Soso: Hawu ma.

MaCele: I'm joking. You should've told me I would've gave you money.

Soso: It's okay I'm fine.

MaCele: Nonsense. I'll try and send it through.

Soso:(suprised) Really?

MaCele: Yes....I'll see you later.

She hang up and sent money to her before she removed her clothes humming to a song.

In Town....

Soso got inside a restaurant as a message reported in her phone.

She smiled suprised and sat down as a waiter approached.

He helped her place the shopping bags nicely then took her order.

Yamkela woke up and moved his body kicking his little feet.

She removed the receiving blanket around him and gave him his bottle.

Her order arrived and she thanked the waiter smiling but her smile quickly dissolved when she set her eyes on Ntando walking in holding a girl's waist.

He whispered to the girl and walked over to her.

Ntando: Solomon.

Soso: Sorry you're mistaking me for someone else.

Ntando:(sat down) Stop tripping. How are you?

Soso: What do you want Ntando?

Ntando: I'm greeting you that's all.

Soso: Okay.

Ntando: Is he yours?

Soso:(swallowed) Yes.

Ntando:(disappointed) So you kept that one but aborted mine?

Soso: I'm sorry.

Ntando: It's okay. He's dead anyway so it's okay.

He faked a smile and got up.

Soso:(tearfully) I'm sorry Ntando.

Ntando: It's okay. Let me leave you.

He left her and went to join his companion.

Soso tried eating but the food became tasteless

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she called the waiter and requested a take away then left as Ntando sadly looked at her.

She didn't look like the Soso he knew.

With a baby that young she was supposed to have a little bit of baby fat but she was too skinny and she looked older than her age.

He sighed and focused on his companion.

Later That Day...

At Solomon's house....

She clicked on the link Slindile sent to her and read through before downloading the form.

She sighed thoughtfully and unblocked Ntando's number.

She wasn't going to lie to herself, seeing him with another woman was like a slap in the face and sadly she couldn't blame anyone but herself.

Her phone rang and her heart skipped a bit as she laid her eyes on the caller id. It stopped ringing and she bit her lower lip and called him back.

Soso: Hey, you were calling me?

Ntando: Sorry, it was probably a pocket dial.

Soso: At this time?

Ntando: Pillow dial.

Soso: Oh sorry.

She hang up and switched off her phone feeling dumber for actually thinking he was going to be interested in her after everything she did to him.

She flicked the lamp and laid down in the dark allowing her mind to run wild.

20

At Solomon's house...

Soso placed the baby's bottles on a bowl filled with cold water and sat on a chair having breakfast.

Her mother looked at her.

MaCele: Talk.

Soso: I'm thinking of re writing my matric.

MaCele: You think that's better than going back to start afresh?

Soso: Yes, I can get a tutor and maybe I'll pass.

MaCele: Oh I see, what are you going to do with the baby?

Soso: I'll see.

MaCele: If you say so.

She got off the chair and picked her bag leaving for work.

MaCele: I'll see you when I get back.

Soso: Okay, have a great day.

She nodded and left....

A while later Slindile arrived.

Slindile: Please try to hurry so that we won't be late.

Soso: Okay.

She looked around the room.

Slindile: Where is the crib?

Soso: Crib?

Slindile:(chuckled in disbelief) You know babe warned me against this but I didn't listen.

Soso: I'm sorry. I didn't think she was serious.

Slindile: It's okay.

He went to take a bath and then later they left.

In the clinic....

They both sat down and waited for the doctor.

Slindile: Relax.

The doctor walked in and put on his reading glasses holding a brown envelope.

Doctor: Sorry to keep you waiting.

Slindile: It's fine.

He opened the envelope and read through before setting it aside.

Doctor: Just as I've suspected, he has cystic fibrosis.

Soso: What is that?

Doctor: It's a genetic disease that mostly affects the lungs and digestive system. It's caused by a mutation in a gene called the cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene. This gene helps control salt and water in the cells and affects the production of mucus

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sweat and digestive fluids.

Soso: I don't even understand that, is he going to die?

Doctor: No he won't die.

Slindile: How is it treated?

Doctor: It can not be treated. We can only manage it by giving him antibiotics for any lung infections, puffers to open the airways, salt and vitamin supplements.

Slindile: Are there any complications?

