

Ngilimele



Thorns

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PROLOGUE

Ayanda

Slowly , and fearful . I'm backed into the
corner of our two bedroom house

The sound of his heel formal shoe , is
echoing in my ears

He's near , his scent engulfs my nostrils . My
palms are sweating

Don't get me started on my hands , they're shaking

My heart is beating very fast , my breathing increases

I place my one hand on my mouth , but it's useless

He finds me anyways , as his hands grabs me . I feel his grip on my arm

Me : please...don't hurt me please.....

I beg but it's just falling on death ears , I'm already in tears

He gets me up , just roughly without a care

I get on my two feet , it's the sound of my blouse tearing up . I know he's doing it again

It's been a norm to him , and even now two months later from the first time he started doing it

I'm still scared , and I'll never get used to such

The sound of my scream , as he pins me on the wall and he brings his hand to my mouth shutting me up

I take a deep breath , opening my eyes and
my pillow is wet from my own sweat and
tears

I sit up straight , my eyes trail next to me .
And he's sleeping so peacefully

I sigh !

Wiping my tears off , there's a slight knock
at the door

Voice : mom are you okay ?

He sounds very worried , I get up slowly
making sure not to wake my husband

I take my gown , put it on and I open the door . I peek through

Mxo : what's wrong ? Are you okay ? I heard you scream !

I must have screamed in my sleep

Me : I'm okay baby , it was just a dream

Mxo : where is dad ?

My heart sinks , nothing is the same anymore

Me : he's...asleep

Mxo : what ? How can he be sleep , when you were

Me : baby please , your father works hard .
You probably heard me because you weren't asleep

Mxo : I was sleep , but your scream woke me up

The same way they used to wake my husband up

And he would wake up , and make sure that I'm okay

He would tell me it's nothing but just a dream , he would always assure me that all is well

But now , now he doesn't even blink

Me : go sleep

Mxo : will you be able to fall asleep ?

No , no I won't be able to sleep

My husband is just cold next to me , he won't even cuddle me

Mxo : let's go watch a movie then

I sigh , I can't let my demons affect my son .

Me : you have school tomorrow

Mxo : actually I don't , it's Wednesday .
Spots day , and you know that's not my
thing

I smile

Mxo : come ! And I have snacks

He holds his hand out , I take it closing the
door and we walk into the lounge

Mxo : what do you want to watch ?

Me : anything that won't depress me

Mxo : you choose , I'll get us snacks

He walks into the kitchen , I'm left choosing a movie

Maybe I should go back to seeing a therapist again

Something he stopped me from doing , because he said I can talk to him

It was fine , he was available but now he's not

Mxo : it was just a dream right ?

His voice startles me

Me : yes

It's a parent's job to worry a about their child , not the other way around

It's morning when I wake up , and I see we both fell asleep on the couch

I slowly move , and cover him with the throw

I walk to our bedroom , and he's up .
Probably another day early at the office

As I'm still making the bed , he comes out of
the shower

He says nothing , no greeting like nothing at
all

He gets dressed , and walks out

I hope he doesn't lose it , over the fact that
there's no breakfast

Breakfast that he may demand , and then
not bother eating

He'll always have something to complain about

The eggs not being scrambled to his liking ,
or they're too salty

Bacon being slightly raw , and in front of
him would be crisp bacon

But he always finds something , just to
complain about

I'm relieved when I realise it's been a while ,
he's probably not coming back

My phone rings , and I sigh seeing it's Lerato. With FaceTime this early , I answer either way

Me : hey

Lerato : h....wait what happened to your eye ?

It has a blood clot inside , and it looks swollen somehow

Lerato : did he do that ?

Me : no ,no he didn't

Lerato : don't protect him !

She raises her voice a bit

Me : he didn't , he's anything and everything yes . I'm not protecting him , but he's not a woman beater . Even he asked me what happened , because he was shocked

Lies ! Did he actually ask me ? No he didn't . I wouldn't even be surprised , if he didn't even notice

Lerato : we're going out , for breakfast it's on me

Me : well ...Mxolisi is home today . I want to....

Lerato : just stop , I won't talk about him I promise

Me : okay fine

Lerato : I'll pick you up

Of course she has to , she knows I'm forbidden from driving anything in this house

We drop the call , and I go take a shower .

Looking at my hair , I didn't even remember when it was the last time I did it

No wonder he's doing everything that he's doing , just look at me !

Anyways , it doesn't help sulking over this

I'm this woman I am today , because of him. One day I was his everything , and the next I was reduced to nothing

After dressing in just a simple floral dress , I walk in the kitchen

Mxo : dad just left

I turn and look at him

Mxo : I don't know when it was the last time he just paid attention to you

This is what I hate about this whole situation , he sees what's happening

Me : unlike me , who has nothing to do all day . Your father is working , and he has a very important meeting to attend

Mxo : of course , a meeting more important than his wife

He scoffs walking away , I'm left just feeling
like the failure I am

I've failed in life , I've failed in marriage and
now I'm failing my son

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INSERT 01

Ayanda



As much as I want to do this , I don't have the money to

I know my husband , and I know he will freak as soon as he finds out

So I can use his card to pay for this session , I had to use the money I had on me

I can't just withdraw money , he will be on my case

Nonhle : Mrs Dlamini

I look at her

Nonhle : you're still here with me right ?

I chuckle

Me : yes

Nonhle : how is your husband ?

Me : why ?

I ask shrugging my shoulders

I don't really love this either , but I like the fact that I can just burst

I have so much buried inside of me , that I
always have to keep in check

I can't shout , nor raise my voice at home .
I'm the mother and wife

Nonhle : oh I'm just asking

Me : well he's fine

Nonhle : still supportive ?

I nod

Nonhle : Mrs Dlamini

Me : hey....please just use my name

She sighs

Nonhle : Ayanda , like you say the nightmares are back . Is your husband still supportive ?

Me : he works , he gets home and he's tired

Nonhle : why are you lying ? Like why are you protecting him ?

My eyes burn , with tears just at the brink of failing

Me : what....what do you want me to say
mhm ? That he....

My chest closes up

Nonhle : Ayanda , take a deep breath

She gets up and touches my back , I gather
myself calming down

Me : I....this was a mistake . I have to go

I grab my bag getting up , and I walk out

What a waste of money , money I don't
even have

Menzi



She just walks in , and I'm not in the mood for her right now

Me : are you sure about this ?

I'm on call with Melusi

Melusi : yeah ,I just saw her leave right now

She sits on my lap , and start kissing me on the side of my face

Me : I'm on a call

I give her an evil eye , she sighs moving back

Me : and how was she ?

Melusi : she looked distraught

I sigh shaking my head slightly

Me : okay , follow her home

Melusi : okay

I drop the call

Buhle : what ? It's her again ?

Me : don't ever do that nonsense again ,
not when I'm occupied

She rolls her eyes

Me : don't forget , I'm not your friend

Buhle : I just miss you

Me : why don't you go work , and do what I
pay you to do . I'll see you later

She gets off me , not looking happy at all

But I'm not in her mood , and right now I
don't have the energy to entertain her

Buhle : will you come really ?

I nod

Buhle : you know what ? Just do whatever you want to do

She walks out , clicking her heels away

I take my phone and make a call , I know he might not even answer it . I'm surprised when he does

Mxo : sure

Me : sure to me ?

Mxo : cha ! I didn't see it's you baba (no ,
dad)

Me : uphi umamakho ? (Where is your
mother)

Mxo : she just walked in

Me : from ?

Mxo : I don't know

He won't tell me , even if he knows

Me : is she okay ?

Mxo : what do you mean ? Molo mama
(hello mom)

I'm sure she just nods , as I don't hear
anything from the background

Unless Mxolisi is lying , she's not even there
yet

Me : I mean does she look okay to you , like
she doesn't look agitated

He sighs

Mxo : no

Me : no what ?

He's just frustrating me

Mxo : no , she doesn't look whatever you said

Me : boy drop the attitude !

My voice is now stern

Mxo : mom is fine , is there anything else ?

I click my tongue dropping the call

This boy must have taken his mother's
Xhosa side , he has attitude for days and it's
annoying

But I do feel bad , about raising my voice at
him . And dropping the call

We'll just work it out like o'Sibal'khulu
(Dlamini clan)

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Buhle

Buhle



There's nothing I hate more than being dismissed like that

He can do that shit , to that nonsense idiot of his . Just not me

Now he wants to play some man power on me

He doesn't know what he's playing at

I'm not weak nor naïve , and I take no shit from no man

Not even the mighty Menzi Dlamini

This day is just not going , and I so badly want to teach him a lesson

He can't treat me like that , and all is well

When he comes over to my house , he better have his shit together

Or all hell will break lose , he shouldn't even think that he can treat me anyhow

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Ayanda

I look at him , he keeps looking my way . So
I know he has something to say

Me : what ?

Mxo : he was asking where you are

Me : oh ?

I don't want to give away , but this scares me

Mxo : and if you look okay , or frustrated

Could it be that he knows I went there ? But how

I didn't use his card , and well....oh I drove there

How could I have been so stupid ! But I was just saving money

Taxis are expensive , and I wanted to be able to pay the fee of the session

And now I so regret it , because nothing good came out of it

Mxo : can I ask ?

I'm not ready for whatever he wants to ask , because I might not have his answers

Because I'm still asking myself the very same thing

Me : please not now

He nods , focusing back on his phone

I pray he doesn't come back home tonight ,
c

an he please just not come

Because I'm not ready to face him , and a
confrontation about where I went

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INSERT 02

Menzi

I ditched Buhle , just so I can be home

I know Melusi would never lie to me , and
no matter how calm my wife can act

If I ask her something personally , face to
face

I will be able to tell if she's lying or not

I know Buhle won't be happy about this ,
but it's nothing a shopping spree or a fat
bank notification can't fix

She's busy dishing up , and she cooked my
favourite

Me : where is Mxolisi ?

Aya : in his room

She's not even looking at me

Me : how was your day ?

Probably her tone will tell me something

Aya : oh , it was fine

Me : just fine ?

She side eyes me

Aya : yes

Me : oh , okay .

She places a plate in front of me , I just look at it

Me : and what did you do ?

Aya : what ?

Me : I said , what did you do ?

Aya : I'm sorry

Me : what ?

She turns and looks at me

Aya : I'm sorry , I took the car the went
somewhere

And she knows I don't want her driving , but
she did

Despite what I said

Me : somewhere ?

Aya : to see Nonhle

That damn woman !

I push the plate further from me

Me : that woman again ?

She says nothing

Me : I'm asking a question

Aya : I went to see her Sibal'khulu , what am I supposed to say ?

Me : why did you go see her ? I thought , we are way past this

Aya : yes we are , it was a mistake and it won't happen again

Me : no

I get up

Me : go see her , and let her disrupt you even more . I actually don't care

I walk away heading to our bedroom

At least she didn't lie , or maybe it's because she suspects I knew

Because I don't care to ever ask her about her day

My phone rings and it's Buhle , she's gotten so comfortable she just calls me whenever she wants

I decline the call , it's all my fault that she's this comfortable to not give a damn about anything

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Buhle

So much for dismissing me , and saying he
will come

And only not to come , or even have the
decency to at least lie to me again

He's not even taking my calls

I don't know say Menzi sees in me , maybe some idiot like that nonsense of his

Bontle : all this , because of a married man ?

Me : the marriage doesn't matter , he doesn't love her

Bontle : yet he's home with me right now

Me : oh Bontle ! Just be a friend for once

Bontle : but I am , when are they even divorcing ?

Me : it's being finalized

Bontle : oh ?

Me : that's what he said , and he has no reason to lie

She laughs

Me : stop !.

Bontle : fine , but do you think a man that is cheating on his wife with you . Will have the loyalty he lacked for her ?

Me : loyalty ? No man owes a woman he doesn't want nor love any

Bontle : oh yes , and he loves you friend

Me : of course he does

She fills her glass of wine

Bontle : and that's why he still sleeps at his home with her

Me : in separate rooms , she long moved in the spare room

She laughs again , just annoying me now

Bontle : the way you're so confident , it's like you know all this personally . Don't

forget the most important thing , men will
always embarrass you

Me : what you're telling me right now , it's
just nonsense . So you might just as well
keep quite

She raises her glass taking a sip

I won't even let what she said get to me

She doesn't know what Menzi and I have ,
we love each other

It's more than just an office affair

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Menzi

I'm early in the office , and I just had to be
bothered by Melusi

I came early so I can get most things done ,
before Buhle gets here

And she gets on my case , about what happened last night

Melusi : if you don't want her anymore , why don't you just leave ?

I raise my head and look at him

Melusi : I don't mean that bad

Me : and you think leaving will solve everything ?

Melusi : well staying is not solving anything either

Me : we've been married for 17 years , we have a child together . What you're saying , it's just not that easy

He chuckles

Melusi : no , it is . It's very much easy

Me : just get to it , the point you're seeing and I'm clearly missing

Melusi : you might as well be a non existent husband to her right now , you're hardly home . Even when you are , she's invisible in your eyes

Me : this was okay , okay ? It was okay ,
until it got too much for me . At the end of
the day , I'm also a human

Melusi : now you're holding onto on her ,
but you know things are no longer the same

I just stare at him , I don't think he'll ever
understand this

And right now , I'm just seen as the bad guy

Melusi : does your side know you....

Me : Melusi , why don't we just stop this ?
And you go back to what I pay you for

He raises his hands up in surrender

Melusi : whatever you say , but one day you will remember my words . And don't ever say that I didn't warn you

He gets up , and walks out

My home and marriage situation , it's just so messed up

I doubt it can even be repaired , but it's not easy throwing 17 years of marriage just like that

That's why I'm still home , that's why I still
share a bed with my wife

Even though it's no longer the same

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Ayanda

His words felt like an ultimatum of some kind

The I should continue seeing Nonhle , so she can continue to disrupt me further

I don't know

I don't know where I stand with that this morning

I walked out in the middle of a session ,
could I see myself back there again ?

