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The Dube Legacy reloaded

Season 2

Chapter One

ooo

{4 weeks earlier}

"Even though I love you so dearly. I couldn't make you stay. No amount of tears I cried could've brought you back. I begged and begged but who was I to undo what he has written down that it was bound to happen somewhere down the line of our lives. You left me with the undying scars. You took my heart with you and that is the selfish act of you I've ever witnessed.

My heart stings when I think of our future that vanished right before my eyes. You had me forgetting there's what we call losing, which I tend to experience on people I love. Who was I fooling thinking as deep as spending forever with you. You were never mine to keep from the first place, that is why I was scared to love you. Yes I am coward, you told me that every chance you got. You were right. I

am a coward, today you have left with my heart and am left here with nothing but memories of when I met you, when you carried my children. When you endured all that emotionless love making. You always had hope that someday I will change and be the man for you, of which I did. But something inside me is guilty, I feel like I started to be who wanted late. Had I given you the love and affection from the start, I would've had more time to love you.

I promise you I shall not forget everything that we were.

It all lives in my head and will probably always do because you're the best thing that has ever happened to me mama Ka Sisekelo and Sikelela. I am left alone with our children to raise. I hope you'll be with me spiritually on the day they ask about you. I will tell them you slapped me.....

To you my boy. I guess heaven couldn't wait for you. I would've had a best friend, someone to play soccer with but his will could never be questioned. No matter what. When the Dr told me you were inside your mother and your heart was still beating. I had

hope you'll make it. The Dr told me he's too tiny he can't live I begged him to try at least. 3 months seemed big in my mind. I pleaded with your grandmother to sign the c section permit. She agreed, I prayed as the Drs operated your mother. I have never prayed that much in my life. When...when the Dr told me to be ready to hold you. He said.

"Mr Dube, if I told you there's a change for your child to make it I'd be lying"

I nodded because I had no words. Being in the presence of your mother who's no more and hearing that there's no chance for you, something inside medied.

He gave me you, I thought you were big but to my surprise you fit on my hand. I laughed. I had never seen such a tiny human being, the tiny garment the nurse gave me to cover you up with looked like a duvet. Lala ngoxolo Mbuyazi. To you too Ndlovukaziyami. Death shall not be proud. Heaven has gained yet another Angels"

With all that said. He gave the microphone back to

the program director and went to Chloe's mother and took the twins. He headed for the main door, alleyes on him. Pitying him he could feel it on his shoulders as he walked on.

Khulekani followed a short while after he vanished out. He found him buckling up his children on the backseat. He patted his shoulder.

Khule: "Get on the passenger seat"

He hesitantly opened the door and got in. Khule walked around to the driver's seat. They drove off....

ooo

{Present Day}

He found Khule smoking next to the pond, leaning against the wall with his ankles crossed.

He stood before him with his hands on his pockets.

Quinton: "Everything is finalized. I can move in anytime from tomorrow"

Khulekani brought his eyes up briefly and then looked away. "Deep down you know it is for the best"

Khule looked at him again.

Khule: "For who? You?"

He took a deep breath and dropped his eyes. "Yeah I thought so"

He killed the cigarette on the ash tray and walked back to the house.

Quinton: "We're still talking" Khule:

"You're the one talking"

Quinton: "You're being unreasonable"

Khule: "Am I?" He inhaled. "You've made up your mind. Why don't you take your bags and your kids and drive to the airport already?"

Quinton: "I can't be here. Everything around here reminds me of her."

Khule: "And the twins don't? You need to man up and help me find that bastard not here whining. You need to find justice for your wife not run away"

Quinton: "Am not running away!"

Khule: "I don't care what the fuck you call it but to me

it is running away"

Quinton: "Khulekani I-"

He raised his hand and climbed up the stairs.

Quinton cursed under his breath.

"Kelly. Please make the payments for the people who'll paint and furniture. I am still deciding on the date to move in. Will let you know"

He sent to his new PA and went to the nursery...

ooo

[Khethelo]

He took off his T-shirt and walked straight to the bathroom. I know better than to follow him right now. I picked the T-shirt from the floor and put it on the basket.

Me: "Did you guys fight again?" I say when he comes out. That was the quickest shower I've ever seen.

Khule: "Tell me if am wrong. But I seriously don't see the reason for him to move to Free State"

Me: "Durban babe"

Khule: "Yes that. We should be looking for that asshole not him running away"

Me: "Should I talk to him?"

Khule: "Please."

He finished dressing up. Am sleeping alone again today. "Am meeting up with Mpisi. He has a lead"

Me: "Doesn't he everyday" I say and open the curtains.

Khule: "I'll be back before supper"

He kissed my cheek and briefly rubbed my stomach. "I love you"

I nodded and went to the bathroom. I heard the door close. I threw up, my life.

The internet people will deceive you. They take those cute pregnancy pictures holding their bumps making you think pregnancy is that easy.

Well it is no where close to being easy. I vomit. I hate men. Especially these Dube twins, the pain of tolerating them!

I eat each and every second. I thank the Lord we moved into this new house, the mini kitchen is Godlysent.

I don't know where Katlego gets all this energy from but what I know is that I do not like it one bit.

I don't get how did this stomach grow to be this big just in 4 weeks. I'd like to think pregnancy is psychological. I was four months last months unaware I had no signs of being pregnant and my stomach was flat but now...

What a hard time to be pregnant. Everyone is occupied. I am just glad he still manages to make time for us.

I take one last glance at my balloon self at the mirror. I try to look good for the world. This part of Jo'burg is full of news people in every corner because all the high profile people live here. It is so annoying honestly. The shooting saga drew attention to us, they paid people to make the story vanish but the bloody Daily Bread newspaper threatened to expose them so they backed off and let every paparazzi

have a scoop about the Dubes. Truth or lies, every incident makes it to the front page. I found it very insensitive of them to take pictures of Quinton talking at the memorial service and the funeral.

Katlego has already beaten up 3 of the journalists so far and still counting because they all annoying. I wish I could fight too.

The whole world knows that am pregnant. 'Slay mom' is how am referred to. The funny thing is, they never follow these Dube men but us. They've gone as far as trespassing at Emi's place. Journalism is one of the hardest careers I swear. Imagine chasing after people everyday.

...

I found him playing with the twins. My heart still breaks for him. He's not him. He looks lost. You can tell something is missing. His smiles are forced. His eyes are always red and swollen.

Its been 4 weeks. Am still struggling myself. Sometimes I still call her number. She took her last breath before our eyes.

It is hard to believe. I've never been so lost in my whole entire life. He shook her, he cried, he kissed her, the heart monitor made the panic sound, the line went straight, I prayed.

The Drs came in flooding the room, they escorted us out. He forcefully went back in. I tried taming him down, he asked me to wake her up, it still breaks my heart. I still hear his cry every night before I go to sleep.

Me: "They'll be running around soon" he brought his head up to see me and smiled. I smiled back.

Quinton: "Sisekelo is lazy maybe Sikelela" Me:

"Its always like that"

I took a seat on the single couch facing him. "How are you?"

Quinton: "I don't know"

Me: "Khule tells me you guys had an agreement again" he looked at Sisekelo and kissed her then got back at me.

Quinton: "Yeah we did." He exhaled deeply. "The

thing is, me leaving is not running away from my responsibilities but me trying to find peace"

Me: "And you can't do that here?"

Quinton: "Yes. I want to be away. Away from everyone who knows me, away from people who look and pity me, away from everything that reminds me of her. I can't bear being in my house because I see her in every corner. Her perfume is all over the house. If I continue to stay here I am gonna go crazy. I will lose my mind. Khule wants me to stay here and find whoever did that, the more we go for revenge, the killings won't stop.

Tomorrow it would be someone else, I am tired of losing everyone I love through guns. For once in my life I just want peace, I want to be the best father to my kids and a good brother to my siblings and to your wives."

I don't know if it's hormones but my eyes got wet.

Me: "You have my blessings. Go out there and gain your sanity back. You deserve to grieve peacefully"

He smiled with the tears in his eyes.

Quinton: "Thank you" My
phone rang. Katlego.

Me: "Katlego and I are going out. Chris should-"

Chris: "Am here"

Me: "I'll see you guys later" I kissed the munchkins. We
aren't best of friends these days.

Chris: "Mrs Dube"

Me: "Mbuyazi"

Chris: "You look beautiful. Liam and Paul will be driving
you"

Me: "Paul? Isn't he supposed to be at the campus?" Chris:
"I don't know"

That child needs Jesus. He never stops speaking. I prefer
Cebo. Oh they're our newly found sons. I don't know
where Khule found them but all I know is that he's very
fond of them.

And then the long lost son. We haven't seen him since the
funeral. My baby couldn't eat. He was sobroken, they
connected with Chloe. He blames

himself. He says he should've foreseen it. Nobody goes against God's will. No one.

I sent him a text asking if he's okay right after getting in the car...

ooo

[Narrated]

Sisipho took her school bag and followed the twins right after bidding their parent's goodbye.

Lelo swiftly got up and collected the dishes, Kush got up and helped her.

Kush: "You going to hurt yourself" she gave him the evil eye and took the dishes to the kitchen. Kush followed her.

Kush: "What is your problem?"

She continued doing the dishes without paying attention to him.

Kush: "Nompumelelo"

Lelo: "Please leave me the hell alone!"

Kush took both her hands out of the water and made

her to face him.

Kush: "Talk to me my love" Tears

rolled down Lelo's cheeks.Lelo:

"How long?"

Kush: "How long what?" He said puzzled.

Lelo: "How long have you been screwing our lawyer?"

A lump stuck on his throat. He failed to maintain eye contact. Lelo snatched her hands out of his grip. "You're rotten Madonna. You're a rotten man!"

She stormed to the bedroom upstairs leaving him shout her name.

She grabbed her phone and went to the internet and took the numbers she needed.

She called the number.

Glade: "Dube Construction Mr Dube's office goodmorning"

Lelo: "Can I speak to Mr Dube please?"

Glade: "Going through please hold on"

She held on...

Khule: "Dube, good morning" her heart started racing.
"Hello?"

Lelo: "I know who-"

The door opened. Kush got in. She froze.

Khule: "Hello? Hello? Who's this?"

She quickly hung up and locked her phone then hurried to the bathroom....

[2/26, 06:36] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Two

ooo

[Khethelo]

"Yeah I'll call you first thing in the morning...no I thinkhe's asleep..... sure"

He closed the door and put his phone back in hispocket.

Khule: "Hi babe"

Me: "Hi"

He passed on to the bathroom. He sure baths a lot these days.

I applied lotion to my hands and took the robe off.

This bed is heavenly. Not short nor tall, just okay. I rested my head on the headboard and took my book and resumed reading.

My phone rang.

Me: "Hey"

Quinton: "Is Khule back?"

Me: "Yeah he's back. Do you-" the line died. I tried calling him again it went through voicemail.

"We landed safely. The signal isn't good here, I'll buy a new card tomorrow. The twins say Hello mommy"

I chuckled.

"That's great. Tell them I miss them already. Call me when you buy it. Goodnight"

I responded.

Khule returned, wearing only his boxers. His legs make me sick honestly.

He modelled the switch and turned the light off.Me:

"Am reading"

Khule: "Its 9pm. You should rest"

Me: "I had enough resting today"

He climbed on and got closer to me. His breath!!
shifted uncomfortably. He kissed my cheek.

Khule: "Did you miss me?"

Me: "Yes I did. Did you miss me?"

Khule: "I miss you even when you're in the bathroom to
pee babe"

I smiled. "Why are you reading this book?"He
took it and closed it.

Me: "Its interesting"

Khule: "Learning how to cheat?"

Me: "Did you read the title?"

Khule: "Yes. Why men cheat and why women do it
better"

Me: "Which part says there are cheating lessons?"

Khule: "Its the same. Did Quinton go to bed early?" Me:

"No he left"

Khule: "He left where?"

Me: "Durban."

Khule: "And you didn't tell me?" He got up and turned on the lights and walked out leaving the door open.

I got up and went to pee. I heard the door close.

Khule: "Khethelo"

Me: "Am coming"

He got in.

Khule: "You let him leave?"

Me: "What was I supposed to do?"

Khule: "He can't be out there on himself he needs us!"

Me: "That's where you have it wrong. He's grown, you're grown. At some point this was bound to happen. You can't live to be on each other's face till

you die. Quinton is an adult. He doesn't need you totell him what to do and what's not to do"

I got up and walked back to the bedroom. I got in bed and covered my head. Khulekani isn't healthy formy blood pressure...

ooo

[Emihle]

Sigh.

New year. Old sorrows. Carrying the previous year's frustrations and pain to your new year is a permanent step that it isn't your year.

We lead a very distinct lifestyle. Given a chance to choose a family, I'd choose any but not the Dubes. We bury every now and then. We dodge bullets constantly. I don't care how much they all might actlike this isn't effecting them deep down they know that being us is fucking hell.

When we came back from home I was called for interview in one of the biggest telecommunications companies in Jo'burg. I am an auditor, all thanks to

my mother who introduced me into many careers. I hated it when she told me to take online lectures. Today I am grateful. She wasn't perfect but one thing for sure, she always did what was best for us.

Jason Jason Jason!

Trash at it's best. The thought of him still repulse me. I have not seen him since that day and I pray each day I never do. My heart is still bleeding. I will never forgive him for that.

My hobbies this year include not having a man. What I need is a bestie, someone to shop with, travel the country with, go out on dates, confide in her. That's all.

...

I arrived at work. They're also friendly people. The whole building is vibrant and nature friendly. We have birds inside on their little cages. At first I thought it was very odd but then I realized it's actually spirit lifting to step in here and hear them chip.

"Hey Emz" I get to endure until I make it to the lift. It's

only been two weeks but everyone around here seems to know my name.

My new boss is rather scary. I've only seen him once and not looking forward into seeing him again.

I settled on my desk and Vee came in and poured me coffee. She handed me the cup.

Me: "Thank you and what do you want?"

Vee: "Mr Khan asked me to do research on global warming, I happened to forget, you know having kids isn't easy. You get busy soon as you step in your door so I forgot"

Me: "Okay? Where do I enter?"

Vee: "Please teach me 2 or 3 things"

Me: "Global warming is very common Vee"

Vee: "I know but those are very sophisticated people I need to use big words like photosynthesis" I laughed.

Me: "Know what? I'll jot everything down for you and forward it"

She smiled.

Vee: "Thank you. Lunch is on me"

Me: "Of course it is"

She's the first one who reached out on my first day. 30 years old, married and the boss's PA. She's a good person, never serious. I like her, we eat together during lunch.

She shook her gigantic ass out. My telephone rang. Me:

"Miss Dube's office"

Caller: "Miss Dube. There's a board meeting around 1 o'clock please avail yourself"

Me: "Thank you I will"

I hung up and called Quinton. My mamas baby.

Quinton: "For a moment I thought you forgot about me"

Me: "Its so windy there, I can't hear you"

Quinton: "Oh, we're at the beach"

Me: "With the kids?"

Quinton: "Yep. They're over there eating the sand" Me:

"The sand is salty Bhuti!"

Quinton: "They're growing up. When are you coming?"

I knew it. Now I will have to go up and down. Me:

"This weekend. Have they furnished yet?"

Quinton: "They are as we speak. We're going to stay at a hotel until they're done"

Me: "Okay. I love you guys"

Quinton: "We love you more"

He hung up. He sounded a bit lighter. He put my heart at ease I was worried about him.

ooo

[Khule]

I got off the phone with Charles. He can be so useless at times. I couldn't trace down Jason, he knows these tracking things. Mpisi failed too. That woman wanted to tell me something. And it was something useful. I just couldn't shake off the

feeling that she wanted to tell me she knows who shoot Tyler and Chloe.

Today was frustrating enough. Quinton left, and I on the other side is trying to hunt down that fool and now this mysterious woman.

Khethelo: "You're still here?" She said when she got in the lounge. Sounding very bored to see me. I brought my eyes up to her, she also looked bored.

Me: "Yes. I am working from home today. I made you breakfast"

Khethelo: "At least" she walked to the kitchen and returned.

Me: "Why did you say that?"

Khethelo: "What?" She stuffed herself.

Me: "Am sorry" I say after a while.

Khethelo: "For what?"

Me: "About last night"

Khethelo: "Don't sweat it. We all have our demons"

Me: "Sure we do"

She frowned. I laughed.

Khethelo: "Have you called him?" I shook my head. "too much for not being able to live without him"

Me: "I'll call him when I've cooled down"

Khethelo: "OK"

My phone rang.

Me: "It's the hospital" she stood on her feet.

Me: "Calm down" I answered. "Hello"

Caller: "Mr Dube? Please rush to the hospital. Your brother has woken up but we have a problem"

Me: "Am coming" I hung up.

Khethelo: "Is he okay?"

Me: "Yes. Am going"

Khethelo: "Am coming with you"

Me: "No I'll be speeding up"

She kept quiet. I kissed her and took my car keys and walked on to the door.

Khethelo: "I'll frog myself then"

I turned around. Why is she always messing with my head.

Me: "Come"

She smiled and took her plate and juice. I carried the juice for her.

-

We arrived at midday. We found Chris and Katlego sitting on the waiting area.

Me: "I tried to call you guys"

Chris: "My battery died. Did they tell you what's going on?"

Me: "No"

Khethelo: "But they said he's awake right?"

Chris: "Yes. But that does not mean we're off the hook, his vital organs might start acting up"

Katlego: "Can we be positive please?"

"Tyler Dube?"

We all stood up and nodded.

Dr: "Please follow me"

We all did.

Dr: "Mr Dube, your family is here"

He turned his head to our direction. He widened his eyes.

Tyler: "Doocttoorr" he said slowly. "These are the people that killed me, these are the men that shot me please get them out of here, please. Security!"

Chris: "Tyler its us"

Tyler: "Yes I see you. You killed me"

I became lost for words. Khethelo got under my arm and cried. He kept calling for security. The Dr came to me.

Dr: "We're still running some tests. Yesterday his brain was functioning very well, I don't know what happened."

Me: "He woke up yesterday?"

Dr: "Yes. I had to be sure he's really awake and run some tests. His condition was very critical Mr Dube I

didn't want to wake your hopes"3

security guards came in.

Tyler: "Arrest them! These two dark men. Leave the women with me"

The security guys asked Chris and I to come with them. Khethelo tried to follow I stopped her. She nodded. We walked out..

ooo

[Katlego]

He started laughing soon as the door closed. We stood there watching him. He can't be losing his mind dear Lord.

Tyler: "Are you guys gonna give me a hug?"

I looked at Khethelo. "How was my acting? Do youguys think Mfundu Vundla would hire me?"

Khethelo: "You did not just pull a prank on us"

Tyler: "Sure as hell I did. Why did y'all bring me here? Aren't there hospitals in Jo'burg? What if Pitso came here and unplugged the machines to charge his

phone?"

I laughed. Even on a death bed he's still crazy.

Khethelo: "You're under watch"

Me: "Let me call Khethiwe"

Tyler: "Don't bother, she knows. She's gone to buy me clothes and beer"

Me: "You can't have beer"

Tyler: "Why? I fought so hard to wake up because I couldn't imagine my life without it. Ugh its so nice being semi-dead"

The door opened Khule and Chris stormed in. Tyler hid himself with a pillow and screamed. "Security! They're back to kill me again!" ...

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Chapter Three

ooo

[Chris]

Katlego: "Calm down" she chuckled.

Me: "You know what makes me mad? You guys find this funny"

Katlego: "That's because it is funny. The way you guys panicked. That was so priceless"

Me: "Mxm. We're not visiting him anytime soon"

Katlego: "What time is your shift today?"

Me: "4pm and am not in a good spirit"

Katlego: "What's wrong?"

Me: "I don't know. You should go register the kids at school"

Katlego: "I'll do it over internet"

Me: "You're obsessed with internet Mrs Dube"

Katlego: "That's because it is quick baby"

Me: "I don't trust it"

Katlego: "Let me show you how quick it is" She took her phone and pressed on it.

Katlego: "No!"

Me: "What?" She gave it to me.

'The little Zebra is finding it hard to deal with Mommy's passing'

Me: "Can these people stop meddling into other people's lives?"

Katlego: "Just when I thought we were having a smooth week"

Me: "Do you have airtime?"

Katlego: "Yes."

I searched for his numbers. "Don't shout at him okay"

Bonga: "Ma?"

Me: "By 3pm I want you here"

Bonga: "Baba? I-"

Me: "Come home! You out there acting like an irresponsible adult."

Katlego: "Don't shout at him"

Me: "Am not."

Bonga: "Am behaving baba"

Me: "Oh really? Is that why there's a picture of you in a club with alcohol surrounded by naked women?"

Bonga: "Fuck, uhm..."

Me: "Yeah fuck. Come home"

Bonga: "I- I will"

I hung up.

Me: "He needs a punch in the face"

Katlego: "No he doesn't. He's trying to digest this whole thing"

Me: "By drowning in alcohol? You should stop treating him as a baby"

Katlego: "He's grieving babe. Going hard on him will not change anything." I picked Hawu up and walked on. "Where are you going?"

Me: "Upstairs to call Quinton and the twins."

I need to fast one of these days. Everything is going wrong...

ooo

[Khethelo]

Bonga is gonna be the death of me or send me to premature labor. Why on earth would he be this careless. One more thing for Khule to bark the whole day.

Thursdays are my favorite. He leaves at 5 and return at 7pm. He doesn't find time to pop up every 2 hours. I don't get to see his sweaty black face.

I wore my bikini and a see through dress. I took out my fruit salad and went to relax on the back lounge. The view of the pool. Just what I need at least once a week. A beautiful relaxed day sitting on the couch doing nothing. And now I have a maid, she comes in 3 times a week.

My phone rang. Uh the husband. But seriously Q, video call? I took a towel and covered my chest.

I answered. The 3 of them appeared.

Me: "Hey guys" ugh my babies marn.

Q: "Hey mama. Say hello to mama" they weren't even paying attention.

Me: "Just one day in Durban you guys are already glowing"

He chuckled.

Q: "Its the change of atmosphere I guess. For the first time since that day I found a decent sleep, it feltso good"

Me: "Ncoa you gonna make me cry. Am so happy foryou"

Q: "You're the best thing that has ever happened tous Khethelo"

Me: "Hhaisuka marn Quinton"

Q: "You know, you've walked with me in this road of grieving. Something no one has ever did for me. I don't know what I would do if you ever left us"

Me: "Am not going anywhere"

Q: "Thank you Nguniza. How are the little ones treating you?"

Me: "Very well. We just miss the older sisters" Sisekelo hit the screen. She's such a problem child.

Q: "I don't know which nanny will stand these kids" I laughed.

Me: "Get someone older. They're patient"Q:

"I'll try "

Me: "What's gonna happen about your job?"

Q: "Khethiwe will take over as the new CEO. I will look for something to do here. Even being a waiter ora cleaner"

I laughed.

Me: "The tabloids would be so happy" He

laughed.

Q: "At least they'll have something to sell. Their salaries would increase and they get to buy themselves lives" I laughed. The way he hate journalists you'd swear he wasn't dating one. Cameto think of it.

Me: "When last did you hear from Bonga"

Q: "That one is busy being irresponsible out there. Did you see the picture?"

Me: "Yes. I told him to come home"

Q: "I want him to explain those naked women. The next thing we know in 9 months there will be a girl claiming to have his child"

Me: "Don't be hard on him hle. That's his way of grieving"

Q: "Its shitty. Uhm... Let me go check on the progress at my house. I'll call you guys tomorrow"

Me: "OK. Send me pictures when you get there"Q:

"Okay. Bye"

Me: "Bye"

I put the phone down and continued eating. It rang again. Whoever that is must just leave me alone.

"Ma'am. Ma'am can you hear me. There's Sam Mnguni here. Should I let him in?"

How could I forget he's coming. I got off the couch and pressed the gate button.

Me: "Yes please let him in"

This house has speakers. I should have them taken

out because Khule think they're toys.

I walked to the front. I unlocked and walked out to him...them. I don't really like this girlfriend of his, or should I say baby mama. She thinks she has PhD in everything.

Me: "Don't kill me for forgetting you're coming. Heygirl, nice brows"

Simi: "I know right. Its Mac's new eyebrow gel you should try it"

Me: "I Will"

Sam hugged me and gave me Luhle, his son. Whom he discovered right after Christmas. If he didn't look exactly like the rest of us I would've told him to go for DNA. He's a year old. She kept him away because Sam cheated. She says she needed time to calm down. I don't know what he saw in her because they're two different kinds of people. But I guess opposite attracts right?

I followed them in. Me following them into my house.Sam:

"Do you have food?"

Simi: "She's pregnant. Of course there's food"

placed the baby on the counter.

Me: "There are fries in the fridge and also pies. You can just warm it all up"

Sam: "Don't you eat burgers anymore?" Me:

"Oh and burgers"

Simi: "You eat all that food? You're only 5 months and already ballooning. Your husband is gonna find you unattractive when you're fat"

Me: "Us married women never mind our weight because we're loved"

Simi: "Oh"

That must've sounded harsh but I am tired of her telling me what I already know.

Me: "Please make some for us too." I picked Luhleup.

Sam: "This is brother abuse. When is Khule coming back?"

Sometimes I think he comes here just to eat and

play games with Khule. I don't get their sudden friendship.

Me: "He's not coming back today" His phone beeped. He smiled.

Sam: "He'll be back earlier than usual" I scoffed.

Me: "Sam. You know you can tell me anything right?"

Sam: "Yes" why is he even eating my creamy chedders.

Me: "Are you gay?"

Simi: "What?"

Sam: "Yeah sometimes. It depends on the situationam under"

He laughed. I need a new brother...

ooo

[Narrated]

Sisiphi threw herself on the couch next to hermother.

Sisipho: "I think I've found the dress for prom"

Lelo: "At long last. Let me see" she took the magazine out of Sisipho's hands. "This?"

Sisipho: "Yes. That v at the back is insanely beautiful mom"

Lelo: "Your sense of fashion is questionable baby. Some days I doubt that you're my child"

Sisipho: "You want me to wear those Sofia dresses?" Lelo:
"No. Find something unique"

Yezwe walked in followed by Kush. Lelo got up and walked up the stairs. Kush followed her.

Yezwe: "Don't ask me anything because I also don't know what's happening"

Sisipho: "I wasn't going to. I know he cheated on mom with Kim"

Yezwe: "What!?"

Sisipho focused on her magazine. Yezwe snatched it away.

Sisipho: "What?"

Yezwe: "Which Kim?"

Sisipho: "The Lawyer"

Yezwe put his hands on his head. "Don't tell me you slept with her too"

Yezwe: "Shut the hell up!"

Sisipho raised her hands in surrender...

{At the master bedroom}

Kush: "Are you being for real right now?"

Lelo: "Not now Calvin!" She caught her breath. Kush attempted to touch her. "Don't touch me!" She said as tears burned her eyes.

Kush: "Am sorry okay, I am so sorry. I have absolutely no excuse why I-"

Lelo: "Oh God can you please shut up. I don't even recognize you any more. You're no longer the man I married"

Kush: "I am baby I am. Am so sorry my love"

Lelo: "I never married a killer nor a cheater!"

Kush: "I didn't know she was gonna be there"

Lelo: "You should've investigated better Calvin. Why would you even want to fight battles that aren't yours"

Kush: "I owe Simon my life"

Lelo: "So you gonna be a killer now? Kill everyone who had anything to do with his arrest? He's where he belongs. This world is better off without him.

That woman was pregnant! She was pregnant Calvin. Wipe those tears and start celebrating. You did well"

She said and hurried to the door and locked him in.

She passed the kids on the lounge and took the carkeys...

ooo

[Khule]

There's nothing as useless as the things we call police. 4 weeks later they're still investigating. No leads no nothing.

Going site seeing is the worst part of running this company.

Me: "Call Quinton."

"Calling Quinton"

Quinton: "Mbuyazi"

Me: "Its very polite to let a cellphone ring"

Quinton: "Not when you were about to call your twinny"

I chuckled.

Me: "You're such a flatter. Where are my girls?"

Quinton: "Aren't you gonna ask me how I am?"

Me: "You sound very alive and better than the previous days. I know of that because I feel a wholelot better myself"

Quinton: "A part of me will probably never heal" Me:

"I know. It'll get better with time, little by little"

Quinton: "Thank you. And to answer your question. Your girls are fine and driving me crazy."

We laughed.

Me: "We're flying down tomorrow"

Quinton: "There's no need yo tease me"

Me: "We are. All of us. Did you see Bonga with the babes?"

Quinton: "Yes. He needs a serious hiding"

Me: "Why? He's 22. That boy doesn't know fun" Quinton:

"That'll effect his possibilities to find a job" Me: "As if he needs one...hey move it!" I hooted.

Quinton: "Are you driving?"

Me: "No am at a McDonald's drive through to get a peace offering for arriving this late"

He laughed.

Quinton: "Imagine If you had to do all that for a surrogate"

Me: "I'd have kicked her out already"

Honestly I would have. What I experience at home is pure abuse. I am being punished for getting her pregnant.

Quinton: "Let me put the bitter princess to bed."

Me: "Keep well and don't let my kids eat beach sand" He laughed.

Quinton: "Bye Kk"

Me: "Don't forget to call your crazy ass baby brother. That monkey is a but case"

He laughed.

Quinton: "I called him around 3pm. He's quite impressed with himself if I may say"

Me: "Am not visiting him until he calls and apologize"

Quinton: "That's your mother's child"

Me: "Yeah whatever. Bye"

He hung up. I can't believe we're apart. We have to make a visiting schedule.

...

I arrived at home. The lights were off. God knows am not ready for this conversation. I parked and got out.

I unlocked and got in. I turned on the lights. She was seating on the kitchen counter.

Khethelo: "I hope you have my chicken lickin hotwings and KFC milkshake"

Not when I bought burgers, fries, chicken nuggets and ice cream.

"Is that McDonald? Please tell me its not" Me:

"Babe you eat McDonald's everyday"

Khethelo: "So now I should eat it even when I don't want? I hate burgers. I hate fries. I want wings" she cried.

I took a deep breath. I placed the paper bag next to her and helped her down.

Me: "Let's go get your wings" I

pulled her out to the car.

Khethelo: "This car smells of a different perfume" Me:

"I gave Glade a lift"

Khethelo: "You should buy her a car"

Me: "She can't drive"

Khethelo: "Take her to driving school then"

Me: "That's not my responsibility"

Khethelo: "Bonga is here"

Me: "Did he tell you where he was?"

Khethelo: "I didn't ask."

Me: "Mmmh"

We arrived at chicken licken and bought the wings. She smiled when our order arrived, now I can sleep in peace.

Khethelo: "Mmm these need hot McDonald's fries" Me:

"Lucky us we have some at home"

Khethelo: "No I want fresh ones"

Me: "McDonald is 30 minutes away MaMnguni"

Khethelo: "Fine then. Pull up I want to pee"

Me: "Those toilets aren't safe"

Khethelo: "You'll wait at the door"

I parked and got out. She ran inside the toilet. I stood at the door. I texted Quinton about my unfortunate effort as I waited.

"Baby" I turned.

Me: "That was quick." I started walking on.

Khethelo: "Stop" I did. "Don't panic okay"

I immediately panicked and rushed to her.Me:

"Are you okay? Are the kids okay?"

Khethelo: "Yes we're fine but this woman in here isn't" whew! What woman?

Me: "What woman?"

Khethelo: "She has given birth and urgently needs to go to hospital"

Me: "What?"

Khethelo: "Can we call our emergency ambulance?"Me:

"Yeah sure. Go ahead. Is the baby alive?"

Khethelo: "Yes. Uhm Hi. We're at the South Heights and urgently needs an ambulance. A woman just gave birth and she's losing a lot of blood. On the toilet at the corner. Thank you"

Me: "Are they coming?"

Khethelo: "Yes. I'll go be with her, please borrow me your jacket"

I took it off and gave it to her.

Who can I call? I called the insurance company again. I heard the sirens. I put the phone back at my pocket.

An ambulance pulled up next to my car. That was quick. They ran towards me with a stretcher.

Me: "She's inside" They ran in.

A couple of minutes later they got out pulling a stretcher.

Paramedic1: "We need more kings like you Mr Dube" Me: "It's only a pleasure"

Khethelo followed with my jacket on her hands.

Me: "Can I have my jacket back now?" She quickly pulled away.

Khethelo: "Careful! There's a baby in here"

Me: "Oh my God am so sorry. Can I see it?"

I opened a little slit. Babies are so ugly.Me:

"Its so cute"

Khethelo: "I know right"

Me: "Are you crying?"

Khethelo: "How can I not? Soon we well be holdingours"

"Uhm...Mr and Mrs Dube?"

Us: "Yes?"

Paramedic2: "The baby please"

Me: "Yeah, am sorry" Paramedic:

"Its okay"

She handed him the baby.

Khethelo: "Will she be fine?"

Paramedic: "Yes ma'am."

Me: "Take her to netcare I'll cover the payments"

paramedic: "Salute"

He walked in the ambulance and they drove off.

Me: "Am proud of you my Queen" I kissed her forehead. She smiled and took my hand. We got in the car.

Me: "Did you get her name?" Khethelo:

"Yes. Nompulelo Madonna"

She rested her big head on my shoulder. We drove off

[2/26, 06:36] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Four

ooo

[Khethelo]

Sometimes I wish I could just get a call from Mangcobo telling me that she's fetching her jet. Khulekani told me we're going to Durban in the noon. No he did not ask if I have plans for the weekend. He just decided on his own like a single man.

My phone rang as I walked out of the bathroom. I should change this tone. Its irritating.

Me: "Hi"

Don: "There's Miss Emihle Dube here at the gate should I let her in?" Does this man still wants this job? Making a whole princess wait?

Me: "Let her in"

I hung up and called Khule.

Khule: "Wife"

Me: "Is there another way I could get informed if there's a person at the gate. I can't take this anymore"

Khule: "Yes there is. Glade will be the one granting access from the next hour"

Me: "Thank you mbuyazi bye"

Khule: "Wings or Burger?"

Me: "Haven't decided yet. Bye"

I threw the phone at the bed and put on the under wears. Katlego bought me a whole bag of matching bras and panties. I am not talking the ordinary panties. I mean the lace sexy things.

The door opened. She looks 26. Oh God we haven't

celebrated a single birthday since I came to this home.

Emi: "Bonga is burning down your kitchen" Me:

"He'll replace everything."

We laughed and hugged. She kissed my bump.

Emi: "My babies love you. You're so smooth" she said pinching my cheek. This is who these babies prefer. They love her.

Me: "Are you taking me out?"

Emi: "No. But now that you've suggested it. Yes I am"

Me: "I love you so much. I wanna go somewhere after that date"

Emi: "Look how sexy you are in that set" I chuckled.

Me: "I try not to but it's just too hard" how about a nude? "Go to the bathroom"

Emi: "Why?"

Me: "I wanna take a nude. Better yet just get in the

closet and find me something to wear"

She shook her head laughing and walked into the closet. I took my phone and posed in front of the mirror. Holding my bump and all that.

"Hi dzaddy" *6 pictures attached*

I put it on flight mode and started doing my brows...

ooo

[Tyler]

My crush Dr came in serving me the most beautiful smile.

Her: "Good morning Advocate Dube"

Me: "Morning Dr Dube" she chuckled.

Her: "I have very good news for you"

Me: "Amuse me"

Her: "Your blood results are very beautiful. Your spinal cord is very intact, the only problem we have is the wound on your left thigh. You will be able to walk just that you will be using crutches for balance"

Me: "Those are the best news I've heard all day.
When am I going home?"

Her: "Am gonna go and issue your discharge permit"
music to my ears.

She walked out. The lady who serves breakfast got in
and placed her tasteless food on the table. I smiled and
thanked her. She walked out. I took my phone and
called Khethiwe.

Khethiwe: "Hey" she yawned. She's not serious.Me:

"Don't tell me you're asleep"

Khethiwe: "Why?"

Me: "How can you sleep when I am getting
discharged?"

Khethiwe: "Am coming"

Me: "Why do you sound bored?"

Khethiwe: "Because I want to cry Tyler"

Me: "Why baby?"

Khethiwe: "Because I don't have a job"

Me: "I'll fire my PA and hire you"

Khethiwe: "We're going to Durban"

Me: "When?"

Khethiwe: "This evening"

Me: "OK. Please bring me my Nike flops"

Khethiwe: "OK babe. I love you"

Me: "I love you more"

I hung up and called Khule.

Khule: "Mfana Ka Mangcobo"

Me: "Yes betrayer. Who are you guys think you are planning to go to Durban without me?"