Doctor: He might develop lung failure at a later stage....But he still needs to come back after a few weeks for a sweat test so that we'll see if he has a disorder or he's a healthy carrier of a faulty gene.

Soso leaned back on the chair defeated as Slindile continued speaking with the doctor.

Later they received his medication and left.

Soso: I can't believe my child is infected with scary diseases.

Slindile: It's not scary, with proper treatment he'll be fine.

Kabelo was alive and well and he probably had it too.

She thought of the times he used to take medication with ridiculous names. At some point he even thought he was taking viagra.

He probably had diabetes too, from his strict diet to his medication.

How did she miss it?

At Solomon's house...

Later that day she finished washing dishes and went to her room.

She put on her night dress and got on bed reaching for her phone.

A message popped up.

Ntando: Hello from the flipside 😊

Soso: Is it still a pillow dial? 😊

Ntando: Mxm you know it's not.

Soso: No I don't 🤔♂

Ntando: Okay it's not. You good?

Soso: Yep.

Ntando: Me too.

Soso: Oky 😊

Ntando: Can I take you out for lunch tomorrow?

Soso: Are you serious?

Ntando: I think so. 😊

Soso: I don't think that's a great idea.

Ntando: Why? ♂ 😊

Soso: I have a baby.

Ntando: Get someone to babysit.

Soso: No I can't sorry.

Ntando: We're going out as friends Nana.

Soso: Still I can't.

Ntando: I won't lie I'm sad. 😞

Soso: Sorry you'll be fine.

Ntando: Ofcourse I'll. Goodnight sleep tight🤔🤔

Soso: Thanks. U 2

Ntando: 😊

Soso: 😬

She switched off her mobile data and watched videos on her phone.

3 MONTHS LATER

21

At Solomon's house....

She opened the gate for her Economics tutor and she drove out. She went back inside where she changed and went to fetch Yamkela from daycare.

At Mbali's workplace...

Slindile sat on a chair and started eating as Mbali hang his jacket behind his chair.

Slindile: Aren't you worried about Soso and Ntando's friendship?

Mbali: I never understood the idea of being friends with your ex in the first place.

Slindile: Do you think they still have feelings for each other?

Mbali: Babe?

Slindile: Okay...but do you think it'll work?

Mbali: Honestly I don't think so. My mother dislike that boy and everything he does will be wrong in her eyes. So it won't.

Slindile: I hope this won't distract her from her studies. Soso is so focused right now and I don't want anything messing her up.

Mbali: But we can't choose friends for her.

Slindile:(sighed) You're right and talking to her is like talking to a rock. Akalaleli umtanakini yeses!

Mbali: She's too loyal to my mom.

Slindile: That I've noticed.

He took his fork and started eating whilst chatting to his wife.

At MaCele's workplace...

Her friend walked inside her office and found her marking some papers. She placed down the red pen and heaved a sigh of relief seeing her friend holding her bag.

MaCele: Isishayile?

Friend: Yes we're leaving.

MaCele: Let me pack I'll finish up at home. Tomorrow they need to be ready for moderation.

Friend: Kubi shlobo. How is it going with Soso?

MaCele: She's great. I spoke to her tutors and she's doing good. My daughter was never stupid to begin with she just got distracted and I'm happy she's reclaiming her life.

Friend: That's good I'm proud of her.

MaCele: I am too.

She packed her stuff and walked out following her friend.

In the clinic....

She came out of the consultation room holding a brown paper bag. Ntando got up and placed his phone back in his pocket.

Ntando: You done?

Soso: Yes. We can leave.

He took the bag and they walked out as she held the baby.

She couldn't imagine her life without him. He has been great the past few months. He provided them with financial and emotional support when they needed it. He basically stepped up and took over as a father role to Yamkela.

Even though everyone else was against their friendship, she was grateful for it.

He closed the door for her and went to the driver's side. He looked at her and smiled nervously. The past months have been amazing to both of them. He realized that it was time they graduated from the friendship title. It was about time!

He was nervous about that day's events, what if she rejected him?...What if she long fell out of love with him?...What if?....What if?...He was starting to sound ridiculous even to himself.

He brushed his face and pulled over in front of the restaurant then went to open the door for them.

Soso: Aren't you getting a takeaway?

Ntando: No come.

She sighed and followed him inside....

A waitress walked to them and spoke briefly with Ntando before she led them to a table at the corner.