I feel like I'm going to lose my mind , I
tossed and turned the whole of last night

He even woke up middle of the night , he
wasn't happy

He didn't say anything , just got off the bed
and slept on the couch

I'm being a nuisance right now to him , he
doesn't even need to tell me

I can see it all , it's all over his face

Mxolisi has already left for school , I pack a few of my clothes and head to the spare room

I hate what we're doing to my son , if there was a way to make him not see I this

I would do it , because this toxicity is not good for him

And what I'm doing is not going to help the situation either

He will see I've moved out of the master's bedroom

But I don't want to keep bothering Menzi ,
on his bed

The nightmares are back , and I don't know
how to stop these things

I'm still yet to cry and scream in my dreams

I don't want to annoy him , to a point that
he tells me

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INSERT 03

Buhle

This dinner could makeup for everything

Not to mention the shopping spree , that I
got

It's just happiness , and what women
doesn't enjoy shopping ?

I'm happy yes , he saw his mistake and
apologized for it

But I wouldn't say I'm completely happy per
se

There's still things Bontle said , I tried so hard not to let them get to me

But I can't help it

Me : babe when are you moving out at least?

Menzi : moving out ?

Me : yes out , like out of the house and getting a place of your own ?

He puts his fork down , and looks at me

Menzi : why this now ?

Me : no , I just think it's bizarre that you live in the same house with your ex wife

I'm not some affair , I'm not a mistress . I want this man

I'm not happy to settle , for being the other woman

Menzi : the divorce is almost finalized , so why this ?

Me : because it's just an uncomfortable situation for me

Menzi : we don't even sleep in the same room Buhle

Me : I know that , but it'sit doesn't make things worse

Menzi : right now , I just think you want drama where the isn't

Me : how is it drama when I'm expressing my feelings ?

Menzi : I don't get where you're coming from with this , but you need to note one thing . There's my son involved in all of this , and if it means I have to stay home until the

divorce is done . Just for his sake , then so
be it

Me : well maybe I should meet him

He chuckles

Menzi : I would like to think , your brains
work just fine . What makes you think , my
son would want to meet with you ?

He gets up

Me : I'm the woman in your life

Menzi : his mother is still in the picture

He takes a few notes and places them on the table

Me : and now you're leaving really ?.

Menzi : yes , I'm leaving that's what

Me : if you don't want ...

Menzi : I'm not doing this with you , bye

He leans down and kisses my cheek and he walks out

I'm just left stunned

Menzi

It's already way too late , and I know
they're sleeping

What puzzles me , is the light in our room .
It's still on

And I know Aya can't sleep with the light on

I walk inside , and I freak out at the sight on the bed

She's not in bed , I don't hear any water running

But I head to the bathroom anyways , she's not in

Me : Ayanda !

I call her out , and no answer . I take my phone and call her

It doesn't go through

I go into Mxolisi's room , and she's sleeping.
I hate doing this

But I need to know where his mother is at

I shake him slowly , calling out his name .
He finally answers

Me : where is your mother ?

Mxo : in the spare room

Me : what spare room ?

Mxo : the one down your room

I must say , I'm a bit relieved that she's home and safe

Me : why....why is she in the spare room ?
Did she say I did something ?

Mxo : no , she said she doesn't sleep well....
Nightmare's . And she doesn't want to bother you at night

That makes me feel somehow , considering what I did last night

Me : okay , lala ndoda . Sorry for waking you up (sleep man)

I walk out , heading to the spare room . It's not locked , and she's in bed

I won't even bother showering , I was with Buhle but we didn't do anything

I leave just my briefs off , and I get in bed .

She moves a bit , but doesn't turn or face me . I'm thinking she will or say something , but nothing

I guess she really is asleep

Ayanda

For once , I wake up collected from these
dreams

They've started , I know that . And they only
just be erased

I almost scream my lungs out , as I see a figure next to me

And I release it's Menzi , like how did he even get in here ?

In here , I mean in bed with me ? What does he want ?

I came to sleep in here , to get away from him . So he can have his peaceful sleep

Without me waking him up , or being restless that he ends up sleeping on the couches

Menzi : why are we sleeping in the spare room ?

We ? Really we ? It was I , me and myself alone

Me : I was sleeping in here

Menzi : this is a marriage , there's no I . It's always we , us or ours

Wow ! Funny how the marriage , works where she's concerned

Like us seeing how things have changed , yet he still wants us to use the same bed

That on its own it's just awkward to be honest

Me : I'm restless

Menzi : and in here you're not ?.

I keep quite

Menzi : I can always buy a new bed

He's just mocking me okay

Me : I don't want to bother your sleep

I get off the bed

Menzi : I did not say you bother me

Me : yet you slept on the couch

He looks at me

Me : please , let me use this room

Menzi : I will sleep where you sleep

With that being said , he turns around and covering himself

I shake my head , heading to the shower

I take a quite one , so I'm done in time to
make Mxolisi breakfast

And I find him in the kitchen , I feel so bad .
He's having cereal

Me : I'm sorry

He smiles

Mxo : I wanted this , and I told you to stop
overworking yourself with me

I sigh

Mxo : did dad find you last night ?

Me : find me ? Was he looking for me ?

He nods

Mxo : he came in my room , and when I told him you're in the spare room he asked if he did something

He laughs , at least he finds this funny because I don't

Mxo : I don't know man , he was just funny asking that

I pour myself a cup of coffee

I don't even know why Menzi plays this game if his

Or maybe it's just me he wants out of the house , I don't know

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INSERT 04

Menzi

The look she's giving me , if it's really about sleeping in the guest room with her

She can forget , I'm not even going to apologize for it

Like she's my wife , despite the shit I'm doing and what she's going through

There's no divorce here , yeah I'm lying to Buhle . She doesn't know that

As long as we're husband and wife , we will sleep on the same bed

Sex ? Well it's not an everyday thing , but we do have sex

Right now , I won't even initiate that .
Because of the nightmares

I know it's because of what happened to her , I'm not an animal that I'll make her relieve the trauma

Just so I can cum ? Fuck no ! Buhle will do for now , until she's okay again

Me : what ?

Aya : nothing

Me : then stop staring at me , if you have nothing to say

She looks away , I shake my head . And Buhle calls

She needs to stop this nonsense , seriously there shouldn't be any calls when I'm at home

What kind of power , and level of disrespect have I given her ?

I ignore the call , and get up

Me : Melusi will come by , there's something I want him to pick up

Aya : okay

She's not looking at me , I don't blame her after my words

Me : here

I place the car keys on the table

Me : it's full tank , use that card . I'll deposit some money today, go see that woman . If you so think she'll help you , maybe she

can. And who knows ? We might salvage what's left of this marriage

I walk out

The card she has , I never said she shouldn't use it

She can use it for anything and everything , just for not therapy sessions

Honestly I stopped her , because of how she would always cry in there

And she wouldn't be herself after those

It would take her a week the most , to get back to her usual self

Only to be the same again , when we go there

Sure I was there when I stopped her , I listened I tried

But it just weighed on me , I blame myself actually

Because in what sane world , does a husband help his wife get over rape from her own father and husband ?

I don't know what I thought I was doing ,
but it backfired badly

And today here we are

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Ayanda

I'm an idiot right ? So here I am back to see
Nonhle

All because he said , use my money and self
destruct

Nonhle : feeling better ?

She has one perfect smile , with her small
not book and pen in front of her

She's dressed perfectly , in a black slim fit
formal suit . With high heels

Her hair , is an 18 inch Peruvian . Make up is on fleek

And me ? Well I look like I was just picked from the streets

Me : don't you ever get tired ?

Nonhle : of what ?

Me : this ?

I point to the whole of her

Nonhle : you just ushered to the whole of me

Me : I know , I mean this perfection . The smile , being this on point . While you just sit there , and listen to people who are fucked up

Nonhle : in this reality world , there's no such thing as perfection Ayanda

Me : yeah , you're telling me . I've been married for 17 years , I have an amazing handsome son . The best thing ever to come out of my sham of a marriage , I'm not entirely stupid you know ?

Nonhle : stupid ? Hell no ! Ayanda you're anything but stupid

Me : but I can't let go of pain of years ago ,
small little things trigger me

She says nothing , I get up and walk to the
window

I just look outside , at the birds and these
trees

Me : he came home , two weeks back . And
he was smelling of some cheap perfume ,
my mother loved it .

Tears stream down my face

He didn't touch me that night , and it's like he knew what he had done. And just that by that stupid , cheap perfume smell . I went back ten steps

I find myself siting down on the carpet , letting out a cry

Me : I hate him , I hate him for doing this to us . I'm too damaged that even he couldn't help me , why the hell did he even try only to ditch me for the next better thing ? My hate for that man runs so deep , to the extent that I hate him for even marrying me. He knew , he knew everything . But he still went ahead and married me , he gave me hope that I'm worth to be a woman . That I'm worth to.....

I just break down , if only this much crying was going to take all this pain away

Me : he changed , and without him without his love I didn't feel any worthy at all . It didn't matter how beautiful I looked , or how smart I dressed up . What man was going to love me like he did , even though he knew ? So I just stopped , I stopped looking all beautiful because even he couldn't recognise that anymore .

Nonhle : please lay down , I don't want you passing out

She's weird , but what the hell . I lay down on my back

Tears are still streaming down my face ,
now trailing to the sides of my face

Me : do I still have time ?

Nonhle : just go on , I have all the time for
you

Placing my hand on my forehead , and it's
paining like hell

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Menzi

Mxo walks in with her mother , I don't get
the shock on their faces

Maybe it's because they've found me
home, which never happens

I guess since she has the car freely , she
went to pick him

He can never let me do that , but he loves his mother to the core

Me : what ?

Only now they move from the door

Them : nothing

Me : ah

Her eyes are bloodshot red , her cheeks don't even get started

Actually the whole face , and it's because she's back on this thing of hers

But I'm done , I can't help her so she can do whatever she wants

Me : Melusi came here

And only now she panics

Aya : I'msorry

The eye Mxolisi gives her , but she catches in on it

Aya : I was eager to get to my appointment, I totally forgot you said he's coming I'm sorry

Now he turns his eyes on me

I can't believe , we're putting up a show for
a child

But in all honesty , I am not angry . I'm even
surprised

When Melusi called and said there's no one
here , I just got in my car and drove home

I gave him the parcel and he left

Me : it's okay

He sighs , it's a sigh of relief . Maybe he was hoping that I would snap or something

Mxo : great !

He takes his school bag off

Mxo : mom , please make me a sandwich .
And add some of your love MaRhadebe

Me : MaDlamini

He laughs

Mxo : you're jealous of your bride price
COWS

He says going up the stairs , and she just passes to the kitchen

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INSERT 05

A MONTH LATER

Ayanda

I left early today , right after dropping
Mxolisi at school

I know he thinks he's old now , he doesn't
need to be babied

But he's the only child I have , and he's just
my sanity

I'm still seeing Nonhle , surprisingly Menzi still sends money in the card weekly

The card was for groceries , and things we need in the house

Now he's even increased the limit

He hasn't changed no , he's still himself .
And because he followed me

I moved back in the master bedroom , we still share a bed

And in this whole month , we only had sex once

Not that I needed there to be many times ,
it was fine anyways

I am still human , I may have been sexually
abused for years of my life

But that doesn't mean I don't have any
feelings

But I'm always just safe , Menzi is a
manwhore . He's busy out there

I could even get sick , so I don't take
chances there

I'm better , well I even look better . But I still have no desire to look my best

She looks at me , and I don't know if she's mocking me or what

But she looks like a damn mess , well a cleaner version of myself

No make up , no fancy clothes . She looks ugly , and that perfect smile is not there either

Me : he didn't shout , I missed something I guess it was important for him . Because he drove home , just to get it done himself

Nonhle : what did he say ?

Me : I apologized and he just said it's okay

She nods

Me : I don't know , maybe he could have done it for our son

Nonhle : how so ?

Me : Mxolisi looked at me , as I was apologising . It was a look of pity , and maybe his father saw it too

Nonhle : he's no longer the same , the same Menzi . The Menzi who saved that little 16 year old girl trapped in a marriage forced by her father

I chuckle

Me : he's not

Nonhle : but you're not the same Ayanda also

Me : I don't even know the real me , at 12 years my own father saw a tool to use for his sexual desires . At 16 he sold me to some stupid loan shark , because of a 1000 . A 1000 rands , just peanuts of money .

Fezile raped me day and night , and said that's the fate useless damaged goods like myself deserve . He lives in a row bedroom house. For a loan shark he was very poor to say the least , when he did what he wanted to do with me it gave him some masculine power . He felt like a man , but just like my father he was no man . And that day , I had enough . I couldn't take it anymore , that's when I stroked that knife deep in his chest and I ended his pathetic life

I wipe the tear that's falling down

Nonhle : he had been molesting you for months and months , you took it in . Just like you took your father for years , what changed that day ?

Me : he came back from wherever , and he wanted to do what he does . Only....only he wanted anal penetration . There was no way in hell , I was going to let a man degrade me like that

Nonhle : you weren't anticipating that he would want that , so the knife how did you get a hold of the knife ?

Me : usually , I would hide and it was stupid. Because it was in the house , and he would find me . That day , after he told me what he was going to do I ran into the kitchen . And he just let me , because he knew he had locked the door . And the knife was just there , I took a hold of it . As he came from the bedroom , he just came towards me

with pride as usual . Only I was ready for him , and he didn't even see me draw the knife . Until it was deep in his chest

After a few minutes of silence , I lift my head and look at her

She's just busy nodding her head

Nonhle : are you ready to talk about him ?

Me : no

I get up

Me : we're done for today

Nonhle : okay , I'll see you next time

I walk towards the door , I turn and look at her and she's smiling

Nonhle : did we leave anything out ?