Khule: "No one is going to Durban without you. Liamis gonna fetch you"

Me: "Ohh. I thought you didn't love me anymore."

Khule: "I don't."

Me: "When are you-" he hung up. "Bloody swine"

ooo

[Narrated]

The Dr came in pushing a baby cot.

Lelo sat up straight and smiled.

Dr: "Good morning mommy" she picked the baby up and gave him to Lelo.

Lelo: "Oh my God you're so tiny"

Dr: "And as healthy as ever now. All thanks to the woman who found you or else we would've lost you both"

Lelo: "I owe her my life"

Dr: "We're still trying to get her contact numbers"

Lelo: "Thank you" she smiled.

Dr: "Let me leave you two to bond"

She walked out. Khethelo walked in. She took a deep breath when she saw her.

Khethelo: "Finally! I've been to 4 wards already."

Lelo looked at her puzzled.

Khethelo: "I brought clothes to change, a gown, food"

and Nana's clothes too." She said placing the plastic on the table and a bag next to it.

Lelo: "Uhm...I don't mean to be rude but do I know you?"

Khethelo: "Oh my bad. Am Khethelo Mnguni. We met at the toilet last night"

Lelo gasped. Her eyes got filled with tears.

Khethelo: "Don't cry"

She got up and hugged her.

Lelo: "Thank you so much sisi. If you had not showed up, we'd be talking of something else today"

They broke the hug. Khethelo sat down again.

Khethelo: "God will always send someone to rescue you love"

Lelo: "I owe it all to you"

Khethelo: "Why were you driving alone at night?"

Lelo looked away. "Its okay don't say it. Have you called home?"

Lelo: "No. I just need to be on my own, away from them"

Khethelo: "Understandable. Are you hungry?" Lelo:
"Am starving"

Khethelo took the plastic with food and placed it next to her.

Khethelo: "Let me hold him while you eat"

Lelo: "Do you know my name?" She said handing the baby over.

Khethelo: "Yes. Nompulelo right?" Lelo smiled and nodded.

Lelo: "Home made food. Oh my God you're Godly sent for real"

Khethelo: "Aisuka. Eat and gain your strength back, this champ here will need a full boobie. Right baby?"

Lelo: "You have a very good heart. Are you married?"

Khethelo: "Yes I am. I forget to say am a Dube, it has not sink in."

Lelo: "Thee Dubes?"

Khethelo: "The ones that were all over news recently. Am Khulekani's wife"

Lelo choked on her spit.

Khethelo: "Oh my God are you okay?"

She handed her water. Lelo drank up.

Lelo: "Thank you am fine." She faked a smile.
Khethelo sighed in relief and rocked the baby...

....

6 hours later

ooo

[Katlego]

I seriously can't stand Hawu's noise. And being in his father's presence makes it worse cause I can't beat his ass.

Khethelo: "I just hate flying"

Me: "You hate everything Khethelo"

Khethelo: "That's because it's all irritating. It's been 3 hours. Why haven't we landed?"

Khethiwe: "It has only been 1hour and 30 minutes"

Khethelo: "Whatever"

She brushed her bump. This is the worst pregnant woman I've ever seen.

Me: "So, Bonga. Have you found us the daughter in-law already?" He chuckled.

Bonga: "Not yet"

Khethelo: "If you're gay just come forward we won't judge you"

We laughed.

Bonga: "I wish I was honestly. Women are hard work"

Khethiwe: "No. Women just don't tolerate madness"

Bonga: "If baba told you he can't be with you anymore because that would put your life in danger and then offer to be your friend, would you deny him?"

Me: "Yes. Yes yes yes."

Khethelo: "Yes"

Khethiwe: "You can never be friends with someone you love. Come on"

Bonga: "I love her she knows"

Khethiwe: "But you can't be with her. Being friends would break her heart"

Bonga: "Mine is broken too"

Me: "It's not the same" Chris
peeped his head in.

Chris: "Do you need saving?"

We all laughed.

Bonga: "No am still good."

Chris: "Okay. We're landing in 30 minutes buckle up"

Khethelo: "Can we have food again?"

Chris: "Yes ma'am"

He walked back to his brothers.

Bonga: "Mamkhulu. Tell me about that woman you found in the toilet"

Khethelo: "Oh my God I have to call her when we

land"

Khethiwe: "What happened?"

Khethelo: "I found her lying in a pool of her own blood in the toilet, holding a tiny thing on her chest. She delivered the baby on her own, imagine. We're truly the rocks. She's going through a lot I could tell when I went to see her earlier."

Bonga: "You did well mommy"

Me: "I would've freaked out"

Khethiwe: "Me too"

We laughed.

Khethelo: "There's no freaking out in such situations. That could've been me"

Us: "True"

I sipped on my wine and winked at her. She rolled her eyes...

ooo

[Narrated]

The Dr led Kush to Lelo's ward. She was beautifully sleeping with her baby close to her chest. He thanked the Dr and took a seat on the chair next to the bed.

He took pictures of them and continued to admire them.

She opened her eyes and frowned. He stared still at them.

Lelo: "Hi"

He bit his upper lip. Tears gushed down his cheeks. The part of her that is forever soft for him bugged. "Hey hey, its okay."

Kush: "Am sorry"

Lelo: "Its okay"

Kush: "No it's not. You put your life in danger Nompumelelo"

Lelo: "I know and am sorry" Kush:

"You both could've died"

Lelo: "And we are not. We're okay, thanks to that"

woman who found me"

Kush: "I need to personally go and thank her and her husband" Lelo cleared her throat.

Lelo: "Maybe not"

Kush: "Why?"

Lelo: "It is the Dubes"

Kush froze for a bit.

Kush: "What?"

Lelo: "Yes. Khulekani's wife Khethelo is the woman who found me. Her and Khulekani called an ambulance for me and brought me here, also covering the medical bill" she said heatedly.

Kush: "There's no need for covering the bill I will do it myself"

Lelo: "It has already been paid. Do you see how good some people are. Do you see how fate goes? This is God telling you fucked up Calvin. This is God showing you that those people don't deserve what you did to them."

Kush: "Am sorry"

Lelo: "No, you're apologizing to a wrong person. The people you should apologize to is them."

Kush: "You know I can't do that"

Me: "Either way. You gonna have to before they find you first, those are the men provoked, they will not just kill you, they'll kill us all"

He kept quiet just staring into space. They sat in complete silence. Only the child was making those low breastfeeding sounds...

...

{The following day in Durban}

Khethelo: "I should've brought all my swimming costume then"

Khule: "Yes you should've. Put a dress on top of that"

Khethelo: "It is hot Khulekani. I am not black like you, my skin is sensitive to heat"

Khule: "What does my complexion have to do with this? And that is stupid. Your skin is sensitive to heat"

but you want to wear a panty and a bra with this net thing?"

Khethelo: "I said heat not the sun. You should listen when a person talks. And please don't go around calling my swimwears a panty and a bra."

Khule: "It is the same to me"

Khethelo: "Then I should find myself a man who knows a difference then"

She put on a dress and walked out. Khule sighed and dressed up too then followed her all the way to the dining area at the balcony, having a clear view of the sea.

Emi and Amo joined them.

Emi: "Morning love birds"

Khule: "Morning"

Emi: "What's up mommy?"

Khethelo: "Can you believe he called my swimwear a panty and a bra?"

Quinton: "He did what?" He said taking a seat. He

turned to Khule. "Don't you know bikinis?"

Khule: "Same difference"

Emi and Q looked at him with warning eyes.

Khethelo: "I don't want anyone blaming me when I leave him"

Khule: "Am sorry babe. That all came out wrong. Should we order wings and fries?"

Khethelo: "No I want amasi"

Amo: "I doubt they serve them this early"

Khethelo: "Then y'all work your Dube charm. Get me amasi, I want them cold. Uphuthu should be burned a little okay." She said looking at Khule and Quinton.

Quinton took Khule's hand and they left. Amo and Emi laughed.

Khethelo: "Do you guys feel that fresh air? Their presence just suffocates me to death. Their noses just consume all the fresh air. Oh my is that fruit salad?"

She said to the waiter as she placed the serving

bowls on top of the table.

Her: "Yes ma'am. Would you like it with yoghurt?"

Khethelo: "Have we met before?" She shook her Head.
"In the previous life maybe? No? Okay I like you. I'd like it with yoghurt"

She dished it up for her and handed her the bowl.

Khethelo: "Thank you"

The Lady smiled and walked away.

Emi: "We can't wait for you to give birth"

Khethelo: "That is the devil talking. I am not ready for labor pains" she said between the chewing.

Chris And Katlego giggled as they came to the table.

Khethelo: "Here comes another fresh air consumer. What have I done wrong dear Lord" she said whispering.

Amo giggled.

Chris: "Morning family. Where's everyone?" Emi:

"They-"

Khethelo: "Late as usual" she said cutting Emi off. Bonga, Khethiwe and Tyler joined in too.

Bonga: "Food waits for no man"

Khule: "I've always known you don't love us"

They all laughed.

Quinton: "We're back. Here is your burned pap and Maas"

Khethelo: "I knew I was making a right choice by marrying you guys. Thank you"

She smiled and put her scrambled pap into a bowl.

Khethiwe: "They serve this in the morning?"

Khule: "Yes they do"

Tyler: "That's great."

Quinton: "How's your leg?"

Tyler: "Painful. I need a wheelchair"

They all looked at each other.

Khule: "Not happening"

Tyler: "It is hard to walk. From the lift to here it took me 30 minutes" Khethiwe looked at him surprised.

Quinton: "You'll use the one Khule was using"

Tyler: "No I want a new one"

Quinton: "Then you'll get a new one"

Khethiwe: "As long as I won't have to wheel you around"

Tyler: "Its electronic babe"

Chris: "Okay enough. Let's hold hands and pray" They indeed did.

Chris: "Heavenly father we're gathered here today to celebrate and show our gratitude for keeping us until this moment. Although one of us is missing, we're still grateful. This is our first prayer and breakfast together since the year began. We pray that you heal our hearts, focus more on Quinton's, he needs you more than anything. We pray for a better life from now on, we pray for protection, we pray for happiness. We no longer want to lose nor cry. We pray for a big break. Most of all we pray for ever

lasting love and unity. Amen"

Everyone: "Amen"

Khethelo: "God heard you Mbuyazi that was very powerful"

Katlego: "We had a very tough beginning of a year"

Khule: "That is why from now on we're looking forward to only goodness"

They both took out two boxes under the table. Khule gave it to Bonga, Quinton gave it to Khethiwe.

Khule: "Open it"

They both curiously opened them up.

Bonga: "No fucking way...am sorry. Baba you aren't serious!"

Khule: "I am. As a heart attack"

Khethiwe screamed and cried. Tyler brought her closer.

Khethelo: "Can we please see?"

Bonga gave them the box.

Bonga: "You're looking at a new CEO of Dube Constructions"

Emi: "No!" She got up and they hugged.

Quinton: "As you've all said. We've had a very hard beginning of a year. I have decided to step down as the CEO of Dube Logistics. I just want to raise my children and travel the world. Khethiwe will take over as the new CEO, and no Khethiwe it's not because you're my sister-in-law. You earned it. Through your hard work."

Khethiwe: "Thank you so much I don't know what to say"

Tyler: "Say thank you"

They all laughed.

Khule: "And me too. Am stepping down. Bonga will be the new CEO. Maybe I'll gain some complexion now that I won't be spending my days under the sun in sites" he said looking at Khethelo. She laughed and wiped her tears. "My boy I trust you with that company. That is a family company so everyone will be expecting the best from you"

Bonga: "I can't wait to round on the big chair"

Everyone laughed.

Chris: "And I will be opening a surgery soon" Katlego squeezed his hand.

Khule: "And Tyler's Law firm"

Tyler: "Look at God!"

Khethelo: "Ladies. We're also opening a spa then"

Katlego: "In the name of the Lord we receive" Emi:

"Amen! And a car wash slash shisanyama" Khule: "To new happy beginnings!"

They all raised their glasses and drank to that. .

...

Sosha was watching them on a computer. He took his phone and called Babomncane.

Babomncane: "Yes"

Sosha: "You're a non factor here. These people have money. Khethelo is never coming back to claim her inheritance. She's happy, they are happy. And that

boy survived"

Babomncane: "He is my problem Sosha"

Sosha: "He would never sue you without Khethelo'sgo ahead"

Babomncane sighed.

Babomncane: "He better not"

Sosha hung up and disconnected the camera...

[2/26, 06:36] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Five

ooo

[Quinton]

A heard a knock. "Room service!"

Me: "Thank you we're good"

"Its Bonga" this baboon. I went to unlock.

Bonga: "Mbuyazi"

Me: "Dube elimthende. Is your room cold?" He

walked to the kitchen area, I sat down on the couch. Bonga:

"No. I came to see my sisters"

Me: "Your sisters are with Emi"

Bonga: "Great. That means we get time to play FIFA" Me:

"There's no play station"

Bonga: "I ordered it"

Me: "Mr CEO"

He laughed.

Bonga: "In flash. Are there hot young ladies in the building?"

Me: "What's up with you and ladies these days?" He

handed me a glass of juice. "Thanks"

Bonga: "Am 22. I need a stable girlfriend"

Me: "Are you allowed to now?"

Bonga: "My mission is accomplished so it wouldn't be fair if I wasn't"

Me: "Don't take chances"

Bonga: "My hands are tired baba"

Me: "What?"

We laughed.

Bonga: "A man has to survive. One way or the other. Are we having breakfast at that dining area again?"

Me: "No. We can't book it today. People love that view. We'll eat at Chris's room"

Bonga: "Breakfast prepared by mom?"

Me: "I don't know"

He nodded and kept his eyes locked on the TV. And then turned to me.

Bonga: "Is it working?"

Me: "What?"

Bonga: "Being here."

Me: "A bit. Its just these dreams of her I keep having"

Bonga: "We can erase your memory if you want"

Me: "No." He nodded. "And you, how are you holding up?"

Bonga: "Am good now. I somehow feel like I failed her"

Me: "No you didn't"

Bonga: "I should've seen something. There must've been a hint but I didn't notice"

Me: "Maybe it was her time. You're not responsible for any misfortune that takes place in this house."

Bonga: "I wish I believed that"

Me: "Don't be too hard on yourself"

My phone beeped. "Breakfast is ready. Let's go"

...

[Tyler]

I can't wait for my wheelchair to arrive. I just want Maxwell to feel sorry for me and raise my salary.

Khethiwe: "Breakfast is ready"

Me: "Why are you so Moody. You should be happy"

Khethiwe: "Now I have to smile all the time? Are you gonna need help with something?"

Me: "Come here"

She walked to the bathroom instead. I sighed. She came out minutes later.

Me: "What's up?"

Khethiwe: "Am I not enough for you?" I frowned.

Me: "Where's that coming from? Come here"

Khethiwe: "Answer my question" she's the most calm person ever when sad or mad.

Me: "You're enough babe you know that"

She walked to the vanity and took her phone and gave it to me.

My crush Dr. How did she know?

Me: "Who's this?"

Khethiwe: "Your crush" she said folding her arms. Me:

"My what?"

I scrolled. "Crush ya Attorney Dube" her caption wrote. I had no idea she's a 2000. How could a woman with such a good job and looks be this

stupid.

Khethiwe: "You should put her in her place before Ideal with her myself"

Me: "I'll try contacting the hospital? She's crazy. I love you okay. Please pass me my shoes"

Khethiwe: "Why don't you ask your crush"

She walked out. Fuck...

ooo

[Katlego]

Quinton: "Is Khule and Khethelo still alive?"

Emi: "We'd like to think so" we laughed.

Chris: "Call them. I don't trust that pregnant Khethelo. She might strangle my brother to death"

Quinton: "That's good. I'll be the eldest"

Amo: "Aren't you guys twins?"

Me: "They are."

Amo: "They're both old mos"

Chris: "Speaking of old. When are you going to

school?"

She looked at me like I have an answer for that.

Amo: "Uhm...I was thinking of looking for a job"

Quinton: "Where?"

Amo: "Restaurants"

Chris: "We go to school in this home. We won't have a 19 year old working"

Amo: "Am not good at school"

Emi: "What are you good at?"

Amo: "Music and drawing"

Quinton: "Then you'll study that"

Amo: "I-"

Chris: "Google art schools. When you find the one you like let us know"

Amo: "The art school I love is overseas so-"

Quinton: "Apply then"

Amo looked at him surprised. He wasn't even paying attention to her.

Amo: "Sorry, what?"

Chris: "Apply. Do you have a portfolio?" She nodded.
"Much easier then"

Quinton: "Can we now eat?"

The door swung open. They followed each other in, laughing. We haven't had that sight in ages.

Khethelo: "Morning family"

Us: "Good morning"

Khule: "We went to buy cow feet"

We all laughed. "She then drank umqombothi"

Khethelo: "Why are you badmouthing me? We both did" they giggled.

Quinton: "Okay sit down"

Khule: "Oh thank you Sir"

They did and dished up. We said and started eating.

Quinton: "I was thinking we go to see my house after breakfast, if that's okay with everyone"

Emi: "I'd love to"

Khule: "We'd love to. Is it big enough?"

Quinton: "Pretty much"

Chris: "Great. Next time we fly down we won't have to stay in a hotel"

We chuckled.

Me: "Where's Tyler?"

We all looked at Khethiwe.

Khethiwe: "He said he'll shortly follow me" All

3 of his brothers got up and rushed out. Bonga:

"Look who's walking"

I turned. He smiled when our eyes met and fell down on his butt.

Khethelo: "Miracle babies doing miracle things. Walking at only 6 months"

Bonga: "You haven't seen anything yet"

The Dube brothers walked in with their little brother. He greeted us then sat down next to Bonga.

Whatever he did to upset Khethiwe is real. She's so

free spirited to be this down. We
continued eating. In silence.

ooo

[Narrated]

Amogelang got in holding balloons written 'Its a boy'
attached to a paper bag.

Lelo: "Calvin doesn't listen"

Amo: "Honey when you said you don't want any
visitors that excluded me"

Lelo: "Whatever Amogelang. Did you bring me food?"

Amo: "No I didn't"

Lelo: "You should've just stayed at your house"

Amo: "Am kidding. I ordered it. It should arrive
anytime from now. How are you feeling?"

Lelo: "A good now"

Amo: "That's good. Calvin tells me you said you willnot go
home after being discharged"

Lelo: "He's right. I will stay in my apartment in

Rivonia"

Amo: "You can't stay with the baby on your own"

Lelo: "I will. Am tired of Calvin. I just need some time away from him."

Amo: "What about your children?"

Lelo: "They will visit on weekends."

Her phone rang. She smiled. Amo looked at her with questioning eyes.

Lelo: "Hey"

Khethelo: "I almost flew back. Why was your phone off?"

Lelo: "It must've been the network. How are you? Is Durban nice to you guys?"

Khethelo: "We're okay and Durban is good to us. How about y'all?"

Lelo: "We're perfect. Though someone sucks on my boob like his life depend on it" they laughed.

Khethelo: "It does. Did daddy come today?"

Lelo: "No he hasn't. But am sure he will you know how stubborn that species is"

Khethelo: "Try not to let everything disturb your peace okay"

Lelo: "I won't. Thank you so much."

Khethelo: "Anytime love. Let me go. I'll check up on you later on"

Lelo: "Okay sisi. Bye"

She hung up. "It is the woman who found me.

Khethelo Dube"

Amo: "Slay mom?"

Lelo: "What?"

Amo: "Thee Khethelo Dube? The twin's wife?"

Lelo: "Yeah. Slay mom is her name?" Amo chuckled. Amo:

"These lifeless paparazzi people call her that" Lelo:

"That's crazy"

They laughed...

ooo

[Khethelo]

Khule: "Is she okay?"

Me: "Yeah. She had no network."

Khule: "That's great. Did she tell you why was she driving at night alone?"

Me: "Her husband cheated."

Khule: "So she decided to put her life and the baby's in danger?. Women and their irrational thinking"

What is this man saying?

Me: "Have you ever been cheated on?"

Khule: "No but I know if I was a woman and in that situation I wouldn't risk it like that. Don't even dare think you'd ever do something like that, I'd beat the hell out of you" Oh God am married to an abuser.

Me: "She was cooling her head off babe"

Khule: "From now on all the car keys will stay in my secret place before you feel any need to cool your head off"

Me: "Are you thinking of cheating? I swear If you do

we'd bury you my love" I smiled and kissed his cheek."Oh my God! Is this it?"

Khule: "Seems like it"

He parked behind Bonga's car. This thing of hiring these expensive cars is senseless honestly.

We got out and headed inside the gate. Such a huge yard.

Me: "Is that a tree house?"

Khule: "Yes"

Me: "The kids are gonna love this home"

Khule: "I love it too"

Emi: "Hey everyone!"

She said from the balcony. Khule waved back. We headed inside. It smelt awful. The paint. I felt dizzy immediately.

Me: "Am gonna go and wait outside. The paint isn't good for me"

Khule: "Really?"

Me: "Yeah"

I felt the urge to throw up. I ran out.

Khethiwe: "Are you okay?"

Me: "Yeah am good. Its the painting"

Khethiwe: "Sorry. Should i get you something to drink?"

Me: "No am fine"

Khule came out with a chair. I sat down.

Khule: "I forgot about the paintings"

Me: "It's okay love. Are the twins room decorated already?"

Khethiwe: "I'll be inside if you need me"

Me: "Okay babe thank you" she walked back inside.

Khule: "Yes they're done. With yellow"

Me: "What?" He

smiled.

Khule: "Am kidding " he kissed my forehead. "Your Babomncane is acting like a sidechick that won a

husband, he's unsettled"

Me: "What has he done now?"

Khule: "He's spying on us. I decided to give him the satisfaction and let him"

Me: "Don't hurt him"

Khule: "That's if he doesn't get too excited. Am honestly getting rid of anyone who's gonna step in our way of happiness."

Me: "You still looking for who was responsible for the shooting?"

Khule: "Am gonna lay low for a bit. Whoever it is, life has its own way of revealing things. Right now I just want to focus on you guys, seeing now that everyone has grown and do not need us as their nannies anymore" I chuckled.

"You're nice today. Am I gaining complexion?"

Me: "Am always nice baby"

Khule: "You're even calling me baby...is it sex?" I rolled my eyes and laughed. He chuckled. "We should have morning sex more often than"

Me: "Somebody might be listening to us"

He crouched and placed both his hands on my tummy.

Khule: "They know we're doing it. When are they kicking?"

Me: "At exact 20 weeks I think. I can't wait"

Khule: "Me too. I love you, your nose is getting fat"

Me: "I love you more" I kissed his lips. "And leave my nose the hell alone"

He laughed and stood straight. Khule:

"Lets go check the pool area" Me: "You can't even swim"

Khule: "That doesn't mean I shouldn't go check out the pool"

He took my hand and we walked on.

Me: "Can I tell you something?" Khule:

"Yes?"

Me: "Don't laugh okay?" He started laughing. This

idiot. "Okay am not telling anymore"

Khule: "Okay am sorry mommy" he pressed his lips together.

Me: "Remember the hot wings you sent me?" He nodded. "I didn't throw them away" he frowned. "I ate them." He let go of my hand turned me to look at him. We laughed.

Khule: "Why did you say you threw them away. I wouldn't have made you buy them"

Me: "What was your motive?"

Khule: "To teach you a lesson that you don't waste your husband's money." He laughed. His set of teeth. God sure took his time. "Quinton!"

"Yes!" He responded from wherever inside this huge house.

Khule: "She didn't throw away those wings!" I laughed and pinched him. Q didn't respond. "Did you hear me? She ate them!"

Quinton: "I told you"

We looked up. This house has a balcony in every

corner mos. Khule

hugged me.

Khule: "Yeah whatever"

Quinton: "Throw him in the pool Nguniza"

Khule: "You love me so much to do that"

I don't get his fear of water. Even the bathing tub, he hardly uses it.

Me: "You're right. Now do you love me enough to buy me amasi?" He took a deep breath.

Khule: "Yes. Let's go"

He took my hand and we headed to the driveway.

Perks of being loved.

Just a few weeks ago I thought it was over between us.

But today we're here holding hands, married and expecting our first children. Life...

[2/26, 06:36] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Six

ooo

[Narrated]

Lucia knocked softly on Mthobisi's door. He was dressing up preparing for work, he study and workspart time at his grand father's shop. He had spent the weekend at his mother's house. He does, every weekend. That is how close he is to her, they are best friends. Sometimes it bugs Ndalo{His girlfriend}. He lives at the student's res four hours away fromhis mother's place.

He opened the door with a smile. It vanished soonas his eyes landed on his mother's empty hands.

Lucia: "Don't give me that face. You're 2 hours early I prepared lots of coffee for us" she said then perked his cheek.

Mtho: "Is this about your boyfriend?"

Lucia rolled her eyes.

Lucia: "Can I please pass?.... Thank you"

She made herself comfortable on the couch.

Mtho: "Humor me"

Lucia: "He's alive"

Mtho: "OK. Good for him"

Lucia: "Come on"

Mtho: "Am 19 mama. You can't expect me to jump up and down just because you found my sperm donor "

Lucia: "You've been asking for a dad your whole life"

Mtho: "Because I thought it was cool having a dad. I thought I was missing out on something. I've grown, I know I wasn't. You're my 2 in one, I don't need a dad" he kissed her forehead. "Let's go have breakfast my Queen. I don't need a dad" she took his hand and they walked out....

ooo

[Lelo]

I've seen good hearted people but Khethelo takes the cup. It has only been 4 days but I already see a best friend in her. She may be way too younger than me but the advises she gives, are of a 40 year old woman. She's too mature for her age. But I guess getting married at a young age forces you to.

I was also a mother and a wife at 24. She volunteered to take me to my apartment. She came to see me last night and left with my keys to go clean it up for me, so now we were driving from the hospital to Sandton.

Me: "Your husband is cool with you driving?"

Khethelo: "What he doesn't know won't hurt him"

Me: "You're such a naughty girl"

Khethelo: "Come on. So, is hubby gonna come?"

Me: "I don't know. He's probably at a hotel blowing all our money on alcohol and gold diggers"

Khethelo: "Don't talk like that."

Me: "Am stating the possible. The thought of him just makes me nauseas"

Khethelo: "Calm down"

I drank water and looked ahead the road. There was soft music playing. Enough to cool me down.

Me: "How are you guys holding up, after the... You know"

Khethelo: "We're getting there. Day by day. Its hard to adjust to the fact that she's not here anymore but wetry"

Me: "Am so sorry"

Khethelo: "Its okay. Its life. We are all going to die at some point and like it or not it's going to happen"

Me: "True"

We got pulled over by the traffic police.

Khethelo: "These dudes get bored" she rolled downthe window.

TP: "Ma'am can I see your belly"

Khethelo: "What?"

TP: "Please step out of the car"

Khethelo: "Look. Am driving my sister home with hernew born baby"

TP: "Driving while pregnant? That's a serious offenceto the law. Putting a life of our future president at risk? Please step out of the car"

Me: "Are you guys serious?"

TP: "We will arrest you too for letting a pregnant woman drive you and a new born baby"

She pulled Khethelo to the car. Are they kidding us? A white guy appeared from nowhere.

TP: "This guy will drive you to your place. Please give him directions"

Me: "No. Follow that police car"

TP: "Do what I just told you" the guy nodded and started the car.

Me: "Follow that car"

Guy: "I only take orders from my boss"

He sounded like Calvin's lap dogs. Especially that Caps fool.

I folded my arms and looked out the window...

ooo

[Khule]

Everyone took their seats.

"Everyone is here"

Glade informed me from the earpiece.

The spotlight shine on me. Everybody clapped.

Me: "Uhm...Good day everyone. Am sorry to steal your time out of your busy schedule. Am KhulekaniDube, the CEO, soon to be former CEO. I am here before you today to inform you about a major change in our home. I am stepping down as the CEO"

The chaos. I waited for them to settle down. "Yes. And my son Sbongakonke Dube will be taking over as our new CEO. He's quite younger than the most ofyou if not all of you. I plead with you to treat him thesame way you did with me but never be afraid to put him on the right lane if he seems to be taking a wrong one. Keep him under your watch, guide him. Iwill visit now and then to check on the progress. I prepared myself a farewell party before you guys threw something big. So after here let's all head to the dining hall and help ourselves with everything that is there. Pitsi, I did not forget to buy that milliondollar champola"

Pitsi: "Champompo KK champompo"

We all laughed. I got off the stage and Bonga said his speech. He kept mentioning the chair. He may not have a Dube blood but he's definitely one of us.

I left as everybody went to the dining hall. I had to go to the police station and fetch the stubborn wife.

I had 30 missed calls from her. I called my brother and forgot about the psycho wife.

Quinton: "Are you gonna call me everyday?"

Me: "Yes. Do you have a problem with that?"

Quinton: "Whoa chill. I am asking cause I love it" Me:

"Where are the girls?"

Quinton: "Was this call for me at the first place?" Me:

"You're not important bra."

Quinton: "Why don't you call them on their phone?"

Me: "I will. Next year though" he chuckled.

Quinton: "That woman is ruining my house"

Me: "I thought you loved how she did the lounge"

Quinton: "Yes that was before she said there won't be a bar fridge and a gun safe"

Me: "Why would you want that house to look like this one here?"

Quinton: "Because I want my beers to be wherever I am"

Me: "Get a cooler box man"

Quinton: "OK. Forget about the lounge. The master bedroom is painted in purple"

Me: "You tell the designer the colors you love"

Quinton: "I love black man what do you mean"

Me: "Tell her to get you the paintings book. You'll then choose colors you want for every room"

Quinton: "There's no need she's fired" I sighed. "How did the announcement go?"

Me: "Pretty well. I left them eating"

Quinton: "Good. Tomorrow you're going to Dubai logistics"

Me: "To do what?"

Quinton: "To do what every twin would've done.
Pretend to be me"

Me: "Your employees know you"

Quinton: "No they don't. Just look friendly, they'll know its
me"

Me: "Bye Quinton Dube"

...

I arrived at the station.

Officer Hanova called me over.

Him: "What took you so long?"

Me: "Traffic is crazy man"

Him: "You're about to witness real crazy"

Me: "Did you guys tell her I am behind this?" He
laughed and shook his head. He dispersed behind
these thick walls.

I sat down on the bench.

Khethelo: "Khule"

I stood up. She threw herself in my arms and cried I

shushed her.

Me: "Don't cry baby am here now"

Khethelo: "I thought you weren't coming for me"

Me: "What? I rushed here the moment they called me baby. What happened?" She moved off my chest and fiddled with her fingers.

Khethelo: "I was driving" I raised my brows. "I know and am sorry. She had no one to drive her home"

Me: "But Liam is always there waiting to take you anywhere"

Khethelo: "He went to get me chicken feet"

Me: "It's all over now. Let's go. Hanova my man. Thanks for keeping my wife safe"

Hanova: "Anytime my man"

We walked out hand in hand. At least now I will not have to worry about her driving around...

ooo

[Emi]

I knocked. His office is a see through. I knocked again. He continued typing on his note pad. This is the most arrogant man I've ever seen, the second actually, first are to be my twin brothers.

I walked to Vee's office and called him. Mr

Khan: "Yes"

Me: "Miss Dube is here to see you" Mr

Khan: "Let her in"

Really? So he ignored me on purpose? I walked back to his door and pushed it open. This our second encounter, first being him coming to my office to tell me this is not game platform and had a meeting held at my office. I never looked forward into seeing him ever again.

But this is his father's work place and he's the boss. There's no way you don't get to see him once in a while.

Me: "Good morning Mr Khan"

Mr Khan: "Good morning Miss Dube. You may take a seat"

Me: "Thank you"

I sat down and placed the file I had on the desk.

Me: "I started at Zungu's office. He's not in so his PA transferred me here"

Mr Khan: "Do we have a problem?"

Me: "Yes. There's someone stealing the money Sir. Every month from last year June there has been R20 000.00 transferred into a ghost account"

He frowned. Does he have any idea how scary he is?

Mr Khan: "You may be excused. I will take a look at this"

I stood up and walked out. I took a very deep breath soon as I closed the door. He's not good for me. I am very scared of unfriendly people.

I got to my office and drank ice cold water. Whew! The door flew open.

Vee: "Tell me you did not go to Khan's office on your own"

Me: "I did. That is why I feel like fainting right now"

she laughed and took a seat. "Its not funny"

Vee: "To you. Did he smile?" I rolled my eyes and sat down. "We all thought he'd be friendly to you at least"

Me: "And why is that?"

Vee: "Because your family is famous and you're cuteand his type"

Me: "Hold it right there."

Vee: "But girl, if I was single I would've eaten himalready. Girl you should work your magic on Khan,walk in"

Me: "Uhm Vee..." He stood at the door with one handon his pocket, the other holding the file.

Vee: "What? You should wear a lingerie and twerk the hell out of his grumpy face. Clap that ass on his face" oh God make her stop. I tried signaling her witheyes but she did not get the hint. "What are you looking at?" She turned. She quickly turned back to me.

Me: "Mr Khan. You can come in"

Mr Khan: "I brought the file. I'll have my people digging deep on this matter"

Me: "Okay" I

fetches it.

Mr Khan: "Vee, I believe this is no time for giving out seducing lessons"

Vee: "Yes Sir"

He walked off.

Me: "You need Jesus Vee"

Vee: "No. I need a new job"

She got up and took the walk of shame to the door. I never thought I'd see the day. I laughed till she fully disappeared and closed the door. I got back to work....

...

[Narrated]

She lit her cigarette and smoked while she ate popcorns watching her pictures with Khule.

Her phone rang. She looked at the caller ID and faced it down.

It rang again. She huffed and picked it up.

Tamia: "What?"

Phumla: "Its me. Phumla. Does the offer still stands?"

She got off the couch.

Tamia: "Yes yes...I mean, yeah."

Phumla: "I see these bitches are getting too comfortable living our lives"

Tamia walked to stand next to Khule and Khethelo's wedding picture.

Tamia: "I will send you my address"

Phumla: "Thank you"

She hung up.

Tamia: "The end is near ma"

She burnt Khethelo's head with the cigarette....

[2/26, 06:36] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Seven

ooo

[Khule]

Arriving home I started cooking. Mrs Dube was too tired and traumatized to do anything. She went straight upstairs to take a bath. Washing away the jail bad luck she said and came back to sit there on her comfortable kitchen couch that I bought specially for her watching me do my kitchen magic.

Khethelo: "That is too much salt"

Me: "But you told me one table spoon"

Khethelo: "Yes if there's potatoes" Me:

"There are potatoes"

Khethelo: "Oh." I chuckled. "Q tells me he fired the decorator"

Me: "That one is acting like a little boy who just discovered his inheritance" I closed the pot and took a seat.

Khethelo: "He wants his house to be beautiful. Even

invite top billing over maybe when its done" I laughed.

Me: "Chloe is who would've done that" her face immediately changed to serious.

Khethelo: "Life is short isn't?"

Me: "Very short"

Khethelo: "Promise me you'll also do your part inmaking the best out of this marriage"

Me: "I promise" she smiled.

Khethelo: "Do you promise to take me do groceryshopping tomorrow?"

Me: "Yes. After the meeting"

Khethelo: "Thank you love" She

got up and walked to me.Me:

"Want a sandwich?"

She smiled and nodded. I kissed her and walked overto fix it.

I live to see her face light up whenever someone

mentions food and we no longer fight about little things. I guess the babies are okay with my complexion now...

...

[Quinton]

Mornings aren't my favorite. This thing of ordering breakfast that arrives after 20 minutes isn't my style. I slept late busy entertaining Khule on the video call.

I bathed the twins first before ordering breakfast. Me:

"You guys should learn to bathe yourselves" Sisekelo:

"fdfhjnv ghkncc" and smiled.

Me: "Yes whatever that means"

I took them out of the tub and carried them back to the bedroom. I hate this old them. I now have to move fast in everything I do before they roll over and fall.

Me: "Great! Sikelela you should stop eating a lot we're out of diapers now"

I moisturized them and dressed them up. I put them

on the stroller and gave them their pacifiers to keep them company while I bath. I quickened up. In 10 minutes I was ready to hit the road.

Durban people are either very rich or drowning in debts. They are always doing shopping. I just wish to go to the shops and find only 20 people, not this. Everyday feels like the end of the month.

And the smiles from women to the twins. It's all annoying.

After buying the diapers and their food we went to buy me breakfast.

Waiter: "Would you like chairs and toys for them?"

Me: "If it is available. Please" he nodded and walked away. I took a seat. The waiter came back with baby chairs. He helped me put them on and gave them toys.