Soso: Okay

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what is going on?

Ntando: Please order.

She smiled suspiciously and placed her order then started chatting to him easing the awkwardness that was slowly creeping in. A familiar laughter caught her attention.

She lifted her eyes and looked at the table next to theirs where a few guys were holding a business meeting.

Kabelo was seated amongst those guys. Ntando turned and looked at them, he immediately recognized Kabelo.

The other guy who was with Kabelo tapped him on the shoulder and pointed behind him. He stopped laughing and turned around, he immediately turned pale recognizing Soso. He excused himself and walked to their table.

Ntando: This is pure disrespect!!

Kabelo: I know and I'm sorry... My love?

Soso: What do you want Kabelo?

Kabelo: Can we please talk?

Soso: About what?

Kabelo: I want to explain why I ghosted you.

Soso: You want to explain a year later?

Kabelo: No...Yes... Can you please give me your address and I'll come over and explain properly later?

Soso: No please leave. You're interrupting us.

He sighed and went back to their table.

Soso: I'm sorry about that.

Ntando: It's okay you didn't know.

She nodded and played with her son allowing the awkwardness to fully blanket them.

She couldn't help but wonder why Kabelo asked for her address when he knew where she was staying?

She sighed suddenly feeling uncomfortable with being in the presence of Ntando whilst Kabelo was sitting a few feet away from them.

Ntando got up...

Ntando: I'll go and request a takeaway.

Soso: Okay.

At Solomon's house...

Someone rang the intercom. MaCele opened the gate after confirming who it was. She went to wait for him in the veranda as his car drove in. He got out and walked towards her.

MaCele: Look what the cat dragged in.

Kabelo: I'm sorry ma for my actions.

MaCele: Explain yourself.

Kabelo: I was involved in a car accident and I lost my memory. I lost my phone and everything in that accident. I'm sorry for disappearing on your daughter...I know this is not an excuse because I should've tried harder but it was beyond my control.

MaCele: So when you remembered why didn't you come?

Kabelo: I was ashamed and scared that you won't believe me. I gained courage when I saw Soso today with her boyfriend.

She chuckled in disbelief at the boyfriend part.

MaCele: Let me call her for you.

Kabelo: Thank you so much.

She went to call her...

Soso: What are you doing here?

Kabelo: Please allow me to explain. I was in a car accident and I lost my memory. I'm not lying. I have no reason to.

Soso: I don't care even if you were dead I couldn't care less because you're a dog.

Kabelo: I guess I deserved that....Please forgive me my love and allow our baby to live in a warm home with all his parents.

Soso: You're crazy.

Kabelo: About you yes.

Soso: Please leave.

Kabelo: I'll leave but I won't give up on us. I lost you before I won't lose you again.

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She wiped the sink and went to her bedroom locking the door behind her. She still wanted to wrap her head around the idea of Kabelo being present in their lives. A minute longer with her mother was going to confuse her more.

His explanation didn't make any sense, why get into an accident after the announcement of the pregnancy?

But then he was happy when he heard that she was pregnant.

Solomon: What is mommy supposed to do my baby?

Yamkela looked at her sucking his fists.

She sighed deeply and removed her gown getting on bed.

His phone vibrated under the pillow,

Ntando: Now that your baby daddy is back what is going to happen to us? I'm not trying to put you under pressure but I want to know whilst it's still early so that I can remove myself

from the equation...I love you, so much when you left me before for him my heart was shattered, it's still bleeding till date but because I love you I'm willing to be patient with you. So are you fixing things with him or what?

She shook her head and turned the flight mode on before playing music on her earphones her eyes fixed on Yamkela. She was not in the mood for him, both of them actually!

At Ntando's house...

He looked at the screen waiting for her reply . He sighed sadly and sat upright cupping his face with his hands.

He could feel his heart breaking and the fear of having his brother telling him I told you so broke his heart more.

Just when things were falling into place, he just had to come back!

Why was he so unlucky?

He has been doing everything right but waiting for that reply that never came confirmed his worst fears.

He has lost her! Again!!

He looked at the screen again as tears burned his eyes and then laid on his back placing his phone on his chest till the next morning...

At Mbali's house....

Mbali frowned looking at the text from an unknown number,

"Your mother is not sick

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she's tricking you all."