Me : yeah , you're starting to look ugly .
Stop mocking me , it's not cute

She laughs and I walk out

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Buhle

I don't know , it's been a month . And yes I still see Menzi

But I think he's just leading me on , he's just different

He's cold to be honest , and I hate what he's doing to us

Because I do love him , I see a future with this man

But it's like he's just dragging his feet , and it's taking forever

Which is why , I've come up with a plan . I'll get pregnant , and he'll just be mine

There's nothing that nonsense of his can give him

Already their son is too old , and still no child after him

I know a new baby will get him excited , and he will finally see where and who he belongs with

I'm ovulating now , and I will keep him with me the whole weekend

Definitely I will be pregnant , by the time he goes back to that nonsense of his

I head to his office , and I don't knock . I just frown as I find him with Melusi

I don't like this guy , he just thinks he's all that and he's not

Menzi : can I help ?

See the attitude he's just addressing me with ? But it's fine , it's okay

I'll wipe it off , and he will know who the hell I am

Me : I.....are you busy ?

He just looks at me

Melusi : let me go

Thank goodness !

He gets up , and walks towards the door .
As he gets to me , he leans his head down

Melusi : stay the hell away from married
men !

He walks out , and I'm left startled by his
words

Menzi : are you going to come in ?

I gather myself and walk in , and I take a
seat

Menzi : is this business or pleasure ?

Me : love , do you love me ?

Menzi : where is that coming from ?

Me : please , just answer me

Menzi : of course I love you

Me : then please , come spend the weekend with me

Menzi : the whole weekend ?.

Me : Menzi , I don't know what do you want me to think . You said your divorce is getting finalized , yet it's been what 4 months now ?

Menzi : well these things take time

Me : why ? Is she fighting you ?

Menzi : it's 17 years of marriage , would you want to walk away empty handed ?

He gets up and comes to my side , he takes my hand

Menzi : she's always fighting me , always demanding more things . Obviously , I won't just give in . What does she have ? This is all my money and things . My only mistake , is that I married in community of property .

Me : okay , we'll get through this . And I'll be right here , I'm willing to wait . But please just spend the weekend with me

Menzi : weekend it is

I get up and just smash my lips on his

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INSERT 06

Ayanda

She looks better today

Is her usual normal stunning self ? No , but she looks better

Nonhle : what's going on ?

I just shrug my shoulders

Nonhle : still not ready to talk about him ?

Me : he didn't spend the weekend at home,
now that's not shocking . It's just what he's
used to

Nonhle : is it different from all the other
times ?

Me : I don't know

I heave a sigh , and she's blankly staring at
me

Me : he called

She nods

Me : he called , from Friday until Sunday .
He kept calling , and I don't understand why
he called

Nonhle : and did you answer him ?

Me : of course I did , but I know he doesn't
care enough . To check in on us , like he said
he was doing

Nonhle : no explanation of where he is ?.

Me : business trip , but it was lies right

Nonhle : you probably don't think , what I'm
thinking right now . So why don't we talk ,

about how he came into your life . If you're ready today

Me : well it turned out Fezile wasn't all that he thought he was , or what he made himself look like . He was not that powerful after all , he wasn't all that scary . Because he was running away from the likes of Menzi , and he had caught up to him that day . And that's how I got to meet him

I get up , and head to the window . I'm sure this place knows me by now

Me : he walked in , I still sitting down on the floor . With the bloody knife in my hand , and a dead Fezile next to me . I wasn't

scared , it's had been hours and hours . I didn't call for help , nor did I can anyone . This man walked in , and I remember for a good few minutes , he just looked at me and said nothing . It was father that , he took the knife from me . He places his jacket over my torn t-shirt , he got me up . And seeing the gas stove we were using , he poured that gas out . All of it , into the house and he burnt it down . While he got me into his car and he drove off

I turn back and face her

Me : for a whole week after leaving Eastern Cape , with a man I didn't know . And staying in his house in Joburg , I didn't even care he brought me here . We hadn't

said anything to each other , nor had he asked anything . But after a week , things were bad . I was very bad , he was forced now to spend a night in my bed . For some reason , for a sexually abused person . I wasn't scared of him , I actually appreciated having him calm me down when I would wake up screaming or crying . That went on, and it was a year later I fell for him . I fell very hard , and he wasn't there . But one night he just said , if I'm not be with you in any way romantically . Then I'm marrying you , I wasn't expecting that . Of course I refused , having been through what I've been through . There was no way , he was seeing me worth to be a wife to him . But he never stopped , and my feelings for him didn't go anywhere . I gave in , and we got

married . Oh life was good I won't lie , he did things I never thought anyone would do for me . He made me , and I'm who I am because of Menzi Dlamini . I'll give credit where it's due , because he didn't have to . He didn't owe me anything , but he did .

I smile , and it's genuine I'm not even forcing it

Me : three years into the marriage , and he asked for a child . And I was shocked , why would he ask for a child when we can just have one . But he was being considerate of the trauma , he had put one and one and figured it out himself . Postnatal depression hit , it was a tough time for us . But we saw

it through , and I knew this life wasn't about me but my son .

I sit back down

Me : it was one night , he came home and found me in a state with our son . He was only 4 years old then , he suggested therapy. I was for the idea , because I thought he was saying I was crazy . So this built up over the years , and I thought I could make it . But it got very bad with time, when things like a scent or even a simple thing my father or Fezile used to say would trigger me . He couldn't handle it anymore , our son was 11 then and that's when we came to see you

Nonhle : I think we should leave it here today , and the next time we will pick up on three years ago when we met

I'm tired , I'm hungry . So I won't force to go further

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Buhle

As the weekend is over , and we're back now to probably I won't see him much during the week

I'm happy I got what I wanted , and I just can't wait to do that pregnancy test

As soon as time allows , I will be the next Mrs Dlamini

And that nonsense will be out the door ,
she'll even regret messing with Menzi right
now

Busy fighting him for nonsense , women can
be an embarrassment

She doesn't want to accept that it's over , as
she should just move on and leave my man
alone

When love is gone , it's gone . And with
won't magically come back just like that

Nonsense needs to take a hike , and make
way for a new mommy

I rub my flag tummy , I can just feel it . This is it us , this is it

We need this baby to even strengthened our love even more

And now I , know it will be more stronger than ever

I can't wait for the day we both find out , he won't hesitate making a woman out of me

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Ayanda

I was supposed to go see Nonhle today , but
I just don't feel it

And I don't want to put myself under
pressure , I can go see her even if it's
tomorrow it's fine

Menzi walks in , he looks ready for work .
He came back yesterday

I don't know why he doesn't just stay where
he always is at

Because clearly that's where he loves being
at , he lives like some untamed grown man
right now

And it's annoying to say the least , if only I
could just open my mouth and tell him to
leave and never come back

Menzi : you are not going anywhere ?

And what's with the conversions he always tries to hold with me ?

Me : no

Menzi : oh ?

Me : why ...did you want me to go somewhere ?

Menzi : I.... thought you were going for therapy , I thought I could come with you

The devil lives , and he's right here in front of me

Just that he's light skinned , but never judge the devil by his skin

Me : youwhy ?

Menzi : just thought I could....I don't know , but it's okay if you have no sessions . I'll drive Mxo to school , and go to work maybe

Voice : no...no mommy has a session

He knows , but he really has no idea why I'm going to therapy

And that's not something I'm going to tell my son

Menzi : she does ?.

Mxo : yes , she does . It's right at 09:00

Menzi : she said she doesn't

They both look at me , the good thing my son ever did was taking after me

Me : I do , but I'm not going

Mxo : oh but mommy , you're going

Me : Mxolisi !

Mxo : please....please do it for me then

Me : for you ?.

Mxo : I love this you , I feel like this is working woman . Please don't slack , just because your feels don't allow you to embrace this change

I find myself laughing

On a serious note , what would I be without my son ?.

Me : okay

Menzi : I'll wait for you

I still don't get what he's doing , he didn't want me going there

And for a month now , I've been attending them alone

Suddenly he wants to come with

It's a good thing he knows from past experience , I don't hold back with Nonhle

Even with him there

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INSERT 07

Menzi

I don't know what has gotten into me , like I
have no idea

But since the whole month , I've just been
paying more attention

More than I've ever done in our entire
marriage

And I see this woman I married , like her
true self . Not what she showed me , or
what I wanted to see

She's coming out of that shell , and it's like now she's only being Ayanda

Not the 16 year old girl I saved , even though I don't think I did that

I just acted in the spur of a moment thing , and it made it easier that no one was going to miss Fezile

Not the 12 year girl , who was molested by her father . While her mother was crippled on a wheelchair and couldn't do anything

The woman was death , she was mute and couldn't walk

Which on my own I later found out on my own , that her father was responsible for that

But I never told my wife that , already she was dealing with her own things

And shortly after a I took her , she killed herself

Her father later had a stroke and was paralyzed , he's been in a home all these years

I saw no need in him dying , he's fine living like an invalid like that

Death is too easy , and it's too peaceful . He
doesn't deserve that

I'm no seeing the 11 year old , and younger
than that Ayanda

The woman she would have grown to be
and become

Had she not been through what she has
been though

And it's amazing to just see

I feel I messed up , when therapy got too hard for me by seeing her cry and loosing herself like that

I shouldn't have become one , I should have at least suggested she goes on it on her own

And I'll be the shoulder to cry on , when she comes back home

At first being with her it was just love that I don't even know how it came about

I was scared to even profess it , because I didn't want to come cross as taking advantage

But when I saw the feelings were mutual , I
opted for marriage

Because that's just how much of an honour
she deserved

But in everything else she lost herself so
much , and I lost bits of myself

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Ayanda

I thought he would say I'm kidding , but no .
He waited

And Mxolisi took a taxi to school today ,
apparently he was very happy to

We walk in the office , and Nonhle turns
from the window

Her eyes pop as she looks at us both

Nonhle : ah ! Good morning

Menzi just nods , he tends to be awkward at times

Nonhle : Mr Dlamini , I had no idea you were going to join us

Menzi : is it going to be a problem ?

She looks at me

Menzi : if it'll delay her progress , or disturb how far she's come . Then I can leave

Why is he being nice ?

Nonhle : I don't recommend it , but since Mrs Dlamini had no problem bringing you with . I think she's okay

He looks at me

Menzi : are you okay ?

What is he asking me ? His son put me on the spot. And he also seemed very eager to come

Me : yes , I'm okay

Nonhle : okay then

We all sit down

Nonhle : would you like to start where we left off yesterday ?

If I don't or I say no , it'll come across somehow

And I don't want to hold or restrict myself now , just because Menzi is here

Me : it's fine

I get up , going to sit on my spot by the window

Me : see the way I felt that he saved me ,
and gave me new home and a meaning on
life . And he made me feel worth to be a
woman

I take my shoes off , and fold my legs

Me : the therapy did things for us , and
everything was brought out in the open .
Wounds that have been plastered were
opened afresh , and he got to hear and
things he didn't . That I assume was hard on
him as well , but I was too ignorant to that

Nonhle : too ignorant ? What do you mean?

Me : I mean , what husband will listen to such . And still be on the same bed with his wife , and be okay ? I expected a lot from him , and he could only do so much . For me it was all just about me , and I disregarded him . I never knew how he felt , about everything he heard in this room . It was all just about him being there , and making sure that after crying and being distant for days I was okay . I was very selfish to to say the least

Nonhle : are you saying , is that why perhaps he stopped you from going into therapy ? Because he couldn't handle what was being said , and having to be a pillar every time after every therapy sessions . While all this was heavy on him as well ?

Me : yes , well that's what I think . I don't know , maybe he thought talking to him would be much better . But I think that teared us apart even more

Nonhle : how so ?

Me : I'll go back to saying , how could he be okay himself hearing all those things about his wife ? And I wasn't paying him any attention , so his own toll must have became much worse talking to him about everything . And I don't know , maybe he felt neglected and yet I was too demanding. That's when everything changed , slowly he became distant

A tear drops down my cheek

Nonhle : and when you noticed he was distant , did you maybe think there's something lacking ?

Me : no

Nonhle : no ?

Me : I was so caught up in myself , and in my own pain .

Nonhle : Ayanda are you saying you're also responsible for the wedge that has been

there in your marriage , the past three years?

Me : yes , I was so consumed that I saw he was slipping away . But instead of trying to stop that , I made it about myself again . That he's changed on me , that he doesn't care anymore . Maybe she's seen someone better out there , I stopped caring and giving a damn about myself .

Nonhle : you got rid of the perfect dimpled smile , the formal wear and heels . The weaves and all of that

I just turn my head facing them

Menzi has his eyes stared right at me . With just a blank stare

And Nonhle has on a smile , on her face

Me : all that perfection

Nonhle : you cooped Ayanda in a shell just for Mr Dlamini , and when all that changed you let go of all that . Because it was never for you , but for him

Now I can't stop these damn tears , but it's the admission to admitting my flaws in all of this

Me : I thought.....I guess I just portrayed him to never change .

Nonhle : but he did , and you drove him there

Menzi : can you just not say things like to her !

He doesn't sound happy

Nonhle : I said you drove him to change

Me : I know that

Nonhle : he was your pillar yes , but you're right you were selfish . He took parts of you abuse , because of the love he has for you . And that hurt him , so much that in the process he lost the ground for this marriage

Me : if the pillars walls , are neglected they tend to fall .

Now seeing my damage , it's really taking a lot from me admitting this

I failed Menzi , I failed our marriage . And my pain doesn't excuse that

Me : can we please stop here today

Nonhle : of course

I wipe my tears , and before I know it
getting up he's here helping me up

And doesn't he engulf me in a hug ? I'm
even scared to hug him back

Because I don't even remember when it
was the last time he held me in his arms

Menzi : I'm proud of you

He says pulling out of the hug

Why am I smiling ?