Me: "Thanks man. Can I please have full English breakfast?"

Him: "Coming right up"

He walked off. The girls were having the best time of

their lives, much to my peace of mind.

I texted Khule asking him if he went to work. My breakfast arrived. I gave each twin one fry.Me:

"Don't mess yourselves up"

"They're too young not to" I brought my eyes up. She smiled.

Nkule: "Hi"

Me: "Hi"

Nkule: "Are you with someone?"

Me: "No. Wanna sit?" She nodded. "Please do. I might do with some company anyway"

She sat down. The guy who served me came.Me:

"Where's your name tag champ?"

Him: "I forgot it at home. Am Mpilo" I nodded. "May I take your order ma'am?"

Nkule: "Brown toast, avocado, mash, butter, scrambled eggs, grated cheddar and freshly squeezed orange juice?"

Mpilo: "Coming right up" he walked off. Nkule:

"Why are you looking at me like that?" Me: "You eat cheese now?" She chuckled.

Nkule: "This pregnancy is playing tricks on me." Me:

"It suits you though. You're glowing"

Nkule: "Oh please.... Where are my manners, am sorry about your loss, how are you holding up?"

Me: "Thank you. Am good. Those two keep me going. How's being married treating You?"

Nkule: "Very well thank you. So you decided to come this side to clear your head?"

Me: "Yes. Joburg is too much so I thought I should relocate"

Nkule: "Relocate?" Sisekelo snatched Sikelela's chip out of her hands.

Me: "You guys we're in public" I gave them more. They kept quiet and continued sucking on them.

Nkule: "You're such a great father"

Me: "Thank you"

Nkule: "What did you mean by relocating?" My phone rang.

Me: "Excuse me...Mtakababa"

Khule: "Next time please never ask me of such a thing. Your people are crazy. The hugs and cries I had to endure" I laughed. That is a place of dramaqueens.

Me: "Thank you Mbuyazi"

Khule: "Send me the Aretha files asap"

Me: "Eish okay"

Khule: "Bye"

Me: "Sure khehla"

I hung up. I settled the bill for both Nkule and I.

Me: "I have to rush back to the hotel. It was nice bumping to you. "

Nkule: "Likewise"

I put my babies back on the stroller and we left...

ooo

[Tyler]

Women!

She hired me a nurse. T-man Dube has A nurse people!

My phone rang. She's feeling hot today. The videocall explains it.

Me: "Mgabadeli" she smiled.

Khethiwe: "How are you Mbuyazi"

Me: "Am good as you can see. How are you mother of my children?"

Khethiwe: "Am perfect baby. Have you taken a bath?" Me:

"Yes ma'am, ate and drank my meds"

Khethiwe: "That's good. Should I order you more games?"

Me: "Yes if you want me to lose that upcoming case"

Khethiwe: "Just sitting there staring at the computer the whole day will drive you crazy"

Me: "I'll take breaks. How's work?"

Khethiwe: "I haven't done much but it's good. I need a PA"

Me: "Contact HR to issue posts"

Khethiwe: "I will. I miss you"

Me: "I miss you too pumpkin. Get back to work now! I'll call you later. I love you"

Khethiwe: "I love you more"

She hung up. I had to tell that Dr bae to remove that caption in order for Mrs Dube here to talk to me. If I ever cheat in this relationship I'd probably lose my front teeth.

Why can't women give us at least 3 cheating attempts.

Like: "If I catch you cheating on me more than 3 times am leaving your ass" I so wish...

...

[Emi]

Being Emi Dube is as crazy as being Mary Jane. Now

I have to drive to the bank with Khan. He could've sent Vee to go with me.

A voice message came through. I listened to it. "Mr Khan says you're leaving in 4 minutes" Why not 5?

Men!

I packed my note pad in my bag. I'd be stupid if I leave my lunch behind. I took it and put it in it's bag then headed out.

I waited outside his office. Vee ran to me from her office opposite.

Vee: "This is a very rare opportunity. Make sure you catwalk when you get to the bank"

Me: "Why?"

Vee: "Because most of these ratchet bitches would kill to step on the Khan million dollar vehicle not to mention spending an hour with Khan"

Me: "Now I should waste my cat walk for that? Come on"

She took a deep sigh and sat beside me. She took

my hands into hers.

Vee: "Look me in the eye" I did. "You're about to go with Khan to the bank. That is everyone's dream in this place. From now on you'll have haters. But who cares about that. He wants you. I've seen how he looks at you. The way he smiled after telling me to tell you you're leaving in 4 minutes. Girl when you get outside there, act like Mrs Khan the 2nd. The first is his slay queen mother. Walk with pride. Let the world feel your presence." I laughed. "Am not joking you kid"

Me: "I know"

Vee: "4 minutes is over. Push that door open and tell him you take time very seriously"

Me: "What?"

She pulled me up and pushed the door and pushed me in I almost fell. He attempted getting up.

Me: "Am good. 4 minutes is over Sir" he looked at his wall clock. My eyes landed on the granadille slash, I gulped.

Mr Khan: "Am sorry Miss I did not notice. These files got me..." he got up and put on his jacket. "Would you like a slash? I ordered it but I don't feel like it anymore"

God knows how much I could honestly hug him right now.

Me: "Thank you"

I walked to desk and took it. My eyes ran to his notepad. Fifa? Didn't he say files?

He picked it up and locked it.

Mr Khan: "Please hold this for me"

I took it. He washed his hands and took 2 apples from a bowl full of Apples and water. He gave me one.

We finally walked out all the way to the lift.

We got off at the underground parking lot. He opened the door for me. I thought Vee said he owns a million dollar Khan vehicle.

I put my bags at the back and buckled up.

Mr Khan: "Were you expecting a Bentley?" What? "The way you're looking around. It's like you weren't expecting me drive such a car" I nervously chuckled.

Me: "No it's not that. It's beautiful" GTIs are beautiful truly but I was not expecting it.

Mr Khan: " Thank you"

We drove off. I've heard worst music in my life but this...it was beyond the worst. He sang along to these trash songs, making my life more miserable.

My phone rang. Khule.

Me: "Bhuti"

Khule: "Can you come over today?"

Me: "Uhm yeah"

Khule: "Where are you?"

Me: "On my way to the bank" Khule:

"Shouldn't you be at work?" Me: "It's for work"

Khule: "Okay."

He hung up. I can't wait for them to actually have children. He parked and the radio went off. Thank you God. I took out only the note pad and headed in.

He did most of the talking. I gave them the reference number of the account. The person who opened it appeared. The lady closed it. By the look of things everybody knows him around here. They even offered us juice that I turned down then he drank it both.

We left.

Mr Khan: "Did you leave any of your things at the office?" He asked as we headed out.

Me: "No."

Mr Khan: "Good. We can grab lunch at your favorite restaurant"

Me: "I have lunch"

Mr Khan: "Will it be enough for the both of us?"

looked at him.

Me: "Where's your car?"

Mr Khan: "Oh they took it to the car wash. We'll use this one for Now"

A man in a black suit greeted and opened the door for us.

Mr Khan: "Take us to Rocco mama's Tim" Tim:

"Yes Sir"

Mr Khan: "Can we eat your lunch box now miss Dube"

Why does he never smile though.

I took it out and gave him with the spoon. "It smells nice"

Me: "Thank you"

He started eating. I got busy in my phone. At least Tim has good music taste. Old school ballad not electro.

I viewed the picture that I was tagged on.

'Mommy on fleek. Thanks daddy for the flops'

Why am I tagged? This woman needs God and a brain. At first it hurt but now I don't give a shit about

her lousy pregnancy and her whore was baby daddy. I startled.

Mr Khan: " Am sorry. Are you okay?" I smiled.

Me: "Yes am good." Is that my lunch box? I looked at it then back at him. He raised his brows and slowly closed it. "Did you just finish my lunch?"

Mr Khan: "It was a mistake." I chuckled. "It was too good. You should consider being a chef"

Me: "Don't try and flatter me Mr Khan I want my food"

Mr Khan: "I will cook for you and bring it to work tomorrow"

Tim cleared his throat. "I promise you, you'll love it" Me: "I can't wait"

I took my lunch box out of his hands and put it in my bag.

Mr Khan: "Tim can you please play music that is good for my ears?"

Here comes trouble...

ooo

[Khethelo]

Being married and pregnant has to be one of the most amazing things that has ever happened to me. A whole Khulekani Dube pushing a trolley for me. I never thought I'd see the day.

Khule: "Please take burgers enough to last you for a month. I don't want to find myself here to buy you burgers tomorrow."

Me: "You've never Khulekani"

Khule: "Just in case you gonna start tomorrow" Me:

"I won't."

Khule: "Emi is coming over"

Me: "Wow that's good. She's been ignoring my calls. Am sure she's tired of me treating her like a baby"

Khule: "She is a baby"

Me: "She's 23. And Amo is so thrilled about going overseas she told us not to Skype her every now and then"

He chuckled.

Khule: "She has no idea what awaits her there."

"If it's not the powerful Dube couple who could it be" She said standing confront of our trolley smiling.

Dressed as a hooker. I've seen her before but not sure where.

Khule: "Tamia. What are you doing here?" oh yeah.

Tamia: "I live here now. You look good. You're wifing very good Mrs Dube" there's some bullshit full in that statement.

Me: "I try." I said dryly. She suddenly annoyed me.

Tamia: "Congratulations on your marriage and pregnancy. Am still wondering why I never got an invite"

Khule: " It was an intimate thing. It was nice seeing you"

Tamia: " Oh. Am just glad you got married and your wife is pregnant. Even showing. You truly have changed, you're no longer that monster I used to fuck or else she wouldn't have gotten this far with

this pregnancy. Bye love birds"

I need all the strength in the world not to fuck her ugly face up.

Khule gripped my hand.

Khule: "She's not worth it"

He kissed my cheek. I uncapped the water bottle and drank it up...

[2/26, 06:36] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Eight

ooo

[Narrated]

(At Lelo's apartment)

Lelo laid down the baby and went to open the door for whoever was on the door. Kush got in. Lelo sighed.

Kush: "Where's my child?"

Lelo: "He's asleep"

Kush: "Have you bathed yet?"

Lelo stared at him blankly. "I have a meeting in 30 minutes. When I get back I want to find you guys ready. We're going home"

Lelo: "Am not going home"

Kush: "I am sick and tired of this. It's either you voluntarily go or I will drag you screaming and kicking. What example are you setting for our kids with this?"

Lelo: "Are you being serious right now? You gonna play that victim card? Well let me tell you something Calvin-"

Kush: "Just stop telling me things and get ready"

Lelo: "Am not going anywhere! Why don't you take your Kim home and leave me and my child the hell alone?"

She walked to the panic button and pressed it. "I need security asap"

Kush: "What are you doing?"

Lelo: "I am making sure you never step your foot here."

Kush: "Lelo..." he said clenching his jaw.

Lelo: "Am done" she bit her upper lip trying to fightback the tears.

Kush: "That doesn't give you a right to keep me awayfrom my child"

Lelo: "We will make something out. Just don't showup at my door"

Kush: "What are you gonna tell the kids?"

Lelo: "As the one who cheated. You should be making out something to tell them"

The door swung open. 4 security men walked in.Lelo:

"Please make sure he never gets through" Security:

"Yes ma'am. Please come with us Sir"

He briefly looked at Lelo who was looking out thewindow and then walked out with the Security men.....

ooo

[Khethelo]

I opened my eyes. He was seated on a chair next to my bedside. He smiled when our eyes met.

Khule: "Finally you're awake" Me:

"What time is it?"

Khule: "11am. Were you finding it hard to sleep?" Ugh Emi will be mad at me for this. I usually make her a lunch box.

Me: "No. I slept as soon as we got in bed. I must be tired from all the walking and standing yesterday"

Khule: "From today onwards I will be the one doing groceries" he stood up and came to kiss me. "I made you breakfast. Should I warm it up for you?"

Me: "Yes hubby. I will be taking a bath so long" I slid off the bed.

Khule: "That ass. Damn!"

Me: "I know right. Want me to twerk for you?" He nodded biting his lower lip. "You're so naughty. Go warm my food"

He tried chasing me but I outran him. I locked the

door.

Khule: "I will be waiting"

Me: "Forget it"

He laughed. I peed and and got under the shower.

I finished up. I brushed my teeth and walked back to the bedroom as naked as I was born. I found him sitting on the bed, already made.

Me: "The towels No longer fit me. We need new ones" he was lost somewhere between my belly and my vagina. I walked to stand in front of him. He Finally looked at my face and smiled. "Did you hear what I said?"

Khule: "Yes. You want new towels" he pulled me by my waist and kissed my belly. "Is it me or it grow each day"

I chuckled.

Me: " It does. Can you please lend me 4 of your t-shirts?"

Khule: "What happened to yours?"

Me: "They are tight"

He raised one brow. I chuckled.

Khule: "Oh sweet Jesus!"

Me: "What?"

He pointed at my stomach. I've never seen his face like this. I felt it. Is it possible not to feel the first kick but visible to the next person?

Khule: "Lie still. Don't move" he helped me lie down. He lied beside me and watched my belly and my vagina. This is nothing close to pleasant.

Me: "They are moving like snakes" his eyes were sparkling. Smiling from ear to ear.

They finally stopped. He kissed my poor belly.

Khule: "What a way to start daddy's day. Thank you my Angels." He kissed it again.

He reached for his phone and typed smiling like an idiot that he is.

Mine rang. I took it and answered.

Me: "Mosadi"

Kat: "Oh my God we're coming over. This needs a Bigass celebration"

Me: "What are you talking about?"

Kat: "Khule just told us the twins kicked"

I looked at him. He wasn't even paying attention to me but to his phone still smiling. It rang. He got up and disappeared to the bathroom.

Me: "There's no need for a celebration stop being over dramatic"

Kat: "We're coming over anyway"

She hung up. I got up and walked to the closet. My phone rang again. I don't have time for this. This thing of having your second children at old age messes up with a person I swear. He came out of the bathroom wearing the same smile.

Khule: "Came to think of it. We never had our honey moon. So I was thinking why don't we go on Friday and have the best time of our lives before we become full time mommy and daddy"

That sounds very less of a suggestion.

Me: "That is actually a good idea"

Khule: "Good. I booked us the same suite but different hotel" I knew it!

Me: "Thank you babe"

I kissed his lips and took my food that had become cold again.

Khule: "I love you. With every bit of my heart. I can't imagine my life without you" I looked at him and smiled.

Me: "I love you more. I've never seen you this excited"

Khule: "The thought of having little people with the love of my life is making me this excited." He paused. "And to tell the truth I wasn't convinced they are okay."

Me: "They are good."

Khule: "We have Drs appointment tomorrow"

Me: "I know"

He raised his brows. Ugh. I laughed. "But the

reminder is set I would've remembered"

Khule: "Yeah whatever. Let Me go clean up my mess in the kitchen"

Me: "Bye hun."

He jogged out. "You guys should kick more often. It makes daddy so happy" I said brushing my tummy. My phone beeped.

"Hi Mrs Dube the second. Are the babies growing healthily? If he ever beats you up just know am herefor you.

Love Tamia"

This bitch...

ooo

[Quinton]

She walked in tall as ever. I'll never understand how women feel so comfortable in heels. I'd fall everyday. She put her bag down and drank my juice.

Kylie: " Am so tired. Everyone is booked."

Me: "How?"

Kylie: "You said you want the best designers. The bests are booked"

Me: "The ones who follow the best?"

Kylie: "The graduates?"

Me: "Maybe"

Kylie: "Not happening. I'll keep looking until I find one"

Me: "Time babes. I am tired of living in a hotel. And I want you to look for a nanny too"

Kylie: "I have someone in mind. My mom's friend" .Me:

"As long as she's good with kids."

Kylie: "Speaking of kids. Where are they?"

Me: "In the bedroom playing"

She walked there and shortly came back.

Kylie: "There's no one there"

I got up quickly and rushed to the bedroom. I found them sleeping on top of the other in bed.

Kylie: "They weren't there"

Me: "You must've missed them"

closed the door.

Kylie: "They're wearing pink and too big to miss"

pulled her by hand.

Me: "Please check up on Khethiwe and send her flowers and chocolate"

Kylie: "Will do. Bye"

She took her bag and headed out. I walked back to the bedroom. They were now sleeping on their cribs.

Me: "Why did you guys do that? Where were you? If I bump into a little snake I'll squash it and throw it in the trash can. Jesus Chloe your kids"

I heard a tiny giggle. I walked to Sisekelo's bed. She smiled. For the first time ever.

Sisekelo: "Dada" I picked her up. And kissed her, she giggled. I heard another giggle. She was standing on her crib looking like a tiny little prisoner

Me: "You guys were faking sleep?"

She blew saliva on my face. "Yeah that's a good one. Let's hope you're not venomous"

I put her in Sikelela's crib and picked the forever smiling angel. She started with her Mandarin. I kept on nodding and acting surprised. She kept on talking. She takes after Emi. She talks a lot.

My phone rang.

Me: "Bye the way. The coming soon twins kicked today so we're going to Cape Town tomorrow" I answered. "Hello"

Caller: "Hey Q. It's Nkule. Khethelo gave me your numbers. I was wondering if you guys have plans today"

Me: "Hey. Yes we are. We're going for a swim. Need company?" She chuckled.

Nkule: "Yes. I was hoping I'd bring food and have an inside picnic"

Me: "We can cancel the swimming"

Nkule: "Oh no you don't have to. We can do it tomorrow"

Me: "Tomorrow I won't be here. What time should we expect You?"

Nkule: "14:30" Me:

"Okay bye" Nkule:

"Bye"

I hung up. A little picnic won't hurt. I could do with some company once in a while...

ooo

[Bonga]

Nobody understands my love for this chair. I feel like the mighty Mphangiseni Dube himself. It feels like a throne. This whole office contains a very strong dignity.

Sis Glade got in.

Her: "Good day Mr Dube"

Me: " Good day ma'am"

Her: "Your 12:30 meeting has been cancelled." Thankyou mother nature.

Me: "That's bad. I prepared for that meeting. Is Cindyin?"

Her: "Yes she is and her boyfriend is a mafia"Me:

"Huh?"

Her: "Yes." I laughed.

Me: "You don't think I fancy her right?"

Her: "Aren't You?"

Me: "No. She promised to order me ties"

Her: "Oh. Your lunch will be here shortly"

Me: "Thank you"

She walked out. I called baba. It rang unanswered. I want a new hot sexy p.a. not sis Glade. Admiring herboobs feels like a sin...

ooo

[Emi]

Just to think i left my food at home because I thought Khan would bring me lunch. I locked my office and went to Vee's.

Vee: "Came to look for boss babe? He hasn't arrived"Me:

"What does he usually eat?"

Vee: "I order for him through Mr D food."

Me: "Please order for me"

Vee: "What would you like to eat?" Me:

"Ribs, butternut and Greek salad"Vee:

"Beverages?"

Me: "Apple juice"

I sat down on a chair.

Vee: "Done! Is it lunch time already?"

Me: "Yeah 10 to"

We sat there in silence. I tried calling Khethelo again. She did not pick up. I texted her to call me. She's either just looking at it ring or asleep.

"Good day ladies" our eyes met. He smiled. He freaking smiled. The most beautiful smile I've ever seen. Thank you God for the black men in black suits.

I did not return the smile.

Vee: "Good day Sir. I did not think you were coming in"

Mr Khan: "I wasn't but I had to bring this. I was in PE just came back. I just hope am in time" he said the last part looking at me.

Vee: "Oh. Should I order you food?" Mr

Khan: "You have already ordered" Vee:

"It's not yours"

He frowned.

Mr Khan: "Miss Dube can we talk privately"

He turned and walked out. Vee winked at me. This one never sees anything wrong.

Mr Khan: "Please close the door" I hesitantly closed it.

"Am sorry I arrived this late"

Me: "It's okay. I asked Vee to order for me"

Mr Khan: "I'll eat that. You should eat this food specially cooked for you"

He handed me a container.

Me: "Thank you"

I walked out to my office.

I settled down and started eating. Roasted potatoes are my favorite. I focused on them and the meat.

I almost finished it. He definitely did not cook this. It's too good to be cooked by a man.

I saw him through the glass carrying a trash can and an apple.

The door opened.

Mr Khan: "I thought I should bring you this and get some feedback" he's friendly today.

Me: "You cooked this?"

Mr Khan: "Yes"

Me: "To avoid future embarrassment. Just stick to your day job and leave cooking to the rest of us"

His face dropped. "You can put those things down" Mr

Khan: "But that container is almost empty"

Me: "I was hungry"

I took a bite on my apple. He chuckled and walked out whistling...

...

[Narrated]

Ndalo walked in on Mthobisi busy on his laptop. She kissed his cheek and sat down beside him.

Ndalo: "Racing?"

Mtho: " Yes. I want that R1000000"

Ndalo: "What if you lose?"

Mtho: "I just had my car pimped. I will win"

Ndalo: "Where are you gonna get R100 000 to join?"

Mtho: "I have 50 for my second semester. I'll borrow the other one"

Ndalo: "Mthobisi!"

Mtho: "What? Relax. I will win and return it"

Ndalo: "This is a very huge mistake"

Mtho: " It would be nice to have my girlfriend's support you know"

He closed the laptop and put it aside. He kissed her and climbed on top.

Ndalo: "I still don't get why you're doing this" Mtho:

"Because I want to take you on baecation" She

smiled. They continued kissing.

{At Lelo's apartment}

Lelo: "You sure you aren't hungry?"

Khethelo: "No."

Lelo: "Ok." Her phone rang. "Hey. Yes you can" she put it down.

Khethelo: "Another visitor?" Lelo:

"Yes. Amogelang Smith"

Khethelo: " Oh ok. So you sure about your decision?"

Lelo: "I don't know. But what am sure of is that I don't wanna see him for at least a year."

Khethelo: "He hurt You, didn't He?" Lelo:

"More than he could ever realize" The

door swung open.

Amo: "Do you sell drugs now? Why so much process to get in?"

Lelo: "Calvin. You know how he is."

Amo: "Oh. Hello" she said extending her hand to Khethelo. "Am Amo"

Khethelo: "Khethelo"

Amo: "You look beautiful in person"

Khethelo: "Thank you"

She sat on the opposite couch.

Lelo: "What time are you leaving tomorrow?"

Khethelo: "In the noon"

Amo: "You're always away"

Khethelo chuckled.

Khethelo: "The husband loves travelling"

Amo: "He's right. Once you give birth you won't be able to"

Lelo: "Being a mother is such a hold back at times. I can't remember the last time I travelled. Not to

mention having a peace of mind"

Amo: "It's jail. All my babies are grown now but I still can't just get up and go on vacation"

Khethelo: "Can't you take them along?"

Amo: "It wouldn't feel like a vacation"

Khethelo laughed. Her phone rang. She took a deep sigh and dropped the call. It beeped.

Lelo: "Are you okay?"

Khethelo: "No. Khule needs to fix this mess. I am getting tired of this bitch"

Amo: "Is someone giving you a problem?"

Khethelo: "Yes. His ex girlfriend. She just sent me her picture with him. She's been texting me things"

Amo: "And why do you want your husband to fix this?"

Khethelo: "Because she's his business"

Amo: "No. She's yours. She's texting you not him. It's you who needs to deal with this fuckin hoe accordingly."

Lelo: "Don't listen to her Khethelo you're pregnant"

Amo: "So? I was kicking asses at 8 months pregnant. Do you know how to use a gun?"

Khethelo: "No"

Amo: "Do they still have the gun place downstairs?" Lelo:

"Yes. But Amo ..."

Amo: "I'll teach you. Never let these hoes play in your head. You're the wife and your job is to put these sloppy ass skanks to stay in their lane"

Lelo: "Oh my God"

Amo: "Oh my God what? You will be joining in on the lessons. That fake ass Kim needs a bullet through that silicon ass"

Khethelo chuckled.

Lelo: "Am not crazy"

Amo: "Then bitches will make your head Soccer city. Let's go slay mom"

Lelo: "Khethelo"

Khethelo: "I need to teach her a lesson"

They both walked out. Lelo sighed and went to breastfeed her baby...

[2/26, 06:36] Zoaness: Chapter Nine

(Unedited)

ooo

[Quinton]

I received a text informing me that she's downstairs. I texted her the room number and went to check up on the girls.

Me: "Guys? This disappearing game isn't funny. Our visitor is downstairs."

The bathroom door was slightly opened as I left it. I went to peep through. I sighed.

Me: "A soap? Really?" I had forgotten it on the tub stand. I rinsed their tiny busy hands and picked them up to the bedroom.

I changed them again and gave them their bottles. The door bell rang, I left them there grabbing each

other's free hands.

Me: "Hey"

Nkule: "Hi"

Me: "Why didn't you ask me to fetch you."

Nkule: "Oh no I didn't carry all these by myself. Someguys helped me."

We carried it all in.

Me: "You can sit down. I'll go check on the girls" Nkule:

"Thanks"

She comfortably sat down. I walked to the bedroom. They had fallen asleep. I left the door opened.

Me: "Juice?"

Nkule: "No thanks. Do you have a balcony?" Me:

"Yes. Wanna sit there"

Nkule: "Yeah if you don't mind"

Me: "No I don't. Let's go"

We carried the bag and 2 baskets. Women.

She set everything. She literally brought the whole of Checkers.

Nkule: "We can sit down now"

Me: "And you only bought me 6 pack of Lite?"

Nkule: "Yes. I am not trying to get you drunk here. I bought ice cream too. Not sure if you still love it"

Me: "Ice cream is my wife what do you mean"

She laughed. And took out two serving bowls "I like it from the tub"

Nkule: "Oh my God" she said laughing. "Okay let's eat it from the tub then"

Me: "Thank you madam." There's no better time to ask this but now. "Where's your husband?"

Nkule: "He's in Nigeria. His work keeps him away" I nodded. "That house gets so lonely and the only friend I made arriving here left for Free State so am a stranded dog. I got so happy when I saw you"

Me: "Mmmh. Boredom shall never strike you again then"

Nkule: "Am glad" her phone rang. She smiled. "Hey babe...Am at a hotel where Q is staying having a picnic." She giggled. "I miss you more...what? Oh myGod thank you Jesus. I can't wait to see you...bye I love you more"

She hung up with a wide smile on her face. "He's coming home"

Me: "Wonderful"

Nkule: "So. You're recovering on your own"

Me: "Yes. And I'd rather not talk about it"

Nkule: "You loved her didn't you?"

Me: "With every bit of me."

Nkule: "You'll find someone again"

Me: "I don't want to. She's keeping my heart and I want it to stay like that. I don't want to love anyone anymore"

Nkule: "So you never ever gonna have sex?" I chuckled.

Me: "I will. Just will not fall inlove"

Nkule: "I see. Khethelo would kill me if she found out I was here"

Me: "Why?"

Nkule: "I haven't contacted her in weeks and here I am with you. She never approved of me being this close to you" I chuckled.

Me: "Is it?"

She nodded and we continued eating. She had opened Garfield's food lasagna. I thought she got my numbers from her...

...

[Emi]

Khethelo offered to fetch me from work. She's always surrounded by food.

Me: "Hey babes"

Khethelo: "Hey auntie. We bought you box master" Me:

"Awww. Thank you my love. Hey Liam"

Liam: "Hey miss"

Khethelo: "Khule said you left with no lunch box"

Me: " Yeah I didn't. This is Mr Khan's. He ate my lunchbox yesterday and then offered to cook for me today"

Khethelo: "Really? He's a nice boss isn't he"Me:

"Not at all. He hardly smiles"

Khethelo: "If he wasn't nice he wouldn't have prepared you lunch"

Me: "Yeah whatever. Can I eat my box master in peace?"

Khethelo: "Yes babes"

In 30 minutes we arrived home. We were greeted by Hawu eating a Russian in the kitchen alone under the chair.

Khethelo: "Hey baby. Where's your mom?" She picked him up.

Khule: "Oh you're here. We're having dinner at the patio. Everyone is here"

Me: "Let me go change"

They didn't even get that. They turn into completely idiots in each other's presence.

I got in my room and kicked off the heels. I changed into a summer dress and flops. My phone rang.

Me: "Hello" Silence. "Hello?" The line died. I called the number again. It went through voicemail. I threw my phone on the bed and walked out.

A cake. Really? Me:

"Evening fam"

Everyone: "Hello"

Tyler: "You look beautiful."

Me: "Oh my God am gonna die" we laughed.

Khethelo: "How can she not? Her boss is cooking for her" is she for real!

Khule: "Is he rich?"

Me: "How would I know bhuti?"

Khule: "You should ask him. If he wanna wife you hemust be rich" I laughed. This is a very different Khule. I did not expect this.

Chris: "Where's the Jason boy?" Sigh.

Me: "I don't know"

Bonga: "He's ugly anyway" I laughed.

Khethelo: "Bonga. There's still time to come out of the closet"

Bonga: "Mama!" We laughed. "Baba can I please have a new PA?"

Khule: "What is wrong with Glade"

Bonga: "She's old. Am scared of her"

Katlego: "She's nice"

Bonga: "Still old and scares me"

Chris: "Or you just want someone your age you could just prey on"

Bonga: "Come on baba. I respect women way too much"

Khule: "Then respect Glade enough to keep her job"

He sighed. We cut the cake and sang mom's church songs.

Katlego, Khethiwe and Khethelo excused themselves. Am proud of the women my brothers chose. They know how to work their magic around the kitchen. I sat with the gents because sometimes it gets a little too much to hear about my brother's bedroom affairs. It's weird. Freakin weird...

ooo

[Narrated]

Phumla got in with a plastic of snacks.

Tamia: "What took you so long?"

Phumla: "There's what we call traffic. I tried calling your guy but it went through voicemail"

Tamia: "We'll try him again tomorrow. You should start crowding that Katlego's wall on Facebook"

Phumla: "You want me to look like a psycho exwife?"

Tamia: "With a fake account. One of these days I'll track slay wife's every move and run her over with a jeep"

Phumla: "You gonna kill her"

Tamia: "That's the whole point. Isn't? She dies, I get my man back"

Phumla sighed.

Phumla: "You're too stupid for someone who've ever worked with Khule. He wouldn't rest until he finds who killed her. If we wanna win this we gonna have to play smart. Leave that hoodrat inside of you outside because she's totally stupid"

Tamia: "We shall never forget who came up with this idea sweets"

Phumla: "If you gonna push that tsotsi mind set please leave me the hell out your plan"

She said hardening her face. Tamia:

"Fine! We'll do it your way"

Phumla: "Good. First of all, we need that guy to track their every move then from there on we're good to go"

Tamia: "I can already see us crossing legs on our million dollar pool chairs sipping on cocktails"

Phumla: "Oh my goodness she doesn't even know"

the qualities of being a Dube wife"

She said heading to the bathroom.

Tamia: "What do you mean?"

Phumla closed the door. Tamia rolled her eyes and took a sip of her red wine...

ooo

[At Kush's hotel room] Caps:

"You need to chill out"

Kush another sip of his scotch.

Kush: "Don't shit on me man. Don't shit on me"

Caps: "You should be looking for a solution not running up and down"

Kush: "I need you to threaten this Dube woman to stay away from Lelo" caps gulped.

Caps: "KK's wife?"

Kush: "Who else are we talking about? I want it done. By the end of today I want this little friendship over." He poured another full glass. "Why are you still here

man"

Caps took his bag and walked out. Kush banged the table.

"Fuck!"

Zac: "What did you do to the poor Caps. He looks traumatized" he said coming in.

Kush: "You need to find a way to put a stop on that brewing friendship"

Zac: "What friendship?"

Kush: "Lelo, Amo and that Dube woman"

Zac: " And why should it end?"

Kush: "Because Lelo will get comfortable. Start chilling with the whole Dube clan, treat each other like family and end up selling me out"

Zac: "She'd never do that. Slow down on the scotch it's too early. I'll stop by later"

He walked out. Kush's phone notified of a message. It was from his personal PI. He clicked view.

"I hope this finds you well. I found your birth mother" He slowly collapsed on a chair. He stared at the

screen like a zombie....

oooo

[Khethelo]

One of the nicest things is having everyone over. The thing of eating breakfast as a family before everyone goes to work is my favorite.

Katlego and I remained behind with our husbands. Tyler left for physio.

They helped us clean up. Afterwards we went to bath and change then came down to watch tv.

Chris: "It's so hot."

Khule: "You can turn the air conditioners on" Me:

"They're off?" He nodded.

Khule: "I exceeded the limit yesterday I started getting cold so I turned it off" Katlego laughed.

Chris: "The whites are gonna take their things back before you even know how to use them"

We laughed. He turned it on again. My phone beeped.

"Am outside" -Amo."Get
in"- me.

"They won't let me in" -Amo.

I texted the security guys to let her in.

She got in. Looking as beautiful as always. She's years
older than me but she's fine as hell.

Amo: "Oh my God. You're so beautiful. Is it the Dubewife
glow? Greetings to you family"

Us: "Hello."

Khule: "Amo right?"

Amo: "Yes. And you Khulekani and this is Chris.
Quick question. What do you feed women?"

Khule chuckled. "Don't answer that."Chris:

"Are you Zac's wife?"

Amo: "Yes"

Khule: "What a small world. Is he still white?"

Amo: "As white as they come."

Khule: "He beat my brother into you"

Amo: "Which one?"

She had completely forgotten about me.

Khule: "Quinton. He had a massive crush on you"

Amo: "Don't be afraid to say if it was you. Khethel won't kill you" we laughed.

Khule: "I was an innocent one"

Amo: "Look at me bubbling with you. I came to give Khethelo her research about child birth. Can we start?"
What is she talking about dear heavens.

I nodded hesitantly. "Okay we gonna start at how much does the vagina stretch-" Chris cleared his throat and got up, Khule did too. "Oh am sorry is it too much for you guys?"

Khule: "No but we'd just give you ladies space"

smiled at him.

Amo: "Hi. Am Amo"

Kat: "Katlego"

Amo: "Now that the men are gone we can get to business. That Talia means business." She took out

a brown A4 envelope.

I opened it and took out the pictures.

Me: "Who is this?"

Amo: "Her accomplice."

Kat: "Oh hell no"

Me: "What?"

Kat: "That is Phumla. That definitely is not a coincidence"

Amo: "Who's that?"

Us: "Chris's ex wife"

Me: "How did you find these?"

Amo: "Ask no questions. Hear no lies. This war is deeper than you thought."

Kat: "She clearly doesn't know who she's about to mess with"

Amo: "I can have them kidnapped if you want"

Me: "Please do. Make sure they are tortured until we arrive. Nobody tries to wreck my home and walks

freely. If i have to kill them then so be it."

Am married to a killer anyway...

[2/26, 06:36] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Ten

[Khule]

For the first time in forever I woke up alone and am not good with that. I reached for my cellphone and got in the surveillance records. There was no data for today. I got up and rushed downstairs.

"Hey. Where are you rushing off to?" I took a deep breath. She got off the couch and came to me. She looked like she'd been awake for so long and looked fresh.

Me: "Where were you?"

Khethelo: "Here eating and watching t.v. Are you okay?"

Me: "Yeah am good. Are you?"

Khethelo: "Yeah." I kissed her forehead. "You sure you're okay?"

Me: "100%. Have you eaten?"

Khethelo: "Yeah but I don't mind eating again" Me:

"Let me go dress up then we gonna go"

Khethelo: "Okay" she had a little cut on her upper lip. Me:

"What happened on your lip?"

Khethelo: "Where?"

Me: "I just said on your lip"

Khethelo: "Ohhh. I tried reaching for the jam and I fell"

Me: "Why didn't you eat the one on the fridge"

Khethelo: "Becuase I didn't feel like anything cold" I
nodded. She lies to me now.

I jogged up the stairs. I called Liam.

Liam: "Sir"

Me: "Did you guys perhaps went somewhere today?"

Liam: "No Sir"

Me: "Lying to me isn't a good idea Liam you know"

that"

Liam: "I promise you sir we did not go anywhere. I am still getting ready to come to work"

Me: "Alright."

I hung up. I called the security company. Assistant:

"Good morning how may I help you?"

Me: "Good morning. Am calling from Impala Estates house number 5520 Dube household. Can you please send me today's data"

Assistant: "Please hold Sir" I looked for something to wear as I waited for the lady. "Sir are you still there?"

Me: "Yes I am"

Assistant: "My computer tells me your cameras are currently blocked. There is no today's data. Would you like me to unblock them for you?"

Me: "Yeah..please do. Thank you" Assistant:

"You're welcome. Was that all?" Me: "Yes.