He was about to log out when a few pictures came through. He loaded them and quietly watched.

So that is what the meeting was about, she had called a meeting a few days before but he still hasn't attended to her because he has been busy at work.

He swallowed re-reading the message. Why was she doing it?
Was it one of her tricks into separating him with his wife?

Slindile laid down the edges on Angel's hair then led her to the living room before going to the kitchen where she found her husband looking at his phone.

Slindile: Babe we can leave.

Mbali:(still looking at the screen) Let us leave.

Slindile: Okay.

Mbali: I mean relocate.

Slindile: Ini?

Mbali: I'm tired of my mother, she's toxic it's not even tolerable anymore.... She's planning...(sighed) can we please leave this place?....I can't do this anymore. I cut her off but she always find her way into my life again...Let us take our daughter and leave this place.

Slindile: Okay you're scaring me...What is going on?... You can't wake up and decide on relocating.

Mbali: She wants to fake breast cancer.

Slindile: And you know this because?

Mbali: I received a text from an unknown number.

Slindile: Aren't you being impulsive? You receive a text and now you want to relocate without even checking the authenticity of it.

Mbali: I...I...Know because she has been pestering me about coming back, she wants us to meet because she has something to tell us.

Slindile: And you didn't say anything?

Mbali: It slipped my mind.

Slindile: oh...then call her and tell her you'll see her later today. You can pass by on your way from work then we'll take it from there.

Mbali: We'll rel...

Slindile: No. Noone is going anywhere. I won't allow your mother to bully my family. You're my husband and I'm your wife, I won't take her nonsense anymore.

Mbali: Thank you.

Slindile: Don't, call her.

He called her...

At Solomon's house...

She dusted the room divider then placed all the dowels in their positions and then went to place the cleaning utensils in the kitchen....

MaCele took a sip on her tea whilst looking at her wristwatch.

MaCele: Have you thought about Kabelo?

Soso: No.

MaCele: You don't believe him?

Soso: I don't because he's lying.

MaCele: And what if he's not? Are you willing to deprive your son a good life because of unnecessary pride that won't feed you?

Soso: Ma, I just want to focus on my son and schoolwork.

MaCele: A dying son that depends on medication to breath! That kid can die and you don't want to give his father a chance to get him the best medication so that you can burden me with it. I don't give birth to sick kids if you won't allow the father to see the baby then forget about me ever buying anything for him.

She placed the cup on the counter and got off the chair.

She licked her lips and picked it up thinking about her words.

MaCele: The next thing she'll be pregnant for another low life because she likes them. My house will be filled with her choice assorted....oSoso abazazi bafunani empilweni!

She rinsed the cup and rested her hands on the counter.

She wasn't sure anymore! What if her baby died because of not getting proper medication?

Being a mother was a job and half.

She had to think of Yamkela in every situation, and oh boy that wasn't a walk in the park!

At MaCele's workplace...

Her friend quietly listened as she narrated to her what happened the previous night.

MaCele: That baby needs his father and he's owning up to his mistakes. We all make mistakes but that doesn't mean we have to be crucified forever.

Friend: This is your daughter we're talking about. Do not allow this boy to treat her like trash. Come and go in her life as if she's a hotel, No! If he wants to be in his son's life he can but her life no. You have to convince her otherwise, the next thing he'll get her pregnant again.

MaCele: Kodwa shlobo he's trying. He's human after all.

Friend: I'm not disputing that but he must not treat her like that. You might find out that the memory loss story is not true. Teach your daughter to choose herself first, she must not be that kind of girl who settles for bare minimum only because the guy is rich and everything. You're working you can take care of your daughter, he must take care of his child and leave yours

alone....Angifuni nje umuntu odlala ngo Soso she's been through a lot, she doesn't need these kinds of setbacks.

The bell rang and she closed her lunchbox and packed it in her bag then took a sip on her drink.

Friend: Don't wait for me today, I need to pass by Meerensee, there's something I need to get there before going back home.

MaCele: I see.

Friend:(got up) I'll see you.

She walked out.

At Solomon's house....

She smiled at her tutor as she got up packing her things.

Tutor: You'll be fine, the essays aren't that bad. And you're quite improving when it comes to them.

Soso: They aren't bad as I thought they were.

Tutor: You'll be fine. Do those exercises and I'll check them when we meet next time.

She got up and walked her out. She closed the gate behind her and walked back inside.