Nonhle : a dimpled smile not forced , it's also a perfection

This one ! At least she dresses better now

Menzi : shall we go ?

I nod , he takes my hand and we get to the door I turn back and look at Nonhle

Me : remember I once said I am who I am because of him ?.

Nonhle : yes

She smiling

Me : remember I once said I'm not complete idiot ?

Nonhle : you did

Me : it was the truth , I'm a qualified professional surgeon . And it's all because of him , he didn't let me be without an education

She pops her eyes , I could laugh my ass off.
But I'm tired and drained

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Menzi

I thought after all these years , I can handle
the tears better

But today , they were something else . That
really just pierced me

She really is better , and I am proud of how far she came without me

The truth in everything she just says

That doesn't excuse my behaviour , I am a piece of shit . And she doesn't deserve such

A real man , would have left . Or fought harder , but I chose the cowardly way

I couldn't fight , that failed me miserably .
And I couldn't leave , I love my wife

You don't just get to throw that many years of marriage away

I don't live for that shit protect your peace ,
it's not about years

I still believe and still do , that one day
maybe someday we will be fine

I will never walk out of my marriage
completely , I just never would

It's fucked up , that I had to go outside . And
do the shit I'm doing , it doesn't even
excuse me

For the first time ever , in 17 years I'm
feeling all kinds of emotions

I feel like breaking down

We arrive home , and I open the door for her . She gets out , and sees that I'm remaining behind

I shake my head slightly

Me : I'm not going anywhere , I'm coming in a second

She walks off going inside , I lean back on my seat . Placing my hand on my face , and tears just stream down

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INSERT 08

Menzi

I walk in the house , and I don't know see
her anywhere

I walk in our room , still I don't see her .
Now I don't know where she is

My phone rings , and it's Buhle . You'd
swear she's the boss

And I'm the employee , the way she's just
on my case

Me : don't ever call me when I'm home ever again , even if you're dying

I answer and drop the call , I throw the phone on the bed and head to the bathroom

I take a quick shower , just to relieve myself of today and it's emotions and everything else

Walking out of the shower , I find her in the bedroom . She's lotioning herself sitting on the bed

With just a towel wrapped around her , I guess she took a bath

Me : hey

She lifts her eyes

Aya : hey

Me : are you okay ?

Aya : yeah

She gets up

Aya : you look like you've been crying

I just chuckle , walking closer to her . I hold her on her waist , she looks into my eyes

I lean down giving her a kiss , and she welcomes it

I trail my hands to her boobs , she lets out a slight moan in my mouth

I unwrap the towel , and it just falls down .
My thumbs rub on her nipples

My hard dick throbs on her lower waist , her hands trail to my lower back

I pick her up , and lay her down on the bed
getting in between her thighs

She parts them further accommodating me
better

I slide my finger inside of her , and she's wet
enough . I slowly slide my dick inside

She pulls out of the kiss , clinging her arms
on my neck

As I take slow deep thrusts in and out of her

She doesn't move her stare away from me ,
we lock eyes

In between briefly sharing passionate kisses

I flip her over , and she gets on top of me .
Slowly moving her waist

I cup her boobs , rubbing on her nipples
with my thumb

She leans down , cupping my face and
capturing my lips into hers

I trail my hands , to her ass slightly lifting
her ass up

As I deep thrusts underneath her , picking
up my pace

She pulls out of the kiss , her moans increase as she orgasms

My dick slowly comes out of her , as I cum and she leans back down giving me a kiss

We break the kiss , and I cuddle her she lays her head on my chest closing her eyes

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Buhle

Who the hell does Menzi think he is ?
Talking to me like that

And dropping my call just like that !

He doesn't know what he's playing with ,
like that was just disrespect

And after that , he wasn't taking any of my
calls back

It might be too early , but I'll get that pregnancy test . And I know it'll come back positive

If not , a doctor will do . One of the two will detect

Without a doubt , this will get him to pick up his socks

And know there's someone better coming , whom he needs to get his priorities right for

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Ayanda

I wake up , still in his arms and my face
buried on his neck

We're facing each other , his hand holding
tightly on my back

I slowly move , he lazily opens his eyes . We lock eyes for a few minutes of silence

Menzi : uyaphi ? (Where are you going ?

Me : to cook something , Mxo will be back soon

Menzi : he can make something for himself

Me : he's lazy , he will starve

He gives me a few pecks

Menzi : I'll order for him

I don't know what I'm doing right now ,
being here for this man

Maybe because I can see he's not okay
emotionally

I go back to the sleeping position I was in

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Buhle

I called Bontle over , I just needed someone
here with me

I don't know why , because it doesn't
matter what it says

I know that man is mine , and I'll keep him
either way

Bontle : you're seriously doing this ?

Me : don't discourage me please

Bontle : how long ago were you intimate with this man ?

Me : weekend

She laughs

Bontle : it's been a few days , and not even a week . And already you're doing tests ?

Me : well , it's either this or I let that man play on my head

She shakes her head , taking a sip of her wine

Bontle : you're too desperate and it's not attractive

Me : fortunately for me , I am not looking to be attracted to anyone . I just need to keep this one man , and if this is how I do it .
Then so be it

Bontle : take your thingy , it's been a while

Me : please take look at it

She laughs

Bontle : I'm not touching your pee , do it yourself

Some friend she is

I take the pregnancy stick , taking a deep breath before I look at it

Bontle : you're not pregnant

I look at her , only to look back on the stick

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Ayanda

I needed the sleep , now my body feels fine

Maybe it's the shower , and I just feel
refreshed

I find Mxolisi in this kitchen , he has a packet of lays and a glass of coke

Now I feel so bad

Mxo : you're alive ?

Me : why wouldn't I be ?

Mxo : I long arrived three hours ago , and you were nowhere .

Me : I...I was upstairs

Mxo : woman ! You must have forgotten about me today

Me : no I did not , did you find your food ?

Mxo : oh yeah I did

At least he ate

Me : so this is just a snack ?

Mxo : MaRhadebe I'm awaiting your food ,
an hour after those takeaways I was hungry

I laugh

Mxo : please make something quick , even if
it's mince and spaghetti . And some extra
cheese will do

Voice : I don't understand why your mother is babying you at your age

He turns back and the expression on his face it's crazy

But I don't blame him , his father is home .
And clearly not in formal clothes

Mxo : you're....you're home Sibal'khulu

Menzi : mhm

Mxo : okay , okay I see

He turns and looks at me , I'll rather focus on cooking for him

Than even wanting to know exactly what is it that he's seeing

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INSERT 09

Buhle

What a waste of a pregnancy test !

The damn thing can back with an error ,
there was nothing there

Not even an inclusive , just a damn error

Now I don't even feel like taking any , I'll
just go see a doctor when I get the time

I'm pilled up with work , and there's no
break for me today

I so baldy want to go see Menzi , and ask
him about his attitude yesterday

But every second counts , I guess I'll see him
when I get the time

Since he now has a problem with me calling him at home

Could be that nonsense of his , maybe she's threatening him

And he can't afford to lose on the divorce

If it means we have to play things safe , then so be it

This better be the excuse he has , for what he said and that attitude

Or else we'll have serious problems

He can't just use me , and toss me aside like
some uses tissue

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Ayanda

I've been napping half the day

It's quite around the house today , just like
how it has always been for me

Not that I'm bothered now by it , but it does
feel strange in a way

And that's until Mxolisi walks in , back from
school

I look at the time , and he's very much early

Me : please return back

He laughs

Mxo : honestly , I won't lie I didn't attend study

Me : Mxolisi Dlamini !

Mxo : MaRhadebe , you can fight me later .
Can you come with me right now

Me : where to ?

Mxo : please lets go , and you'll see

Me : I'm not going anywhere , unless you tell me

Mxo : mommy please , I haven't asked for anything much except your cooking . Please don't hurt me

Okay yes ! I do baby him

Me : fine , but we better be back for dinner

Mxo : yes , yes

I get up

Me : we need the car ?

Mxo : yes we do

Me : and you're not going to change ?

Mxo : no I'm not , we're working on time

Me : right

I take the car keys , and drive out

Me : you'll tell me where we are going

Mxo : trust me

Only because he's my baby

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Menzi

We're locked in my office , because I don't want Buhle in here

Melusi just rocked up , as much as he works for me

He's like the brother I've never had , and we do talk even on a personal level

Melusi : what's eating you ?

Me : you know I love my wife right ?

He smiles

Melusi : I know , in fact you're in love with that woman

I chuckle

Me : I fucked up

He nods

Melusi : sure you did big time

Me : after her therapy session yesterday ,
we got intimate . And for the first time in I
don't know how long , I held her in my
arms . And it was the most best feeling ever

He chuckles

Melusi : what exactly are you telling me ?

Me : that I'm scared .

He tilts his head

Melusi : of what ?.

Me : we've always had sex once in a while ,
yesterday was different . And I got to know
that , it doesn't change anything . It doesn't
mean we're back together , that we're okay

I get up

Me : I'm going to lose my wife

Melusi : hey man , what are you talking
about ?

I shake my head slightly

Me : I fucked up , and I don't know how to fix this . And this is not something she won't stand

Melusi : don't say that Ayanda loves you

Me : maybe she did

It pierce my heart saying this

Me : her pain just intensified , as I was busy walking away

He sighs

Melusi : can I just take you out for a beer ? I really can't stand this right now , what are you without that woman ?

Me : what the fuck am I going to do ? How do I fix this ? Can I even fix it , like do I stand a chance to ?

Melusi : I don't know you like this , man I've never seen you cry . And this is how you make me witness it ?

I chuckle

Melusi : let's go get drunk , and you can cry then . Right now you're making me sad , and it's not a good thing

Me : you go get drunk , I have work to do

Melusi : not going to work , what you're doing won't work . You want me out of your sight , so you can cry ? I won't let that happen , sure you fucked up . But that doesn't mean you deserve to be stoned

This is not even self pity , it's just fear creeping in there and it's just fucking doing the most right now

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Ayanda

As we walk in the mall , he begged me to go to the salon

Of course I didn't want to , but he wasn't hearing any of that

I went and had my hair done , and he got them doing my nails and brows

A touch of face beat , he's just making me suspicious

As if we have somewhere important to go

I don't know when last I did my hair of nails, never mind applying make up

Now we head to a clothing store , he just takes a big basket . And I'm wondering what's going on ? Because I wasn't told that he needs anything

And I left the card at home

Me : what are we doing here ?

Mxo : buying you outfits

Me : what ?

Mxo : yeah , let's go . We still have a lot of things to do

Me : what things ?

Mxo : get your clothes , and then we can go

Me : Mxolisi....

Mxo : mommy please , I will get down on my knees and beg if you want . But please , just trust me . Fill this basket , and we'll be out of here .

Me : who's paying for all this ?

Mxo : I am

Me : with what money ? Because I know you don't have this much money

Mxo : but your husband does

My heart sinks

Me : you have your father's card ?

He nods , I sigh slightly shaking my head

Me : baby !

I hold his hand

Me : your father gives you that card , to use for yourself and

Mxo : please don't make me feel bad , it's his money yes . But this is my doing , and

my effort . I'm doing this out of love , I want you happy . And being your old self again

He looks at me

Mxo : I am not ashamed of you , and I'll never be . Don't even think this is why I'm doing this , but I know you mom . I know the woman you used to be , the woman who was always on point even when in her house . Now you're just comfortable , and that's not who you are . See dad went to therapy with you , that's his way of helping or pitching in I guess . And I also want to pitch in , just like him . And this is my way , to also helping you picking up pieces of yourself you lost . I might not know what happened , but I saw you lose yourself

everyday yet still being the best mother you can be to me . And now you're slowly finding yourself , let me be the best son I can be to you as well

He tears up , and this could be just to get me to agree to this

But I don't ever want to see my son cry , I embrace him

Me : okay , let's buy clothes

He chuckles , and it hasn't been a minute

Mxo : the things you make me so woman

He wipes his tears so dramatic

Mxo : don't give me those eyes , I meant every word . The intention wasn't to cry , but touching on what a great mother you've been just got to me .

He takes a deep breath , and I wonder if I'm still to take him serious even after this

Mxo : lets go

I have nothing to counter with , we get the outfits . And when we're done he pays

Now I see , it's really the card his father gives him once in a while

I just hope Menzi doesn't kill me and my son for this

I ask him about the dinner , he says it's just us two

And I ask you change in their fitting room .
I'm going into a restaurant with my son

The least I can do , is look decent .

I just put on knee ripped skinny jeans , loose long sleeve pink summer blouse . And pink sneakers

The weave is straight , so it's no hassle doesn't need to be fixed

Doesn't he go crazy flashing his phone at me , as soon as I come out

Pants make me look younger than my age , they usually used to be a causal thing for me

Mxo : whatever Sibal'khulu said in his prayers , I want it exactly . Not less not more

Me : your father doesn't know how to pray ,
don't insult God

He burst out laughing , as we head to the
car . Placing the bags

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INSERT 10

Menzi

The notifications on my phone , I sure
ignored them

Because I know my wife's size , I wasn't even amazed at all

Knowing the card was with Mxo , and knowing his mother

I know he's just probably the one who initiated that

She would never , I mean even from the beginning of our marriage

Ayanda would never use or take anything of mine without asking

Even if it's money , that's why I ended up giving him the card

So she stops asking me for such things as money , and I come across as a stingy husband

And I could see the difference last night , she looked beautiful

Her hair done , and her nails . This morning she woke up , and dressed well after her bath

For the first time in years , she did her make up

I didn't even think she still had her make up kit , and she hasn't lost her touch

I found myself just speechless , not knowing what to say or do

I was just quite , because I didn't know how to even react

She had me captured , she is mesmerizing I don't want to lie

Buhle walks in , I'm at work in my office .
But I'm hardly even getting anything done

Buhle : Babe

I look at her , she pulls the chair opposite me and sits down

Buhle : there's something I need to tell you

Me : what ?