Thank you nkosazana"

I hung up. I put on the t-shirt and took my wallet then walked out. I found her in the kitchen drinking juice.

Me: "Let's go."

She rinsed the glass and followed me out to the garage...

ooo

[Katlego]

I picked Hawu up and walked down to the kitchen. I put him down. He's hyperactive these days and am not complaining because I don't have to worry about him falling off the stairs. I made his porridge.

Yesterday leaving Khethelo's house Amo texted us letting us know the birds flew away. That was stress to my life.

My baby sister Amo was leaving for Chicago on the noon while the most of us go to Cape Town.

Chris came down.

Me: "Why aren't you dressed up?"

Chris: "Because my shift has been cancelled" he

picked his son up.

Me: "I will make you breakfast"

Chris: "Let's go out"

Me: "I don't think that's a good idea"

Chris: "Why?"

Me: "I still have to pack remember"

Chris: "You've been acting weird since last night" Me:

"You're seeing things"

Chris: "Am not."

He got up and walked to the lounge. I hate that him. The one that doesn't argue with you but just leaves you there alone dying of guilt because what he said is true. I took out the bread and toasted it.

His phone beeped continuously.

"Please check that for me"

He shouted from the lounge. I took it and viewed the MMSs from an unsaved number.

I literally froze up to my single grey hair.

I did not blink or move a toe.

I was taken back to earth by Chris calling my name.Me:

"Yes?"

Chris: "Who is it?"

Me: "Its MTN"

Chris: "Ok"

I took a screenshot and sent it to myself on WhatsApp and deleted the MMS and the evidence onWhatsApp. I locked it and put it back on the counter.

I fixed us breakfast and served him.

Chris: "Thanks baby." I gave him a weak smile and picked Hawu up. I fed him first.

My mind ran back to those pictures. I shut my eyes. "Katlego" I opened them. He pointed at my ringing cellphone.

I took it. It was unknown number. I answered.Me:

"Hello"

Caller: "Hey. Its me. What time are you leaving for

Cape Town?" I sighed in relief.

Me: "8pm I think. Need something?"

Amo: "I need to see you both before you leave. There's something huge and by the look of things even your husbands have no idea about this"

Me: "Uhm...we can meet around 2pm" Chris looked at me.

Amo: "Okay great" I

hung up.

Me: "That was Amo Smith"

Chris: "What's your deal with that woman anyway?" Me:

"She sells wigs"

Chris: "She's your new supplier?"

Me: "Yes she is. Am meeting with her later on"

He nodded. He did not look convinced but I couldn't careless. I continued feeding Hawu...

ooo

[Narrated]

Kush waited outside for Yezwe. He kept stomping his foot on the ground. He's likely to do that when anxious.

He glanced at his watch. Yezwe came out.

Kush: "Are they in?"

Yezwe: "Yes but the person you're looking for isn't" Kush:

"Ok get in the car"

Yezwe: "Baba-"

Kush opened his door and got in. Yezwe did too. They drove off.

Kush: "Is she alive?"

Yezwe: "Yes. They said she lives Enquthu with her husband and kids"

Kush: "Ok"

They drove in silence.

Yezwe: "Who is she?"

Kush: "No one important"

Yezwe: "Mmmh"

Kush adjusted the rear view mirror.

Kush: "When are you visiting your mother?"

Yezwe: "Today."

Kush: "Ok"

He increased the volume of soft ballad and sped up...

ooo

[Emi]

Me: "My break is almost over moghel"

Amo: "Its okay. I still have to go to aus Khethelo's" Me:

"Aren't you scared that you're going away?"

Amo: "Nope. Am actually happy that at last am going to do something that I love with every bit of my heart"

Me: "Am happy for you"

Amo: "Thank you. And thanks for the meal"

Me: "Any time my love"

I paid and collected Khan's peace offering for forgetting his lunch box at home. We then walked

out.

Amo: "You and your boss ai I clap once"

Me: "Its all innocent I-" the slash fell and splashed out on our feet.

He crouched and tried to do whatever the hell he thought he was doing.

Me: "Its okay"

He stood straight. I felt a very strong urge to slap his stupid face.

I grabbed Amo's hand and walked off.

Amo: "Was that Jason?"

Me: "He always ruins something"

Amo: "Shame poor thing. He looked lost"

Me: "He's been lost since he was born" Ugh

I hate him...

...

[Quinton]

I regret giving her my spare key. She threw herself

on the couch.

Kylie: "I seriously need a raise." She kicked off her shoes. "Hey little ones." They weren't even paying attention.

Me: "You look like you need a hangover remedy" She chuckled.

Kylie: "Yeah that too. Do you have painkillers?"

Me: "Yes. If I give you any it will be subtracted from your salary"

Kylie: "Oh God I need a new boss not this bitter one. Just give me water"

I laughed and fetched the pills for her. She drank up. Kylie:

"And a fleece too. I need a quick nap"

Me: "You can use my bedroom"

Kylie: "Dankie mpilo"

She got up and took a walk yephara all the way to the bedroom door.

I took my tablet and searched for possible vacancies.

She peeped her head out.

Kylie: "I found a suitable lovely person who will turn the nursery to heaven"

Me: "You're getting a raise"

Kylie: "If she nails the nursery then we'll hire her to do the whole house"

Me: "As long as she's good"

Kylie: "I'll show you pictures of her work when I wake"

She closed the door. I didn't even know she drinks. But every pretty woman in this earth drinks these days...

...

[Tyler]

Nkosi took me to girlfriend's work. I waited on the couch outside her office. She was still in a meeting. I have never been so proud of her. The dedication she shows in everything she does is priceless.

I saw the flower that I'd usually find her watering. It

had grown and very beautiful.

This is where it all started. Who knew?

She stood before me and smiled. I smiled back. Khethiwe:

"Hi"

Me: "Hi love"

She took my hand and pulled me up.

Khethiwe: "Let's hope you did not climb the stairs"

Me: "I have to get it used to pressure or else I'll never be able to do anything other than walking straight."

She closed the door and helped me sit on the couch that only sat Emi when Q was still around.

I felt like a princess the minute my butt touched it.

Khethiwe: "What's on that bag?"

Me: "Your lunch" she smiled and pulled a table.

Khethiwe: "Can I sit on you?"

Me: "So my legs aren't supposed to climb the stairs but should have you sitting on them. How nice"

Khethiwe: "I'll seat on my chair"

Me: "No you can sit on me"

Khethiwe: "No it's fine"

Me: "I insist. We need to talk anyway"

Khethiwe: "You should tell your girlfriends I am not their friend"

Me: "Why do you always wanna fight?"

Khethiwe: "Am not fighting. They should stop commenting on my pictures"

Me: "You can just turn off the comments"

Khethiwe: "Look at you defending them. Thatha attorney bae"

Me: "Come here"

Khethiwe: "Hhai leave me alone"

She took the bag and opened it. "My fav. thanks babe you're the best"

This is by far the unnecessary gender here on planet earth.

Khethiwe: "Why are looking at me like that?"

Me: "I think you should go home on goodfriday" She looked at me like am crazy. "Am serious." Khethiwe: "Its not happening"

Me: "It will. Aren't you tired of this life?"

Khethiwe: "I am but they hate me and I feel the same"

Me: "Well that's gonna change. You gonna go home to your grandmother. Humble yourself as a child that you are, apologize"

Khethiwe: "They are the ones who shou-"

Me: "You're not from here. I see you're starting to carry yourself as a Joburg child. That woman raised you and what you must understand is that she had no say over your paternal grandfather because culturally you're theirs."

Khethiwe: "Tyler you don't understand"

Me: "Of course I don't. Where am I going to pay amalobolo? How are we even gonna get married? I spoke to Bab Ndoda. They'll be starting this week to go and apologize to the Dladlas and your

grandmother"

Khethiwe: "Why? They killed your family. I don't want them in my life"

Me: "Crying will not make this go away. We need peace. Regardless of who did what to whom"

Khethiwe: "I understand apologizing to grandma but that Dladla family? I wish they were still dying. And who exactly are you going to apologize to?"

Me: "We going to apologize your older brother that wasn't there when that tragedy happened"

Khethiwe: "I really don't know"

Me: "It doesn't feel right to stay with you here. I want to do the right thing" her eyes widened.

Khethiwe: "The right thing?"

Me: "Yes. We weren't promised forever. There are reasons why I survived that shooting and I guess one of them is to marry you"

She laughed. "What's funny?"

Khethiwe: "Do you really love me to that point?"

Me: "Yes. You're my first love. I have never spent 3 months with one woman. Whatever it is that you fed me please do not stop"

I reached for the box on my pocket. "I can't kneel but you know I want to. Will you do me an honor of becoming my Mrs Attorney Dube?" Why are women so dramatic. The crying and fanning your face is pure drama. Imagine if I was kneeling my knee would be broken right now.

She got up and threw her fat self on me.

Khethiwe: "Yes baby." She kissed me all over my face. "I am now gonna have something to back me up when I start kicking ass of those junkies putting heart eyes under your pictures" that's all she can think of?

Me: "Tag me along" she giggled.

I slid the ring into her finger. Her face, priceless.

Khethiwe: "It fits perfectly. Oh my God it's so beautiful babe. Am so glad you've chosen me to be the one you wanna cheat on for the rest of your life. Am so gonna kill you if you do though" she squeezed

me in. "I love you baby ka MaNgcobo"

Me: "I love you more sthandwa sam"

She looked at her hand again. I know the minute I walk out she'll start googling wedding gowns...

ooo

[Khethelo]

I hate lying to my husband. Its like he always know when I am. That jam story I told him in the morning he did not buy it. The way he kept looking at me the whole day was uncomfortable.

I finished making up my face and took my bag.

I wrote a note and walked downstairs. I pasted it on the fridge. I heard laughing coming from the lounge. I walked there. Oh.

Me: "Hey guys"

I picked Hawu up and kissed him then put him down.

Chris: "Hey. You look great"

Me: "Thank you husband. You need a new haircut, both of you"

Khule: "We'll visit your salon when there's a special"

Me: "If you're not busy you can go and tell Muzi to beautify you it's on me"

Chris: "Thank you Nguniza. Let's go"

Khule: "Don't you wanna sleep first?"

Chris: "No but wanna eat first"

Me: "I'll see you guys later"

Khule: "4pm I want you here"

Me: "Yes dad" he laughed.

I left.

...

I found a bottle of wine almost empty.

Me: "Are you guys trying to get drunk?"

Amo: "Ask your sister wife here. This is the second bottle"

Me: "Katlego?"

Kat: "I wanna continuously stab that ugly vagina of hers and burn her face with acid"

Me: "Who?"

Kat: 'That Phumla bitch. Can you believe she texted Chris her nudes and a room number?"

Amo: "What?"

Me: "They are both mental cases. They are not good for the community"

Kat: "I need a gun"

Amo: "You not gonna get your hands dirty babes. Your husbands will"

Me: "We have to tell them now?"

Amo: "No but we gonna make sure they find out Tamia is behind the shooting that took place Estcourt. Your brother inlaw was driving Khulekani's jeep right?"

Me: "Yes" I felt my heart breaking again. I couldn't hold back the tears.

Amo: "And you guys were leaving for your honeymoon that evening?" I nodded. "She thought that supposed to be you. Q's wife and Advocate were at the wrong place. Those bullets were meant

for you"

I need some air. I got up feeling dizzy. She put me back down and gave me water.

Katlego got up and left.

How sick is this Tamia woman...

[2/26, 06:36] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Eleven

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[Khethelo]

This husband of mine likes the sea view for someone who can not swim. Our hotels we've been to all have it. And you always find him here on the balcony smoking and deep in his thoughts.

Khule: "We can go back home if you want" he said handing me a smoothie. I smiled.

Me: "Thank you."

Khule: "You welcome" he took a seat.

Me: "Why would we go back home?"

Khule: "You don't seem to enjoy being here"

Me: "I do babe. These kicks are tiring me"

He blankly stared at me. I don't like that look.

Khule: "How long have we been together?" Me:

"23 months"

Khule: "It feels like 23 years" I chuckled.

Me: "It does" we went silent.

Khule: "The cameras were jammed yesterday morning."

Me: "Really? Did you call the security company?"

Khule: "I did." He paused. "You know what stresses me? You fell trying to get the jam. To my surprise that jam is still sealed" my heart skipped a bit. "What exactly happened to your lip?"

Me: "I fell" he shot me that scary eye I almost gave birth." I went to the gym"

Khule: "Do you ever listen?"

Me: "I was bored"

Khule: "Don't even dare cry Khethelo. That gym isn't maternal friendly. What if you fell and those steels fell on top of you? If you keep risking my children's lives you might never leave the house"

Me: "Am sorry"

Khule: "So you had the cameras jammed?" I shook my head. He raised his brows, I quickly nodded.

He got up and walked in to room. I wiped my tears and followed him. I found him drinking his can. I stood a distance from him.

Me: "It won't happen again. Am sorry"

Khule: "I know." He turned to me. "Because you're back at having bodyguards and personal nurses at home"

Me: "But I-"

Khule: "Breakfast is ready"

With all that said he walked to the bathroom. A nurse? Seriously?...

•••

[Katlego]

Chris: "Here. Drink this"

Me: "Thank you" he sat beside me. I drank up the concoction. Whoever taught him these mixtures.

Chris: "That should be fine. I made breakfast." Me:

"I just wanna lie down first. Where's Hawu?" Chris:

"Quinton fetched him in the morning"

These people and their unnecessary reasons to meet up. This is supposed to be the newly weds honeymoon not a family vacation.

Me: "Let me sleep then"

Chris: "Amo called. She landed safely" Me:

"Thats great. Thank you"

He kissed my forehead and cuddled me.

Chris: "Did I hurt you?"

Me: "Why?"

Chris: "The way you've been drinking the past 3 days. Its like you're trying to fight off the pain"

Me: "Its not that. I am sad that the killers have not been found"

He took a deep breath.

Chris: "We decided to put that matter to rest"

I turned to him.

Me: "Is that how little she meant to you? Had Tyler also died, would you guys have put the matter to rest?" He frowned.

Me: "Am asking. She carried your children, she loved your brother and not even a single of you want to find who killed her? Is that what you gonna do shall any of us get killed by your people? Put the matter to rest?" I was already crying. I don't know what hurt more but I was hurt.

Maybe they knew this Tamia woman was behind it but turned a blind eye because Khule used to fuck her. That's how crazy men are.

I got out of bed. "Right now you gonna go out there and make calls. Tell your brothers you're getting this matter back at hand."

I stormed out. How come are they so chilled about this?

...

•••

[Emi]

Whoever bewitched my love life must just forgive me. I took my phone. There were missed calls from an unknown number that has been calling me since last night. I know it's him.

I texted Amo and visited the hygiene room.

I came out looking as fresh as they come. I wore a simple dress and flops. Durban and Cape Town are for such clothes.

I ordered breakfast. Nope my room wasn't self service. I can't cook at my place and cook here on vacation. I did my make up as I waited.

My phone rang. I reached for it. Video calls are my worst nightmare, especially from unsaved numbers.

I hesitantly answered. He appeared.

Me: "Oh my God!" He laughed. "Why are you topless?" I don't know how did we escalate here but

yesterday he came to chill with Vee and I during lunch. The Cape Town issue got raised. He said we should exchange numbers because there was a possibility for him to come this side too.

Khan: "Oh sorry. Let me put on something"

saw the ceiling then his face. "Morning"

Me: "Morning. How many numbers do you have?"

Khan: "6 I think. You look beautiful. Are you facebeating?"

Me: "Yes I am. Smile" he frowned. "It is healthy Sir" he laughed.

Khan: "Don't tell me you don't know my name"

Me: "I don't"

Khan: "Let's keep it like that. It feels so good when a feminist says "Sir"

Me: "Am not a feminist"

Khan: "That's what they all say. I flew in today. Want me to buy you a slash?"

Me: "Wanna buy me one?"

Khan: "If you don't mind."

Me: "Just say the time and place. I'll be there"

Khan: "Have you eaten breakfast?"

Me: "No. I have ordered though"

Khan: "Let's go have a bunny chow by the sea" Me:

"Am not chillies friendly"

Khan: "They sell non chilli"

Me: "Okay. Send me the location"

Khan: "Ok. See you then"

He hung up. I received a text.

'We need to talk

J'

"Le kwa hell" I replied and attended the door...

•••

[Chris]

I found them drinking. Katlego left me there all alone and went only Lord knows where.

Me: "Where are the kids?"

Quinton: "They left with their mothers"

Tyler: "We should've booked a lounge"

Khule: "We will. Next time"

Tyler: "That's like 10 months away"

Bonga: "Hhai count me out. I will be vacating in every 2 weeks"

Me: "That's good. You might end up finding us a daughter inlaw" he laughed.

Bonga: "Do you guys really want me to have a girlfriend?"

Us: "Yes"

Bonga: "I'd probably get her pregnant"

Tyler: "That's good. Imagine "granpa T can I have some chewing gum"

Khule: "Kids don't think you're cool Tyler"

Tyler: "You know nothing about what kids find cool."

Quinton: "I do"

Tyler: "No one asked you waiter" they both laughed.

Quinton: "I found a job"

Me: "As a waiter?"

Quinton: "Yes"

Khule: "You gonna wear a cap and an apron?"

Quinton: "Yes"

Me: "Run to people when they enter and offer them tables?"

Bonga: "And menus?"

Quinton: "Yes"

We laughed. He did not.

Me: "Are you serious?"

Quinton: "Yes I am."

Khule: "You want to make it to make it to all the front pages?"

Quinton: "I'll keep low profile"

Tyler: "If you happen to sue anyone. Am here to represent you. And I wanted to ask you guys

something" he cleared his throat. "I was hoping we'd reconcile with the Dladlas"

Khule: "What Dladlas?"

Tyler: "Khethiwe's. I can't help the guilt of living comfortably with someone's daughter without her parent's permission" he has a point.

Khule: "We should call baba first."

Quinton: "If he doesn't approve?"

Tyler: "He must cause I proposed yesterday"

It went dead quiet you could hear a needle drop.

Khule: "You what?"

Tyler: "I proposed"

Me: "Are you ready for marriage?"

Quinton: "You understand marriage is about commitment right?"

Tyler: "Yes am ready and I do understand"

Khule: "Am proud of you man"

Me: "Mom should be here to witness this."

Quinton: "As if we all would've dated these women.
'She's not good for you boy-boy' " we laughed.

Tyler: "She always made me dump my hot babes.
'She's not a Dube wife material' and I always
wondered how is the Duve wife material like"

Me: "Like her. I hate to admit it but Katlego is
controlling. If it was in her power I'd do anything thatshe
says"

Khule: "On my case too. She just acts tough for noreason"

Quinton: "One of the days I earned myself a very hot
slap"

Me: "Hell no"

Quinton: "I was abused" we laughed. "I wanted to
strangle her"

Tyler: "No matter how soft she tried to be. Her sideshowed
with the kids."

Me: "Those ones knew her very well."

Khule: "Nobody could ever fill her void. She left her
mark. I still expect to see her behind you everyday I

see you" Quinton chuckled.

Quinton: "She was kaak scared of you both."

Me: "I knew it. she avoided any interaction with me"

Khule: "Our conversations never made it past the greeting."

Tyler: "That's because you don't smile"

Khule: "But I am Quinton"

Tyler: "Nope. Quinton is the ugly one and you're the ugliest and the darkest that is enough to scare the cobras mother"

We laughed.

Quinton: "They now just disappear"Me:

"Hawu too"

Khule: "Ndosi said something about a ritual once in awhile to keep them well behaved"

Me: "It should be done then"

Quinton: "Am not ready to have bab Ndoda on our necks from slaughtering to washing the pots"

Tyler: "Just shut up and let Bonga and I talk about how we will arrive the day of the actual ceremony. He had us on Khule's wedding"

Bonga: "Please make me your groomsman"

Tyler: "Dark or blue"

Khule: "Let's go have braaied meat at that pub" Me:

"It's still open?"

Khule: "Yep. And beautiful as ever"

I grabbed a beer. We followed each other out. We're such a bunch of tall black people. Tyler surely feels like a colored amongst us. He inherited more of the Ngcobo side. Reasonable height and complexion...

•••

[Narrated]

{Lelo's place}

Yezwe: "Ugh I forgot my jogging tracksuit at home" Lelo:

"You can go buy new ones"

Sisipho: "He's not gonna die."

Yezwe: "Yes Miss know it all"

Lelo: "Go wake the twins"

Sisipho: "They are fasting" Lelo:

"What?"

Yezwe: "Yes. You introduced them to internet right"

Lelo: "The internet told them to fast?"

Sisipho: "No but the pastor raised the topic last Sunday that if you truly need something you fast for it" Lelo chuckled.

Lelo: "I hope they are not fasting for girlfriends"

Yezwe: "Nope. For you to come back home" Sisipho:

"I will join them soon too"

Lelo: "You can move in"

Yezwe: "Why? You can just come home. Dad doesn't with us anyway"

Lelo: "Where does he live?"

Sisipho: "Here at the hotel. We're going on a movie date today"

Lelo excused herself.

Yezwe: "Elli followed me on Instagram"

Sisipho: "Am so gonna tell mom"

Yezwe: "I will tell about your watermelon head boyfriend"

Sisipho threw an apple at him. He laughed and picked it up and walked out...

{At the police station}

He appeared from a dark corridor followed by 2 policemen. His eyes dropped when they landed on his mother's.

Lucia got up and headed out.

Mtho: "Am sorry mama" Lucia:

"Just in the car"

He did and they drove off.

They arrived home.

Lucia placed the car keys on the counter and drank water.

Lucia: "Look at you standing there like a wet chicken. What has gotten to you Mthobisi?"

Mtho: "We weren't supposed to get caught"

Lucia walked around to him. He took a step back.

Lucia: "How are You gonna pay for second semester?"

Mtho: "I'll make a plan"

Lucia: "Good luck"

Mtho: "I owe Spororo"

Lucia: "Good. I wish he kills you"

She took her keys and headed to the lounge.

Mtho: "Who's my dad?"

Lucia: "He's none of your business"

He went to drink water on the sink and headed upstairs to his room. He looked for Lucia's office's spare keys.

He went there and locked himself inside and went to the telephone.

Mike: "Honourable madam" Mtho:

"Its me"

Mike: "Honourable Mtho. How may I be of help?" Mtho: "I fucked up"

Mike: "You always do. The question is; how bad this time?"

Mtho: "A R100 000. Gone. Down the drain. We got caught and the police took all the money"

Mike: "Does your mom know?"

Mtho: "And she's mad as hell. I used the second semester money"

Mike: "Mthobisi!"

Mtho: "I know. Please tell me who my dad is"

Mike: "Now you're pushing it"

Mtho: "Is he rich?"

Mike: "Mtho..."

Mtho: "I took the other 50 from Spororo"

Mike: "No! No no no"

Mtho: "Yes"

Mike sighed.

Mike: "If I get fired you and your father will have to give me monthly allowance"

Mtho: "I'll make sure. That's if he's rich"

Mike: "He's loaded honey. They all are"

Mtho: "They?"

Mike: "Yes. Hold on....do you have your laptop with you?"

Mtho: "No. But mom's is"

Mike: "Ok. I'll send it all just now"

He unlocked Lucia's laptop. An email notification popped up.

Mtho: "Is this him?"

Mike: "Yes. Quickly jot his name down and delete that thing"

Mtho: "Where does he live?"

Mike: "Its all there."

Mtho: "Ok thank you so much man. I owe you"

Mike: "Of course you do."

He hung up and dialed the numbers that are supposedly his dad's.

"You've reached Khulekani Dube's voicemail. Please leave a message"

He quickly ended the call.

Mtho: "Oh God mom is gonna kill me" He deleted the email and ran out...

[2/26, 06:36] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Twelve

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[Emi]

Sundays! I curse the day God got into Quinton's heart. Last night he suggested we go to church. The wives agreed and the was hella noway the husbands were gonna dodge it. You should've seen them googling a nearby church. I had plans but had to cancel. He woke me up with a sweet message. He's

totally into me. I fell for his smile yesterday. I prayed today to not find it attractive.

He leaned on the car next to me. The church got dismissed 30 minutes ago but these siblings of ours stayed inside for only God knows what.

Tyler: "If we were riding in different cars I'd have left" Me: "Me too. Am hungry"

We had 2 slices of toast and black coffee. Its the Dube Sunday rule, mom came up with it. Talking about how you never feel the holy spirit on a full stomach.

Tyler: "I saw a food truck down the road when I went to drink my pills"

Me: "What are we waiting for then?" I took my purse and off we went.

Tyler: "I propped"

Me: "A new working idea?" He chuckled.

Tyler: "I asked Khethiwe to marry me"

Me: "No! I refuse!" He laughed. Jesus Christ he's

serious. I jumped on him. "Am so proud of you. I should start dress shopping" I got off him.

Tyler: "You might wanna wait a little. There's still alot to do."

Me: "We're prayer warriors. If her family is what you're worried about then stress free we gonna tellGod about that and he'll intervene"

Tyler: "I wish he could. Faster."

Me: "He will" this is the right time to riase this."Jasonis giving me problems"

Tyler: "He's back?" I nodded. "You want him dead?"

Me: "What? No. But I want him to back off" he nodded.

Tyler: "I have no criminal friends now but I'll work something out. We can't tell your brothers if you don't want him dead"

I chuckled. We arrived at the truck. We ordered.

•••

[Quinton]

My phone rang the minute I stepped out.

Me: "Mrs Linda"

Nkule: "Hey. I've been trying to get hold of Khethelo. Is she there?"

Me: "Uhh...yeah but still inside with the pastor" Nkule:

"Oh ok. How's the vacation anyway?"

Me: "Its pretty amazing. I wish we didn't have to go home today." Khethelo and Khule came out. "Here she is" I handed the phone to Khethelo. "Nkule" she reluctantly took it and walked away from us.

Khule: "And then?"

Me: "And then what?"

Khule: "You guys are friends now or?"

Me: "Kind of"

We walked to the car.

Khule: "You wouldn't disrespect Chloe's memory right?"

Me: "There's nothing happening"

Khule: "Good"

Khethiwe, Chris and Katlego joined us. Khethelo came too and gave me the phone. Chris buckled up the kids.

Katlego: "Where's Emi and Advocate" Khethiwe:

"He said they went to get burgers"

Khethelo: "They better have bought some for us"

Tyler: "We did. And I bought 3 for you mommy"

Khethelo: "Ugh some of us marry smart man. Thankyou Mbuyazi"

Emi: "Its a pleasure honey since I came up with the idea of buying enough for everyone"

I took mine and got in the car. Katlego was madam driver. She's the only woman I know that doesn't mind driving. Bonga arrived last. He was probably somewhere asking for female's numbers.

They all got in. We drove off...

•••

[Khethelo]

We arrived at a restaurant that we booked on the last minute. A table for 9. Its so funny how they walkwith us like they are bodyguards. Khule and Quinton at the front, us behind them then Chris, Tyler and Bonga at the back.

We got led to our table.

Emi: "I just need sex on the beach" she said as we allsat down.

Khule: "The first time I heard you saying that I almostdied of heart attack" we laughed.

Tyler: "That waiter was totally into you"

Chris: "So was she."

Emi: "Hhai Bhuti"

Quinton: "So you and your boss. Are you allowed tobe strolling around?"

Emi: "He's not my boyfriend"

Khule: "Nobody said he is. Are you allowed? We don'twant to have you on every news paper about dating your boss"

Emi: "That was the first and the last time we went out"

Tyler: "You're couple goals"

Quinton: "Shall he break your heart. Tell him I'll kill him" oh my poor Emi.

Me: "What time are we leaving?"

Khule: "7pm. If that's okay with everyone"

Bonga: "Cool with me" everyone agreed. The food we had pre ordered arrived in serving bowls.

Emi ordered her sex on the beach. Katlego and Khethiwe acted civil and settled with the granadilla juice.

Truth be told I wished we were leaving. I needed to meet up with Amo and find the way forward. Nkule on the other hand, I had to see her. She had issues with her in-laws. As to how I will convince this man to allow me to go to Durban. I have no idea.

I startled when I felt someone poking me.

Khule: "Are you okay?"

Me: "Yeah am good"

Katlego: "But am not" My heart beat faster. Her tonesaid she's about to set this whole table on fire.

Chris: "We can leave if you want"

Katlego: "No I don't wanna leave. I want to know when are you finding the killers"

It went dead quiet. Thank God we are on the private section. "Am asking. This is nice to you? Wining and dining while someone's daughter and mother is lyingthere on the cold without any justice"

Me: "Katlego"

Katlego: "No Khethelo. Do you think they'll do different by you shall you die in hands of their enemies? She's the mother of your children for Christ's sake. I really can not believe you guys. I can't. This fake love you show I can't deal with it cause theday I turn my back on this earth you'll forget me in aninstant."

Khule: "You need to calm down mama ka Hawu"

Katlego: "Am so sorry Mbuyazi but I can't. If you

keep turning a blind eye on this. I will find the killers myself"

Chris: "Its not easy"

Katlego: "How do you know that when you've never tried?"

Quinton: "We will look for them" khule looked at him.

Katlego: "When you find them don't hesitate to kill them." What is wrong with her. I am proud of her though. Standing up to these men. That a whole woman power for real. Poor Khethiwe, her eyes were deep in Katlego's face.

Khule: "We will"

She took a deep breath and dished up.

We all focused on our food. Mama ka Hawu for president...

•••

[Narrated]

Zac: "Man on a huge Sunday" he took the vodka bottle out of his hands. "You didn't even come to

church"

Kush: "That God doesn't love nor care about me" Zac:

"Is this all because of Lelo?"

Kush: "Yes and a whole lot more. Your wife is too close with the Dube women. Close to my concern"

Zac: "What is wrong with that?"

Kush: "What if they ask her to help them find the killers"

Zac: "How would they even know she's able to do that? Your conscious is playing tricks on you man"

Kush: "I regret every minute of it. Last night I saw a very disturbing picture of Emihle Dube"

Zac: "Is she related to them?"

Kush: "Yes. I don't know what I'd do if I found out its what I think it is"

Zac: "You're speaking in riddles"

Kush: "I found my mother. I am driving to KZN later on"

Zac: "All the best man."

Kush: "I need to lie down"

He left Zac there and got in the bedroom.

•••

[Unknown application]

Tamia threw herself on the decaying couch a plank broke.

Phumla: "You always breaking things"

Tamia: "You always talking or you still mad Chris did not show up?"

Phumla: "Stay out of my business" Tamia chuckled and lit her cigarette.

Tamia: "Tonight we're going to shoot at the TheDube company"

Phumla: "Are they back?"

Tamia: "If they are not. Its what will get them back."

Phumla: "What if they send their errand boys and stay at home with their wives"

Tamia: "They won't. There's nothing they value more than that company babes"

Phumla: "The bitches will be left unattended?"

Tamia: "Where was your mind at when I explained yesterday. Geez woman are you serious about getting your man back?"

Phumla: "Of course I am"

Tamia: "Then pay attention. Those women should die tonight"

Phumla: "I can't wait for him to touch me." She said closing her eyes and tilting her head. "The way he nibbled on my nipples"

She jumped as ice cold water hit her face. "What the fuck woman!"

Tamia: "Sex? Really? Did you even hear any of the things I said?"

Phumla: "If you keep on acting like a boss I will fuck you up and you won't like it. You want the ring and money. I want Chris not the material things."

She took her phone and stormed out.

Tamia: "Why is this hoe so stupid"

She took the remote and changed the channel...

•••

11 hours later

[Khule]

I parked outside the garage.

Khethelo: "I just want my bed"

Me: "Come. We'll bath first"

Khethelo: "I wanna sleep"

I got out. I went to open for her. I locked the car and we headed inside.

The lights had automatically turned off. They go off after 11pm.

I turned them on.

Me: "Go take a bath. I'll be making food for you"

I warmed the pie for her.

My phone rang as I rinsed the glass. I dried my hands and answered.

Me: "Don" he's my old contact that I had to swallow my pride and call. We kind of got off the wrong foot.

Don: "As a man that delivers I found a bird. It sang. He couldn't make it to the scene because his wife got sick. Calvin Madonna is behind the shooting. Hewanted the advocate. Remember that mafia he put behind bars and had the state confiscating everything?"

Me: "Yeah"

Don: "They're brothers. I guess he sent him to." Me:

"Does he have a family?"

Don: "Yeah. 6 kids and a wife. Nompumelelo, she's living in Sandton" fuck. "Dube?"

Me: "Am here man. Thanks broe"

Don: "Anytime. Do you need to take him out?"

Me: "Not yet. I want to teach him a lesson first"

Don: "His wife is his weakness"

Me: "Thank you. Let me call my boys"

Don: "Sure"

I hung up. I took wife's food and walked upstairs. I

found her already in bed. I doubt she bathed.

Khethelo: "I took a shower"

I chuckled and gave her her food.

Me: "You should invite Lelo over. Am sure she gets bored living alone in that place" she frowned. "You love her."

Khethelo: "I do. Am just surprised of that. Her kids are here for this week I doubt she's bored"

Me: "Even better. Invite them over. I'll cook. It'd be nice to have company that isn't the Dubes"

She smiled and nodded. I got up and headed to the bathroom.

Who the fuck does this Kush think he is?....

[2/26, 06:36] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Thirteen

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[Quinton]

My alarm did not wake me today. Kylie did. I become every dysfunctional when a human being is the reason for me to wake up.

Kylie: "You might want to wash your face. I really can't discuss this with you while you're this sleepy"

Me: "Dude where do you get all this energy from so early?"

I dragged my feet to the bathroom. The twins were fast asleep. We slept around 1am.

I found her frying whatever.

Kylie: "Here is a smoothie. Strawberry and black berry yoghurt"

I pulled a chair and took a sip.

Me: "It tastes nice. Raymond has gone back to Jo'burg?"

Kylie: "Yes. His company is totally dysfunctional without him"

Me: "He has a whack team it means"

Kylie: "Consequences of hiring family"

Me: "Ohh he fucked up"

Kylie: "Do you ever cook?"

Me: "Yeah. But not always" she pushed the plate to me.
"This is appetizing. Thanks"

Kylie: "Okay. So apparently that Vilakazi girl is really good at what she does. I asked her to send me pictures of her current project. All I can say is that am in awe. She's amazing Q"

She handed me the tablet. "Those are before pictures. Swipe left"

Me: "This is amazing. Wow, are you sure she's a graduate?"

Kylie: "Am certain. If we hire her we gonna have to offer her a place to stay along with her 5 guys"

Me: "I don't see a problem with that. When is she gonna come?"

Kylie: "Thursday"

Me: "Book me a car and a driver to Jo'burg. I'll be there for as long as she'll be busy with the house. They can stay here"

Kylie: "That is so sweet of you. Let me contact her again. I've been contacting her everyday am hoping am not beginning to be a nuisance" I laughed. My plate had cleaned out. I don't know where that food went. Am still hungry...

•••

[Emi]

Witchcraft is when you're supposed to be in a meeting with 3 of the valued clients and then your tyre punches. I called uber. I hope I don't get fired.

Vee: "You're very late" she said as we met on the corridor.

Me: "Tell me something I don't know Vee. Are they Here?"

Vee: "2 of them"

Me: "Khan?"

Vee: "He's there" I feel so unloved by God right now. I followed in after Vee.

Me: "Goodmorning gentlemen"

Them: "Morning" I couldn't even look Khan in the eye.

Khan: "Mr Edith is running late. We may begin without him"

Me: "Please forgive me I did not find time to print out the statements but I will just send these directly to your tabs"

Mr Khan: "You had a whole week to do that Miss Dube"

Me: "Am sorry Sir it slipped my mind"

I sent it to their emails. "We have nothing major to discuss except that Mr Zikhali is 2 months behind payment. Other than that our working relationship and finance is really good."

Mr Zikhali: "I'll make the deposit today"

Me: "Cherry on top"

Mr Khan: "Vee please send the draft to Edith. Thank you gentlemen for availing yourselves. We'll see you again next month" Ugh why? They act like they're God.

They shook hands and walked out with their

Barbie PAs. I picked my bag, my tab and walked out.

I need cold water. I went straight to the fridge and took out a bottle. I downed it in one go and threw the container on the trash can.

The door swung open. I stood up swiftly and walked over to him.

Me: "Bhuti"

Khule: "Are you okay?"

Me: "Am good. You don't look okay"

Khule: "There was shooting at the Dube constructions.'

Me: "What? Was anyone hurt?"