She went to pour juice for herself and laid on the couch relaxing.

Atleast that was the last one for the day

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she wasn't in the mood for studying that day and with everything that was going on, she just wanted to drop dead and die.

Someone honked at the gate and moments later they rang the intercom. She huffed and got up walking out to check the rude person interrupting her peace.

A white Mercedes benz was parked at the gate and she couldn't really tell who it belonged to.

She opened the gate and walked towards it barefooted as the car drove in.

Kabelo stepped out holding a gift bag and took off his shades as she sighed annoyed.

Soso: Kabelo what are you doing here? You can't rock up here unannounced as if this is your father's house.

Kabelo: I'm sorry my love, I had to talk to you.

Soso: I don't want to hear anything coming from you.

Kabelo: But your mother...

Soso: Umama utheni?...You were speaking to her? After everything you've done you still have the audacity to speak to my mother behind my back?

Kabelo: I'm sorry....I'm in desperate need of your forgiveness. I messed up I know but now I'm back and I want to fix things. I don't want to lose you again.

Soso: You turned me into a joke, left me pregnant then disappeared into thin air...I went to check you in your flat but they didn't allow me in and I couldn't come to your house because I didn't know the location...I don't even know your surname...You took me for a ride and you think a mere sorry will fix all of this?...Please leave.

She bit her lower lip as it trembled. She thought of all the times her mother insulted her for having a fatherless baby and shaming her in the neighborhood by failing her matric. How she always pointed out that the girls from next door had their boyfriends buying them cars and marrying them whilst she stayed at home finishing her food.

How she was reduced to nothing everytime her mother's church ladies came over.

Pain choked her as she gasped for air allowing her tears to fall.

This man broke her, ripped her heart out and stomped on it.

He slowly walked over and embraced her as she cried harder. He held her tighter brushing her back as she let it all out.

Kabelo: I'm sorry babe, I was stupid for leaving you. I should've tried harder but I promise, I won't leave you ever again.

She pulled away from him and stepped back as he stepped forward closing the space between them. He wiped her tears

and leaned over kissing her softly. He tilted his head to the side and deepened the kiss as his hands went to her ass and squeezed it a bit.

Ntando appeared driving his brother's car and saw them kissing in the middle of the yard and swallowed a painful lump in his throat. He blinked his eyes a couple of times then reversed.

Kabelo broke the kiss and quickly stepped back as she caught her breath still intoxicated from the kiss.

Kabelo: I'm sorry if I overstepped the line. I shouldn't have done that. I don't want you to think I want to use you again.

Soso: Please leave.

Kabelo: I'll come and see you again later, maybe take you out for dinner to the restaurant of your choice.

Soso: No.

Kabelo: Babe I'm trying here. I know you don't trust me but my intentions are genuine.....

Soso: Leave.

He handed the gift bag to her.

Kabelo: This is yours. Please take it.

Soso: I don't want it.

He placed it down and went to his car...

Soso: Kabelo?

Kabelo: Babe?

Soso: What is your surname?

Kabelo: Nyembe... Kabelo Nyembe.

Soso: I see.

He nodded and got in his car and reversed as she picked the gift bag and peeked inside before closing the gate and went back inside the house.

Her phone vibrated from the coffee table. She picked and read the text from Ntando,

"I think it's best that we cut all communications with each other because clearly you don't love me like I do. Maybe the love was there before but not now.

I wish you all the best with your baby daddy, I won't bother you ever again."

She sighed and typed her reply but his profile picture disappeared and she sighed deleting it and sat down opening her gift.

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At Solomon's house....

Later that day her mother emerged from the bedroom fixing the sleeves of her jersey and found her seated on the sofa watching tv.

MaCele: Your brother is coming over later.

Solomon: He told me.

MaCele: I see, did you tell him about Yamkela's father?

Solomon: Ma please.

MaCele: What?...He deserve to know that you're back together.

Solomon: We're not back together.

MaCele: Because of that stupid fuel attendant?

Solomon: No.

MaCele: So what is your problem? I spoke to him and he wants to come and pay lobola for you.

Solomon: I'm not going to be his wife....I don't love him anymore.

MaCele: It's that trash's spell, you love Kabelo if you don't then you'll learn to love him...You want to have choice assorted? He's willing to pay for you even though you were no longer a virgin. You should be grateful for that.