Buhle : I think I'm pregnant

I just stare at her

Buhle : did you hear me ?

Me : yeah

Buhle : and won't you say anything ?

Me : say what ? You said you think you're pregnant , what am I supposed to say there?

Buhle : at least be happy , or give me some assurance

Me : on a think ?

She frowns , I'm sure her idiotic brain missed that one

Me : what makes you think you're pregnant?

Buhle : well , I did take a test

Me : and it was positive ?

Buhle : not exactly , but I'll need to go as a doctor . It's just too early right now , I might have to wait a month at least

Me : okay

Buhle : why are you so calm ?

Me : am I supposed to be freaking ?

She gets up shaking her head viciously

Buhle : you better not be playing me Menzi,
I still don't appreciate how you talked to
me. And the attitude you had towards me

Me : and you watch yourself right now , I'm
not your friend

Buhle : Babe....

Me : get out I need to work

Buhle : but....

Me : now would be nice

She sighs and walks out

Ayanda

It's been a few days , and Menzi just looks awkward

I don't know why , he's even acting awkward and all

He's gone quite again , but he's home every night for dinner

And he doesn't leave the house without eating now

Me : are you okay ?

Why I'm asking I don't know , it's a Saturday and he's still in bed

I'm meeting with Lerato , so after making breakfast for them I am leaving

Menzi : no

Okay ! That's a first , I thought he will just tell me where to get off

Me : what's wrong ?

Menzi : I know we're far from being okay , that I don't even know if we'll ever be okay .

Me : what are you saying ?

Menzi : that I'm scared , I'm going to lose you

I nod slightly

Me : can I ask you something ?

Menzi : anything

Me : have you worked on yourself ? Before even the consideration of us being fine again , if we'll ever be . Because I am working on myself now , more than I am on anything else

He just stares at me , and I think we've come this far . Not sure if we can take it further

If there's still women in this , I won't fight . There's no way I'll stoop that low to fight another woman for a man .

Even if the man is my husband

We can fix ourselves and be okay yes , but
the other woman will always linger

And I don't want to lose myself like that
again

I walk out to the kitchen , and I make
breakfast for them

He might not even eat it , but it's fine . I
know Mxolisi will

I leave , and arriving at the restaurant
Lerato has already arrived

I order breakfast , and she just goes on and on about how happy she is to see me this way

Me : tell me where is your brother ?

She laughs

Lerato : they're all still single , but you know you can take either

Me ; I am talking about Thabo

Lerato : oh he's still single too , and residing in Sandton

Me : can you get me his contact

The eyes she gives me !

Lerato : his email address ? Maybe his social media account , or better yet his number ?

I laugh

Me : will you help me ?

Lerato : of course , you're brave for approaching a man like this

I laugh , she ends up laughing as well giving me Thabo's number

Menzi

It's been a few days , and I'm still struggling to come into terms with things myself

While she seems to be doing very well , and I'm happy about that

She still goes to therapy , in just hiding myself in work

I don't know

I haven't seen Buhle since that pregnancy nonsense she said

I'm in the office , and my office phone rings.
It's reception I answer

Me : hello

Receptionist : Sir Mrs Dlamini is here to see you

I get up on my feet , it's shock ! She's never come to my work place like ever

Me : bring her

I drop the call , I'm still on my feet . And in a minute , there's a knock the door

I head to open , and it's her . Our eyes lock , she looks damn stunning

In an olive green tight formal dress , a white blouse and olive green heels . She has her weave tied

I make way for her , she walks in . The receptionist walks away , I don't even know her name

Me : this is a nice surprise

She smiles , I take her hand leading her to my desk . And we both sit down , on the chairs next to each other

Me : what brings you by ?

I hope it's not because of that talk we left unfinished , a few days ago

Aya : I think we should get a divorce

All emotions go out the window , I look at her and for some reason I believe what she's saying

But I wish she didn't say it , nor I believe that she's serious about it

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INSERT 11

Ayanda

He takes my hand into his , I hold tight on his hand

Me : I thought long and hard about this

Menzi : MaDlamini not a divorce please , now is the time we should be working on each other

Me : not without you working on yourself , and what you have done

Menzi : I know that , and ...I'm willing

Me : I don't have money for a lawyer , and I can't afford one even if I like . So I'm asking

you to start it , and don't fight me on anything . I don't want nothing , not your money not anything . Even the house , I'll move out and...

Menzi : that's our family home , why are you breaking us ?

Me : your cheating is what's breaking us

He sighs

Menzi : isn't that a thing of the past ?

Me : how can it be the past , when you still have women calling your phone off the hook like that ?

Menzi : what ?

Me : you might be sleeping home , but I know it isn't over . I can't be trying to be okay , and give myself to you . Yet there's still that

Menzi : I said I'm willing to fix that , why are you doing this ? MaDlamini please , anything but a divorce

Me : if you were willing as you say you are , we shouldn't even be talking about this

Menzi : but.... It's still too early , we're still figuring us

Me : the second there's even a possibility , you should have fixed it

He looks down

Menzi : 17 years of marriage , and there's never been talks about a divorce

Me : the thing is I love you , I just didn't care. But now I care , more than anything else . If I want to proudly say , you're my husband . I don't want to look like an idiot saying that

I lift his chin with my fingers

Me : I am sorry , I am so sorry about everything that I have done . Being so selfish , hurting you in the progress . Pushing you away , and for my negligence . Please Sibal'khulu , find it in your heart to forgive me

He wipes my tear with his thumb

Menzi : I forgive you , I really do

Me : let's have a peaceful one , I can't afford to fight you

Menzi : not....

The door opens and this woman walks in ,
she frowns looking at us

But she walks closer anyways , we don't let
go of each other's hands

Menzi : why didn't you knock ?

He's annoyed

Her : I.....

Her scent , it's the cheap perfume smell

Menzi : I'm talking with my wife , walk out .
And next time you walk into my office ,
knock

Her eyes glisten , and without a doubt . It's
her , and she's been promised more than
she has been given

Me : it's her isn't it ?

I look at Menzi

Me : she's the one you've been seeing , her
cheap scent . It's what always triggered me

The shame on his face

Menzi : Buhle leave

Me : it's okay , I've said my piece . Please Sibal'khulu , let's not fight .

Her : does she know that I'm pregnant , with your child ? And why are you acting like the divorce is not in process

My heart bleeds , I don't know if it's because of the baby , or the divorce

Me : you got her pregnant ?

He gets up , and pushes her out screaming and crying

I'm just still on the chair , he locks the door and comes back

He gets down on his knees , taking both of my hands into his

Menzi : it is her , but I don't love her . It was just sex , and it doesn't excuse me . Because you've never deprived me of sex , even when things were tough

Me : which means it's more

He shakes his head

Menzi : no , it wasn't more .

Me : don't speak about it in the past ,
you're still together . See why it's best we
divorce ? We have hurt each other , we
shouldn't keep doing it

Menzi : I'm sorry , I'm really sorry I did this
to us

Me : it's okay , it's okay . I don't know how
you're going to tell your son , you're
bringing a child into our home

Menzi : she's not pregnant

Me : are you saying she's lying ?

Menzi : I have never cummed inside of her , like never . You know me , a pull out is never a problem to me . That's how I never got you pregnant for three years of our marriage , you know this . I always pulled out , there's no way she's pregnant with a child that mine

He's right about the pull out thing , I was always scared . But he always assured me

And indeed , three years passed with the pull out game no child

Until he asked for one , and the first stroke . It was a catch

Menzi : tell me what to do , I'll do it . I've wronged you , and I'm willing to do anything

I smile

Menzi : that smile breaks me

I laugh , he kisses my hands

Menzi : think about this please

Me : how long ?

Menzi : a week

Me : make it two

He chuckles

Menzi : two weeks

Me : and if I still say a divorce after two weeks , you'll give it to me ?

He laughs

Menzi : it'll be my time to think

Me : now you're just fooling me , please get off your knees and I forgive you

Menzi : lets go eat

Me : I should go home , and cook for my baby

Menzi : we'll bring him something back , and you can make him something light

I guess I have no choice here , he gets up and takes his phone and car keys

Menzi : let's go

We walk out , holding hands . And passing reception there's that woman

The evil eye she gives me , but I don't care about her

And I know Menzi is not lying when he says she's not pregnant

We get to his car , it's a good thing I took an Uber here

Menzi : where to ?

He loves the finer things in life , I know he probably wants a fancy restaurant but that's not me

Me : anywhere you want

Menzi : steers , I know their beef burger will do for you

Me : you don't even like Burgers

We laugh

Menzi : I know you don't like fancy places , remember the first official date I took you . Was a at a taxi rank , MaDlamini you're really a farm girl . Not even Joburg , changed you

Me : ouch

He leans over and pecks my lips

We get to the mall , he parks the car . We get out , and walk into steers

Menzi : I'm going to enjoy a burger with you today

I laugh as we get a table , and sit down. He orders three beef burgers , a coke for me and sprite for him

We each take a burger , and we share the third one in half

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Buhle

Men are dogs , they're fucking dogs and full of shit

How dare he uses me like that , and dare lie to me like that

Bontle : I don't get why you're even crying

She's useless being here , she's not helping
at all

And she might as well not be here

Me : he lied !

Bontle : of course he lied , all married men
lie

Me : I love him

I take the bottle of wine and down it

Bontle : mucus and tears , not a good sight for a lady

Me : There's no divorce ! No divorce , his eyes said it all before his wife could even be shocked about it

And I just break down , reliving that whole office incident

Me : he can't get away from this , no he just can't

Bontle : don't do anything stupid.

I stagger getting up to get , another bottle .
But I fall back flat on my ass

Bontle : you're really overdoing this now ,
women who cry over men annoy me

She won't get it , she just won't get it .

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Menzi

She's happy and laughing , I don't even remember when it was the last time she laughed like this

We walk in , and Mxolisi is nowhere to be found in sight

Aya : I hope he's not asleep

Me : not at this time

We walk in the kitchen , and put his food in the warmer

Aya : coffee ?

I nod , she makes me a cup . And gets started cooking for her baby

Me : kodwa MaDlamini , this divorce . I don't want it

She turns her head and looks at me

Voice : divorce ?

Shit ! Why doesn't he have timing

Mxo : you're getting a divorce ?

We just look at him

Mxo : ma ! (Mom)

He raises his voice

Me : Mxolisi watch your tone when you talk to my wife , and the mother of my child

Mxo : divorce ?

He's clearly not hearing me

Mxo : this had better be some sick joke , I did not ask to be born . So you're not going to make me live in a dysfunctional family , there's no divorce that's going to happen here

I want to burst out laughing , there's no divorce here

Mxo : is that a steers burger I smell ?

He walks to the food warmer and takes his food out

Mxo : mommy I'll be back for seconds

He walks out into the lounge

Aya : wipe that smile off

I laugh

Aya : it's not funny

Me : he doesn't want a divorce either

Aya : you have two weeks

Me : and I'll still be thinking after that

She laughs

Aya : please get away from my face

Me : I'll take a second with him too

I take my cup of coffee , go to her side . I
kiss her cheek , and walk into the lounge

He's done eating the burger

Me : where does all this food go ?

Mxo : I have good metabolism

I chuckle , and it's not like I have any meat
either

I sit down next to him

Mxo : don't give her the divorce , she won't use your own money to divorce you

Me : who said she started it ?

Mxo : I know my mother okay , and I really do refuse to be raised by divorced parents . Living separately , you guys brought me here without my ask . There's no way you're going to disrupt my life , this is all about me. Fix whatever you have to fix , as for me I'm being selfish right now . And I'm making this about me , if you can't stay together for yourself . You'll do it for me

And he goes to watching sports , like he didn't just utter all of that to me

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Ayanda

He sucks hard on my neck , rubbing my nibbles

I cling my hands tight on his back , as he deep groans against my neck

My walls close in , and he's too tight deep in

Me : mhm.....pull out

He deep chuckles , slowly pulling out . And the way his cum is dripping

I know he nutted inside of me

He lifts his head we lock eyes before we
kiss, for a few minutes

Me : I thought you can pull out

He laughs

Menzi : stop mocking me , you know I'm the
shit

Me : let me sleep

Menzi : did you hear what he said to me ?

I nod , there wasn't too much sound from the lounge . So I heard everything , Mxo said to his dad

Me : can I sleep ?

Menzi : come on top , I'll get heavy for you

He flips me over , I get on top of him . And sleep just takes over

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INSERT 12

Menzi

Now this is my possibility , and she said it

I might have not been paying attention , but
I damn heard her loud and clear

And one thing that's not happening , is me
loosing my wife

Not because of Buhle , not to divorce or
anything

And that stupid stunt she pulled there ,
saying all that nonsense

When I know very well , that there's no way
I got her pregnant

Honestly even with the shit we've been
though , if my wife pops up with a
pregnancy

I wouldn't even question it , because there
were times I did cum inside of her

But not Buhle , I am not that stupid .
Cheating on its own is bad

But bringing a bastard child at home , now
that's taking it too far

And for someone , that I know for a fact
that she's angry at me

I didn't think she would care to knock , but
what she's done annoyed me

And I'm still angry even now , there's no
going past anything with her

I want to fix my family right now , and make
things right with my wife

Me : what do you want ?

Buhle : how can you hurt me so much ?
When I love you

Me : I'm a married man , this is not movies
but real life

Buhle : what is that supposed to mean ?

Me : when have you ever heard of a married man , cheating for love ?

Buhle : you used me Menzi , have you no shame ?

Me : no I don't , the only shame is cheating on my wife

Buhle : you can't just discard me and your child , just like....

Me : there's no child here stop pissing me off , and if there is . You'll kill that thing

She gaps

Buhle : thing ?