Khule: "No. Everything is bullet proofed but we're not. You going to have bodyguards until this whole thing has blown over" I nodded. "I love you okay?" He kissed my forehead.

Me: "Where's Khethelo?"

Khule: "She's downstairs. We're going to the Dr" Me:

"Okay. Call me and tell me how you went"

Khule: "I will"

He said his goodbye. Why is it always us?

I sat down on a chair. I switched on my laptop. The top stories were all about it. The opening of the door startled me.

Khan: "Am sorry. Are you okay?"

Me: "Yeah am good. Thanks"

Khan: "You can take a day off"

Me: "I'd go crazy. I'll keep myself occupied here"

Khan: "That was my only meeting for today. Am going home to visit my parents. We can go if you don't mind" he's too nice.

Me: "I don't think that's a good idea. Thanks though"

Khan: "I'll see you tomorrow then"

Me: "Go well"

He reversed out and closed the door...

ooo

[Khethelo]

Dr: "Your Angels are perfectly fine Mr and Mrs Dube. The cramps are caused by the expansion of your uterus. Or did anything alarm you?"

Me: "Yes"

Dr: "Panic can be the cause too. Try not to. And relax 2-3 hours a day. Let your body adjust to pregnancy. Twins are an emergency, you have to be careful with everything"

Khule: "She will Dr. Thank you" He's so impatient today and I understand. "Please print those for us"

...

The bodyguards were waiting for us by the door. I hate this bodyguard life. Fuck whoever went to attack the poor building. People are insane out there.

They escorted us to the car.

Khule: "We're going to Chris's."

Me: "Can you drop me off at Lelo's?"

Khule: "No. I can't allow you to be anywhere except with your family" there's no arguing with that. I know how depressed we get in such situations so staying

together in one place is tragedy on its own.

We arrived. I hate these places we all live in. They are so quiet you'd swear they're deserted places.

I know that it is their family precious legacy but their sadness is dramatic. Nobody died. Nothing got destroyed except for the main entrance.

Me: "Morning"

Them: "Morning"

Chris got up.

Chris: "Have you called Q?"

Khule: "His phone is off. We'll see you guys later" They followed each other out.

Me: "Are you sad as they are?"

Khethiwe: "Yes but not because of that. Because am pregnant"

Me: "What?" I laughed.

Kat: "Oh my God finally!"

Khethiwe: "Its not funny Khethelo"

Me: "It is. These men are baby machines. How far are you?"

Khethiwe: "How the hell do I know? I'd count the months I missed my periods but I am on a fucking pill"

Kat: "No contraception formed against a Dube sperm shall prosper. Have you told daddy?"

Khethiwe: "I found out this morning."

Kat: "Am so happy marn. This needs wine. Oops"

Khethiwe: "I need a glass or two"

Me: "Come on. You can't seriously be stressed by this"

Khethiwe: "Well I am. We're not ready for a child. Where will I even begin to change it's nappy? Breastfeeding it? And I just got my dream job for crying out loud"

Kat: "September or October it'll be out of you, you'll find a nanny and go back to your life"

Me: "Don't listen to her. You'll be obsessed with your baby when it is here"

Khethiwe: "He'll love it more"

Kat: "Of course. What are you expecting."

Khethiwe: "Am not ready"

Bonga: "Its you isn't?" We all blankly stared at him.

"Who's pregnant?. It's you mam Khethiwe"

Khethiwe: "You knew?"

Bonga: "Yeah. I should start choosing color of the day.

That is your ticket into getting married. They'll agree to it"

Khethiwe: "There were many ways to get them to agree"

Me: "This is the chosen one"

Bonga: "Who's Tamia?"

I choked on my spit. Khethiwe handed me a glass of water.

Kat: "Why do you ask?"

Bonga: "I've been having dreams about a white woman named that. Today you were fighting with her"

Me: "It was probably just a dream"

Bonga: "It wasn't. And you know who Tamia is. She's out to get you mommy, she wants to finish with you and the children." What does this woman want from me?

Me: "What should I do?"

Bonga: "Pray"

Really? I want to shoot her.

My phone rang. Amogelang Smith.

Me: "Mosadi"

Amo: "I am anonymously informing your husband about this Tamia bitch. I've found them again"

Me: "I doubt he'll even pay attention to that. There was shooting at their company"

Amo: "Even more interesting because she's the one who did"

Me: "What? How do you find all these things?"

Amo: "Am a well trained private investigator. Keep safe. Those women want you dead. I will send these

to Khule now, this is No longer your battle to fight"Me:

"Okay"

Amo: "Stay safe okay? We don't know who she's working with"

Me: "thank you I will" she hung up.

This life is a whole movie. If this woman can go thisfar to destroy me what worse could she do?...

•••

[Narrated]

Mthobisi pressed the intercom for several times without response.

Mtho: "This person is dead"

Ndalo: "I doubt."

Mtho: "Why is the security house empty if there arepeople who live here?"

Ndalo: "Check if you got the right address"Mtho:

"It is right."

Ndalo: "Why don't we go to his work place?"

Mtho: "Mike did not give me the address"

They saw a man in overalls.

Ndalo: "Greetings baba"

She went closer to him.

Man: "Yebo sisi"

Ndalo: "My name is Ndalo. I am selling slimming products for females. Is there anyone staying here?" The man frowned.

Man: "No. They moved out weeks ago"

Ndalo: "Ohh ok thank you" he nodded and proceeded with his journey. "Lets go"

Mtho: "Am walking around with a dark cloud over my head. Am only left with 4 days. Am not even sure if this guy will give me this money"

Ndalo: "He will. Be positive"

They got in the car and drove off...

•••

[Chris]

It wasn't as bad as Charlie said it to be. Not even a single bullet made it through.

The guy who's in charge of the building's data arrived.

Khule: "I hope you have better news"

Scott: "Whoever did it is smart. The cables are cut. The cameras weren't working last night"

Khule: "Your team is useless. You better be thankful nothing got destroyed and nobody died or else you would've gotten to know who am I" he clicked his tongue and walked off. I followed him.

He stopped and looked at his phone.

Me: "Is everything okay?"

Khule: "Get in the car"

I got on the driver's seat.

Khule: "Women are crazy"

Me: "What's going on?"

Khule: "Drive. I'll explain everything when we get to our destination. Is Coco still there?"

Me: "Yes"

Khule: "Good"

Me: "What is going on?"

Khule: "Everything"

Am done talking. I can't keep digging him...

••••

[Narrated]

Amo: "I came as quick as I could. What is going on" Lelo offered her a seat.

Lelo: "He's here. In the bedroom lying down. He wanted to take his life" she wiped her tears.

Amo: "Calvin?" Lelo nodded. "Am sorry babe. Forgive him"

Lelo: "Its not that. He went to see his real mother. The news are..." she fanned her face. "He's a Dube"

Amo: "Now why does he wants to kill himself?"

Lelo: "He ordered the shooting that took Quinton's wife"
Amo's eyes widened.

Amo: "It wasn't him"

Lelo: "It was"

Amo: "Wait wait. The Tamia woman is who ordered the shooting"

Lelo: "That doesn't make sense"

Amo: "It does. I need to talk to him. This was a very rare coincidence. Both parties might have been there but Tamia's started the shooting. And how did you know he was behind it?"

Lelo: "I saw his texts" Amo nodded. Amo:

"So you and the Dubes are family?"

Lelo: "If they are also Mphangiseni Dube's children from Estcourt too then yes we are"

Amo: "This is fucked up."

Lelo: "Let me go check up on him"

She disappeared to the corridor. Amo called someone on her phone.

Suffo: "Mommy. Am here, do I always have to tell you guys when you're out of groceries?"

Amo: "Lisa and Kamo went to do shopping. Look, I need you to double check if that Tamia bitch is behind the shooting that occurred at Estcourt"

Suffo: "You know she is"

Amo: "Just do it Suffo. Something is fishy here"

Suffo: "Ok I'll get back to you later on"

Amo: "Don't eat Zac's chicken mayo please"

Suffo: "You mean this one I just finished?"

Amo: "Suffo!"

He hung up

•••

[Khethelo]

This man's phone wasn't going through. The sun had already set. I was getting unsettled to be here.

Me: "Am going home"

Bonga: "Am coming with you"

Emi: "Is it safe for you to go?"

Bonga: "With all the Army outside, its more than

safe"

Katlego: "Call when you get home"

Me: "We Will"

...

Me: "Can two of you guys ride with Bonga? I want him to pass by the mall and get me wings and a burger"

They agreed. We got in different cars and drove off. I rode with only Liam. He likes these soft ballads.

There was fault with the gate. It couldn't open.

These smart things.

Liam: "Its denying access"

Me: "Let me call the Security co-"

heard a loud deafening bang.

Liam: "Get down!"

For a moment I couldn't get what is going on until I saw a man holding a gun that is firing directly at us. The car went down. If this car wasn't bullet proofed. I don't know.

I got down. The gate opened. The alarms of nearby houses had gone off.

Me: "Liam...Liam drive in" what am I saying?

The shooting stopped. A while later I heard scratching tyres. "Liam!" I poked his arm. He coughed.

Liam: "They ...they got me. Run inside" what?

I realized his window is down. I felt tears crowd my eyes. I felt my whole body trembling. Where's the fucking police when you need them.

I managed to call the emergency number.

Me: "We need an ambulance." I said with the last voice in me. "Stay with me Liam"

I got out of the car. People are useless creatures in this world.

I ran inside the gate. I pressed the panic button. The gate closed. I ran to the main door. I felt something hit me on the back I fell and hit on my stomach.

Whoever that was turned me over. The wall lights went on. This fucking bitch. She smiled.

Tamia: "Hello Mrs Dube"

I felt a sharp pain on my lower abdomen. God please no.

I wrapped both my hands on my belly. She kicked me I felt my babies move. I tried to get up but she kicked me again. The pain got severe.

Tamia: "I want you to feel the pain I felt when I also lost my child in the hands of a man that you claim he loves you to death. Well am sorry honey but this house, those cars and that dick will belong to me now"

"Or not" A gun went off. I felt something warm smear on my thighs.

I felt cold hands slightly slapping my face.

"Khethelo? Khethelo are you okay? Zac! Help me carry her. Khethelo!" Whoever she is she was now crying.

My children.

The last thing I heard is sirens....

[2/26, 06:37] Zoaness: [OBJ]

Go To Home

The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Fourteen

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[Mthobisi]

One of her rules: Do not enter my gate running. I have no idea why but I obey it anyway. I slowed down as I approached the gate. I crouched catching my breath. I walked on to the censor a while later. I put my finger. It granted me access and the small gate opened I went in.

I did a few stretches as it closed behind me.

Lucia: "You order newspapers now?" No good morning son, no 'He's your breakfast' I don't even smell toast. Where's Sis Mabusi anyway (Ourchef). I sat down.

Me: "Yes. To find vacancies" she chuckled.

Lucia: "Mabusi is sick today. I ordered breakfast. It should arrive anytime soon" she walked off heading to the lounge.

Me: "Aren't you going to work today?"

Lucia: "No. I'll be working from home. Your classes begin at 11am" I hate it when she does that. I am not even allowed to go to res. I hate travelling. I am left with only one hour to get ready because I'll spend the other one on the road to campus.

I took the news paper. Don't they come with cover pages? Weird...

•••

[Emi]

'The Dubes need to check back with the ancestors. So much bad luck is not normal'

'Slay mom reportedly attacked by an unknown character'

'Another tragedy to the Dube clan'

And so forth. Every freakin news paper and blogs. I wouldn't be surprised if I saw a billboard with the Dubes and their 'Bad luck'.

I honestly think the paramedics and police sell these stories to journalists.

The door opened. Their faces are really hard to adjust to. I've had 2 mini attacks already when they peep their heads in and its not even 9am. Whoever gave them this order. Bob and Clarence are their names.

Bob: "Mr Khan is here to see you" are they crazy? Me:

"Please let him in and never-"

Khan: "They are doing their job. I had to make sure you're safe"

Me: "You told them to recheck everyone coming in?" He nodded. "Thank you"

Khan: "Are you sure you don't wanna go home?" Me:

"100%"

Khan: "But I doubt you're coping here Miss Dube"

Me: "I am trying my best. I'd rather be here than anywhere else close to my family" I tilt my head back trying to fight back the tears.

I can't be home. I don't wanna be there when they receive the bad news. I don't wanna know how it is going. I can not take anymore of losing people that I love.

Khan: "Then we gonna go somewhere quiet and peaceful" he closed my laptop.

Me: "I really don't feel like having company" he continued packing my things.

He stretched out his hand after he finished packing. Me: "Mr Khan"

Khan: "It comes from the goodness of my heart. I will leave you there to be alone. I'd rather have you there than here."

I took a deep sigh and got up. He took my hand, let nobody see this God or else I'll be yet another topic tomorrow...

•••

[Katlego]

We still can't question God. No matter how hard it gets.
We do not. I kind of want to but I can't.

Khethiwe brought the first load of breakfast then came back with juice and tea. It was Her, I, Tyler and Quinton, he arrived this morning. Nobody had any idea of Khule and Chris's whereabouts. I couldn't care less honestly. My heart was with Khethelo whom we couldn't see. Only one person could and Bonga insisted to be that person. We let him because there was no hope in any of those Drs eyes. He's the second healing process we have.

Me: "Thank you" she positioned herself next to me.

Khethiwe: "Let's say grace"

We closed our eyes. She prayed, it took longer than usual.

We said Amen and started eating. My phone rang. My heart skipped a beat when I realized the numbers.

Me: "Hello"

Caller: "Good morning ma'am. May I please speak to Katlego Mokgotho?"

Me: "Speaking."

Caller: "Mrs Khethelo Dube would like you to bring her pyjamas, slippers and a robe...and food, mostly liquids" thank you Jesus. These people here with me had read it all wrong. I wasn't crying because of hurt but of happiness.

Me: "is she allowed to have visitors now?"

Caller: "Yes ma'am" Oh thank you God.

Me: "Ok I will come. Thank you"

Caller: "Keep well"

I hung up. I put the plate down.

Me: "She's fine" their faces lit up.

Quinton: "And the kids?" Oh no.

...

11am on the dot we arrived at the hospital. We got led to her ward. The urge to ask about the babies got better of me.

Me: "Are her kids okay?"

Nurse: "I don't know ma'am but I hope they are" My poor baby. She had drips and an oxygen mask.

We thanked the nurse and closed the door. My eyes ran to her stomach. I couldn't see clearly.

Khethiwe: "We shouldn't disturb her" Me:

"Yeah you're right"

We packed her things. I carefully peeled off the sheet.

Khethiwe: "What are you doing?"

Me: "Checking for the babies" it was still there.

I touched it. Still hard. I sighed in relief. "Are you guys good?" I said brushing it.

"They are fine" I startled.

Me: "Bonga"

Bonga: "Mother."

Khethiwe: "What are those?"

Bonga: "Her concoctions. I did not sleep last night"

busy making these" Me:

"Here?" He nodded.

Khethiwe: "They smell awful"

Bonga: "Too bad cause I was ordered to make you some too"

Khethiwe: "Oh God"

Me: "Did Khule come?"

Bonga: "No. He's currently not needed until later." Me:

"What actually happened yesterday?"

I covered Khethelo's belly and took a seat.

Bonga: "I don't know. When I got there all I saw is police who were talking about the perpetrator that had ran away"

Me: "So she's still out there?"

Bonga: "Yep"

Me: "How's Liam?"

Bonga: "He's good. Still passed out but they managed to remove the bullets"

Me: "Poor thing. We should go see him after here"

Bonga: "That'll give me time to perform this ritual" Me:

"Oh. Let's go now then"

I took my bag from the mini cupboard and we walked out...

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[Narrated]

Yezwe: "Good morning"

Everyone: "Morning"

Sisipho: "Are you driving me to school?"

Yezwe: "This time?"

Sisipho: "Yes its marketing and sports day"

Yezwe: "In that case, no. Take a taxi"

Lelo: "Its too late to take a taxi. Drive the children to school"

Yezwe: "Mom I have things to do"

Lelo: "You've had things to do since before date. Just take this, you'll buy breakfast on the way. Lunch

I mean"

Sisipho: "He's gonna finish all your money"Lelo: "I will decrease the limit"

She packed lunch box on the twin's lunch bag. She kissed them.

Lelo: "Go and wait for your brother downstairs"

Sisipho: "That downstairs is very crowded mama"Lelo: "Just go. You gonna be late"

They all took their backpacks and walked out.

Yezwe: "If I didn't know better. I'd say you're getting rid of us"

Lelo: "The kids are gonna be late"

Yezwe: "I know he's here. The smell of nicotine is too strong to miss"

Lelo: "Are you ever gonna take the kids to school?"

Yezwe: "And the espresso too"

He unhooked the car keys and walked out. Lelo took the tray to the bedroom.

He found him rocking the baby on the rocking chair. She adjusted the tray before him.

Lelo: "You need to eat"

Kush: "I really don't feel like eating" she peeled off the cloth covering the food.

Kush: "I can't resist this" she chuckled and took the baby. She kissed it on the lips.

Lelo: "He's starting to look dark"

Kush: "Like the rest of his clan" he handed her the tablet. She put it away.

Lelo: "Do your clothes still fit?"

Kush: "I don't know"

Lelo: "You should tell Caps to bring you your clothes" Kush frowned. "I can't let you stay alone while you're like this. We still need a way forward."

Kush: "I think its best we keep it like this until I can fight off this guilt. I don't know how I'd be able to look them in the eye and call them my brothers while I know very well what I did"

Lelo: "Day by day"

Kush: "The nerve of that woman. She actually asked to see my kids. And how she said she had no choice but give me up for adoption"

Lelo: "Sometimes one is forced to make such decisions"

Kush: "Not in my wildest dream I would give my child up for adoption"

Lelo: "You're not her" Her phone rang. "It's Amo. Hey lady"

Amo: "It wasn't him."

Lelo: "Thank you God"

Amo: "Khethelo is in hospital"

Lelo: "What? What happened? Is she okay?"

Amo: "That whore Tamia attacked her. Her driver got shot. I thank God I arrived on time."

Lelo: "Is Khethelo fine?"

Amo: "Yes they are. Kat called to inform me earlier on."

Lelo: "What hospital is she in?" Amo:

"I'll take you on my way there" Lelo:

"Ok thank you"

She hung up.

Kush: "Is everything okay?"

Lelo: "Khethelo is in hospital"

Kush: "What happened?"

Lelo: "Her husband's ex attacked her. That woman is sick...Uhm, you should recheck with your guys on what really happened that day. This freak ex is also a suspect"

Kush: "What do you mean?"

Lelo: "I mean you could be innocent in all this. Amofound that she's the one responsible for the shooting"

Kush: "I need a amoke"

He took his pack and walked to the balcony...

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[At the white house's tree house]

He took off his watch and ring and placed it safely on the box on the side.

Khule: "Good morning. What would you like, coffee or tea?" He poured coffee on his cup and took a sip. "Out of all people you could've shit on you just decided for it to be the Dubes. I would've understood if you went for Chris and I personally. But my wife and kids?" He took a sip of his coffee and shook his head. "I like how you planned this whole thing Tamia, I know Phumla is too stupid for anything that creative"

The door opened. Charlie walked in.

Charlie: "I hope I got the right ones" he took out a russian bear.

Khule: "Please remove the tapes"

He walked over to Tamia and Phumla. They groaned in pain as he ripped off the tapes.

Phumla: "It was her plan. She called me, I didn't want to be part of it"

Tamia: "Fuck off. I need to go to the hospital
Khulekani please"

Khule: "Oh am sorry. You will go soon as we finish"he said
sarcastically.

He poured the vodka on Tamia's gun wound she
screamed.

Charlie: "These women need peri peri on the eyes"

Khule: "Fetch it. Tamia I don't want to lay a hand on you. I
want to shoot your brains out right now but I can't. We
gonna play a little quiz okay. Each question truthfully
answered will bring you closer to your freedom"

He took a chair and sat down. Charlie got in, he went
straight to them. He rubbed it first on Phumla's eyes. She
cried begging him to stop.

Charlie: "You're both lucky he wanted to take care of you
himself, you would have this chilli in your loose vaginas"

He moved on to Tamia. "Since you're the master
mind. You will get more"

He rubbed it on. They screamed, much to Khule's irritation.

Khule: "If you don't shut it right now I will have him rubbing it into your vaginas."

Charlie took out his knife and cut them on the thighs. Khule kept pouring the vodka into those cuts. Their screaming was deafening.

Chris got in.

Khule: "Did you order the shooting?" Tamia kept on crying. "Woman I don't have all day!"

Chris walked to her and stabbed her on the gun wound. Khule smiled.

Tamia: "Please! Am sorry!" She cried out.

Coco: "Did you or not!"

Tamia: "I did."

Khule: "You killed the mother of our children?" He asked pouring more vodka into the cuts Charlie keeps making with his sharp knife.

Phumla: "I wasn't part of that I swear" Coco slapped

her.

Coco: "You shut the fuck up"

Tamia: "She was at the wrong car. It wasn't meant for her but..."

Khule: "But who?"

Coco: "Where's that petrol?"

Tamia: "For Khethelo!...it was meant for Khethelo" she groaned.

Coco slapped the stupidity out of her.

Coco: "When you get to hell. I want you to pass the message to the living who wish to mess with my family. Tell them I have no mercy"

He took out a gun and fired at Phumla. Tamia cried hysterically.

Tamia: "Please don't kill me. I will hand myself over to the police. Please please" she begged crying.

Coco looked at her disgusted.

Coco: "Ok we forgive you"

He pulled the trigger. The bullet went straight to her

head.

Coco: "I can't believe you enjoyed seeing them speak. I could shoot you too right now. Charlie what do you do with bodies?"

Charlie: "I love working with you Chris. I burn them" Khule: "Our next target is that Kush"

Coco: "Some other time. We have a wife in hospital to worry about."

Charlie: "I'll get the guys to help me with this. I'll clean up"

Khule washed his hands and took his jewellery. They both walked out.

Khule: "I must be honest. I no longer have the guts to kill"

Chris: "I figured."

Khule: "Are you mad?"

Chris: "Can you please shut up?"

Khule: "Yes"

Chris: "Thank you"

Khule: "Pleasure"

They got in the car and drove off...

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[Khethelo]

My alarm went off. 15:30, time to drink this thing. I tried getting up. My body was sore. I pressed the button adjusting the bed.

I poured it in a cup. Ewww!

I gulped it down closing my nose. I reached for my russian after. God bless whoever makes these.

The door widely opened. I felt a bit of labor pains when our eyes met.

Khule: "You're eating Russians. Its lit" I shook my head no.
"Why don't you listen Khethelo?"

Me: "I do listen"

Khule: "Do you want to know what I do to people who do not listen?"

Me: "Am sorry" where are these tears when you need them? He peeped his head out and said whatever to whoever. I felt a wiggle. I bet they have an iPod inside there. They kick even when unnecessary. Like now, we're facing their angry dad but they are dancing. Many black scary men came in. I lost count at 15.

Khule: "These are your new guards." More than 15? He must be crazy. "Guys. This is my deaf wife. Each one of you will tail her wherever she goes, bathroom, kitchen, lounge, garden, pool, balcony. Anywhere.

Before you drive her anywhere you confirm with me first" they all nodded. What kind of men are these? Taking orders from another man. "For now you gonna be outside this ward until she's discharged"

They nodded and walked out.

Me: "Am not a lunatic. I don't want these men in my house"

Khule: "Then you gonna stay here until you give birth"

Me: "What?"

Khule: "Am tired of you"

Me: 'Its not my fault your girlfriend tried to kill me"

Khule: "It is. What were you doing there in the first place?...don't even answer that." I wiped off my tears. "Yes cry. Shall you ever risk your lives. I will have Chris removing my kids and I will kill you myself. Do you hear me?"

He was now on my face. Looking as scary as I've never witnessed before. I nodded, scared as shit. Hewasn't inlove with me at this very present moment.

Khule: "You gonna have guards?"

Me: "Yes"

Khule: "What will They do?" Not even the tears softened his heart.

Me: "Follow me everywhere"

Khule: "Shall you go anywhere alone. What will I doto you?"

Me: "Kill me"

Khule: "Good girl." He kissed my lips. "I love you" well

it doesn't seem like it.

He peeled off the pyjama tee and kissed my belly. They kicked. Fuck them.

Khule: "This mother of yours needs a hiding"

Chris came in. He had food. I could do with some mouth watering food right now.

I covered my belly.

Chris: "Khethelo" he's mad too.

Me: "Am sorry"

Chris: "Don't ever do that again"

Me: "I don't stand a chance. I have 25 guards"

Chris: "They are 30 actually"

What? I really wanna cry now. They took their food and sat on the couch. I took mine too.

They don't look like they are going anywhere. They brought castle lite.

Me: "Is she dead?" Amo told me she shot her on the thigh but I don't believe her.

Chris: "She got away. The police are looking for her" Me: "I wish they-"

Khule: "Eat" he said dismissively.

30 guards? What am I? A ceremony cow that shouldn't get away?

[2/26, 06:37] Zozaness: he Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Fifteen

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[Emi]

One thing beautiful about sleeping is the peace that your body dwells into. You can't hear or feel anything. Its glorious.

And at this moment I curse whoever is at my door knocking.

I opened my eyes. My heart beat out of my rib cage before I remembered Khan dumped me here with 3 chefs and 5 maids.

The knocking stopped. I jumped out of bed and went to the bathroom. Mouth wash is very torturous. I spat it out. Gaa!

"Miss Dube?" He came in without my permit?

Me: "Am coming"

I washed my face and got out. I found him sitting on the couch on the far end while one of his many maids fixed the bed.

Me: 'Morning sisi"

Her: "Morning madam" Me:

"Emi. My name is Emi"

Her: "Yes madam" I sighed. She took the laundry basket and walked out.

Me: "Is this a hotel?"

Khan: "Morning to you too Miss Dube. No its not. How are you doing? Do you like it here?" That's a lot of questions. I sat on edge of the bed.

Me: "I am very fine and I love it here. It is a good place to be."

Khan: "Am glad. Have you called home?"

Me: "Am scared"

Khan: "Have they called?" I shook my head. "Take that as a good sign. I will go send a few emails to friends then we can go downstairs to eat breakfast. That's if-"

Me: "I would love to" he smiled and walked out. He's controlling, he always says what he wants you to do and add "If that's okay with you". Crook. He's also a completely different person from the man he is at work. I've now seen him smile in many occasions now.

I took my phone from the vanity. I found messages from the worried sick Katlego and love struck Amo. Its only been a week there. She needs Jesus.

I called Katlego first.

Kat: "Where are you?" It would've been nice if she let it ring.

Me: "Hey. Am in.." where's this place? "Am at a friend's place. Is everything okay?"

Kat: "Yes everything is well. You had us all worried yesterday. Inform us if you won't sleep at home. Especially with everything that is going on"

Me: "Am sorry. I wasn't thinking straight yesterday. How are they?"

Kat: "By God's greatest grace Liam made it. The twins and their mother too. They should get discharged today, shall there be no complications" whew! Thank you God.

Me: "That is good to hear. I'll see you all later" Kat:

"Ok baby. Bye"

Me: "Bye"

The door opened. He's used into flying into rooms without knocking.

Me: "Is it because you stay alone?" He frowned confused. "Is that why you don't knock?"

Khan: "Am sorry" he's the most calm individual I've ever came across with.

Me: "Should I even be here?" Am really concerned.

Khan: "Yes"

Me: "Is this what you do for all your employees?
Bring them here to clear their heads?"

Khan: "Are you joining me for breakfast?" We're not
discussing this I guess.

Me: "Let me dress up I'll be with you shortly" He
closed the door on his way out.

I still have 2 hours to get ready for work...

•••

[Khule]

He has this weird habit of enjoying falling asleep on the
couch. I turned down the volume and carried on to the
kitchen. Just 2 days away but you can tell.

Everything is still here, most sealed. Which never
happens in Mrs Dube's presence.

Since she came around I've been very lazy to cook. Even
making myself coffee is a drag.

I took out all the necessary breakfast ingredients and
started preparing it.

I carried the plates to the lounge. I shook him.

Me: "Your eyes are weirdly big" he scoffed and sat up straight.

Quinton: "That smells nice. Is Khethelo home?" Me:

"Doubting me isn't sexy bro"

Quinton: "Wow it looks delicious. I just need coffee first. Did we drink the whole bar last night? My head is falling off"

Me: "You alone drank the whole bar. We have to visit the Dr and see if you need a lung transplant or what" he chuckled.

Quinton: "I was having fun. Haven't gone out in a while. This coffee doesn't have enough sugar"

Me: "It's perfect for treating hang over"

Last night we decided to be young and wild. Chris and Tyler said they will pass.

Instead of enjoying myself I ended up looking after him. But no matter how drunk he could be he never locks.

Quinton: "Were you serious about Tamia and Phumla?"

Me: "Yes." The thought of it gets me uneasy. "Nowam left with this Kush fool. I need to teach him a lesson"

Quinton: "Just invite his family over and send him a picture. He'll go nuts alone wherever he would be. I would love to see Coco in action" why is amused?

Me: "Well it's traumatic I wanted to feed them to the lions" he laughed.

Quinton: "Ay killing frightens me too now. Charlietold me Nala is pregnant"

Me: "Yes. More lions. I can't believe they are busyhaving sex there. I should've separated them"

Quinton: "Would you be happy if God seperated you from Khethelo?"

Me: "Its not the same"

He laughed and laid back on the couch. "So am supposed to take these plates back to the kitchen?"

Quinton: "You brought them here, didn't you?"

Me: "You're an ungrateful bastard" he chuckled and browsed through channels.

My phone rang as I walked away.

Quinton: "You look ridiculous in pjs"Me:

"Tsek. Hey baby"

Khethelo: "You could just send me divorce papers you know."

Me: "I was meaning to call you Sthandwa sam. How are you my people?"

Khethelo: "These men are too dark Khulekani. Please tell not to show their faces every 2 minutes. Its annoying really"

Me: "Imagine if you listened to your husband. You wouldn't have those dark men around you. You made that bed my Queen"

Khethelo: "Are you gonna come see me?"

Me: "Yes. Later though. I have to go and address this shooting matter at Dube constructions."

Khethelo: "Oh. I miss you"

Me: "I miss you more. Did I tell you Q is here?"

Khethelo: "Really? Is he there with you?"

Me: "Yes. We went clubbing last night"

Khethelo: "Did you find one night stands?"

Me: "No. It was a boys week. There were no women in sight"

Khethelo: "Ah bummer. Can any of you tell Bonga I can't keep these things in my stomach? His phone is off"

Me: "I will. Let me go bath my love. I'll see you later"

Khethelo: "Bye party animal"

She hung up. I jogged up the stairs...

•••

[Bonga]

Attendant: "Good morning may I take your order?"

Me: "Morning. May I please have Mccafe and a BihMac spicy chicken with large fries"

Attendant: "Ok"

I drove on to the second window. I paid and took my order. I honked at the car in front of me. A light chubby arm with yellow long nails popped out with a middle finger up. I could crush this stupid car right now.

She drove away.

Women and their anger issues. So early in the morning.

I drove to the parking lot to eat. I parked and switched my phone on. Any missed call and message from Mam Khethelo is enough to send one to ICU. I called her.

Mama: "Really? I spent whole of last night trying to get hold of you"

Me: "I had no idea it was off. I booked into a hotel here next to the hospital. I just woke up and grabbing breakfast."

Mama: "Ok don't disappear like that. I get paranoid when I don't get hold of anyone"

Me: "Sorry mother"

Mama: "Ohh. Your concoctions are coming up everytime I drink"

Me: "Decrease the dosage"

Mama: "Ok. Bring me a milkshake when you come" Me:

"Ok. Let me eat. My coffee is getting cold" Mama:

"Byo"

I hung up.

I thought these windows were tinted. How is that person outside able to see there's someone here.

I pressed the window button down.

Her: "Your horn isn't sexy. Don't go around hooting on people who had just spill coffee on their selves"

Me: "Apologies ma'am" she took a deep breath.

Her: "I actually came to tell you, your tyre is flat" Me:

"Oh. Thank you."

Her: "Pleasure" she walked away.

I ate first then attended to the Flat tyre. My phone rang as I stared at the stupid tyre.

I reached for it inside.

Me: "Mother"

Mam Kat: "Where are you?" Am I 5? Me:

"Kempton park. Need something?"

Mam Kat: 'Yes. We've decided to do a pregnancy announcement party for daddy T"

Me: "O-kay"

Mam Kat: "Now we need to distract him. Can you please call him to come where you are"

Me: "That's great. I got a flat tyre, no pumper, no spare wheel"

Mam Kat: "You're insanely careless Sbongakonke"Me:

"You're the last one to drive this car mama" Mam Kat:

"Whatever. Call him" I chuckled.

Me: 'Am on it"

She hung up. I called Daddy T. He answered on the second round.

Tyler: "What?"

Me: "This time of the day? Wake up"

Tyler: "What do you want?"

Me: "Am in Kempton Park. A tragedy happened, my tyre punched. I have no spare wheel nor pumper"

Tyler: "Isn't there a garage where you are?"

Me: "Nope. Am in McD."

Tyler: "Man. Why don't you call Sam or Glade to send you help. Don't you have insurance?"

Me: "Am driving the jeep. Please man. I'll buy you breakfast."

Tyler: "Send me the location"

Me: "Thank you daddy" he chuckled.

Tyler: "aisuka"

I hung up.

"You're like the rest of your gender" I turned. Missy yellow nails again.

"Do you need help to pump it up?"

Me: "Thank you. No I will manage"

Her: "Handle it with care. It's decaying"

Me: "It looks good though"

I took it and plugged it on and started the pumping.

I regret saying I don't need help. I've never done this before. I've seen obaba do it and it looked easy but this is nowhere close to that.

Her: "Bonga Dube right?" I

need to take a break.

Me: "Yeah" I said in between the panting. I need ice cold water.

Her: "Why do you all grow beard. You look weird." I chuckled.

Me: "I thought you ladies like them with beard" she giggled.

Her: "Oh please. Do you still play soccer?" Me:

"Where do you know me from kanti?" Her:

"High school and varsity"

Me: "You went to UCT?"

Her: "Yeah" she went to her car. I don't recognise her. Not that I ever do with anyone I went to high school with. I continued pumping. Almost there.

She came back with a lit cigarette.

Her: "Wow that was quick."

Me: "Thank you." She took her pumper and put it on her car and killed the cigarette then got in.

Me: "I didn't get your name"

Her: "Happy. Happiness Mngomezulu" She wind up her window and drove off.

Me: "Thank you Gogo for a graduation date" I did a little MJ turn...

•••

[Mthobisi]

Okay this is very odd. Maybe I should read them online.

Today is my last day on earth if I don't make meansto find this 50K.

He sent me a text today as a reminder. I almost shit myself. I opened mom's stash looking for something strong. I saw a folded newspaper page. I took it and spread it on top of the counter. Fuck no!

My heart beat faster. That's why that newspaper had no cover page. She removed it. He has a pregnant wife. Oh my God. He looks younger than mom though. His wife is a 90s. I quickly folded it and put it in my pocket. She got in with a basket full of freshly reaped veggies.

Me: "Can I go fetch my laptop from res?"

Lucia: "Write down all you need. Mike will fetch it for you"

Me: "There are personal things"

Lucia: "I'll drive you there then"

Me: "I can drive myself"

Lucia: "Maybe if you did not lie about where you go I wouldn't be willing to take you back to the having a driver road"

Me: "Mom am 19."

Lucia: "Yes and very stupid. What were you doing in Rivonia?"

Me: "I went to see a friend"

Lucia: "Mthobisi. You can't go around looking for this poor man on your own. What Will you say to him?" I stammered. How did she know? "I know. If you want your father that bad you gonna sit with me down and ask me nicely. You can't just show up at his door and throw this fat bomb at him. It's impossible for him to have a child your age. If you want to stay away from embarrassment stay away from looking for him"

Me: "I need him to help me pay spororo" she chuckled in disbelief.

Lucia: "Prodigal son shows up and asks for 50K then boom he gets it. You need to grow up Mtho." She's right. "If I give you this money Will you stay away from him?"

Me: "Absolutely"

Lucia: "I'll go to the bank first thing tomorrow" Me:

'Thank you.' I headed to the stairs. "Mike can

fetch my things" she sighed and continued washing her veggies.

I got in my room and took my cellphone, internet knows everything.

"Khulekani Dube's age"

34? Fuck me. They suggested his twin. Quinton Dube. I scrolled down their pictures with my heart beating out of my chest. He's really my dad. Thank you mom for this complexion. We need to talk about this though.