Solomon: I'm not for sale mama! He can't buy me.

MaCele: Mxm quit performing for me and check if that's your brother outside.

She got up and went to open for her brother then went back to join her mother.

He got in and greeted them before sitting on the opposite couch.

Mbali: I'm in a hurry ma, you said it was important.

MaCele: You can't even pretend. Your wife is more important than me?

Mbali:(got up) I don't have energy for this.

She cleared her throat and handed him a brown envelope. He took a deep breath and sat down opening it as she got ready to cry.

Mbali:(reading out loud) You have breast cancer?

MaCele:(tearfully) Yes, it is in stage 4. I can die anyday from now on.

Mbali: Why aren't you in hospital?

Solomon:(still shocked) How can you even say that?!!

MaCele:(crying) They have bewitched my son. He doesn't even care, I'm sure he'll rejoice when I am dead.

Mbali: That's not true.

MaCele: It is true. I can die anyday from now on. Can't you make my last days more memorable? Honour my last wishes?

Mbali: What do you want ma?

MaCele: Nothing, I just want to be with you during my last moments.

Mbali:(swallowed) I'm afraid that won't be possible, I'm married I can't leave my wife alone.

MaCele: I'm your mother Mbali!

Mbali: I'm not disputing that but Sli is my wife and Angel is my child.

MaCele: Are you trying to tell me that your family matters more than me? Your mother?

He got up and placed the envelope on the table walking out as Soso cried softly.

MaCele started wailing putting her hands on her head...

MaCele: That witch did something to my son....My son will never abandon me.

Solomon: I'm sorry mama.

She got up and went to her room.

Moments later she came out with her bags.

Soso stood up and walked towards her.

Solomon: You're leaving?

MaCele: Yes, you and your brother don't want to listen to me. I might as well die alone out there than with ungrateful kids who would probably sneak in at night and finish me off.

Solomon: But ma you can't leave me alone.

MaCele: You won't be alone. You can call your numerous boyfriends to my house and be merry. You won't listen to me anyway so why should I be here?

Solomon: Ma that's not true. I listen to you. Please don't leave especially in your state.

She clicked her tounge and walked out.

She got in her car and called Kabelo.

MaCele: I'll talk to my brother and get back to you....Are you sure about this?

Kabelo: Yes. I want to marry her but she won't allow me to.

MaCele: She's just confused. Get her a gift or anything to cheer her up. We'll talk later.

Kabelo: Okay ma.

MaCele: Thank you so much for doing something this beautiful for my daughter. I'll forever be grateful, I thought she was not going to get married in her life.

Kabelo: I see, goodbye.

He hang up and she smiled then drove out. Their meeting didn't go as planned. She really needed her son to come back and take care of him and that wasn't going to happen when he was staying far away from her.

At Mbali's house....

Mbali placed Angel next to him whilst listening to his wife.

Slindile: Now that she has confirmed it we'll think of a plan but relocating is too drastic.

Mbali: I agree. I guess I have to put my family first and cut her off completely. It won't be easy but I'll do it. I can't continue living like this.

Slindile: I hear you.

Mbali: I'll do it for real this time.. If she can fake something like this I don't want to imagine what else she can do.

Slindile: Whatever you decide I will be here every step of the way but as soon as she becomes a threat then I'll deal with her.

He nodded and turned to the tv. He never believed people when they said, your parents can also have a hand in your marriage falling apart. He was experiencing that first hand, his mother was the third person everyone always spoke about. If he didn't cut her off, his wife was going to leave him because the toxicity of his mother was too much to ignore.

At Solomon's house....

Kabelo drove in and went to her as she stood by the door her hands rested on her waist.

Kabelo: Thanks for agreeing to see me. Can we talk?

Solomon: You're here already Kabelo.

Kabelo: I spoke to your mother...I know you don't want me to speak to her but it was important. I wanted her to speak to your elders. I'll send the letter in a few days.

Solomon: What letter?

Kabelo: To ask for your hand in marriage...I want to prove to you that I'm serious about you. I want us to continue where we

left of...Our child is still young to be a step child. I want us to raise him in a warm home filled with love.

Solomon: I don't know...Really I don't.

Kabelo:(Stepped closer) You know. We can do this my love. Allow me to love and treat you right....Today I promised to take you out for dinner...