Me : I don't fucking want it , you should be glad that I actually know for a fact that it's not there . Otherwise , I was gonna have it taken out of you

Buhle : I hate you , and I hope you know karma is a bitch and never misses an address

Me : okay , now leave . If you still value your job , we're past the side chick stage now . Watch your tone with me

Buhle : no wonder that nonsense of yours ,
has stuck out with you for years . You two
deserve each other , her stupidity suits you
just fine

And the second it clicks that she's actually
talking about my wife

I'm on my feet in seconds , I push her face
so hard against the desk

That she nose bleeds , like fucking crazy .
Lifting her head , my hand goes to her
throat

She tries to fight me off , he's feet are
slightly off the floor

It's hard gasping for breath for her , she keeps opening her mouth but nothing is coming out

The door opens and Melusi comes charging at me

He pushes her by force off my grip , and she falls down flat on her ass

She's crying , coughing . And she's backing to a corner

Her eyes don't drift away from mine

Melusi : not like this

I turn my head and look at him

Melusi : you were seriously going to kill her,
in your office like that ?

Me : she can say shit all she wants to me ,
but not at my wife

He shakes his head looking at her

Melusi : what did I tell you about married
men ?

She has her hand on her throat

Melusi : you and I , are going to have a little talk

Me : I'm leaving

Melusi : I'll get someone to come and clean this

I grab my phone , and car keys . I know he won't leave anyone in my office alone

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Ayanda

I take out the red dress , red is not even my favourite colour

But I think this one will do , with the red bottoms

I get dressed , and they go perfectly . This dress fits my body like a glove

Mxo : where are you going ?

He says coming after me , I'm sitting down on my dressing table doing my make up

Me : out

Mxo : not with your husband

That's a statement

Me : no

He laughs

Mxo : you look beautiful

Me : thank you

He walks out still laughing , I hope he doesn't tell his father go lock me in this house

I finish up , and I must say . I look at my best

My phone beeps , I check the text and it's from Thabo

It's the name of the restaurant we're meeting at

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Menzi

I walk in , finding Mxo in the lounge

Me : Sibal'khulu

Mxo : your wife is looking all kinds of flames, and dangerous in red

Me : where is she ?.

Mxo : in your room

I go to our room , as I get to the door . She's standing in front of the mirror

She looks stunning , and everything just screams and smells romantic

I walk in slowly , I don't know but my heart is breaking

Even when she sees me she doesn't move an inch , I stand right behind her

Me : hey

I kiss her neck , placing my hands on her tummy

Me : please don't hurt me like this
MaDlamini

She releases a sigh , I lift my head and peck her cheek

Me : you're going out ?.

She slowly nods

Me : another man is going to see you like this tonight , he's going to touch you

I turn her slowly and we face each other

Me : please don't hurt me like this , I am not strong . I won't be able to take it , I swear we will die .

Aya : you cheated , who threatened to kill anyone ?

Me : when men cheat it's just sex , women cheat for much deeper things . It's feelings ,

it's love it's attention and all of that .
Including affection , I won't stand by when
another man has all of that with my wife .
Don't do this to us , we didn't agree on an
open marriage , while we think . So please

She says nothing for about a full minute , I
lean down and give her a kiss

She gladly returns , that's until her phone
rings and she's pulls out of the kiss

Aya : I have to go

Me : no

Aya : I'll see you when I get back

Me : please don't do this

She gets off my grip , taking her small bag .
She kisses my cheek and walks out

For a few minutes , I'm just stuck on the
same spot

Then I head to the shower , when I'm done I
go downstairs

Mxolisi is still in the lounge , I sit opposite
him

Mxo : you let her go ?

Me : who is she going to meet ?

Mxo : I don't know , I don't even know
where she's going

I nod , it's hard to even ignore this pain I'm
feeling right now

Mxo : let's eat something

He goes into the kitchen , and comes back
with food and we eat

Two hours go by , still nothing . I keep checking my phone , and at some point I find myself calling her

But I drop the call before it even rings

Mxo : I'm going to sleep

I nod

Mxo : dad please sleep , it's late

Exactly it's late , so why isn't she back ?

Mxo : please

Me : yeah

He sees I'm not getting up , he just sighs

Mxo : goodnight , please don't stay here the whole night go sleep

He walks away , I'm left all alone . In my head I'm like , is she okay and safe where she is ?

But my heart is saying something else

I'm really fucked up right now

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INSERT 13

Ayanda

It's exactly 23:00 , when I walk inside the house

The TV is off , and so are all the lights .
Except the lounge light

Poor man , he's sleeping on the couch .
Looks like he was waiting

I take off my heels so I don't wake him up

I walk up stairs and check on Mxo , he's in bed and sound asleep

I go back down , he's not even covered . I take the throw from the other couch

He really was waiting , but sleep always creeps in and wins

I slowly get on top of him , he's sleeping facing up

I don't even know how he manages to sleep like this

Like doesn't he have bad dreams and all that ?

But I guess he doesn't , I move swiftly not to wake him up

And he's just shocking me today , because I know he's not a deep sleeper

He should have long been awake by now , I just cover us

Laying my head on his chest , closing my eyes . Hoping sleep finds me soon

It's been a long night , but it was so worth it

Menzi

This is not a dream , she's here . It's really
her

And my body hurts , probably because of
the couch and her weight as well

Me : MaDlamini

She lifts her head and looks at me

Me : you're not just coming in right ?

She shakes her head slightly

Aya : no

That's a relief , I didn't even hear her come in . Or how she got to sleep on top of me

I must have been really out of mind with worry , and also hurting at the same time

Me : this is not an open marriage

Aya : I know that

Me : then what are you doing ?

Voice : guys really ?

I sigh rubbing my eyes

Mxo : you stayed up for her ?

He shouldn't start with me

Mxo : and you joined him here ? What happened to your bedroom ? This is a people's space

Me : and our house

Mxo : don't be territorial now

I shake my head

Mxo : this is awkward

Me : get lost

Mxo : okay , okay

He walks into the kitchen

Aya : lets go to bed , I need a proper cuddle.
And your back must be hurting

Me : I asked a question

Aya : and we will talk

She slowly gets off me

Me : see what you've done ?

She laughs

Aya : I'll take care of you

She holds her hand out , while the other rubs on my dick

With that ill-mannered child we have , he might just walk in here

I get up taking her hand , and we walk to our room

She leans against the wall , I stand in front of her

She captures my lips into hers , my hand trails to her back

I unzip he dress ,and it falls off down . She has her hands on my belt fiddling with it

Me : MaDlamini

She pulls my pants down , I lift her leg up to my waist

She rubs my dick on her coochie , and slowly slides it in

Me : put me out of my misery , was there any man touching out ?

She shakes her head

Me : then where were you , and who were you with doing what ?

Aya : with Thabo

I frown at that , but start thrusting in

Me : am I supposed to know who the hell that is ?

She's moaning , and just lost in the pleasure. While I want answers

Me : you know I can't be right with you , I'm having crazy insecurities right now

Aya : Lerato's brother , I want land

Me : the estate agent ?

Aya : yeah

Me : then why meet with him late at night ?

Aya : it's the only time he was available ,
and I wanted him to put in a good word for
me with his brother . The one with his own
practice , I need some practice back . Before
I start my own , it's been a while since I've
worked

Me : okay , and that's it ?

She clings her hands to my lower waist , I
pick her up into my hands

Aya : yes , I want my own surgery

Me : okay

She deepens the kiss

Aya : and you're going to build it

Me : fine

I'm walking on thin line , and it's been
established I don't want to lose her

So I have no space to be uttering nonsense
here

She'll get her land and her surgery

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Ayanda

We had some crazy family day yesterday ,
after barely sleeping for even two hours

Menzi was just too clingy , crazy what fear
of loosing your wife to another man can do
to a man

I'm surprised he even woke up , and went
to work today

Thabo managed to talk to his brother , and
he said I should email him for CV

I so hope he gives me this job , so when I get my surgery . I've had practice

After so many years of not operating , this is seriously required by law

Something happened as I was taking a bath, and now I'm worried

I probably have no real reason to be , but I just can't help myself

I walk down with my laptop , Mxolisi is eating

Me : what happened to school today ?

Mxo : down with flu

He's lying

Me : why did you miss school

Mxo : some workshop going on , you know
your husband pays a lot of money . I don't
just miss school for nothing

Me : good

Mxo : where are you going ?

Me : out

He laughs

Mxo : you almost killed that man last night ,
woman please stop doing that to him.

Me : I did nothing

I sit down opening the laptop

Mxo : he asked me where you went , and
when I said I don't know . His heart sank

I laugh

Me : did he tell you his heart sank ?

He shakes his head

Me : then ?.

Mxo : I felt it

I nod laughing

Mxo : what are you doing ?

Me : emailing my CV

Mxo : hey....you're looking for a job ?

Me : yes

Mxo : some independence

I chuckle

Mxo : but seriously , where are you going ?
I'm going to be bored

Me : I'm going to see a doctor

Mxo : wait....are you sick ?

Me : no

Mxo : then...wait ! Are you pregnant ?

I pop my eyes

Mxo : yes ?

Me : uhm , I don't know

Mxo : how did that happen ?

Me : Mxolisi Dlamini !

Mxo : okay....sorry

I send the email and close the laptop

Me : you want to come with ?

Mxo : to the doctor ?

Me : yes

Mxo : okay , yeah sure why not ! Let me accompany you , so we can find out if I have a competitor coming

I burst out laughing

I'm so not entertaining this , I'm sure I'm not even pregnant

Just that my sanitary towels are full , meaning I haven't used some in a month

That scared me a bit , it's better safe than sorry

I don't trust a pregnancy test , so I'll rather go to the doctor and get a scan

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INSERT 14

Ayanda

The test came out positive , now we're
about to do a scan

I'm not happy at all , I don't even want to lie
nor pretend

How do we bring a child in our messed up
lives , when I'm trying to protect this one
we already have

Me : are you okay ?

He's been quite , which is so unlike him .
Maybe he's not happy as well

Mxo : this baby better be a boy

Me : why not a girl ?

Mxo : I'll just be the worst big brother ever

I frown

Me : why would you say that ?

Mxo : who's going to play dolls with her ? I won't have my face put on makeup , no I refuse

I laugh , he's just being grumpy over such things

Mxo : mommy !

Me : sorry baby

Mxo : would you like me being violent ?

Me : no , no I wouldn't

What's this all about now ?

Mxo : that's exactly what will happen the baby is a girl

Me : how so ?

Mxo : I'll have to fight boys off , and always have to hear complaints from playgrounds . And I'll keep saying I'll beat up people's kids, and she'll go tell them I said I'll beat them .

On the real , now I can't stop laughing . He's just being crazy and dramatic , like for no reason

Mxo : but see the important thing is the baby doesn't want the divorce either

Oh that !

Mxo : you won't survive

Me : says who ?

Mxo : the baby will cry at night wanting dad, and he won't be there . So don't even give yourself that torture

Me : how can the baby cry for someone they don't even know

Mxo : it's the father , of course he'll know him

The doctor walks in , and saves me from this crazy conversation

He does the scan , and I guess a heart beat doesn't like . Like hopes of a urine lying

Doc : it says here you're 12 weeks pregnant

It can't be ! That's like three months

Me : no , it literally has to be a month , not three

Doc : 12 weeks make three months

Me : but....I've been..

This one is hooked on the screen , I hope he misses me saying this

Me : I've been having my periods for two months

Doc : light ? Or your normal colour and flow

Me : yes....maybe two days . And it was light

Doc : then you were still filling up , but you conceived three months ago

So while we were busy going through hard crazy times , not even there with each other

That once in a week sexual intercourse , gave us a whole human being

Mxo : is it a girl ?

The doctor chuckles

Doc : we can only be able to tell in 13 or 14 weeks

Mxo : that sucks

He sighs

Mxo : I won't be bonding , until we know

I look at him

Me : you're exaggerating kodwa Sibal'khulu
(but)

He shakes his head , looking back at the
screen

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Menzi

I decided to come back home early

As much as I know she was telling the truth

But I'm not myself right now , and if this is
how women feel when we cheat

I've done my part , I don't even know how
she's still okay

Because just thought , that she could have
been out there with another man

It messed up with me , there's all kinds of
jealousy right now in me

It doesn't help that I find Mxolisi alone at
home

Before I ask him anything I call her , she answers on the third ring

Me : MaDlamini

Aya : Sibal'khulu

Me : are you okay ?

Aya : yes I'm okay

Me : okay , where are you ?

That's accompanied by worry and a sigh

Aya : out with Lerato

Me : oh okay

This Lerato has damn brother's I know very well , that they like my wife

To an extent that at some point , she thought Ayanda will end up with one of them

Aya : are you okay ?

Me : are you going to come home ?

Aya : yes

Me : okay

Aya : Sibal'khulu , is something wrong ?

Me : no , I'll see you when you get home

Aya : okay

Me : I love you bye

I drop the call , and go join Mxo in the kitchen

Me : I'm not fishing or anything right now

He laughs

Mxo : just ask your question , I'll answer if I know

Me : she was with you before she went to see Lerato ?

Mxo : on yeah , we went to see the doctor .
Your wife has a baby inside of her

I frown , maybe I got lost there for a second

Me : what ?

Mxo : oh , I mean she's pregnant . I'm really hoping it's a boy

Why didn't she tell me ?

Me : how far is she ?

Mxo : three months , that's what the doctor said

Three months ?

I'm not shocked how she got pregnant , because we've always had sex

Sure it was scarce then , but we did . And most times I didn't use a condom with her

And I barely pulled out , and I thought with our situation she might be on a pill or something

Me : tell me , was she happy ?