Fuck mom. Am dying to talk to this dude. I want to know what was he desperate for at the age of 15...

•••

[Khethelo]

He hugged and kissed my forehead.

Khule: "The meeting took longer than expected" Me:

"You should've texted"

Khule: "My battery died. Let's go" he picked my bag up and took my hand. "I had to confirm with Dr first

that you're really okay and did not blackmail him" I chuckled.

Me: "I'd kill to stay here a few more days than to have these pals following me around"

Khule: "You will adjust to them. We're going to Katlego's" I nodded.

They followed us like flies. I hate my life. He seemed excited.

He opened the door for me soon as we got to the underground parking lot. He hooped on too.

Me: "Why so much excitement?"

Khule: "Because I'll sleep with you in my arms but before that I'll eat ice cream. Buffet. Oh Katlego loves us"

Me: "The Dr said-"

Khule: "YOLO babe"Me:

"I give up"

Why would she do that? Chris probably hurt her and she put poison on that ice cream. She can't just go

that far to please them. I refuse.

...

I must've fallen asleep. I woke up at the touch of his cold ass hands.

Khule: "We're here. We passed by McDonalds and got you all you might need" I smiled. I want to sleep though.

He followed behind me with the monkeys called myguards.

Khule: "Where's everyone. I thought we were having a party"

Me: "A party?"

Khule: "Yes. To announce to Tyler that he scored" Me:

"Wow what a family you are"

Khule: "Yes. Its a baby after baby"

Me: "Why didn't you tell me you're throwing a party? I would've bought a gift"

We curved to the lounge. These faces don't look like there's a party nor this room. Everyone had a glass

of something in their hand. They all looked at us as we got in. No hugs? Okay.

Khule: "Is everything okay?" I spotted a different face yet so familiar. He looked scared. He was squeezed in a one seater couch with Tyler.

Chris: "Everything will be fine after you tell us about him" he pointed at the boy.

Khule: "Who is he?"

Quinton: "Explain yourself young man"

Young man: "Uhm...my name is Mthobisi Ngwenya. Lucia's son-"

Tyler: "Who's your father?" He looked at Khule.

Mthobisi: "My mom says it is Khulekani Dube" wtf!

Khule: "What? There's no way in hell."

Me: "Can you please sit down?"

Khule: "This is definitely not my child babe I promise" even if it's not his; he's probably one of them. As light-skinned as he may be but he is a clone of both him and Quinton.

Me: "You're scaring the poor child. Stop panicking" Katlego:

"How old are you?"

Mtho: "19" he can't be his.

Khule: "I started having sex at 19. We all know who started having sex at 13"

Quinton: "Well it's clear I wasn't the only one"

Khule: "He is yours"

Quinton: "I always used-"

Mtho: "I wasn't conceived through sex" Chris:

"What?"

Mtho: "He donated a sperm"

We all looked at him. He cursed under his breath. Oh my God it's his.

Tyler: "Still. He can't be 15 and be allowed to donate a sperm"

Me: "Say something"

He got up.

Khule: "I need a smoke." He walked out. It's definitely

his.

We sat in awkward silence. Tyler:

"I'll go check on Khethiwe"

Bonga: "I need a USB in your room"

Katlego: "I'll go fix us something to eat" Emi followed behind her without a word.

Chris: "I'll go check on the kids"

Quinton: "I'll help you with that"

They all left. The boy and I remained behind staring at each other. Who the hell donates sperms at 15?...

[2/26, 06:38] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Sixteen

•••

[Khethelo]

I startled a bit then realized it's him. I reached for my cellphone under the pillow and checked at the time. 02:45am.

Me: "Baby" it seemed as though he did not hear me. He did not move an inch. "Khulekani"

Him: "Sleep" he said softly. I turned on the side lamp and crawled to him. I sat behind him and parted my legs to be on either sides of him. I wrapped my hands around his stomach and rested my head on his back. He smoothly ran his fingers on my left hand.

Me: "Talk to me Nyamazane wam" He took a deep breath. I could sense worry in it. I've never seen him like this before.

Him: "Are you going to leave me?" Here we go again.

Me: "There's nothing I would ever leave you for sthandwa sam. Come hell or high water. I made that promise in front of everyone. I vowed to never ever leave you" He took my left hand into his face and kissed it. He has a thing for it. It must be the ring, it makes it pop. Especially now that I am pregnant, they're peaches.

Him: "He's legally not mine"

Me: "If she could tell him about you I am sure she

wouldn't mind if you showed interest to be part of his life"

Khule: "Hhai I don't know how to take this. Its toomuch to digest."

Me: "True but he's here now."

Khule: "How did he even know where to find me?"

Me: "Only him can answer that." I kissed his wide back.

Khule: "Did he leave his numbers?"

Me: "He did." Going for a smoke turned out to be gone forever. Mthobisi decided to leave after our little meaningless conversation. "What really happened?" He took yet another deep breath.

Khule: "You know when you're young you tend to do everything for a quick rand without looking at the consequences." He chuckled and shook his head. "One day from school my team's opponents ganged up on me. They beat me into a pulp. Quinton was absent that day. I had my leg broken. I stayed in hospital for a month or so. When I got discharged I

had this anger piling up everyday. There was a guy who lived at Zone 14, he sold guns. My parents gave us a monthly allowance of R100" I giggled. "Don't laugh it was a lot back then. Back to Khaye, the gun dealer. I went to buy a gun" I gasped. "Yes. That's the only way my anger thinks something can be solved.

The gun cost 1000. Some idiot that I found there suggested this sperm donation madness. I was desperate for a gun I did it. I faked my age. Those nurses couldn't tell, I've always looked grown than my age. I gave them my sperms in exchange of R2000. And yes that was it" Whew!

Me: "Did you kill those people?" He kissed my hand again, the right one this time.

Khule: "That's a story for another day" I nodded. We sat there in silence.

Me: "I think God purposely made you do it"

Khule: "I love the positive side of you"

Me: "No babe. He knew at some point in your journey you will lose your ability to children. You now have 4kids"

Khule: "You think whoever that mother is will just give up her child? Just like that?"

Me: "No baby but am sure she won't mind to share him."

Khule: "I don't know baby"

Me: "Have faith. In the meantime after Chloe's cleansing I will ask for her dairy. She told me she's almost done with the plan to get her back"

Khule: "Something inside me always tells me to calm down about Phila. My mind stops functioning whenever I start plotting anything against Nzuza."

Me: "That is Satan. We should get her back"

Khule: "Let's sleep. We're going to Tyler's tomorrow" he always slaps this topic away. I untangled myself from him and rolled to my side. He lied on his back and pulled me to lie on his chest.

Khule: "I love you"

Me: "I love you"

Khule: "You're the best thing that has ever happened to me"

Me: "Am grateful baby" I kissed his chest.

Khule: "Sleep"

I ran my hand down to the sleeping pill. "I said sleep"

I took it out of the boxer and pulled up my nightie then climbed on top. He moaned softly and grabbed my face closer to his and kissed me. I went up and down slowly. He firmly grabbed my ass and humped me from underneath. Could've heard me moan like a dog that sprinkled its ankle...

•••

[Tyler]

I hate alarms. Especially the ones that aren't meant for me. As much as I love having her over I hate her alarms.

I opened my eyes.

Khethiwe: "Hey baby" whoever told her she's twerk Goddess ruined my life. She should've just been an IG model.

Me: "Why aren't turning it off?"

Khethiwe: "I like that tone. It gives me fresh dance moves"

I searched for her phone. She's in the mood to fight I see. She laughed after I turned it off.

Me: "You don't seem ready for work"

Khethiwe: "That's because am not going" she said checking her ass out. "Did you know that am now size 36?"

Me: "Is that a good or bad thing?"

Khethiwe: "Well it depends on what size you preferme to be" I chuckled.

Me: "Any size. I would still love you the same."

Khethiwe: 'We should start hitting the gym" Me:

"No thank you. Am hungry"

I got out of bed. She jumped on me. My poor tinybones.

Khethiwe: "What's your favorite color?"

Me: "Yellow for eggs, black for coffee and brown for toast. Let's go" she pinned me down.

Khethiwe: "Want sex?"

Me: "No I want food. Maybe later"

Khethiwe: "Are you cheating on me?"

Me: "I'd to but I am scared of you." She smiled and kissed me.

Khethiwe: "Good. Go wash your face and teeth then come down for breakfast"

Me: "That sounds better"

She got off excitedly and pushed me to the bathroom.

I ended up bathing. It felt like a trap. She knows I can't help bathing once I make eye contact with the shower.

I found my clothes already spread on the bed. I dressed up and walked out.

There were rose petals at the beginning of the stairs.

I couldn't smell any eggs or toast. Am gonna strangle a woman to death today.

Me: "Baby why-"

"Surprise!!!" I froze for a second. These devil worshipers all had colgate smile.

Me: "Is it my BIRTHDAY?"

Khule: "Its the 4th of February" Bonga pulled me to a distinct chair.

Me: "Are you guys crowning me to be Mthobisi's father?" Where's this woman with my food.

Khethelo: "We'd love to but no" she covered my eyes with a blind folder.

Me: "What's going on?"

Khethelo: "I'll give you something. You gonna guess what it is, if you get it right you'll get a scoop of rum and raisins but if you get it wrong I'll feed you jam"

Me: "You won't right?" I hate that jelly lifeless crook. I hate Jam. I'd rather die than to ever taste it again.

Bonga: "the game begins now"

felt it.

Me: "What is this? Shoes? They tiny. You got me the wrong size though" they laughed.

Khethelo: "Open your mouth" she fed me ice cream.Me:

"Are we done?"

Khethelo: "Nope"

Me: "Can you feed me a donut? I saw it on my way in.Am hungry"

Quinton: "Futsek" he's the hater. He's probably stuffing himself up with them.

Me: "This is a paper" they cheered. I got another scoop of bae.

Khethelo: "Last one"

This is a stick. What could it be? My blood pressure rose high. The tiny shoes? A paper? And a stick.

Fuck!

Me: "Wait. Babe, are we pregnant?"

I ripped off the blind folder. She stood there before me with a mommy to be slash. I got off the chair and hugged her.

Bonga: "Okay enough"

Me: "Shut up. Thank you baby." I kissed her.

Khethiwe: "Who's gonna change it's nappy?"

Me: "We'll take it to Khule and Khethelo or Chris and Katlego soon as it is born. We'll fetch it after 6 months. Right guys?"

They just went to the table that had all sorts of yummy foods.

Khethiwe: "I guess not" we giggled. I kissed her again.

Me: "Am so happy but scared" she squeezed my hand.

Khethiwe: "Where there's God. There's always a way. Let's go eat" we held hands to the table.

I hope this makes their hearts easy and agree to my request of making this official...

•••

[Mthobisi]

I had just came out of the shower when I heard a carhoot. I walked to the window. Grangpa's van. The gate slid open, a black jeep followed. I can't believe her right now.

My phone beeped.

'Avail yourself to the lounge right now'

put on a t-shirt and walked out.

Gogo, Mkhulu, Malume and his wife. All four of them stared right through my soul as I walked in. 10 eyes on a poor innocent me. I greeted and took a seat.

Mkhulu: "Are you a man now?" Well yeah you forced me to initiation school last year so yeah I am. You made sure of it.

Me: "No"

Mkhulu: "Why are you abusing my daughter like this?"

Me: "Am sorry"

Gogo: "Why did you go against her voice?"

Malume: "Mshana you're getting too big for your shoes. My sister raised you alone, actually she conceived you through that process because she did not want a man involved in her life. Do you realize the damage you've done?"

Me: "She's the one who forced him down my throat"

Lucia: "I did not say go to him!"

Me: "What? What was the use of letting me know then?"

Gogo: "Watch your tone"

Lucia: "You approached this whole thing wrong."

Mkhulu: "You could've sat with your mother down about this"

Me: "She told me to stay away from him"

Lucia: "Because he's going through a lot of things. He had his pregnant wife attacked and went there to be a burden after the other"

Malume: "Never step your foot in that home. I curse that you shall die if you do" He's a voodoo king. I hate him. I've always did. He likes controlling people with his madness.

Me: "Malume"

Malume: "That's final. If focusing at school and be a good boy is hard for you then maybe you should

return with us to the village" I'd rather die.

Gogo: "Are you going to behave yourself?" I nodded.

Mkhulu: "Remember your life depends on your behavior now"

Gogo: "I guess we're done"

Lucia: "I hope you won't risk dying over someone you don't need and doesn't need you back"

She's too under The spell. She looked for him, for what? For me to know my sperm donor and move on with life?

She need a man and a new child because this child who's me won't be ordered around.

She fetched them scones and tea. What a waste of petrol coming here for such a minor thing...

•••

[Emi]

Vee: "Must be nice being crushed by the big boss"

She has her boss's tendency of flying in without a knock. I kindly asked the body guards to settle

downstairs. I know very well that the bitch Tamia is either kept somewhere tortured by their goons or dead.

Me: "Good morning to you too Vee"

Vee: "It's 12pm actually. You've been scooped up here you missed lunch"

Me: "Really? I didn't notice. I had to fill up yesterday's work"

Vee: "Shame poor thing. So tell me. What happened in Bryanston?" Oh that house is located in Bryanston. Had it not been for that shopping which is 5 minutes away from that house. I wouldn't have known.

Me: "I bathed, ate and relaxed in a tub as big as pool" she sat down.

Vee: "Did you sleep on the same bed?" She whispered.

Me: "Eww no. Vee I am working here"

Vee: "Aisuka your boss bae ordered you food. He's so in love with it makes him look stupid"

Me: "You're seeing things. Can I please finish up"

here?"

Vee: "So not even a hug?" I laughed. She's such a job and a half.

Me: "Vee. That was an innocent kind gesture. Besides he does that for all his employees" she scoffed.

Vee: "Which ones? I myself as his PA have only been there twice when we went to review it and when I took the decor people there. That's his own castle."

Me: "Whatever" I rolled my eyes. I sent my eyes to the door. He stood tall and revolting as he is. "Vee please excuse me"

Vee: "Okay Mrs Boss Bae" I chuckled. She greeted him and walked on.

I got up.

Me: "Please open that door and turn your back on this office"

Jason: "We need to talk"

Me: "Who's we?" He took slow steps towards me.

Jason: "So you've moved on? Just like that?" He ran his fingers on the white roses on a vase. "Do you love him or you're doing it to get back at me?"

Me: "Why? You're irrelevant in my life Jason Nzima. Please exit my office"

Jason: "Why? Why are you cheating on me Emihle?" I chuckled. This is unbelievable.

Me: "I don't what drug are you on but what I do know is that its not good for you" he smirked.

Jason: "You don't wanna talk to me like that Emihle"

I picked the cellphone up and pressed on the emergency call. He snatched it out of my hand and crashed it on the wall. I startled.

Me: "What the hell are you doing!"

Jason: 'Don't force me into things I don't wanna do"he said with his face as hard as a rock, veins popping out.

He got closer to me. I stepped back until I had my back against the wall.

Me: "Jason you're scaring" it came out in almost a

whisper. He had his both fists against the wall oneither sides of my head. He smelt of alcohol andcigarette.

Jason: "You belong with me Emihle. That coin I gaveyou, that is proof. You're my chosen one. No man shall have you while I am breathing. If you continue to entertain him. There will be blood shed, it won't behis nor mine. I did not fall inlove with a coward, one silly mistake you decide to leave? The space you needed I've given you enough. Not even your brothers can take you away from me nor stop me from getting what is rightfully mine and that is you' he kissed my forehead and headed for the door. He slammed it behind him.

I finally breathe. How did I attract this psycho dear heavens...

[2/26, 06:38] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Seventeen

Unedited. Am deeply sorry for the errors

•••

[Tyler]

She snatched my phone. I chased her. She locked herself in the bathroom.

Me: "Khethiwe!" I heard her laughing. She came out. She laughed even more.

Khethiwe: "Am not even 3 months yet but you're already googling how to change a nappy"

Me: "Rather safe than sorry. Stop invading my privacy"

Khethiwe: "Oh my God. You're even watching delivery videos" I scratched my head.

Me: "We're going for c section"

Khethiwe: "Mpiyesende would turn on his grave. I'll push it out where it came from"

Me: "Then I won't be there. Next month is good Friday" I sat on the bed and pulled her to sit on me. She put one arm around my neck.

Khethiwe: "I know babe and am prepared. I tested

the waters on Tuesday. She asked me when am I coming home"

Me: "That is promising. I wish for the little Zebra to be born in harmony" she kissed me.

Khethiwe: "He will"

Me: "A whole me a father? God is something else"

Khethiwe: "Gogo will freak out"

Me: "You're 23"

Khethiwe: "I will forever be a child to her" we laughed.

Me: "Let's go eat"

Khethiwe: "You sure eat a lot these days"

Me: "That's because am always hungry. Let's go" She climbed off and we left for the kitchen...

•••

[Katlego]

I turned over hoping to find my man next to me. I found an empty space instead. I went to the

bathroom to pee and wash my teeth and face. The radio downstairs was on.

I walked out. I couldn't believe my eyes. They all didn't notice me.

Chris: "Sikelela let loose"

I ended up laughing. I can't believe him. "Okay foodis done"

They started crying. "Come on that was a 3rd bowl"

Me: "Christian!" He startled. They all looked my direction.

Chris: "They went to bed without supper last night"

Me: "That doesn't mean stuff them up" we agreed not to entertain their eating habit. They could eat the whole cow.

Chris: "They are fine"

I picked Sikelela up and wiped her mouth. She smiled.

Me: "You guys should not allow daddy to feed you like pigs. You're a lady, a lady minds her diet"

She just giggled and grabbed my face.

I put her down and took Hawu, that one doesn't like being babied so does his partner in crime Sisekelo.

Chris: "When are we getting married?"

Me: "Anytime" he glanced at me.

Chris: "Maybe you should start taking your mother's scalls"
He is sent by Satan himself to ruin my day. "Am serious. I will not have those white weddings with no both families"

Me: "I don't have a family Chris"

Chris: "You have a family. What your mother did should be water under the bridge now"

Me: "Well its not"

Chris: "Before the end of this year I want us to be married."

Me: "We will"

Chris: "Tell me when you're ready to go home"

Me: "What home?"

Chris: "Your mother's house."

Me: "I'll make us something to eat"

I got up and headed to the kitchen. It would take me another life to ever reconcile with that woman I call a mother...

•••

[Khethelo]

Me: "Finally he's awake"

Khule: "Its 10am come on"

Me: "Normal people wake up at 8am"

Khule: "That is people who work and those who are pregnant. Where are the guards?" I handed him a bowl of warm water to wash his hands. "Thank you"

Me: "They are swimming. I told them to." He went out and came with 2 of them dripping wet.

Khule: "Do your job"

Guard: "Can we go change?" He nodded. They followed each other out. I laughed.

Khule: "You're like a little child." I smiled. He yawned.

Me: "You're so lazy these days. One could swear you don't consume so much energy drinks"

Khule: "Am enjoying the benefits of being a husband" he smirked. I placed a tray with a mountainous plate. "See? Am having pap and meat for breakfast"

Me: "Mamkhulu is coming" he laughed. "So I want to see am feeding you. I called her in the morning asking about the back pain. She insisted on coming"

Khule: "She's paranoid."

Me: "You didn't tell her about Tamia?" He shook his head.

Khule: "And I don't want them to know"

Me: "Ok"

How do I put this? I took a sip of my juice to gain strength. He put the spoon away and started eating with his hands. God forbid!

Me: "Mthobisi called" he brought his eyes up. "He was just checking up on me and said..." I gulped. His eye bugged me.

Khule: "He said what?"

Me: "That he wants to visit"

Khule: "No"

Me: "Why?"

Khule: "We can't have any contact with him until we meet his mother. Which is what we'll do next week when Quinton comes back"

Me: "Understood. Let me take this to Emi"

Khule: "What is wrong with her. The boss broke her heart?"
I chuckled.

Me: "They are not even an item. She's coming down with flu"

Khule: "Ok"

He continued eating.

Me: "Oh. Amo Smith and Lelo are coming over"

Khule: "That's great. Tell them to bring their husbands. I still need to thank Zac"

Me: "Zac is in Washington"

Khule: "Ohhh. Should I make myself scarce?" Me:

"As long as you won't get bored"

Khule: "We'll go out for drinks with Chris"

Me: "Ok"

...

I knocked before getting in. She looked nothing like a depressed Emi I saw earlier. She was smiling at her phone. I doubt she even saw me coming in.

She jumped a bit when I placed the tray. She smiled admiring the food.

Emi: "This is why I taught Khule to be a gentleman" Me:

"Oh please"

Emi: "Am serious. I contributed in winning your heart. You're my girlfriend too...I mean wife" she bite off the meat. "Mmmh nguniza this is amazing. Are you really using MaNgcobo's recipe book?"

Me: "Only a fool wouldn't" I took a seat on the fur single couch. For some odd reasons all her rooms in these 4 different homes has it.

I don't understand why they like eating with their bare hands.

Me: "You no longer depressed?" She blushed a little like I had just reminded her of something.

Emi: "Khan nguniza. Khan! Am packed, sealed and sold. He's so gentle. He's everything. He's so good with words. Fuck the crazy Jason am in love with my beast." She's really in love. Am happy for her.

Me: "Are you guys dating yet?"

Emi: "No love but we're not so far from that."

Me: "Am happy for you my baby. Fall in love but always keep your eyes open"

Emi: "Yes mom" we laughed.

Me: "Let me leave you to chat with boss bae. Come downstairs your brother is worried about you"

Emi: "Am coming."

I nodded and walked out. I heard a little voice shouting 'mommy'.

I got down the stairs. They both had beer on their

hands talking about only Lord knows what. They looked my direction.

Sam: "Oh holly mother of God you're so beautiful.Come here"

I had a bit of jealousy that I wasn't the first thing he looked for when he got in.

I threw myself in his arms. He feels like dad. His embrace is exactly like his. I feel safe and loved.Love that can never be questioned...

•••

[Mthobisi]

I heard a knock. This is why I hate Saturdays. I took my phone and my headsets. Aunti Keke cleans for 8 hours straight. Am surprised that today she's so late.

I unlocked and pulled it open.

Lucia: "Here" cleaning equipment. I shrugged. "From today onwards. You will be cleaning your own room"

Me: "You kidding right?"

Lucia: "Do I look like am kidding to you? You be

cleaning your room, doing your own laundry with your own hands, ironing and packing it. Oh and on Monday and Wednesday you will be the one cooking. Your girlfriend can only visit on Sundays" she raised her hand as I tried to talk. I looked at the vacuum and everything else and sighed.

My phone notified as I changed into an overall. It was from Mrs Dube.

"Your father doesn't think it's a good idea for you to come here until he talks to your mother about this issue. We're not pushing you away but you know how the law works. Your mother could have him arrested if he plays father to you without her permit. I hope you understand"

He's right. What was I thinking? Maybe I should be good to mom, by that she'll soften up and let us have a relationship...

•••

[Bonga]

I waited outside the complex. The leaf led me here.

The leaf approved of her. I just couldn't get her off my mind since that day. She's been worth thinking about.

This gift comes in handy at some situations. It had been an hour or so when a red TSi finally appeared behind me. It passed on and took a turn at the gate.

I roared the engine to life and drove slowly behind it. She drove in.

I greeted the security.

Him: "Who are you here to see?"

Me: "Happiness Mngomezulu" He put the phone on his ear Him:

"Your name?"

Me: "Bonga Dube"

He closed his window. I could see his lips move. After some time he opened it again.

Him: "She's waiting for you at the parking lot on your left"

I drove in. She sat on the car with the door opened. I parked and got out.

Happy: "How did you find me?"

Me: "Good afternoon Madlakadla. Nice nails and color" she had white short ones today. She blushed a little then:

Happy: "I asked a question"

Me: "I followed you the other day"

Happy: "I went to my parent's house that day"

Me: "Eish." She chuckled.

Happy: "To what do I owe this pleasure? A whole Dube constructions CEO and varsity former soccerplayer paying the ordinary unknown Happy a visit."

Me: "You have taken me out of my misery. But first"

I reached for flowers and a box of chocolates.

"Please accept my generous gift"

Happy: "Are you for real?"

Me: "Yep." She got out of the car and took them. She

smelt the flowers.

Happy: "You're sweet"

Me: "This is a thank you for that day" she scoffed.

Happy: "I was doing what any other person would've done"

Me: "True but it became special because its you whodone it." She smiled. A very beautiful bold smile. "Letme shoot my shot. Am desperately in need of a graduation date"

Happy: "And you want me to find someone perfectfor you? You could've just e-mailed me. I don't havemy pen with me right now, I will write on my phone.What should be like?"

Me: "What?"

Happy: "Should she be chubby? Thin? Light? Dark?And so forth"

Me: "You want to match make me?"

Happy: "Yes. I ask these questions. I don't want yourating my service 1 out of ten just because I found you a woman you don't find attractive and all" I

chuckled.

Me: "This is a very weird coincidence. I am here asking you Happy Mngomezulu to be my date if you aren't anyone's yet"

Happy: "Oh. Here I was dancing a little thinking of how much am gonna charge you" we laughed.

Me: "All my friends are single. Am sure they would love your service"

Happy: "Am the best in the country. Ok so am in a corner, God works amazingly yazi. I also need someone to be my date and act like my boy friend at the family gathering tomorrow" she doesn't have a boyfriend.

Green light!

Me: "So deal?"

Happy: "Deal. Let me tell this idiot he mustn't bother"

Me: "You already had asked someone else?"

Happy: "Yes. He's a church mate. It would've been awkward anyway"

I nodded.

Me: "Are kisses included?" She hit me on the chest. I laughed.

Happy: "Only on the cheek. My ass and my boobs area no go area"

Me: "Yes ma'am. Let's exchange numbers so you can tell me about yourself. I don't want be a stupidclueless boyfriend there"

Happy: "You're looking forward to this neh" I gave hermy phone. It was close to 4pm. Bab Khule said we are going to East Gate at 5pm.

Me: "Put your numbers. I am meeting with my fatherin a few"

She handed it back.

Happy: "Thanks for the flowers and this lovely chocolate."

Me: "It was only a pleasure my lady. Let me not keepyou here. Go inside and eat your chocolate"

She chuckled and shook her head.

Happy: "I still want to know how did you find me"

Me: "I'll tell you on our honeymoon."

She smiled and rolled her eyes. I honked as I drove off.
She waved.

That went easier than I thought. She has that cheeky side
but I guess my Dube charm worked wonders on her...

•••

[Khule]

We parked 2 streets away.

Chris: "Are you having second thoughts?" I

exhaled hard and shook my head.

Tyler: "Then drive on"

Quinton's call came through. He's all the strength I
need.

Me: "Dube"

Quinton: "Twiny. Why haven't you called to ask how I
went?"

Me: "I was gonna call you later"

Quinton: "Okay. Where are your mother's monkeys?"

Me: "You're on speaker" he laughed.

Tyler: "Is the decorator hot? How big is her bum?"

Quinton: "I found no one here. And don't ask such questions you pervert"

Chris: "If she's hot pass her on to me"

Quinton: "KK Can you get me off speaker?"

Me: "We're at east gate. Here to provoke a snake"

Quinton: "Snake?"

Me: "Mtho's mother"

Quinton: "Oh. All the best man"

Me: "Thanks bro. Will tell you how it goes"

Quinton: "I suggest you leave Tyler to look after the car"
I chuckled.

Tyler: "You know am the voice of reason in this home."

Quinton: "Futsek" he hung up.

Tyler: "This dude. Futsek 2 days in a row. I will sue

him"

Chris: "Please shut up"

Tyler: "Let's just hope she's hot"

Me: "Listen to Chris's instruction" I lied to Khethelo. For all the right reasons.

Bonga's car pulled up next to us.

Me: "What took you so long?"

Bonga: "Am sorry I got held up"

I started the engine and drove forward.

...

Just like 3 years ago at the Nzuzas. We sat on the 3seater couch. A woman that I assume is a helper around this house let us in and walked away.

She walked in again with a jug full of juice and biscuits.

Tyler: "Thank you"

Her: "Madam will be with you shortly"

Tyler: "Ok"

She walked away.

Chris: "Do not drink this. It could be poisoned"

Tyler: "I've been meaning to commit suicide" He poured a full glass and took a biscuit.

Tyler: "I wonder if they have muffins. This juice goes well with muffins"

Bonga: "Is it nice?"

Tyler: "Its worth dying of" Bonga poured a glass too. I regret bringing them here.

A woman in garden wear came in through the sliding door.

Her: "Molweni"

Tyler: "Yebo sisi. How are you?" She sat down. Her:

"Am good I could hear from you"

Tyler: "We're alive thank you. My name is Tyler"

Her: "I know exactly who you are. I am Lucia. Hello Khulekani"

Me: "Hello"

Her: "Let me guess. You brought your whole clan here to claim your sperm?"

Me: "With all due respect. Yes" she chuckled.

Her: "Do you know why I went for IVF?"

Me: "No"

Her: "Because I don't want to share my child. At 44 years old I still don't want to"

Me: "Now that you told the boy about his donor. I think that would be very selfish of you"

Her: "He was just under the pressure of needing money he owed a very dangerous man. He thought you were gonna give it to him. He doesn't really need you"

"I do" we all looked his direction. "Mthobisi"

Mtho: "Yes all you've just said is true except the last part."

Her: "Mthobisi go back to your room the elders are speaking"

Mtho: "Since I am the conversation I think I should

he here. Ask me what I want mama"

Her: "You're 19. You have no idea what you want."

Chris: "I understand that this is new to you. As a parent I am not expecting you to agree to this today"

Her: "I will never agree to it. This is my child'I stood on my feet.

Me: "Thanks for letting us into your home. Let's go"

Tyler: "What?"

Me: "Now"

I heard him sob as we closed the door behind us. Myheart broke.

Tyler got in the car with Bonga. We drove out. Myphone rang. I gave it to Chris. He answered.

Chris: "They saying we should stop" I pulled up.I got out of the car and headed to theirs.

Bonga: "We can't leave him here. He's gonna kill himand make it look like suicide."

Me: "Who?"

Bonga: "His uncle." He was in his spirits. "Baba this is bad. Go back inside there and take Mtho. He's the one who suggested the idea of ivf because he's obsessed with Lucia, he has a crush on his own sister. He wants no man in her life. Mtho is what will bring a man to Lucia's life. Mtho is the threat. He's getting rid of him today" he collapsed on the chair.

I felt the world go around. My eyes became blurry. When will I have it easy?...

[2/26, 06:38] Zoaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Eighteen

•••

[Chris]

The 3 of us sat on the pavement. Every car passing by could tell that we were a troubled bunch.

Tyler: "I think we need to call Baba"

Me: "No" I said quickly. Baba would want us to do this the professional way. We don't have enough time for that.

"We don't have time."

Tyler: "He would know what to do"

Me: "I do know what to do. Get in the car and stay with Bonga. Khulekani and I are going back there"

Khule: "I don't know if I could do this"

Me: "Let's go"

Khule: "She could get us arrested"

True but this is no time to be positive. I got up and stretched my arm to him. He took it after a while and I pulled him up. We got in the car and drove back.

I pressed the intercom.

"What do you want?" She spoke from the speakers.

Me: "2 minutes of your time. I promise we will never bother you again"

She went quiet.

Me: "Stop doing that" he was rubbing his palms together. The gate slid aside. I drove in and parked. "You're written nervous all over. Pull yourself together"

Khule: "My emotions are all over the place man"

I patted his shoulder.

Me: "Need I remind you who you are? You're Khulekani Dube. Now shift positions. I don't want to see this nervous wreck but my eldest strong brother"

I got out of the car and we headed in. We found her in the kitchen. She stopped chopping.

Lucia: "1 minute 90 seconds"

Me: "We have a request" I looked at Khule. "We'd like Mthobisi to come with us"

She laughed for a good while then finally stopped and ran her eyes on both of us.

Lucia: "I don't know who you think you are but I love whatever it is that makes you both so brave"

Khule: "Ma'am. I would appreciate it if we kept our relationship as civil as possible. We're grown adults. That Boy I was with is a seer. Your brother, the witch one is gonna take out our child. Have you never questioned why at 25 you even went for IVF? I am begging you with all of my life to let Mtho come with us until we're all sure he's safe from your brother"

Lucia: "My brother would never do anything to hurt my child" she said defensively.

Me: "I don't blame you. He has you at the palm of his hand. He's tossing and turning you."

Lucia: "Get out"

Khule: "We're not leaving without my son"

Lucia: "What son! That is my son, do you hear me!" She was now at the edge of breaking down.

Khule: "You won't be able to protect him. Prove us wrong, give me Mtho if your brother doesn't show up today here I'll bring him first thing in the morning"

Lucia: "Am sorry I can't" she said crying. She put the knife down and attempted running upstairs.

Khule grabbed her arm. She stopped and looked at his hand then raised her eyes to him. They locked for a good 2 minutes.

Khule: "Please. I am no longer able to bear children. It was no coincidence you read who the sperm donor was, it was no coincidence to dig me up. It was all God. I have a daughter in EC. I am forbidden to see

her. I can't have another child that I am denied access too. I know he wasn't made to be my child but we're here now, I just can't walk away, especially knowing that his life is in danger. My wife is very fond of him if you're worried about how she might treat him. Please let's put our differences aside and put Mtho's well being first"

I've never heard him being this deep about his feelings.

Lucia: "Let go of me" she said softly.

Khule: "Am sorry." He let go. She ran up the stairs. He took a deep breath and stepped forward to me. Khule: "We tried"

We headed out silently. We got in the car. He came out pulling a luggage as big as Katlego's followed by his mother.

I felt my heart jump a little. I got out and helped him with the luggage.

Lucia: "Call me okay"

Mtho: "I will" he got in the car. My heart ached for her

now.

Me: "Thank you"

Lucia: "Am not doing this for you but for my child." Me: "I understand"

Lucia: "Don't let anyone clean his room. He must do his own laundry and iron it. No parties no outing. He's grounded"

Me: "Noted"

Lucia: "We will discuss how this is gonna go. I just need a few weeks away to think this through"

Me: "Thank you so much"

She walked back to the house. I got in the car and started the engine. We drove off...

•••

[Emi]

The privilege of waking up to sweet messages is priceless. Flirting is the best part in romance.

He's obsessed with video call. I wiped my face and

answered. Me:

"Morning"

Khan: "Morning Miss Zebra" I smiled.

Me: "How are you?"

Khan: "Am good. Am sorry to inform you but your boyfriend is forbidden on the Khan premises. Has he bothered you lately?"

Me: "No he hasn't. But am pretty sure he might popup again one of the days"

Khan: "Your security must be changed if he gets to you"

Me: "Thank you for all of this"

Khan: "It is my job to protect my youngest employee and future Mrs Khan" I blushed.

Me: 'Aisuka."

Khan: "Is that a tub?"

Me: "Yes"

Khan: "You're about to bath?"

Me: "Yes. We're going to church"

Khan: "Wow That's good. I actually called to ask for a favor"
he scratched his head.

Me: "Shoot"

Khan: "So tonight I'm invited for supper at my
parents house. Please be my date?"

Me: "Did you just make a puppy face?"

Khan: "Maybe. Did it work?"

Me: "No"

I hung up and switched my phone off and stripped
naked then got in the tub...

•••

[Khethelo]

My phone rang as I finished dishing up for everyone.Me:

"Mama Chris"

Kat: "I need saving from this man. Can you believe him
right now?"

Me: "Calm down. What's up?"

Kat: "He invited my mother for our intimate lunch. Can you ask his brother to speak to him?"

Me: "I will baby."

Kat: "Thanks. Where's Mtho?"

Me: "In his room. Am about to call them down for breakfast"

Kat: "Okay. See you at church"

Me: "Ciao"

I put it down and took the plates to the sitting room.

I came back to take the drinks. I found it ringing again.

Me: "Hey boo"

Lelo: "I so hate you woman." I laughed. They drank 6 bottles of wine yesterday. Amo and Khethelo aren't good for anyone's health.

Me: "Am so sorry my love. How are you?"

Lelo: "Am horrible. If it wasn't for Calvin I don't know what would've happened to my child."

Me: "Am sorry"

Lelo: "Its okay darling. I called to ask how do I use this pump?" I gave her a breast pump yesterday. She has too much milk.

Me: "Am not really sure. You threw the cupboard at the backseat it has instructions" she chuckled.

Lelo: "Am such a mess"

Me: "I will never allow you to drink. Ever"

Lelo: "I would be glad. Bye"

Me: "Keep well"

I hung up. I turned and bumped to the tall Khulekani Dube. He balanced me.