Solomon: I'm not going, my mother is not in.

Kabelo: You'll be alone with my child?

Solomon: Yes.

Kabelo: No you can't, it's not safe.

Solomon: I'll manage. Please leave.

Kabelo: I'm not leaving without you. Your mother will have to forgive me.

Solomon: Iyoooh suit yourself!

She walked in and he followed her.

Yamkela started crying in the bedroom and she went to him with Kabelo following behind her.

She gave him his bottle and softly rubbed his back and then quietly watched him as he went back to sleep.

Kabelo: I'm sorry I was not there for you.

Solomon: I heard you.

She sighed and straightened as he held her hand and looked in her eyes.

Kabelo: Can you please forgive me?

Solomon: Can we not talk about this?

Kabelo: One last chance to prove myself.

She took a deep breath.

Kabelo: Just one.

He leaned over and kissed her lips holding her waist. She wrapped her arms around his neck and kissed him back as he

directed her to bed. He got ontop of her still kissing her as she opened her legs for him.

Kabelo: I'm sorry my love.

Solomon:(crying)....

He took a deep breath and looked into her eyes. He shut his eyes and continued kissing her reminding himself that he was still a woman, her tears didn't make her any special. Behind them there was that wickedness every woman out there carried inside their evil hearts.

He brushed her thighs whilst rubbing himself on her. He pushed her panties to the side and flicked her clit parting her folds as she moaned softly.

He unzipped his pants and pulled down his briefs taking out his erect dick.

She ran her hands on his head as he directed himself to her coochie. His dick blocked her entrance as she arched her back yearning for him whilst her clit throbbed.

He slowly penetrated and cursed under his breath feeling her inner walls clench around him.

He curved his back and positioned himself then started moving filling her up as she moaned his name tilting her head up.

He circled his thumb on his clit whist looking at his dick going in and out of her.

Kabelo: Fuck!!!

He clenched his jaws and rubbed her clit vigorously whist upping his pace as he felt himself getting closer to his release.

She held his arm and closed her eyes feeling the urge to scream out loud in pleasure.

She bit her lower lip suppressing her screams as he shot his load inside her.

He buried his sweaty face on the crook of her neck embarrassed.

She swallowed trying to mask her displeasure.

Solomon: I need to use the bathroom.

He nodded and got off her.

She got off bed and pulled down her dress as his thick cum dripped on her panties.

Kabelo: Babe....

Solomon: I understand.

She walked out and he sighed laying back on bed.

5 MONTHS LATER

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At Mbali's house...

He laid on his back on the mat under the shade as Angel played with her dolls next to his feet.

Slindile came inside the house with their drinks and joined them.

Ever since they cut off her mother in law from their lives it has been full bliss. It gave them time to reconnect and focus on each other without a third party. She got to experience another side of her husband she never knew existed.

Now it was just only them and their child and she couldn't ask for greater blessings.

At Solomon's house....

Soso forced a smile and got up walking to the living room where she sat on the couch and laid back with her eyes closed.

Her cheeks were aching from all the fake smiling she did back at the table.

After Kabelo ghosted her for the second time leaving her with another baby she met someone else during her monthly check ups.

It has only been a month since they made things official but he had already sent his uncles to her family asking for her hand in marriage and then later on paid lobola for her.

She felt like it was too soon but her mother re-assured her that it was not, Benny was a doctor and he loved her so getting married to him was going to do her good.

And now here she was having dinner with him and her mother. They were leaving later on to live with Benny in his house.

He sat next to her and smiled rubbing her bump.

Benny: Is everything okay?

Soso: I'm fine.

Benny: Good....Go and fetch your baby so that we can leave.

Soso: Okay.

She went take her sleeping baby as MaCele walked in behind her.

MaCele:(smiling) Look at you. So grown, now you're leaving to your house....I'm so proud of you. This is what I wanted for you. Atleast he'll allow you to continue with school.

Soso: Ma?

MaCele: Yes baby?

Soso: Am I really you daughter? Did you give birth to me?

MaCele:(annoyed) What nonsense are you asking me now?...Have you been talking to Slindile again?

Soso: No.

MaCele: Then what?...Are you second guessing your blessings?

This is a whole doctor taking in someone with two fatherless kids. You should be grateful but not my domkop child, always questioning everything...Ayisuka, hamba la kwami! Uyi rubbish nokuzala ngathi inja! Two kids at your age?...nxa sies! You have no shame!