Mxo : I don't know , most of the time I just felt like she was laughing at me

Sometimes Mxo is not much of a help

Right now he's spit some hard news , and that's as far as he can go

I'm sure he's not even asking himself why his mother didn't tell me this

I mean , even on the call she could have said there's something we need to talk about when I get home

Or maybe she's trying to protect my feelings ? Thinking I'll assume it's about the non existent divorce

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Ayanda

I'm even derailing going home right now

Having to face Menzi , and tell him this . I don't even know how he'll react

But I'm sure he'll probably be so happy

Lerato : my brother is so impressed , he couldn't hold himself . He just had to tell me when he got your CV , and girl I tell you this you got that job

I smile

Me : at least that's something to be happy about

Lerato : what are you sad about ?

Me : I'm pregnant

Her jaw drops

Lerato : like right now ?

What the hell ?.

Me : no yesterday

She laughs frowning

Lerato : wow this is...I don't even know
what to say

I sigh

Lerato : you don't look nor sound happy yes

Me : that's because I'm not

Lerato : oh but , Mxo is old now . And this doesn't stop any of your plans

Me : I know , but a baby right now ? We seriously don't need this

Lerato : you've been going to Therapy , is he coming together ?

Me : he is , but it's too early for this

Lerato : you two have been having sex , even when shit was going on . How far along are you ?

Me : three months

Lerato : see what I mean ?

I sigh taking a sip of my coffee , which she takes from me

Me : hey !

Lerato : you shouldn't be having this

Me : what now ?

Lerato : the baby sis , the baby

Such a bore !

Me : one cup won't kill anyone

Lerato : you're a doctor for heavens sake ,
and this is your second cup

Me : yeah well !

I shrug

Lerato : you really don't want this baby do
you ?

I keep quite , I feel like such a horrible
person right now

Lerato : please don't , whatever you're thinking just don't do it . This is a life , a soul that didn't ask to be brought into this world

Me : please , I already have a Mxolisi in my house

She laughs

Lerato : please , don't do anything you will regret

Me : I need to get home

Lerato : if you need anything , or just to talk I'm here . Don't hesitate

I nod , I pay the bill and she walks me to my car . The drive home , I'm just so lost in thought

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INSERT 15

Ayanda

I got home , he was wide awake . And he didn't look okay

Now I don't know what I did wrong , or if I
did so something wrong

But I know , he's not himself with just the
way I've been lately

I've been the wife , he leaves home in the
morning

And he finds home in the evening , if he
came back home

And now things are just different , I'm trying
my level best to just be me

And just do for Ayanda , in a way that I don't lose her in the midst of doing for Menzi and being a Mrs Dlamini

But I still haven't lost that title at all

Me : did I do something wrong ?

He's changing , and I'm already in bed

Me : is it my too much going out ?

Menzi : no , you're doing you it's fine

Me : I doubt that's how they say it in marriage

He chuckles , and gets into bed

Menzi : you had a good day ?

Me : just okay

He nods slowly and lays down

Menzi : okay , goodnight

He doesn't turn his back against me , he's facing me

But he might as well not be , because he has his arm hiding his face

Me : won't you say nothing ?

Menzi : about what ?

Me : don't do this

He removes his arm and looks at me

Menzi : do what ?

Me : I know your loud mouth son told you

He just stares at me blankly

Me : we can talk , you don't have to shut down like you don't know

Menzi : if there's anything to know , don't you think my wife should tell me ? Rather than hearing from my loud mouth son

I sigh , leaning against the headboard

Me : I am pregnant , three months

We sit in silence , now I don't know what's his reaction because he's just blank

And he's not saying anything , nor is he showing any emotions at all

Me : I was shocked , I thought maybe it'll be a month . Especially because I didn't stock up , so I only have one pack full

He's just still staring at me , and saying nothing

Me : so you still won't say anything ?

Menzi : what do I say when I can clearly see that you're not happy

Wow ! I guess it's that evident

Me : I won't lie , a child is the last thing we need right now . We already have one , that

we exposed to toxicity . I don't want any of that ever again

Menzi : we're working on us right now

Me : I know , I know that . But this baby will bring us some happiness fever , it'll be the only one thing we concentrate on .

Forgetting that we have real problems to deal with , and this baby is not some mending stitch to that . I don't want us to lose ourselves , in the midst of the excitement about the baby

Menzi : so are you saying we shouldn't be happy ? That we should be like everything is just the way it was before these news ?

How is that going to be possible ? The baby is here , and not going anywhere

The eye he gives me seconds later after saying that

Menzi : unless you don't plan on keeping this baby !

I don't know , there's an emotion in his voice . And it's not anger

It's more like pain and hurt

Menzi : I'm sorry , I should even be embarrassed I thought that

He sits up

Me : I did

He faces me

Me : just the thought I had , at the possibility of being pregnant right now . The thought did cross my mind

He gets off the bed

Me : Sibal'khulu ?

Menzi : please give me a minute

Hell no ! A minute , but he's putting on sweatpants

I get up and lock the door

Menzi : I'm not going out there to cheat

Me : you cheated yes , you apologized and I forgave you . That's not something I'll always throw in your face

He sighs

Me : right now we're talking , so you don't get to walk away from me just like that .
And it's late by the way , we're getting

ready to sleep . In fact , we're already in bed . So where are you going ?

I sound like some mad woman right now , but it's fine

Menzi : I'm just going down for a smoke

He only smokes when he's hurt , and right now he's really not

The last time he had a smoke was 5 years ago , when he lost his brother

Me : we're not doing this , I'm not going to kill your child !

He looks down , I walk to him my hands trail to his waist . And I just hug him

Menzi : this is not a bandage baby

I smile

Me : please calm down and forgive me

Menzi : I'm calm

Me : you need a smoke

He sighs heavily

I pull back and look at him

Me : I'm sorry , I wasn't intending to hurt you . I just had to be honest , the thought didn't mean I hate the baby to that extent . I'm not ready yes , and probably not as happy as I should be . But I'm not taking the life of an innocent soul

He nods , I know we're not there yet . But I'll rather he be here with me

Me : your son said he wants a daughter , because he doesn't want to turn violent . Or have his face put on make up , or even play dolls

He smiles , and now I get all emotional for
no reason

He crouches down rubbing my tummy , and
he plants a few kisses

Menzi : it's okay , daddy will do all of that .

He lifts his head , we look at each other

Menzi : you better be bearing me a
daughter MaDlamini

Me : o'Sibal'khulu men ! I won't survive
with you two

He chuckles , I guess we're moving past the smoking thing

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Menzi

Do I trust and believe that Aya won't abort our baby ?

Honestly I don't know

I do have my own worries , that will she be able to cope with this pregnancy

With Mxolisi , we didn't have as many issues as now

But I just have to be hopeful , and trust that by being present we'll get through this together

I'm work , and I'm told someone is asking to see me

A woman called Bontle , now I don't know who she is . I don't think I've ever heard any name familiar to that

She comes through , accompanied by my PA. And I really don't know her

Now I don't even know if it's safe to be alone in my office with another woman

Especially when I'm trying to fix my home

Me : you didn't say why you want to see me, so what can I do for you ?.

She looks at my PA , but I'm looking at her

Me : I'm the one who's talking

She looks my way

Bontle : I'm here about Buhle , I was thinking we can talk in private

Should I ?

I nod to my PA and she walks out

Me : don't even sit down , say your piece

Bontle : I know she's having an affair with
you

Me : if you came here to blackmail me or
anything of some sort , you're wasting your
time

Bontle : she's missing , that's why I'm here .
I have no say about....

Me : hold it right there

She sighs

Me : now , she's missing yes but what do you want from me ?

Bontle : I'm just here to ask , if you haven't seen or heard from her ?

Me : no I haven't

Bontle : but you're together , are you not bothered that she's been missing for a week now

Me : listen lady , I'm not together with Buhle whoever she is to you . And the last time I saw her , she was standing not so far from where you are . And she was saying a whole lot of nonsense about my wife

Bontle : has she been coming to work ?

Me : no !

Bontle : and as her boss at least , you haven't even bothered to maybe enquire about her whereabouts ?

Me : and why would I do that ?.

Bontle : for her work sake

I chuckle

Me : lady , this is South Africa okay . There's tons and tons of graduates unemployed ,

and in dire need of work . Now I don't waste time , you miss work for two days and I have a replacement for you .

Her jaw drops

Me : now I'm busy , you can leave . And if you want her things , ask at reception they'll show you the storeroom .

Bontle : her things ?

Me : personal belongings she left in the office

For a minute she's quite

Me : Now you can leave

Bontle : oh okay

She turns and walks out

Me : Melusi !

I say shaking my head heading to my chair

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Buhle

I slowly open my eyes , there's no place in my body that's not painful

I'm hungry , I'm thirsty . It's even hard to just even move an inch

My mouth is dry , I have no strength whatsoever

My body can't take this any longer

It's not long he walks in , and I'm even drained trying to think I can escape here

This looks like some one room , just slightly bigger than a toilet

There's no window , just a door that's steel and I could never open on my own

Me : ple..ase...let...me go

Melusi : no

This guy is heartless , like I never thought he could do this

That day he took me from Menzi's office , he was kidnapping me

I didn't even know realise , until we go outside Pretoria

But then it was too late , there was no way for me to run away

And since then , I've been locked up in here

He doesn't even give me food , he only gives me water like once a day

And not even a cup full

Me : I'm weak...my body...isshaking ,
I'm...having muscle cramps.....I'm
dehydrated Please

Melusi : see how you're begging me to let
you go , begging me to give you water ?

He walks closer , standing in front of me

Melusi : what was so hard about you ,
listening to me when I told you to stay away
from married men ?

My heart still pains at this

Me : he...said....he's divorcing

Melusi : and you beloved him ? How stupid can you be ?

Very stupid clearly

Melusi : Menzi could never leave his wife , not for you or anyone else . Now you , you don't get to walk away Scot free . After being with a married man knowingly like that

This world is cruel to women

We both wronged his wife , but I'm the one that gets punished just because I'm the other woman

Why isn't he being punished ? He's the one who made vows , he's the one that's married

The know who should have been loyal to his wife , I don't owe her any loyalty . So why me ?

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INSERT 16

Menzi

He walks in , and I hate that I'm at the office
at this time

When I should be home with my wife and
kids

Melusi : I got held up

Me : well about damn time

I shrug taking my phone , and call her . It
rings a bit before she answers

Aya : Sibal'khulu

Me : I'm at the office with Melusi ,I'll be home in 30 minutes

Aya : okay

That's accompanied by a sigh , now I don't know what's the meaning of that

Aya : Sibal'khulu ?

Me : MaDlamini

Aya : you know you don't have to report to me right

Report ?

Me : I'm communicating

She laughs

Aya : you're reporting , and it doesn't suit
you

I chuckle , because I'm caught

Yeah I'm reporting , because I don't want
her thinking I'm busy with other women

Me : okay , I am

Aya : I know , but I'm choosing to trust you .
Even though I don't have to

I'm surprised

Aya : we're making this work , the right
way. And your kids are so behind you , so I
better get myself in line too

Me : I won't disappoint you

Aya : that's good , and it's good that you're
not promising

Me : promises are meant to be broke

Aya : exactly , finish up with Melusi and
come home

Me : okay , I love you

Aya : we all love you

I laugh , it might not be from her . But it's
from them , so I can take it . Because I do
love them all as well

I drop the call and look at this one

Me : where is she ?

Melusi : who ?

Me : don't play dumb with me

He laughs

Melusi : you're seriously asking me about your whore

Me : just damn answer me

Melusi : she's outside Pretoria at the room

I figured it out he took her , that's why I called him over

Me : and why is she still alive ?

He pops his eyes

Me : you might just as well kill her , before she becomes much worse trouble for both of us

Melusi : wait...you're serious ?

Me : take a good look at me

Melusi : alright

Me : and make sure she's found , don't incriminate yourself . I don't need drama , had my fair share

He laughs , I grab my car keys

Melusi : things good at home

Me : getting there

Melusi : then I'll gladly kill her

Me : for once , we're on the same side

We walk out , and part ways as we go to our cars

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Ayanda

I'm meeting Thusi , he's the brother to
Lerato and Thabo

The one that's a surgeon , he called and
gave me the job

And also asked that we meet before hand , I don't know why

But I figured it's about the job

Thusi : you still haven't changed a bit

He last saw me 5 years ago , a lot has happened then

And I've definitely changed , he's probably just not seeing it

Because I've picked my life up again

Me : well , you have no idea . But I haven't aged a bit

We laugh

Thusi : I see that , I called you over about your contact

Me : image

Thusi : I can only give you an 18 months contact

That's a lot of time right ? Surely by the time I get my surgery I be rejuvenated again

Me : okay

Thusi : that's fine with you ?

Me : that's perfectly fine

This man is doing me a favour , not the other way around

Thusi : alright , I brought it with . So you can go through it , and understand it . Raise your concerns and questions

Me : will do

He hands it to me

Me : there's something I need to tell you
though

Thusi : you're not dropping me , we haven't
even started

I laugh

Me : no , I....hours after sending my CV I
found out I'm three months pregnant

He will have to grant me maternity leave , in
his 18 months contract

So I have to be honest with him , so he can
decide if he still wants me there or not

Thusi : well congratulations

Me : well thank you

We laugh

Thusi : I will have to at least take this to 24 months , at least let the time you have with me benefit me as well . Please don't be offended , by me saying that

Me : I completely understand

Thusi : alright , we can make this work . I'll let you go in due time , and work your

maternity leave time . You'll make up for it ,
when you come back

Me : of course

He looks at his wrist watch

Thusi : I will have to get going , the terms
will still be the same . Except that 18
months to 24 months

Me : understood

He gets up , we shake hands and he leaves .

I take my phone and make a call , he
answers on the first ring

He's so awkward lately , just like that call
report of last night

Me : Sibal'khulu

Menzi : MaDlamini

Me : you sound tired , am I not disturbing ?