Khule: "I'm sorry. Are you okay?"

Me: "Yes am fine. How are you?" He took the tray.

Khule: "Am okay. We should get a full time maid"

He placed the tray down and pulled a chair for me. I extended my hand to wipe the toothpaste mark on his mustache.

Me: "I can still manage. You can see that yourself" Khule:

"Why do you hate maids so much?"

Me: "Because I can handle my house" Khule:

"Calm down. Should I go call them?" Me:

"Please"

He got up and walked upstairs. A part of me was still upset that he lied to me. Another part was glad that he brought him home though.

He came back and kissed my cheek then sat down.

Khule: "I found him cleaning. They are coming. When is our next Drs appointment?"

Me: "Wednesday"

Mtho and Emi joined us.

Emi: "I see someone doesn't wanna get fat alone" I chuckled.

Me: "You're ungrateful. How did you sleep Mthobisi?"

Mtho: "I slept good thank you" he stole a glance at

Khule.

Me: "I am not sure if you eat any of these"

Mtho: "Am only allergic to pork and strawberries"

Me: "Good because we never buy any of that. We are going to church today you can join us"

Khule: "He is joining us"

Me: "If you're not comfortable you-" he shyly chuckled

Mtho: "Everything that you guys do I will do it too. That is how I will get to know you"

Emi: "Bhuti you haven't said a word to me. Mtho is already taking my place"

We laughed.

Khule: "Your Jason has been roaming these streets like a lunatic"

Emi: "Really?"

Khule: "Yes. Tell him to stop because if I do it myself he'll sleep at mortuary"

I cleared my throat. "Am kidding"

Mtho didn't seem shook by his father's threat...

•••

[Bonga]

I checked the time. It was close to 11am. I stretched as I yawned and walked out to the bathroom. My whole body was down. I passed out number one and rinsed my face and hands then went downstairs. It was so quiet.

There was a note at the fridge.

'We have gone to church. Your food is in the warmer. Don't forget about lunch at Khule's"

I totally forgot about that. I took out my phone and texted Happy.

Me: "Morning real life Princess. What time will my service be required?"

I took my food out and poured juice and went to the lounge. I switched the t.v. on.

My phone vibrated.

Happy: "Good Morning real life stalker. 3pm is the time your service will be appreciated."

Me: "Can I call you?"

Happy: "Yes you can" I

called.

Happy: "What is my favorite color?"

Me: "A Hello Bonga would've been nice. Its White" she giggled. I have a feeling that she had a crush on me. She's so friendly for someone who's cheeky its heart warming.

Happy: "But we already greet each other. What is my shoe size?"

Me: "Its 5. Are you even serious about having feet?"

Happy: "Don't start. Don't speak about me smoking" Me:

"Is it a secret?"

Happy: "Kinda. Let me bath I'll text you later about the location"

Me: "I thought we were gonna meet at your place and use the same car"

Happy: "You're smart. See you then"Me:

"Bye"

I hung up. There was a text from Mam Khethelo.

"Fetch Mamkhulu at the airport baby"

Great! Now I have to follow her around to every shop because she'll definitely want to pass by the mall...

•••

[Tyler]

I might never show it or say it but am very proud of Chris. When he stands there on the pulpit and preach he reaches out to every broken soul and mend it.

There have been times he stood there and built others up while he was falling apart.

He summoned us to close our eyes and say the closing prayer. I heard a smell of potato chips. I opened one eye.

Me: "I got you. You said you have no snacks with you" I whispered.

Khethiwe: "That's because these are enough for only me"

Me: "Can I have only 2?"

Khethiwe: "Close your eyes and pray, ask God to help you stop opening your eyes during prayer"

An old lady sitting in front of us turned.

Her: "It's either you give him those chips or you both shut up"

I shut my eyes immediately.

They finally said Amen.

Me: "Don't ever talk to me you betrayer. When I buy donuts I don't want your long hands on them"

I got up and headed out. We're yet to stay another hour or so. I went to get the triplets from their little Sunday school. They seemed to be enjoying themselves so I let them be.

...

After 2 hours waiting on Chris we finally drove home. We found Mamkhulu setting the table.

Khethelo: "Gogo bakithi. Don't tell me you cooked"

Mamkhulu: "Yes I did. Chicken curry and pap"

I thought we were having a braai!

We all hugged her one by one.

Mamkhulu: "Bomakoti get off those heels and be comfortable"

Khethiwe: "Am not letting this one pass me" she whispered and took off her heels and sat down. The2 others joined her.

Mamkhulu: "Tyler show me your hands" I did. "MaNtuli is going to kill you" MaNtuli is Khethiwe's grandmother.

Me: "Why?" She walked on to the kitchen.

Bonga and Mtho got in.

Khule: "Cellphones"

Bonga: "Am chatting to your future daughter inlaw here"

Chris: "Is she cute?"

Bonga: "Yes and successful"

Khule: "Good. I don't want a dunder head of a makoti"

Khethiwe: "Mthobisi" He

startled.

Khethelo: "Are you okay?"

Mtho: "Yes thank you"

Khule: "Come with me"

I went to the kitchen to check for some muffins or donuts...

•••

[Khule]

I led him to the pool area. I lit my cigarette.

Me: "Are you good?"

Mtho: "Yes."

Me: "Good. Your mother told Chris you used your second semester money. Where are you going to get it?"

His eyes dropped.

Mtho: "I was hoping mom is gonna give me" I chuckled.

Me: "After she paid that mashonisa I doubt"

She told Chris why is he grounded. He's a little Quinton.

Mtho: "You not going to lend me?"

Me: "Where do you work?"

Mtho: "Nowhere"

Me: "How would you pay me back then?" He cracked his knuckles. "Your mother gave us 8 weeks to get toknow each other. In this 8 weeks I will teach you to be a responsible man starting from Tomorrow. After your classes you will be driving to Dube constructions and clean the CEOs floor"

Mtho: "You not serious"

Me: "4pm you should be there"

Mtho: "Wait I don't have a car. Mom said I can't use it since am grounded"

Me: "We have plenty of cars here. I will borrow your cressida"

Mtho: "What?"

Khethelo: "There you are"

Me: "Make sure you treat it good. Hey baby"

Khethelo: "Is everything okay?"

Mtho: "No he-" he stopped when our eyes met.

Me: "Rule number 1: we don't tell mothers anything"

He nodded with a sad face. I killed the cigarette and headed in.

Mtho: "He wants me to drive a cressida"

He whispered to Khethelo. There's still a long way to go. My phone beeped. I reached for it on my pocket. Quinton. Haven't told him about Mtho.

"Tell me if my mind is playing tricks on me."

There was a picture attached. I stared at it for a while.

"Who is she?" I responded.

"The decorator" -Quinton

"We need to do a background check. I will call you later. I have something to tell you."

I locked it and put it next to my plate and started eating. I pray she's related to him...

[2/26, 06:38] Zoaness: Chapter Nineteen

•••

[Narrated]

She took the damp cloth and wiped the counter and rinsed it and hung it away.

The kitchen telephone rang. She picked up.

Lucia: "Nkosi resident how may I help you?"

Mike: "Thank God I thought you were asleep. I've spent the last hour calling your phone"

Lucia: "Oh I forgot it up stairs. I decided to clean up before I leave"

Mike: "That's very thoughtful of you mama. Your flight departs at 12hours in the noon."

Me: "Is Simphiwe at the office?"

Mike: "Yes. I like her confidence. You'd think she's not a man snatcher" Lucia chuckled

Lucia: "Please treat each other well"

Mike: "Hhai madam I will choke slam her if she stepson my corners."

Lucia: "Mike!"

Mike: "Okay am kidding I will try my best to be nice as possible. Are you going to leave without seeing Mtho first?" She took a deep sigh.

Lucia: "This will be the first time in 19 years I leave him with anyone who's not my mother. He seems to be loving it there though"

Mike: "Ohhh man sisi. The Dubes are good people"

Lucia: "Seems like it. Just yesterday I wasn't even sure that I made a good decision of giving him to them but when he called me telling me he's from church, a part of me got at ease."

Mike: "See I told you"

Lucia: "Please book us 9am movie tickets. I'll call him just now"

Mike: "On it. Bye"

She took the phone off the ear and started dialing Mtho's number.

It rang for a while.

Mtho: "Hello"

Lucia: "No hello mother just hello?" He chuckled Mtho:

"Hello my queen. How do you do?"

Lucia: "That's more like it. Am learning to be good with you out of my sight. How are you?"

Mtho: "Am in good hands. Worry not, am good thank you."

Lucia: "Am leaving for Bangladesh this afternoon. I would like to see you before I leave"

Mtho: "What time should I come?"

Lucia: "We're going to watch a movie ngo 9am. Tell your family"

Mtho: "Sounds good. I will"

Lucia: "Ok bye then"

Mtho: "Wait...did you tell him to punish me?"

Lucia: "Did he beat you up?" She said panicking.

Mtho: "No no no. He said I must work in order to make my second semester money" she laughed. "Itsnot funny mom. He even wants me to drive a cressida. I had to wash it myself"

Lucia: "You wanted a father right? Fathers give Meseratis to well behaved children. Am not going to fetch you now, drive your new car" she continued laughing.

Mtho: "I would rather take a taxi" Her brother got in pulling a tiny suitcase.

Lucia: "Good luck. I'll call you later"

They bid each other goodbye.

Lucia: "Khumbulani"

Khumbulani: "Tell me it is not true"

Lucia: "What?"

Khumbulani: "How could you allow this? Do you know what you're bringing into your life? Why do you let Mthobisi control you Lucia"

Lucia: "My child's happiness comes first" He chuckled in disbelief.

Khumbulani: "You want a man in your life now? Because him staying there is going to make you close with that fucking man"

Lucia: "Khumbulani this is my life"

He hit his palms against the counter furiously. Lucia jumped.

Khumbulani: "Shut up! Just shut up. Fetch him and cut off those filthy Dubes they are no good. They want to sacrifice him for their riches. They found you stupid, a stupid mother who let her only son go"

Lucia ran up the stairs teary. "I will fetch him myself and they won't like it!"

He shouted behind...

•••

[Jason]

I attended the knock at the door. We stared at each other for quite some time.

Me: "How can I help you?"

Him: "Good question. You can help me with staying the hell out of building and the fuck away from Emihle."

Me: "Are you done?"

Him: "It depends if you're done torturing that little girl. Because if you're not you and I will have a problem Nzima. I don't care how good you are at hacking and how quickly your character can change. I will do the worst thing to you you won't even recognize who you are. If her brothers will not do shit to you just know I will. Don't test me boy" he tossed the 50c on the ground and walked away.

When he mentioned how much he doesn't how quick my character change. I felt defeated, he had done his research very well. He is someone to worry about and get terminated very soon...

•••

[Bonga]

"Good morning."

I battled opening my eyes.

Sunlight hit me I pulled whatever it is next to me to cover my face.

"Bonga Dube its 10am"

Me: "And who are you?"

"I told you to slow down on those shots. Look, now you've got amnesia" she giggled.

I moved the pillow off and opened my eyes. Oh shit. I groaned.

Me: "How did we get here?"

Happy: "I booked us an uber. You're wild as hell man. I shouldn't have listened you I missed my 8am meeting with a client"

Me: "Shit! I should be at the office. Baba is going to kill me. Look away"

Happy: "Why?"

Me: "Because am on my boxers"

Happy: "You scared am going to see the penis? I know a penis its no foreign to me"

Me: "Happiness look away I want to bath and get to work as soon as possible"

She chuckled and headed to the door.

Happy: "Bathroom is the door with the pink flower. Bye golden dick" she closed the door.

Yesterday after the boyfriend acting careers I suggested we go for drinks which I regret so much right now.

I truly needed something strong yesterday after "what are your intentions about my daughter" questions. I am a very bad liar, some questions were too much I wanted to confess am not yet her boyfriend.

Happy: "That was quick. I fixed you this lunchbox. This is a hangover shake. Thank you for yesterday I really appreciate it"

Me: "Its nothing sweetheart." I took the lunchbox and a shake."Thank you for this. I'll bring your glass on Friday"

Happy: "Am going to Free State tomorrow morning.I'll return next week Thursday"

Me: 'Visiting boyfriend?" She snort laughed.

Happy: "Oh please. Am meeting 7 clients and shooting 4 scenes" she's an actress too.

Me: "Ohh. I'll call you"

Happy: "Its quarter to 11"

I chuckled and walked out. If I could I would take her anywhere with me. She carry that happiness vibe and its contagious.

•••

[Quinton]

"Saguquka sajika sathi phathaphatha oh yiyo mamayiyo ma, sathi phathaphatha"

I dragged myself to the door. I opened. She had nocare in the world.

Me: "Can you please keep it down?"

She continued dancing and singing there on the stove. "Hello?" I waved then I realized she has earpieces on. I walked towards the kitchen space. I pulled the chair and sat down.

Kylie: "Finally you're awake. Good morning sleepyhead"

Me: "What time is it?"

Kylie: "Close to 11"

Me: "And you thought its best to disturb my sleep burst my eardrums?" She laughed.

Kylie: "Was I too loud?"

Me: "Yes and why on earth are you listening to Mariam? Are you 50 or something?"

Kylie: "You my boss have no idea what good musicis."

Me: "And I think am cool with that. Where's the decorator?" She stopped dishing and stared at me.

Kylie: "She has a name. Her name is Yoli short for

Yolanda"

Me: "Ok. You can't blame you never told me her name. I would like to go and see the progress"

Kylie: "She's good at it. I want you to go see it when it's all done. Today she's doing 3 guestrooms. She's done with the first one already. All I can say is you might start sending that invitation to Top Billing"

Me: "You're just very fond of her that's all. On Friday I am going there."

Kylie: "Quinton trust me"

Me: "Not when you're in love with Moli"

Kylie: "Yo-li"

Me: "Whatever"

I took the plate of food and started eating.

Me: "why are you on pyjamas?"

Kylie: "Because I slept here. Yoli-" Me:

"Hhai are you guys lesbians?" Kylie:

"What if we are?"

Me: "What about Raymond" she laughed and shook her head.

Kylie: "We're not lesbian bathong. Just eat" She walked off to the master room.

I am reluctant to call Charlie to investigate this Vilakazi girl. I am scared to come into terms with the truth, because if she is her sister Khule might want to use her in a wrong way to get Phila back...

•••

[Khethelo]

"You better open this gate. I have 4 big macs and rock my soul"

She's Godly sent.

Me: "Amo is at the gate"

Khule: "Should I disappear?"

Me: "No." I took the house control tablet and opened the gate for her.

Khule: "Bonga arrived at half past eleven at work. He was out drinking. Who drinks on a Sunday?"

Me: "He probably had something bothering him"

Khule: "Him and Tyler are the only ones without any troubles. He was out with "our future daughter inlaw"

I laughed.

Me: "He told you all that?" He chuckled.

Khule: "Yes. Did Mtho call?"

Me: "He texted me. He's probably on his way back now"

Amo: "I just wanna be pregnant all over again. I could kill to get foot rubs"

Me: "Aisuka. How are you?" I

Amo: "Am good and tired. Mr Dube you're doing an amazing job"

Khule: "Thank you" his phone rang, I moved my feet off him. He got up and walked out.

Amo: "Here's your food. I had to put it in a wonderbag so it won't get cold"

Me: "And you wonder why I love you so much" I took a big chunk, I felt my tongue do a Madiba.

Khule: "That was Mtho, his car broke down now I have to fetch him" he seriously calls that thing a car?

Me: "Please hurry before thugs kill him"

Khule: "And steal my car. What would I be?" He said taking his keys. He needs prayer.

Amo spread her legs comfortably on the couch. Amo:

"When last did you speak or visit Lelo?"

Me: 'Since I came from hospital I've been only to church but we spoke yesterday"

Amo: "Seen her kids?"

Me: "No. Is everything okay?"

Amo: "I know I shouldn't be telling you this but Zac loves Calvin so much he gets depressed when he is. I seriously can not deal with a depressed husband.

We are talking woman to woman. Have you ever seen him?"

Me: "Who?"

Amo: "Calvin" I shook my head. She cleared her

throat and handed me her phone.

Me: "Is this him?" She nodded. "He doesn't look like the type to get depressed"

Amo: "His species doesn't. He was raised by foster parents. You know how foster kids become once they get older and wish for things they can't afford, at 16 he started running the streets game they disowned him. He found a new foster home before he could turn 18. Luckily those were the most patient people ever. They never had children. They needed someone to carry on their legacy when they die. They took him back to school to finish matric.

He found Lelo. From there on he began leading a straight forward life. His parents paid for his wedding at 21 years when he had his first child. He was doing his 3rd year at business school. Then boom his foster father discovered he has a son, do you remember the mafia from Zimbabwe that Advocate Dube demolished?"

Me: "Madonna?"

Amo: "Yes that one. He is the son that was

discovered. Tyler cleaned him out. The state confiscated everything, even his dog and wife. You know how tight brotherhood is right? When you both always reach out for one another" I nodded. This story was getting deeper and deeper. "Yes...so The mafia brother asked Calvin to take Tyler out. The Estcourt shooting" I choked on my drink.

Me: "What?"

Amo: "Drink up and calm down"

Me: "How? My "friends" husband tried to kill my brother inlaw. My sister died there. Amogelang didyou lie to me about Tamia being the one-"

Amo: "Am still explaining"

Me: "No Amo. I think you need to leave. You protected him and said it was Tamia. I can't believeactually trusted you." I took my phone and headedup out.

Amo: "He didn't do it. His men arrived late on thescene"

She shouted behind me.

Me: "How convenient"

Amo: "I have no reason to lie to you Khethelo please believe me"

Me: "No"

I don't know when will I ever heal from this. The thought of it always freshen the wound and now that I've just heard this. I can't...I just can't.

Amo: "Am so sorry Khethelo don't cry"

I kept kicking my feet on the water. "Chloe was shot with HK 33 you know right?. Calvin men had MP5s and a sniper rifles. I swear on all my children's lives I am telling the truth.

Me: "I think you should leave now"

Amo: "Calvin found his birth mother. She told him his father is Mphangiseni Dube from Estcourt. It turned out that is your father inlaw"

I heard her heels click away...

[Katlego]

I put the kids on the playroom and went to the

laundry room to put clothes on the machine. I

felt his presence heavy on shoulders.

Chris: "You can't keep avoiding me. We live in the same house"

Me: "Your food is in the warmer" Chris:

"Your mother is downstairs"

I chuckled. I really can't believe him right now. Me:

"She's your visitor not mine"

Chris: "She is your mother"

Me: "If you could just stop forcing her down my throat all would be better. Have you realized how sour this home has become? If my mother wanted a relationship with me she would've long come."

Chris: "All I want is marriage with blessings but you're too selfish to realize. You hate your mother more than you value our relationship. I am no different from a single man"

He walked out. I sat down on a chair. God knows I need strength to face that woman...

•••

[Khule]

I found him looking like a wet chicken. I honked and pulled up.

He ran to me and hugged me soon as I opened the door. I can't recall a single time I ever hugged my father. He let go.

Mtho: "Please never let me drive me that thing ever again"

Me: "This is a very precious car you can't call it a "thing"

Mtho: "It died. I was as gentle as you told me to be but it just started making weird sounds"

Me: "You probably stepped harder on the break"

Mtho: "Is it even insured?"

Me: "Stop calling him 'it'. And yes he's insured"

Mtho: "Good. Can I have water?"

Me: "There is Powerade and cigarettes"

Mtho: "I'll take the Powerade thanks"

The insurance company arrived. I signed the unnecessary paperwork and they left with him.

Mtho: "Can I drive this beast?"

Me: "No. Get at the back"

Mtho: "I miss my mother"

Me: "Those mommy's boy tendencies might land you to a boot"

He got in. I did too. I felt a sharp pain beneath my left breast.

Mtho: "Are you okay?"

Me: "Yeah, yeah am fine"

I started the car. I blinked a few times, my eyes became cloudy. I rubbed them a few times. My vision became blurry with time

Me: "Something is wrong with my eyes"

Mtho: "What do you mean something is wrong with your eyes. Pull up"

I just stopped the car I couldn't see ahead anymore. I felt a hand touch my face.

Mtho: "You can't see me, can you?"

Me: "I only see a dark shadow"

Mtho: "Its him...He's doing this to you" he said sounding like he's crying. My eyes started feeling likesomeone is poking them with needles. I groaned.

Me: "Drive us to the hospital"

Mtho: "No am driving to Matatazela. He's a big witchDr."

Me: "Mthobisi I said hospital!"

Mtho: "Mayemaye is just an hour away baba. This isn't a western medical matter. This is how mom'sboy best friend died"

I couldn't give a shit how who died. I just needed urgent assistant. The pain was freakin unbearable...

[2/26, 06:38] Zozaness: Chapter 20

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[Narrated]

Amo: "I went to the Dube's yesterday" she said sitting down before the dressing table. She turned to Zac's direction when she received no response. "Zac?"

He raised his eyes from the phone.

Zac: "My love"

Amo: "We can't continue living like this. Yes I understand that Calvin means a lot to you but this is too much"

Zac: "Am sorry. I was looking at Banzi's school fees. You were saying?"

Amo: "I went to the Dubes yesterday. I told Khethelo everything. She did not take it so well she told me to leave"

Zac: "You didn't have to go there"

Amo: "I am tired of living with a zombie Zac." She paused for a second. "Tell me something, were you somehow involved in this shooting?"

He cleared his throat. Amo briefly closed her eyes. "Zac, what if Calvin's people arrived first there and

started the shooting. Would you have been able to live with yourself to know you killed an innocent pregnant woman?"

Zac: "But they arrived late didn't they?"

Amo: "That's not the point! I thought you were done with this killing life. Do you realize the danger you're putting our children under?"

Zac: "Am sorry okay"

Amo: "Am late for work"

She took her bag and purse and walked out...

•••

[Quinton]

It felt like am dreaming but the vibration tickled me into opening my eyes.

It stopped ringing. I reached for it under my stomach. There were tons of missed calls from Khethelo. My girls must be sick. I called her back.

She picked up after quite some time. She sniffed.

Khethelo: "Hey"

Me: "Are you okay?" She sniffed again. She's crying. I sat up on my butt.

Me: "Is everything okay?"

Khethelo: "He's sick, he...he's lost his sight. I don't know what to do Quinton"

Me: "Who's sick?" I heard Mamkhulu speaking on the background. "Give Mamkhulu the phone"

Mamkhulu: "Ndodana"

Me: "Mama, what is going on?" She took a deep sigh.

Mamkhulu: "The evil spirits never rest. Khulekani has lost his sight. I don't know what is happening in this home."

Me: "I will see you all later"

I hung up. I just sat there staring at the wall ahead.

I was brought back to the world of the living by a knock at the door.

I got off the bed and went to open. She looked sad or whatever that expression was.

Nkule: "Khethelo called me. I came to check if you're okay"

Me: "You didn't have to but thanks. How are you?"

I closed the bedroom door and we headed for the lounge.

There was Yoli on the kitchen area.

Me: "Morning MaVilakazi"

Yoli: "Morning Mnumzane Dube and you too Miss Nkule"

Me: "Mrs actually"

Yoli: "Oh my bad. Just pretend am not here I'll be done in a minute anyway"

She put her earphones back into ears. We both took a seat on the couch.

Nkule: "You guys are roomies now?"

Me: "Yeah"

Nkule: "And you let her use the main bedroom?"

Me: "Uhm yes"

Nkule: "She's special isn't she?"

Me: "I don't know what that means but every helpful woman in my life is special. Did you find the crib?"

Nkule: "Yes I did. I just popped by to check up on you but I see you don't need me right now since you got company. Are you going to Jo'burg?"

Me: "Yes, later though. Thanks for stopping by"

Nkule: "It was only a pleasure"

She stood up and headed for the door.

I went back to the room. I found a text from Bonga.

'This is a minor thing baba don't crack your head up. Its nothing a mix of herbs can't fix'

I called him. It rang unanswered. I made the bed and went to shower then joined Yoli at the lounge.

Me: "You overslept didn't you?"

Yoli: "Yes sir! I don't know if you eat eggs but I made some for you"

Me: "Excuse me miss but do you realize that this fridge is full of my grocery" she giggled. I ran to the

sink to spit it out. "What on earth is this?"

She looked my direction. She frowned then loosened up.

Yoli: "That is iced green tea. I found it on the fridge"

Me: "Kylie must've made this. It tastes like a corpse" she laughed.

Yoli: "There's juice in the fridge"

Me: "Why are you drinking it like it's nice"

Yoli: "People have different taste buds Mr Dube"

Whatever man. This thing tastes awful. My phone rang. I closed the fridge and reached for it.

Me: "Khehla"

Bonga: "Hhey Dube. What time should we expect you here?"

Me: "Is he getting worse?"

Bonga: "There's a twist on our ancestors. I can't connect with my spirits."

Me: "Have they called Ndosisi?"

Bonga: "Yes."

Me: "Uh...I'll book a flight right now and I will be there as soon as possible"

Bonga: "Thank you"

hung up.

Yoli: "Are you okay?" I didn't even notice she's standing before me.

Me: "Khulekani isn't well. I have to go to Jo'burg. What do you guys use to go to the house?"

Yoli: "Uber"

Me: "I will leave my car keys you can use my car"

I took my food and a glass of juice to the bathroom....

•••

[Khethelo]

I stood by the door watching him flinch. I wasn't allowed to be with him as a result that the twins may inherit the bad spirit. I wanted to hold him close and comfort him.

My eyes were swollen and painful from all the crying I did last night. Whenever the bad spirits feel like visiting any home they always choose this home.

Everything, it's always us.

Haven't we endured enough already? I mean a year ago we buried 12 of our loved ones. God should've made sure we never suffer any pain since from that tragedy.

Instead we suffered more but it's enough now. This is why I didn't want a child. No child is meant to witness all the trauma that goes on in this family.

Mamkhulu: "Makoti" I quickly wiped my tears and turned to her.

Me: "Ma?" She put her hand on my shoulder as comfort.

Mamkhulu: "He is going to be fine. Ndosi is going to arrive and he always knows what to do"

Me: "I can't stand to see him in pain" I honestly can't. He's my big baby, no wife wants to see her big baby in pain.

Mamkhulu: "Go and lie down. These little animals inside there don't respond too well on stress."

Me: "Lying down is going to drive me crazy"

Mamkhulu: "Go watch t.v. downstairs. I will take care of him"

The triplets arrived sleeping and they had not woken up. It would've been better if they were awake. They know how to keep me busy. Chasing after them relieves stress.

I took one last look at him. He wasn't moaning anymore.

My phone rang as I climbed down the stairs. I have been ignoring her calls since from last night.

I waited for it to stop ringing. I went to make a salad in the kitchen.

"Hey babes. Just saw your missed calls" I sent to her. I honestly didn't know what to say to her, I was still digesting what Amo told me. I hated every minute of my life right now. I wished I could just sleep and never wake up.

Lelo: "Is everything okay?"

Me: "No. Khulekani is sick"

Lelo: "Am so sorry. Is he in hospital?" Me:

"No he's here its ancestral related" Here I
am oversharing.

Lelo: "Well stop by later on. We need to talk"

Not her again.

Me: "No problem"

I put my phone away and ate my salad fighting back
tears.

I wish I had a home and a bunch of people who cares.
Sam does but its not enough. I want a solidhome, where I
can run to, to cry. I really wish...

•••

[Emi]

I slowed down my pace when I saw him leaning
against my car, ankles crossed and a burning
cigarette on his hand.

He scanned me as I stood before him with plastic on my hands.

Me: "Can I please get in?"

He just looked at me and continued smoking. "Jason I do not have all day I have to rush home"

He smirked and tossed the cigarette on the floor without any intentions of killing it.

Jason: "So you thought its better you send your little boyfriend to threaten me?" The smirk hadn't left his mouth. What is he talking about?

Me: "The sooner you get it into your thick skull that I don't have a boyfriend, the better. Am really starting to get pissed with you following me around. If you know what is good for you, you will stop acting like a psycho and seek help cause you need help Jason"

Jason: "You're the help that I need"

Me: "Wake up and smell the coffee, we're done. There will never be us again. Focus on getting better"

He just stared at me and movee away from the car.

He lit another cigarette, I unlocked the car and put groceries at the back.

Jason: "Keep well"

I got in and started the engine. "Tell Khan to stay out of my business" he added and walked away. I took a deep sigh and drove off...

•••

[Chris]

We all gathered in the lounge. All of us wearing jackets on this hot weather. The sun was about to set any minute from now.

Bab Ndoda arrived with Ndosi, along with Khanyisani. Khulekani wasn't getting any better. He kept groaning and moaning, enough for us to stress even more. Now that Ndosi was here I had hope that he is going to find out whatever it is that is making him sick.

He began with his routine to connect with the ancestors.

Ndosi: "Please close your eyes. We need to pray

first"

We did as summoned. The prayer took longer than expected.

Ndosi called upon our ancestors while burning incense.

Ndosi: "Baba there's a son missing here" I brought my head up and counted.

Bab Ndoda: "They are all here"

Ndosi: "No he is not here. My spirits tells me that there is a son out there. Mphangiseni's son. He is wondering on a bush. He's trying to find his way home but there's a huge rock stopping him"

Quinton: "Can we look at that later? Let's focus on the matter at hand"

Ndosi roared.

Ndosi: "Your ancestors blocked this boy from accessing them because they knew you wouldn't listen to him. No one has bewitched Khulekani. Your father is communicating with you through this. He wants you to go out there and look for your brother

because he will not be able to make it here on his own"

Me: "And where on earth are we supposed to find him?"

Quinton: "This is crazy-"

Bab Ndoda: "Quinton"

Quinton: "Cha baba. Where are we going to find him? Why can't baba move off that rock and lead his son home? Why do we always have to suffer? He's sick, he's in pain. How long is it going to take us to find that damn son when Khule is here dying?" He was crying. I clenched my jaws.

Emi kept him down.

Ndosi: "This is all they told me. I guess you are ought to find him on your own. If you drag feet, he will talk through someone else again. It won't be friendly" he packed his things and folded his tiny mat and walked out.

We sat in complete silence.

Katlego: "Am going to check up on Khethelo" she

wasn't well. She then got up and headed upstairs.

Tyler: "Baba say something"

Bab Ndoda: "I'd be lying to you my children if I said I have any idea about this son"

Quinton: "This is absolute nonsense. Why couldn't he just tell Bonga"

Bab Ndoda: "You wouldn't have listened to him just like you aren't listening to Ndosu. Right now there should be chaos calli-"

We heard a loud scream coming from upstairs.

We all got up in unison. I rushed there with them following behind.

I found her on the door crying. She pointed at Khethelo. I rushed at her. She had foam coming out of her mouth.

I called her name. She wasn't moving. Her face was called as ice. I closed my eyes and prayed as I sent my fingers to her neck to feel the pulse.

Me: "Tyler get me my stethoscope on the back seat"

Mamkhulu knelt beside me and touched her all over then she started crying.

Katlego just ran out sobbing while Emi and Khethiwe held on to each other crying. I saw my tears lend down on her arm.

I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned to Tyler. I took the stethoscope and placed it underneath her breast.

Tyler: "Tell me you can hear the heart beat"

I kept my head down. How do I turn and tell him there's no pulse nor heartbeat...

[2/26, 06:38] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Twenty One

•••

[Narrated]

Khumbulani stood afar observing the Dube household where every Dube individual had availed themselves to celebrate the birth of the twins.

The sun was yet to disappear back home. He looked at the bomb monitor at his hand and smiled alone.

He took out his cellphone and looked at the time first before dialing Mthobisi's phone.

It went through voicemail. He slid the phone back at his pocket and pressed the red button down. The Dube house blew out in flames. The neighborhood alarms went off. He got in his new Mercedes Benz C63 coupe and drove off feeling superior.

The End

[2/26, 06:38] Zozaness: Chapter Twenty One

•••

3 days later.

[KHULE]

This house has never felt so cold and so empty like it does right now. It doesn't feel like home. Its like I just walked in into an abandoned ghost house.

I placed the car keys on the counter and drank water.

I leaned against the cupboard and looked up. I wish I could stop these tears from falling. I wish heavens

could hear me and sympathize with me. I wish someone could come along and take away this pain in my heart.

The past 3 days I've been trying so hard to keep it together for my wife and my kids. I needed to come here and cry openly, not hiding in bathrooms.

My phone rang. I drank water again and took it out. It was Quinton, I answered.

Quinton: "Mtakababa. I just arrived at the Hospital with Peterson. Where are you?"

Me: "Am at home. I came to freshen up and pack some clothes"

Quinton: "You got this man. I know its hard but you have to stay strong for the sake of them"

Me: "Am trying man, I really am but its hard."

Quinton: "Come back as soon as you finish freshening up. I am going to confirm Peterson's arrival with management"

Me: "I will see you later"

I hung up and went upstairs to bath...

•••

[Bonga]

Only this Dube clan was made to all the things money can buy but lack two things: Happiness and Peace.

I am so angry at how this calling has been failing to do its duties. It hasn't even been 2 months since we buried mam Chloe but right now we're facing a matter of life and death. An unconscious Mam Khethelo and 2 premature babies, of which one of them has an unstable heart. So much is happening at once it's a lot to take in.

Baba being Baba he told us to carry on with our daily lives and not dwell on mom's condition. He was right, this company needs all the attention it could get after it has been very neglected lately.

I startled when I heard the ringing sound of the phone. I untangled it from the holder.

Me: "Mr Dube's office good morning"

Glade: "Mr Dube you have a visitor here, Happiness"

Mngomezulu there's no appointment but she's insisting on coming in. Could you please come out?"

Me: "Uhm please send her in I am not busy anyway"

Glade: "Are you sure?"

Me: "Certain"

Glade: "Ok."

I put the phone down. The door slowly opened. She appeared and smiled.

Me: "Please close" she did and walked towards the visitors chair.

Happy: "Shame poor thing. How are you pancake?"
That's my new name. And yes I am friendzoned here and I don't mind.

Me: "Am good. Aren't you supposed to be in Free State?"

Happy: "I am but I had to check up on you. I will flyback in the evening" I smiled.

Me: "Thank you. I really appreciate it." Happy:

"Don't sweat it. How is she though?"

I sighed.

Me: "Still the same"

Happy: "And the kids?"

Me: "They are good but the other one has a problem. With all our prayers I have faith they will make it through."

Happy: "They Will. I can't begin to imagine what youguys are going through"

Me: "Are you crying?" She reached for the tissue andwiped her eyes. "Happy?"

Happy: "Am sorry its just that..." she stopped andcried.

I got up and walked around to her.

Me: "Come here" she got up and I hugged her.

Happy: "Their mother should be looking after themor maybe still carrying them."

Me: "Everything will be fine. You do not have to stress about this" she moved off me and sniffed.

Happy: "Its because maybe I know the pain of

growing up without a mother who went through the same thing"

Me: "Am sorry I had no idea. I thought Mrs Mngomezulu is your mother, you guys share quite a bond" she chuckled.

Happy: "She is but not biological one. My mother passed on 3 months after giving birth to me. She had been in the coma all that long. The first 10 years of my life were a mess, my dad couldn't take her passing in. He started drinking and brought a girlfriend home whom did not see me as a child but rather a robot. Then when I was 14 he found mom, I didn't like her at first but as she kept on trying I realised she's a good person and here we are, best friends. I just don't wish for any child to grow up without a mother"

Me: "Mam Khethelo is a fighter. She will fight through. It's almost 12, what are we having for lunch?"

Happy: "Anything that is not greasy I'm trying to diet, graduation is around the corner. I don't want

headlines to be like: The CEO of Dube constructions
Bonga Dube with an Amoeba as his graduation date."

Me: "I love you just the way you are" I said wiping off the
tear drop on her cheek while she stared right at me.
"You're perfect."

She blushed and sent her eyes down.

Happy: "Why are you wearing flops?"

Me: "Its hot"

She giggled.

Happy: "Your dad should've given someone else this job. You
don't take it seriously"

Me: "I do. I am just not a closed shoe fan. I usually eat
Nandos but you can order something else"

Happy: "Are you kidding me? Their grilled chicken goes
well with green salad."

Me: "Ok good then"

Happy: "May I sit now?"

Me: "Yes you may" she giggled and sat down. Wasn't

she crying just a minute ago?

I sent sis Glade a list of the food I would like her to order for me. She had her hands on her cheeks, staring at me as I typed. She likes me...