She sighed and dragged her big suitcase to the living room her other hand holding Yamkela.

Benny: Ready?

Soso:(teary eyed) Yes.

Her mother appeared with Yamkela's bag and her two suitcases.

MaCele: Please visit when you get time.

Benny: We will ma.

MaCele: Soso my baby?

She rubbed her eyes and cleared her throat putting on a brave face.

Soso: Mama.

MaCele: Take care of your husband because traditionally, he's your husband and you're ought to serve him at all costs.

Soso: Okay ma, Bye.

She got inside the car and they drove out as she held her son tighter and allowed her tears to fall.

Benny: You'll be fine my love. You know I love you and I will do anything for you.

At Mbali's house....

Later that day Slindile shook her head in disbelief looking at MaCele's Facebook status.

Slindile: Your sister moved in with her fiance today?

Mbali: Whilst pregnant?

Slindile: Looks like it.

Mbali: He really loved her.

Slindile: Is she ready for such responsibility though?...Being a wife to someone else?

Mbali: I don't know and I don't care...Mother has brain washed my sister so much you can't tell her anything....I offered to help

her but no she would rather stay there and be subjected to her abuse so no I don't care.

Slindile: Iyoooh...I heard you.

She said and continued scrolling.

At Benny's house....

Soso laid Yamkela in his room and went to join Benny in their room.

She reached for her phone and sent her mother a text,

"Can I come back home? I don't think I want to do this anymore."

She sighed impatient looking at the screen as the shower stopped running.

He was probably going to ask for sex and she wasn't ready.

MaCele replied as Benny came in from the bathroom.

MaCele: Don't you dare try and embarrass me. After all the humiliation I suffered after your second pregnancy uti you can't do this anymore? Udakiwe! Stay there

what am I supposed to do with damaged goods? Two 🍷 babies? Your liver is scary!!

Her heart sank at the 'damaged goods', maybe she was damaged.

Benny dropped his towel and crawled on bed towards her side.

He peeled off the blanket and softly kissed her lips squeezing her breasts. She gently pushed him off.

Soso: Not today.

Benny:(annoyed) When?...I need sex and you're my wife. I bought you!

Soso: Can't you wait until I give birth atleast.

Benny: No!

He smashed his lips on her and pinned her down parting her legs with his knee.

Soso: Benny stop!

She pushed him as he leaped up and slapped her across the face.

Benny: Stop interrupting me....I've been waiting for a whole month so don't come at me with that nonsense.

He pulled off her panties as she fought pulling them up. He gave her a death stare...

Benny: Stop pushing me!

He tore it off and held her hands together pinning them on top of her head and directed his manhood in her dry vagina.

She screamed crying hopelessly as he grunted enjoying himself.

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He wiped himself and threw the towel at her then put on his pants.

Benny: That was good....You don't have to fight all the time, we're married, that pussy is mine to devour anytime I feel like.

He reached for his tshirt.

Benny: I'm leaving. I'll see you when I get back.

He grabbed his car keys and phone then left.

She held the pillow and cried out loud her heart breaking.

Benny wasn't the sweet guy he said he was. He was a monster who didn't care about anyone but himself.

She thought of the real reason she got there- Her Mother!

She wanted to please her as always and in the end she ended up bedding the devil.

She was tired, tired of living and pleasing her ungrateful mother. Her life was a ball of misery, her mother didn't want to change, she saw nothing wrong with how she was treating her.

She slowly got off bed and then looked at the blood stains on the sheets and wiped her tears making her way to the bathroom with her phone.

She locked the door and filled the tub with water. She opened the cabinet and found different medication inside. She took a bottle of sleeping pills and sat on the toilet seat.

She looked at the container and the water filling the tub.

She tried, God was her witness! The same God who chose a vile woman to mother her!

She stood up and emptied the sleeping pills in her mouth then drank water. She locked the door and took his shaving blade then got inside the bath tub still wearing her night dress.

She started cutting her wrists and watched as blood gushed out.

Moments later she started getting drowsy. She reached for her phone and sent a final text to her mother, "My whole life

revolved around pleasing you even though it was never enough. I hope this makes you happy."

She sent it and got under the water drifting off to eternal sleep.

.....**THE END**.....

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