Menzi : hectic day , in and out of meetings

Me : I'm sorry

Menzi : I got your call

He laughs

Me : I just had a meeting with me boss to be , and I was hoping I'll come see you

Menzi : come

Me : are you sure , your day is like crazy hectic

He chuckles

Menzi : come , bring some food and snacks with drinks . Make sure you get something

non alcoholic , we'll eat in the office . Or we can just go out , wherever you want

Me : let me go do a mini shopping

We laugh

Menzi : I can't wait to see you

Me : I'll see you soon

Menzi : okay

I drop the call

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Buhle

I honestly can't hold on any longer

This is definitely a pigsty , because no normal human being can survive in such conditions

I can't even keep my eyes open for more than a second

My neck is failing me , my feel have lost feeling in them

My hands are even bleeding , because I've been moving them a lot

Trying to loosen the chain , only I've hurt myself worse

The door opens , I haven't seen him in days now

Me : please....Melusi....I'm begging....you
please....just let me go....I'll stayaway . I'll
move....I'll move fromJoburg ...I'll
disappear please....just let me go

Melusi : unfortunately Menzi wants you
dead , I'll rather you die . Than have him
have my head

Me : please no....no ...no please don't.... I'll
leave ... really I'll leave

Melusi : that won't work for him , he
doesn't want you alone

Me : please

I don't even know where I'm getting the strength to cry right now

But this is my life ! And he's not even lying , his eyes say it all

Me : please....don't do this.....can I....I talk to him...please

Melusi : that won't change nothing

Me : please

I beg , if I could get on my knees I would

Melusi : let's hear what he says

He takes his phone out and calls him I guess, and he puts the phone on loud speaker

Menzi : what ?

Melusi : your whore wants to beg for her life

Wow !

Menzi : just kill that thing

Me : Men....

And he's dropped the call

I can't believe he just said that , and called me a thing

It's clear now that he never loved me to even begin with

Melusi : lets go your car is waiting for you

Me : my car ?

I get all excited , thinking that maybe he's letting me free

Only he drags me to the car , and it's so dark outside

He just drives for miles and miles , I can't even move an inch

But the doors are locks , and a scream will be useless

Who will hear me in a moving car ?

He stops , and I look around . But my eyes are painful and so it's hard to even see anything

Melusi : this is it for you

Me : please don't....don't do this

He drags me to the drivers seat , and just starts the car . It heads straight for a pole

And slightly turns , blurry and bleeding as I am . I can feel his presence near

And as the fire graces me , I know he's set the car on fire . It doesn't take long as a loud bang goes out

And I know this is it for me

The married men I fell in love with , in the end he became my doom

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INSERT 17

Menzi

Today is my wife's first day at work

I've had one hectic morning , I didn't even get a chance to call h

I feel bad

Because first days are always the hardest , even on an adult starting a new job

It's just the same as a kid going to school for the first time

Me : Sibal'khulu

I sit down next to him , he has books everywhere . It's actually messy

Me : why are you burying yourself in books?

Mxo : when your father is a business Mogul who's runs a multimillionaire company , and your mother is a surgeon on her way to having her own surgery practice . This is what happens

I laugh

Me : this won't work

He sighs

Mxo : at least I tried

Me : yeah sure you did , but on the wrong person . Because we know very well , we don't give you any pressure

He shakes his head

Me : I'm going to see mom

I left early , just after lunch I left work

Mxo : now ?

Me : yeah

Mxo : oh okay

Me : what's wrong ?

Mxo : was thinking you can get me out of misery , even if it's just for an hour

Me : doing what ?

Mxo : highlights of the game we missed

Me : okay , let's go

Mxo : you're serious ?

Me : quit fooling around

He laughs

Mxo : okay , okay

He gets up and we walk to the lounge

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Ayanda

It's been one hell of a day

And I just think I'm overworking myself here

Just because I don't want to mess up ,
because I know how much I need this

It's just crazy , my feet hurt like hell . I seriously need a break

My phone rings , and its Nonhle . Good thing I'm in my office

I called her yesterday , she wasn't in . But I left a message

Me : Hello

Nonhle : Ayanda , how are you ?

Me : kind of stressed , but I am good

Nonhle : do you need a session ?

I laugh

Me : no , I don't . But I just want to talk , so maybe I do need it

Nonhle : let's talk now , if you can of course.
Or you can come see me it's fine

Me : this will have to do

Nonhle : okay

Me : I got a job , at a private practice .
Today is my first day , I'm feeling the heat .
And it's crazy here , but I think I'm doing
good so far . And I can't deny that I'm loving

it , and I feel really ready for the world again. I'll have my own practice soon , I really don't want to be an employee . My husband agreed to that , I don't know if it's his guilt or what . But either way yeah

Nonhle : well congratulations , and I know that surgeons are on perfection

We laugh

Me : my son couldn't stand the hobo mother anymore , he did something about it

Nonhle : see how everything is not always so dull ?

I smile

Me : I see now

Nonhle : I need to ask you this , can I ?

Me : sure

Nonhle : the first day we met , three years ago . The first words you said to me were “Ngilimele , pierced by thorns” do you still remember that ? (I’m hurt)

I nod , forgetting that she can’t see me

Me : yes , yes I still remember

Nonhle : and what do you say now ?

Me : I'm slowly healing , because I felt one crazy pain and hurt . When the thorns were being plucked out , I endured some hurt as well . Now I want to let all of it go

Nonhle : I hope to never see you in my office window anytime soon , unless I'm on your table needing you to save my life

We laugh

I just needed this one last one with her

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Menzi

I walk in , and the receptionist welcomes
me

Me : I'm here to see Doctor Dlamini

Her : uhm....oh okay . On your far left side ,
the second door that's her office

Me : I don't have an appointment , so can
you please call her and ask if I can come
through ?

She smiles

Her : it's okay Mr Dlamini , I'm sure Mrs
Dlamini won't mind

Creepy , where does she know me from ?

I head to her office and knock , she shouts
come in from inside

I walk in , and this is so her . One organised woman

Me : hey

She lifts her head and the smile I get , fuck !

She gets up and we meet halfway , she places her hands around my waist and we hug

Me : hah someone missed me

She laughs

Aya : I'm happy to see you

Me : In this case I'm glad I came to see you

Aya : you did good , and you brought food .
Your baby is hungry , I've been working
crazy busy

Me : I brought for two , I don't want drama

She laughs we head to her lounge area , she
doesn't waste time eating

It's a good thing I had something to eat with
Mxolisi , because I'm side-lined here

Aya : that woman is missing , did you know
that ? I saw it on the news , before you

came in . Some woman , a friend of hers has even opened a case

We should have killed her too

Me : no I don't know

Aya : really ?

Me : yeah

Aya : Menzi Dlamini you have nothing to do with this right ?

Me : right

Aya : you better , because I'm not going to raise your children alone . While you rot in jail for murder

What the hell ?

Me : murder....what ?

Aya : you heard me

Me : but why would you think I....

I sigh

Aya : I know the man I married , and I know how you fix your problems

Me : I did nothing

Aya : good

And she pecks my cheek , I frown

Aya : you'll age fast , and get wrinkles . Stop with the frowning

Yhoh !

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INSERT 18

Menzi

I'm looking around this office , and I see she has settled fine

To a point that she has on family pictures on the desk

Me : your receptionist was too forward for my liking

She laughs

Me : MaDlamini !

Aya : okay , what did she say ?.

Me : I asked to see you and I didn't say who I am , but she addressed me as if she knows

Aya : she was in here , helping me settle and pack things

Me : doesn't she have a job to do ?

Aya : oh she does , she was just being kind .
And she arrived early too

Me : I see you

Aya : can you calm down , she saw the pictures . I'm sure that's how she noticed you

Me : she shouldn't get used to me

Aya : the way you're so uptight , I really do wonder how you even attract women

Wow !

Aya : are you going home with me ?

She laughs

Me : MaDlamini

Aya : okay , it was a joke

Me : yeah I'm going home with you

Aya : okay , let me get working then . Just files , two and I'll be done

Me : okay

She gets up and goes to her desk , she gets working while I just sit around watching her

Until she's done and we leave , driving separately

I don't even know why I came here with a car

We get home and seems like we have visitors

As she gets out of the car , she looks at me

Me : Mxolisi go in the house

He gets inside , the two cops come to us

Aya : what's this ?

Me : I did nothing

Cop 1 : Mr and Mrs Dlamini

Me : what's this ? What do you want ?

Cop 1 : I'm detective...

Me : I did not ask that

Aya : stop being rude

Me : what do you want ?

This is our family home , I don't want no damn cops here

Cop 1 : we're here on the missing case of one of your employees , Ms Buhle Jones

I just look at him

Cop 2 : Mr Dlamini are you aware that Ms Jones has been missing for over a week now, and her friend has opened a case of a missing person ?

Me : what's the relevance of that question ? And quite frankly , why are you coming to ask me about missing people in my home , did I make her go missing ?.

Cop 1 : we are not accusing you of anything

Me : then what do you want ? For the last time !

Cop 2 : we're just trying to find out what happened before she went missing , and who were the last person she was in contact with

Me : she works for me , what the hell do you think ?

They sigh

Me : if you have nothing better to say , leave

Cop 2 : Mr Dlamini , Ms Jones car was found burnt outside of Pretoria . There was a body of a woman inside , but it has burnt down to ashes . It'll take a while before a DNA can confirm if that's her or not

Me : again , why are you telling me ? I'm not her family

Cop 1 : she was your employee

Me : and that's where it ends , at the office. Don't ever do this nonsense , especially at my house ever again . Leave

They look at us for a few seconds and leave

Me : bloody idiots

Aya : wait right here

I stop at my tracks from going inside

Aya : Menzi Dlamini

Me : I did nothing

Aya : you see your doings ? We have cops
now in our house

Me : come on ! But I did nothing

Aya : don't give me that frown !

Me : sorry

Aya : let's understand each other here ,
you'll do us all a favour in this house .

Me : okay

Aya : stop nodding like a 5 year old being
scolded

Me : okay sorry

Aya : stop chasing skirts , because in the
end all these women end up dead

I clear my throat

Aya : help us all

Me : but it wasn't me

Aya : are they not dead because of you ?

I keep quite

Aya : this isn't the first one , and for your sake I hope she's the last one

I nod

Aya : I said.....

Me : okay , sorry . No more nodding

Aya : stop with these women , because it always ends the same way with you . Them dead

She walks inside and I walk behind her ,
fucking defeated

Me : but I love you

She laughs

Aya : I know you do

I sigh

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A YEAR LATER

Ayanda

If you believe in miracles , please believe
and believe wholeheartedly

If you believe in second chances , please give them like no one's business . And see if the same courtesy can't be given to you

If you believe in forgiveness , please let it starts with you first before you offer it to someone else

A year ago , I didn't think this would be me

This happy , and content . So comfortable , that I am myself

Not trying to live off perfection , not dwelling in the pain

I am just me

The building at my land for my surgery is in process , I see it happening . A few months from now on , it'll be all done

I'm still holding on my work , and it's the best thing ever

The hours can get crazy hectic , but with the peace in my house now

We all make it work , meeting each other half away

My husband is just the best he's ever been
in our 18 years of marriage now

He's the best version of himself , that I
never even knew it's there

Business wise , he has grown his company .
All in a years space

He's the best father ever , the Mxolisi that
uses to skip school on Wednesday because
it was sports down

He's now captain in the football team ,
crazy I didn't believe it until we attended his
game.

And that's all because of his father

And I'm the happiest wife ever , if there's even such

He adores me , I feel loved and appreciated.
I am seriously adored , and taken care of

We have grown to have better communication with each other

We have grown to know and understand each other better

This is a marriage , and we have learnt it's not about the individual

But everyone that's affected by it , so the better of us all

We sure do make it our level best to make it work

Mxo : woman look at your child !

I turn and she's a mess , there's food on her face .

Her cheeks and nose , slightly above the eye. And the hair

Both two hands are inside the bowl

Menzi : calm down

He better not start with me

Asanda at 5 months , she makes me feel like we're the women of this house

And this house , is not big enough for two women . No it's not

Me : Mxolisi !

I'm really bored right now , he's like an inch away from her

Why didn't he stop her all along ?

For someone who was complaining about having a sister

He's really loving this more than everyone else

Me : why is she even feeding herself to begin with ?

Mxo : she wanted to

Me : she's 5 months , she can't even hold a spoon

Mxo : that's why she's using her hands

Me : it really wouldn't be a good thing to give me grey hairs

Mxo : child ! Let me save you

And she laughs

Mxo : don't laugh

Menzi : she giggled

Mxo : same thing !

Menzi : no

He shakes his head

Mxo : people leave me alone , I'm just being a big brother you know . Don't make a big deal out of it

He picks her up , now dirtying himself . I don't know what's wrong with these kids

She raises her hands towards me I burst out laughing

Me : girl ! It's not happening , I don't want your dirty self

Menzi : you're being savage for no reason

Me : she's your child leave me alone

I head to the lounge

I'm in this family by marriage , I don't want their weird nasty traits on me

Voice : hey

He hugs me from behind on her couch , and plants a soft kiss on my neck

Me : you ditched your kids ?

He chuckles

Menzi : Mxo took her for a bath

Me : she wastes water , and soap and everything else

We laugh

Me : honestly Asanda deserves to be dirty

He comes around and sits next to me

Menzi : you know she can cry for days when she's dirty

She's just dramatic , and she's too young for this

Me : yet she can't keep herself clean

He laughs

Menzi : what a daughter you gave me ?

Me : you created this one yourself

I lean over laying my head on his shoulder

Menzi : thank you for this

I lift my head and we lock eyes

Me : I wouldn't have it any other way

He leans down and we kiss

It worked for me , I'm glad I didn't give up
on him and us

I'm not saying it'll work for you or anyone
else , sometimes it's always best to know
your worth and walk away from toxicity !!

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THE END