•••

[Mthobisi]

I am not if I wanted to have another family. As much as daddy Chris has reassured me that they always going through such devastating things I couldn't help but feel responsible for everything that is happening. Daddy Khule lost his sight then mommy Khethelo was found lying on the floor unconscious then suddenly daddy K gained his sight back. They say it's ancestral related but I feel like Khumbulani is doing all this.

My phone rang, taking me back to the world of the living. It was mommy Katlego.

Me: "Hello"

Her: "You didn't breakfast. Did you even leave that room?"

Me: "Uhm yes. I ate cereal not the one you prepared"

Her: "Ok. Come lunch is ready"

Me: "Thank you. I'm coming"

hung up and walked out.

I found her and the babies. I honestly wish I had a class today. This is the second depressing Friday I've had this year.

Me: "How are they?"

Her: "The twins are fighting but Khethelo" she took a deep sigh. "Still no change"

Me: "I wonder if our prayers even reach God"

Her: "They do baby. They do. I bought pizza and fried chicken. Do you eat it?"

Me: "Yes I do." I played with the triplets. I wish I was them. They're happy and clueless of what's happening around them.

My phone alerted. It was an email from my mother.

'I just received an email from Chris. I am flying backtonight. Are you okay? Is everyone okay?'

Her soft heart won't let her treat anyone less than family.

'Everyone is good. Its just daddy K who's having it bad. The rest of us are staying strong. I can't wait to see you'

Mom Kat: "Here. I will be upstairs doing a little cleaning. Shall they give you a problem, give them pacifiers" I chuckled.

Me: "They never give anyone problems"

She smiled and walked off.

Me: "Ok guys. Don't touch the t.v."

They weren't even paying attention they were busy with their drumsticks. I don't think its normal how much they love meat...

•••

[Emi]

I could blame it on stress if I want but deep down I know I wanted it to happen but not go as far as it went but I do not regret it. It was great, it had all kinds of emotions. He even uttered the L word am

still not sure if he was saying it to me or to myvagina.

I haven't seen or heard from the Looney Jason Nzima and all I can say is I've been consuming freshair. The only stress that has been weighing me downis Khethelo but I know she's a fighter and she will pull through.

I heard a light knock. Its only day 2 today being in a relationship and I've already taught him that its politeto knock.

Me: "Come in" he peeped his big head in first. I stared at him. This is his 3rd visit today.

Khan: "Is it safe to come in?"

Me: "If you have food with you. Yes" he chuckled andgot in. He had flowers on his left and KFC bag on his right hand.

Me: "Are those flowers from your office garden?" He looked at them.

Khan: "Yes. Specially picked for you my Queen" he handed them over.

Me: "Thank you Sir. I thought we were going to be private about our thing"

Khan: "I totally forgot. But this is a private floor. I bought you a Box master and zinger wings"

Me: "Aww. Thank you"

Khan: "Its nothing sweetheart. Have you called home?"

Me: "Yes I called Quinton about 15 minutes ago."

Khan: "I feel sorry for him. The pain of seeing your child connected to those pipes. Are you gonna go to the Hospital after work?"

Me: "I have to. Have you ever had a similar experience?"

Khan: "Yes. Khwezi was prematurely delivered"

Yes he has a 6 year old son. A very successful baby mama. He is 29 and still wouldn't tell me his name. I don't really like the life that includes baby mamas but I am willing to compromise.

Me: "Oh. But you can never tell he's so big and beautiful" he chuckled.

Khan: "They always grow to be the healthiest. Lookbaby I have a meeting in few minutes, let me get mykiss and vanish" he walked over to me.

Me: "Someone might walk in"

Khan: "Fuck them" I giggled.

Me: "You're nothing like my boss"

Khan: "That's because am madly in love with you and happy that you agreed to be mine. I do smile with people I love" I even forgot he was a grumpy frog, having us on our toes for no good reason.

We briefly kissed. Me:

"Go I want to eat"

Khan: "Bye my love" he kissed my forehead. "I love you"

Me: "Really?"

Khan: "Yes. Bye"

Me: "Well I love you too"

Khan: "Vee will bring your slash"

Me: "Ok"

He closed the door leaving me smiling like an idiot.

Vee: "Look at her she's in Mars. You know Khan should just double my salary cause I now have twobosses"

Me: "Who is the second one?" She put the slush down and sat on the desk.

Vee: "You. Make sure you keep wipes closer just so you can wipe the lipstick off the poor man's lips afterkissing him"

Me: "What are you talking about now?"

Vee: "The red lipstick that Khan almost walked inwith to the meeting"

Me: "And you assuming he was kissed by me?"

Vee: "When I gave him the flowers and food he was clean. He came here and walked out looking like hewas colored by a grade 1 learner" I laughed.

Me: "You just wish for us to date"

Vee: "Girl you slept at Bryanston last night. I came in

the morning bringing him forms to sign I saw your bag in the lounge"

Me: "It could've been anyone's"

Vee: "True but that one was this one" we laughed.
She's so nosey.

Me: "Nothing is happening though"

Vee: "Emi. You're the kind of woman I like for my boss. He hadn't asked a woman out in ages. He's been all about work but you came around and changed that. He's happy. He never switches on the radio in his office but yesterday he did and danced almost every time he got up to get something. Don't break his heart" she got off the desk.

Me: "Aisuka marn Vee. Bye"

She smiled and walked out. I felt a bit of guilt when she said the last part. What if I fail to love him the way he expects me to and that breaks his heart?...

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[Narrated]

Quinton's phone rang. He looked at the caller ID and

answered.Q:

"Hey"

Nkule: "Hey. I just arrived in Jo'burg. What hospital is she in?"

Q: "Arwyp Kempton park"

Nkule: "Ok thanks"

She hung up. It beeped as he slid it back to his pocket.

'I know you're going through a lot right now but I need your input on the nursery. Can I send you pictures?'

It was Yolanda. The lady decorating his house in Durban.

'We can video call if you don't mind' he responded.

'Ok. Don't laugh neh, I have paint all over my face' -Yoli.

He chuckled and called her. He was seating alone inside his car on the parking lot at the hospital.

Yoli: "Heyy" he laughed. "Mr Dube I asked you nicely

to laugh" she switched the camera to rear.

Quinton: "Were you painting alone?"

Yoli: "Yes. Nurseries are my world. This is it."

She showed every corner. "I didn't use pink on the wall I think its too ordinary."

Quinton: "Its perfect kid. You're good at this. I must give it to you"

Yoli: "Thank you. The chest of drawer is too dark though, can I exchange it with yours?"

Quinton: "Yes. Anything to make my girl's room heavenly. I like the clouds, they look real" Yoli chuckled.

Yoli: "The floor is going to be a surprise"

Quinton: "Are you going to paint the tiles?"

Yoli: "I might. By the way from Monday onwards you are welcome to come here."

Quinton: "I might return on Sunday."

Yoli: "Sounds good. How is your brother?"

Quinton: "My brother is now good. His wife is the one sick now."

Yoli: "Oh dear am so sorry. May God heal her, I will keep you all in my prayers"

Quinton: "Thank you nana. I have to go now, you're doing an amazing job there keep it up"

Yoli: "Thank you Sir. Keep well"

Quinton: "You do too"

He hung up.

It rang as he put it down.

'Mr Dube please rush to the hospital' he hung up and rushed out of the car.

He heard commotion as he approached the ward. He was sweating, he took the stairs up.

Quinton: "What's going on?"

Peterson: "Mr Dube please talk to him"

Khule: "And say what? Just because you can't help her that doesn't mean every Dr won't. Stop fucking testing me Peterson" he was semi shouting with

tears gushing down his cheeks while holding Khethelo's hand tightly.

Peterson: "The chances of her waking up are-"

Quinton: "Get out" he said calmly.

The other Dr were now quiet their faces full of sympathy.

Peterson: " There is no use in keeping her here"

Quinton: "Peterson you were ordered by me to come here, now I am asking you to leave"

Peterson took a deep sigh and headed out.

Dr Zinc: "Mr Dube. I know there's no easy way to do this, go home and consider it. Mrs Dube is not responding to treatment. She is living off these machines. You need to free her"

Khule: "Khethelo don't do this to me. How am I supposed to look after our kids while you're lying here. At least show something that you can hear me. These people want me to give you up. Baby we have kids. You have to fight for them."

Dr Zinc: "We are going to give you a week. If she

doesn't respond we gonna have to make a decision"

Khule: "Khethelo I need you. Don't do me like this Mamnguni wami please.!" He fell down on his knees and sobbed on her hand.

The Drs followed each other out. Quinton stood there by the door facing down crying silently...

[2/26, 06:38] Zozaness: Chapter Twenty Two

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[Emi]

I pushed the door open. It smelt nice. I was hoping to find no one here since everyone went to Chris's house. Oh.

Me: "Hey"

Nkule: "Hey, look at you you're so beautiful"

Me: "Lol thanks. Who are you with here?"

Nkule: "Quinton and Bonga. They are upstairs though. Are you good?"

Me: "Yes I am thank you. How is you and the little one?" She brushed the tummy.

Nkule: "We're good just this summer is weighing onus"

Me: "You'll be fine. Let me go change."

She nodded and stirred her pot. I got in my room and changed. My phone beeped as I walked out.

'I forgot to fetch Khwezi from school. I just fetched him and I am now taking him out for ice cream as an apology. Would you like to join us?'

Its still a bit too early for that.

'You should set a reminder, always. And I would love to my love but I am going to the Hospital. Enjoy. ILY'

I sent and knocked at Bonga's room, it's where the voices came from. I went in.

Me: "You're not serious"

Quinton: "Hey you're back."

Me: "How long have you had this hubbly?"

Bonga: "Since varsity"

I sat on the bed. They were sitting down on the floor smoking.

Me: "Are we going to the Hospital?"

Quinton: "No. Only Khule is now allowed in. The least we could do is pray for a miracle because Drs think its pointless to keep her on those machines"

Me: "What? Are they crazy? If they can't keep her there they must just say it we'll move her to another hospital"

Quinton: "I'm working on that."

Gha! Those are one stupid Drs.

Me: "Is there progress on finding the long lost son?"

Bonga: "I think we should consult a seeir"

Quinton: "Mamkhulu and Bab Ndoda did today and the seeir said. It is our duty to find him. I can't believe your father right now"

Me: "Maybe we should focus more on finding this son. Because the way Ndosi said it, the son knows he's a Dube so I think we should issue posts"

Bonga: "You're not serious Ma auntiza"

Me: "Well do you have a better idea S bongakonke?"

Bonga: "No but that one is too risky. Every dick and tom will be claiming to be that son"

Quinton: "Our PIs are still digging. In less than a 2 weeks they would have found something"

Me: "Let me go to Nkule am sure she's dying of boredom"

Quinton: "I told her to go to Chris's but she insisted on coming here so I guess she doesn't get bored"

Me: "I am going anyway. She's preparing supper" I found her in the lounge with a bowl of popcorn. Me: "Are we watching a movie?"

Nkule: "Oh no. I just love it. But we can watch a movie if you want"

Me: "No I am not at my best time to focus on anything. How's Durban?"

Nkule: "Durban is good. Quinton being there is a cherry on top"

Me: "Its a pity you both can't go to clubs anymore" she chuckled.

Nkule: "We hang out as adults now. Do you know Yoli?"

Me: "The sweet interior decorator?"

Nkule: "You've met?"

Me: "No. Q told me she's sweet"

Nkule: "She's indeed sweet"

Me: "Let me go check up on my dogs"

Quinton and Bonga came down running.

Quinton: "Get up we're going"

Me: "What's going on?" Bonga:

"The kids are missing" Me:

"Which kids?"

He grabbed my arm and pulled me out...

•••

[Chris]

Katlego: "I swear they were upstairs in the play roomChris"

Me: "I am still waiting for the footage. Everyone calm down"

Katlego: "I can't! If I stay here my brain is gonna explode"

Me: "We've looked everywhere"

Katlego: "I am going to look again" she rushed up the stairs.

Bab Ndoda: "I feel useless and so helpless." Me:

"We'll find the kids baba don't worry" My phone rang.

Me: "Dube hello"

Caller: "I have sent the footage sir"

Me: "Thank you"

I hung up and went upstairs to get my laptop.

I came back down and played it. They were playing then suddenly the room went dark.

Katlego said she found the lights out.

Me: "There's no one who entered the gate and no

one could climb this 3 storey outside."

Mamkhulu: "What are you implying?"

Me: "I don't know but they were not kidnapped"

I heard noise coming from outside. They followed each other in.

Nkule: "Sanibonani"

Us: "Yebo"

Quinton: "Tell me you've found them"

I looked down at the laptop.

Khethiwe, Nkule and Emi walked upstairs.

Tyler: "Is it still him? Doesn't see he that we're trying to find his damn son?"

Mamkhulu: "Don't speak like that"

Quinton: "He's full of shit. He's been nothing but a very dark ancestor to us" I couldn't agree more.

Me: "He's doing what he did the most when he was still alive. Forcing us into things."

Tyler: "He's stupid"

Bab Ndoda: "Tyler!"

Tyler: "He is. How are we going to look for his son if Khethelo is lying there lifeless and now the kids are lost. Our attention will shift to looking for the kids and what will he do? Throw one of us under the bus. He must just say he wants to ruin our lives"

Quinton: "Why can't he just send this son home? Cause right now I am going to look for my children "

Bonga: "The kids aren't missing"

We all looked at him. His eyes were closed. Me:

"What do you mean?"

Bonga: "That's all I can see. They are not in danger"

Quinton: "Where are they?"

Bonga: "I can't see baba."

Me: "Does this mean you can connect to your spirits now?"

Bonga: "Not vividly but I think so"

sighed in relief.

Bab Ndoda: "What do we do in the meantime?"

Bonga: "Look for the son"

Tyler: "Ey ey ey. If I hear that one more time I swear I am going to die." He headed out.

My phone rang.

Me: "Its Khule. Bafo"

Khule: "Her heart it now stable"

Me: "The baby?"

Khule: "Yes!"

Me: "Thank you Lord. Can we come now?"

Khule: "Yes. She even cries"

Me: "We'll see you in a few"

He hung up. "The girl's heart is stable now, she'scrying"

Quinton: "Oh thank you Jesus. Are we going?"

Mamkhulu: "What about oHawu?"

Bonga: "They're probably chilling with gogo in a bush somewhere"

I put the laptop away and we walked out...

●●●

[Narrated]

♣The following day at Lelo's apartment♣

Kush put the dishes on the sink and warmed up the milk for the baby. He heard little giggled and something hitting the door. He took the baby bottle and went to check. He opened the door, he startled. They looked at him and smiled.

Kush: "Uhm...Babe!"

Lelo: "Yeah?" She shouted back from the bedroom. Kush:

"Can you come here?"

Lelo: "I am bathing Mpendulo love"

Kush: "Take him out of the water and come here"

Baby in blue: "dada" he frowned.

Lelo: "What is it? Oh my God" he gave the baby to Kush. "Who are you guys here with?" She looked on either sides of the corridor. There was no one. She picked Hawu up.

Kush: "You know them?"

Lelo: "Yes. They're Katlego's kids"Kush:

"Who's that?"

Lelo: "Chris Dube's wife and the girls are Quinton's"Kush:

"What!"

Lelo closed the door after taking them all in. "This could be a trap"

Lelo: "Don't be silly"

Kush: "You think these kids came here by themselves?"

Lelo: "I don't know. Maybe Khethelo is pranking me.I've been calling her but her phone is off."

Kush: "They found out I tried to kill their brother"

Lelo: "That is just your conscience talking. Hey Amo,can you please send me Katlego's numbers?"

Amo: "Hey mommy. I don't have her numbers. I only have Khethelo's that aren't going through."

Lelo: "I went to check on her yesterday but I rang the

intercom till I fell asleep"

Amo: "Maybe she doesn't want us near her anymore. Are the results back?"

Lelo: "Yes. He's their brother. And we just found the triplets on my door"

Amo: "Katlego's kids?"

Lelo: "Yes."

Amo: "Can you and Calvin come here now?"

Lelo: "Is everything okay?"

Amo: "Just come. Don't change."

Lelo: "Ok"

She hung up. The triplets were crawling around. Kush was looking at them concerned.

Lelo: "We're going to Vooslorus. Will you be able to carry two of them?"

Kush: "No. They might have bombs or cameras or even bugs installed on them" Lelo sighed and put them on a stroller, having them sit on top of one another.

♣At Amo's house♣

Amo led them to Endumbeni at the back.

She offered them seats then she sat down on her goat skin mat that her Khulu requested. She took Umshoba and a bottle of water and prayed.

After praying she took the bag of bones and ordered Lelo and Calvin to blow in it. She shook it and threw the bones.

Amo: "Calvin" Kush:

"Yes"

Amo: "Do you have a cow?"

Kush: "For" he's not much of a believer in ancestors but Lelo always force him into it.

Amo: "That man is angry you tried to kill his child. He's angry you opened the hole of accessing a bullet into the mother of his grandchildren. Mpendulo was supposed to die that night Khethelo found Lelo there.

MaNgcobo fought, she sent Khethelo there. Lelo was supposed to leave you and hate you for life but MaNgcobo fought again. Calvin you're supposed to

go and cleanse your father's yard and apologize to the ancestors.... hhey!" She roared like a bull. "These kids, they came to get you Calvin. Oh my God! Khethelo is in hospital. Calvin rush home. Khethelo's life depend on you"

Lelo: "What do you mean Khethelo is in hospitalmakhosi?"

Khethelo: "He's punishing his sons through her. They're supposed to find Calvin"

Lelo: "Calvin let's go"

Kush: "What I going to say there?"

Amo: "Tell him you brought the kids. The little boywho's a seeir will know its you"

Lelo took out a R10 note and put it down. She tookKush's hand and they left...

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[Khule]

"Mr Dube the visiting hours are over"

I turned. She's the least of people I expected to see

here.

Me: "I thought you were gone for 8 weeks"

Lucia: "Relax I won't take him. I don't even know why am I here but I had to come and make sure everyone is okay. I know we don't know each other that well but I know in times like these, one needs all the support they can get"

Me: "True and I appreciate it. So they let you in?"

Lucia: "Yes. I am their boss so it left them no choice. How are they?"

Me: "Getting better and stronger. The girl had heart complications but now she's good"

Lucia: "They're so tiny"

Me: "Yeah. I wish I could just sit here and stare at them till they're okay"

Lucia: "You can"

Me: "The Dr said its not allowed" Lucia:

"It will be if I tell them to let you"

Me: "Thank you but you don't have to abuse your

power. I'm sure the management doesn't mind I keep bringing Drs from different places. My wife isn't getting any better"

Lucia: "This is the forth isn't?" I nodded. "And you've concluded she isn't getting better?"

Me: "The Drs say she's not responding to treatment"

Lucia: "How? Its only been 4 days. They can start saying such things after 4 weeks. The twins were delivered through cesarean right?"

Me: "Yes"

Lucia: "They going to tell by it if she's still on. If itheals, she will be okay"

Me: "Thank you." I guess I needed a stranger's positive opinion to keep my hopes in lane.

Lucia: "Any time. I will keep popping by. I will see you later"

Me: "Thank you. I really appreciate it"

She walked out. I took a seat and a book to read for the babies. I couldn't name them without their mother. In the meantime they will be boy and girl...

My phone rang.

Me: "Twinny"

Quinton: "I think you need to rush home. Emi might be pregnant. I just got a call from Security that There are people outside your gate with a cow calling our clan names"

Me: "Quinton"

Quinton: "We're driving there right now. The double trouble is okay now. You can leave them for an hour"

Me: "I am coming. But who pays damages at 3pm?"

Quinton: "These idiots"

I hung up.

Me: "There are people at home. Daddy has to rush there. I love you okay? Behave"

...

I arrived. There were no people at the gate. I drove in, I saw the cow at the back of a strange van. I hopped off and headed inside the house.

Everyone was there. It was so quiet you could hear the
batting on eyelashes. There was Lelo and a man I couldn't
see the face of cause he had his head buried in this
hands.

Me: "Who died?"

Bab Ndoda: "Sit down" i found them like this the day they
told me Lesedi is no more.

Me: "No. Tell me what is going on"

Quinton: "Satan is testing us"

Mamkhulu: "Quinton"

Quinton: "Kush is your father's son"

I chuckled. He did not. He's not serious.

Chris: "Exactly. This is a joke"

Bonga: "Its not"

Me: "I'll see you all when my wife wakes up because I
don't have time for this"

Bab Ndoda: "Don't walk out that door Khulekani" Me:

"Why wouldn't I? He made me blind, my children

were born prematurely, my wife is semi dead all because he wanted us to find his mafia son? Theone that tried to kill Tyler?"

Tyler: "What?"

Me: "Yes! And now that he's here he will want us to hug and kiss him or else he'll punish me again? Youknow what? Fuck this. I am going away. I am going to change this filthy dark surname that has crazy stupid ancestors."

I headed out and got in my car and drove off.

Mphangiseni Dube is one sick bastard...

[2/26, 06:38] Zozaness: Chapter Twenty Three

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[Quinton]

Some things are just too much to handle. Bab Ndoda insisted we go ahead with the ceremony of the mafia son cleansing the Dube yard. I am just glad we got the good news after it later at night. Khethelo woke up. I'm pretty sure people be out there wishing to be part of this family, if only they knew how

fucked up it is. It's ancestors would set a whole house on fire just because they want you to look for their goat that was lost in 1850.

And to make this whole matter worse, Bonga said he has to stay over until the meat is finished and the bones are burnt. I have been stealing some of it and giving it to the dogs but it's still here all over the house. The triplets have been neglecting their cereals like nobody's business.

Nkule: "Is it safe to come in?" She stood at the door with a tray in her hands.

Me: "Yes it is."

She got in and placed the tray on the table.

Nkule: "I hope you don't mind I brought it here. It's 11am and you hadn't come down"

Me: "No it's okay thank you." I reached for the cup of whatever is inside. "Coffee? Thanks"

Nkule: "Pleasure. When are you moving to your house?"

Me: "This week. Finally"

Nkule: "She's slow. That house was supposed to be only a week"

Me: "It's worth it. She did great"

Nkule: "You're too nice to her. Do you have feelings for her?"

Me: "Why would you say that?"

Nkule: "You borrowed her your brand new car"

Me: "Only that and you conclude I have feelings for her? Isn't she my employee?"

Nkule: "Even if so."

Me: "I treat my workers like that. You should ask Khethiwe. And she's a kid I wouldn't look at her like that"

Nkule: "Geez don't be so defensive I was just asking"

She made her way out. I continued eating in peace until Khule budged in with Charles.

Charles: "Bra Q. Man that meat"

Me: "You ate it?" He nodded. Khule chuckled. "You don't go around eating meats you have no idea"

where they from. It was for only the Dubes"

Charles: "Whatever I'm also a Zebra"

Me: "God forbid. Why are you here wena baba ka boyno girl?"

Khule: "Khethelo wants her cosmetics and I want to lie down a bit"

Me: "Oh yeah. You haven't had any decent sleep lately. How is she?"

Khule: "She's good. Still in pain and weak but she's good"

Me: "That's good. I'll see her before I go"

Khule: "You going back today?" I nodded. "Ok. Uhm I just remembered, Charles is the decorator Nzuza's child?"

Me: "No she's not" I said before Charles could open his mouth and ask what is he talking about.

Khule: "Oh?"

Me: "Yeah. I was just as surprised. Her father is Magutshwa from kwa Mashu"

Khule: "Ok. Let me go sleep" he walked out.

Charles: "Did you just lie to your brother?" He asked after a while of silence.

Me: "Its complicated"

Charles: "Who is that decorator?"

Me: "She was decorating my house. And I got the info I wanted"

Charles: "Why are you keeping it from him?"

Me: "Because that child is innocent and doesn't deserve to be the tool to get Phila back"

Charles: "Explain further"

Me: "She's Lesedi's half sister" he choked on his drink.

Charles: "So tell me why can't she be the tool?"

Me: "Because I won't let it happen. Charles I will feed you to Nala and Simba if you tell Khule about this"

Charles: "What if he cries and beg me" I looked at him. He laughed. "I'm kidding"

I got up and walked out...

•••

[Chris]

Katlego: "Baby. You can't bury yourself here" Me:

"Is he gone?" She sat on the armrest.

Katlego: "You know he's going nowhere until the meat is finished."

Me: "I am going to work"

Katlego: "Your shift started at 7am and ending in the next 30 minutes"

Me: "I am going to church then"

Katlego: "How long are you going to avoid him. None of you has come downstairs"

Me: "I want to sleep"

I climbed in bed and closed my eyes...

•••

[Katlego]

I put down the tray.

Me: "What is wrong with these men?"

Lelo: "Give them time"

Khethiwe: "They're just being babies. I am not serving anyone anything from now on. Whoever is hungry should come downstairs" I laughed.

Me: "And the fact that Mamkhulu is letting them is driving me crazy."

Khethiwe: "I have a better idea. Let's go shopping"

Lelo: "I'm gonna be bored now"

Me: "Mpendulo is going to stay here with her gogo if that is what you're worried about"

Mamkhulu: "And why is that?" She said coming in.

Me: "We're out of groceries so we're going to the mall"

Mamkhulu: "No. Only people going to work are allowed to leave the yard. The rest of us will be able to go out after 5 days. It's custom. Find something to do around the house if you're bored"

She took the baby bottles and left. Khethiwe and

Lelo chuckled. I wanna die...

•••

[Bonga]

I looked at the time. It was way past lunch time. I buzzed the attention button to my new PA. The door opened. She looks scared. Her being is really weird. She adjusted her glasses.

Me: "Nkazimulo lunch has passed and I don't remember us eating"

Her: "I'm so sorry I ordered your food but you were busy I didn't want to disturb You"

Me: "Lunch means, stop whatever you're doing and eat. Even if I could be in a meeting please bring in my food. Did you eat?"

Nkazi: "No Sir. I will warm up your food in a moment" I nodded. She headed to the door.

Me: "Nkazi" she swiftly turned. "Can you work on being a little comfortable? You're making it hard for me to be this uncomfortable"

Nkazi: "Yes Sir. I'm sorry Sir"

Me: "Please call me Bonga"

Nkazi: "Yes Sir" Amen!

Me: "You may be excused"

I took the phone and called bab Khule.

Baba: "Man I'm sleeping"

Me: "Why wasn't I informed about the new PA?" He laughed.

Baba: "Do you like her?"

Me: "How on earth am I going to work with someone like this?"

Baba: "I thought you wanted someone younger with cleavage"

Me: "Yes but not someone this innocent. Those glasses and braces, oh my God" he was in stitches."This isn't funny Dube"

Baba: "Get to know each other.Be nice to her, she talks."

Me: "I'm nice but for some odd reasons she's scared of me"

Baba: "Be extra nice"

Me: "I don't like you for this. Bye"

I hung up. She got in with my food. She's even dressed like those American nerds.

Me: "Thank you" she nodded and rushed out.

My phone beeped. A message from daddy Q. He's neglecting us lately.

'Do you like your new pa? You thought we were gonna hire those tight dress wearing girls? Pants revealing ass girls? Have fun with church girl. She's Mpisi's daughter shall you try anything funny with her"

I need strength!

•••

[Tyler]

He peeped his head in.

Khule: "There's a meeting downstairs"

Me: "Ok" I went back to my game.

Khule: "It means: avail yourself"

Me: "Well I'm busy"

Khule: "You better follow me"

He closed the door. Eish this pride is gonna be the death of me. I am dying of hunger.

I got up and headed out. If this family got paid for each time they held a meeting. We'd wipe our asses with R200 notes.

Bab Ndoda: "Over here. The women are busy at the kitchen"

Me: "I want to drink water"

Khule: "Hurry. We're waiting for you here"

Whatever.

Me: "Hey wives"

Katlego: "Look who the cat dragged here"

Me: "Oh no I came by myself"

Khethiwe: "Its a phrase baby"

Me: "Oh ok. Can I have a sandwich?"

Khethiwe: "Cheese?" Me:

"Yes. Lot of it" Katlego:

"Jam?"

Me: "I would leave this home and never get back"

Khethiwe: "Well its not possible. Ask bhuti KK" welaughed.

"Tyler!"

I snatched my sandwich and went to court. I sat beside Pastor Chris. I don't wanna be anywhere close that killer son.

Bab Ndoda: "I'm leaving this evening"

Khule: "I thought nobody was supposed to leave until the meat is finished"

Bab Ndoda: "Mamkhulu will stay behind with you.

Calvin..." what kind of name is that? "Do you realize you're the eldest?"

Killer: "Yes baba"

Bab Ndoda: "Your brothers will show you and teach you how everything is done around this home. Then

on good Friday we will officially introduce you to the ancestors there at Estcourt, we will do it along with the triplets. I hope you all find common ground. Mamkhulu will be keeping an eye on you all." Khule:

"Liam is now okay. He will drive you to KZN" Me: "I volunteer to"

Mamkhulu: "No you're not"

Bab Ndoda: "Boys I know this isn't easy for you but please try. He's your blood"

Me: "Oh please" Khule:

"Not now Tyler"

Me: "What? You're not the one he killed"

Quinton: "Tyler aren't you alive?"

Me: "That's not the point."

Calvin: "I'm sorry"

Me: "No man you and I are enemies"

Calvin: "Ok punch me"

Me: "No I wanna run you over with a car"

He raised his brow. He's the same person like the other 3.
Dark and ugly like their crazy father.

Khule: "Uhm...Mbuyazi we'll settle this as men you don't
have anything to worry. I'll make sure everybody stays
home until this 5 days is over"

Bab Ndoda: "I know I can count on you son"

They started talking about things that don't concern
Advocate T man Dube so I got up and headed to the
kitchen to have another fat sandwich.

Katlego: "I want my next pregnancy to be like yours
Mommy Khethiwe"

Khethiwe: "How?"

Katlego: "All the hormones are dealing with him. He's
moody and eats like he's from military"

Me: "I eat 5 times a day."

The new wife chuckled. She's a good woman, like all the
Dube wives and that charcoal doesn't deserve her. "Is it a
real thing?"

Katlego: "Yes"

Me: "Oh. I love it then. New wife, please make me something to eat"

Khethiwe: "Nompumelelo is her name"

Me: "I prefer calling her my new wife. You're just jealous we're used to you"

I took my 2L of coke out of the fridge and sat down...

•••

[Emi]

Why is time this fast!

Just a few minutes ago it was the morning but now I'm knocking off.

The door pushed open.

Vee: "Halo Miss Dube. You have visitors" Me:

"This time of the day? Where are they?" Vee:

"Outside."

Me: "Oh let them in. I still have 20 minutes"

She peeped her head out and a very beautiful woman pulling a child appeared. I've never seen

them before. She smiled.

Her: "Hi"

Vee: "I'll be in my office if you need me"

Me: "Sure babe" she walked out. "Hi. You may sit"

They sat down.

Her: "My name is Tessa Nonyana. I'm sorry to budgein like this but I'm desperate"

Me: "Yes?"

Tessa: "This is Khwezi. I am his mother. All of the Khan family is out of town and I just got a call fromwork that I should urgently fly to East London. Brad isn't reachable on the phone, could I please leave him with you. Brad will take him when he gets back" is Brad Khan's name?

Me: "I just got off the phone with him he said he'sgoing to his last meeting for the day."

Tessa: "I'm sorry we got to meet like this. He was planning he'd introduce us Saturday. But since I'm here to burden you. Its good to finally meet you"

Me: "Likewise. You can leave him."

Tessa: "Oh thank you Emi. Be a good boy, don't stress aunty out okay?" He nodded. She kissed him. "Thank you so much for this. This is my number please call me if he gives you problems"

Me: "Thanks I will"

She got up and rushed out. She's beautiful, so is their baby.

I have never been left with a child this old.

Me: "How are you?"

Khwezi: "I am good"

'Khan's BM just left their son here with me' I sent to Katlego.

Me: "Would you like something to eat?"

Khwezi: "Water please. Do you have games on your phone?"

'Welcome to motherhood. Was she nice?'

Me: "No baby I don't."

'She seemed nice but you'll never know'

Kat: 'She's nice. If she wasn't, she wouldn't trust you with her child'

Maybe. I heard Khan's voice. Thank God. He made his grand entrance.

Khan: "Hi baby. Oh hey little fella. Aren't you supposed to be at your mom's?"

Khwezi: "True but she's flying to East London and aunty is baby sitting me" I chuckled.

Me: "East London"

Khan: "Then in that case. We're all going to have diner at your favorite restaurant. By the way this is aunty Emi, daddy's girlfriend"

Khwezi: "But you said girlfriends are not good"

Khan: "For someone your age"

Khwezi: "I can't wait to be your age. Nice to meet you daddy's girlfriend"

Me: "Likewise daddy's little Prince"

He smiled with his missing teeth. I took my bags and we all walked out...

•••

[Khethelo]

I have children. My own little people. I never really thought this day would come so early.

Dr: "Mrs Dube. You're awake. How are you feeling?" Me: "Water please" my voice was almost not there. I drank up. She smiled.

Dr: "So how are you feeling?"

Me: "Better than in the morning." She help me sit up with the support of pillows.

Dr: "Great cause these blood results all show beautiful results."

Me: "Has my husband come back?" Dr:

"Yes he has but he's in the nursery" Me:

"Can you take me there?"

Dr: "No problem. I will organize a nurse and a

wheelchair"

Me: "Thank you"

She checked my Bp and walked out.

The nurse came and wheeled me to the kids ward.

He turned. He then faced forward. I thanked the nurse. She walked out.

Me: "Hi baby" he sniffed. Oh Jesus. "Khulekani"

He shook his head. "Don't cry please you're going to make me cry too" I already had tears coming out. I wheeled closer to the incubator. "They're so small.

Why is he that light. Does he have jaundice?" He took a deep breath and looked my way.

Khule: "He's a gift"

Me: "A gift?"

"He's has albinism mommy" I turned. It was a Dr. Dr:

"How are you Mrs Dube?"

Me: "I'm fine thank you. How are they?"

Dr: "Getting stronger each day. Maybe now that

you're here you will be expressing milk that will help them grow faster and even stronger"

Me: "I will. Definitely"

Dr: "My peaceful patients. I'll see you at 9" she said to the babies and walked out.

Me: "Come here big baby"

He slowly knelt before me and put his arms around me.

Khule: "I thought I was going to raise them alone"

Me: "God wouldn't have let that happen" I wiped off his tears.

A chuckle escaped my mouth.

Khule: "What?"

Me: "The way you act so tough. People don't think you cry" he chuckled.

Khule: "Everybody cries. You can laugh?" Me:

"Yes"

Khule: "And it's not painful?"

Me: "No." He smirked.

Khule: "Good. We can make another pair" he went for my lips and kissed me.

Is he serious right now? I'm definitely selling him

[2/26, 06:38] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Twenty-Four

•••

[Khule]

Its gonna be a very long journey to recovery. These humans are still tiny they could fit in my hand.

The Dr walked in.

Dr: "Good morning Dube family. How are you today?"

Me: "We're fine thank you. How are you?"

Dr: "I'm good. Mommy will be here with you any minute."
She was checking them up. "Looks like we're grown enough to make it out of this incubator."

You can do skin to skin. It helps heal faster"

Me: "That's good thank you" the door pushed open. She smiled. Still as beautiful as the first day I saw her.

Khethelo: "Hey"

Me: "Hi love. You look beautiful" she snort laughed.

Khethelo: "Oh please. Morning Doc"

Dr: "Mrs Dube. Morning. I was here telling Mr Dube the good news, the little fellas can now safely get out of the incubator. That means you're now able to do skin to skin"

Khethelo: "Thank you so much. Can I start now?" Dr:

"Yes you can. But please sanitize first" Khethelo: "I will"

Dr: "And visitors are now allowed. But only 2 per day"

Me: "That's perfect. Thank you"

Dr: "I will make a return at 10:30. For now, you can bond" we thanked her then she left.

I sanitized and then took Nkosingithandile(girl) to her mother. She gave out a little cry.

Khethelo: "Aww baby. Are you cold?" She closed her in with a gown. I took Nkosingiphile too, carefully not to disconnect him from the machines. I tucked him in my chest.

We sat there enjoying the silence. I can't wait till we get out of here...

•••

[Narrated]

She saw him from up stairs. He was smoking next to the braai area. She picked Mpendulo up and walked out, climbed the stairs down all the way outside.

There was no one downstairs. Exactly what she'd hoped for.

Lelo: "You left me alone in bed"

Kush: "I couldn't sleep anymore and I needed a smoke"

Lelo: "You know what the Dr said about your smoking"

Kush: "I need it to get through each day in this house"

Lelo: "Give them time. They are still in shock" He chuckled.

Kush: "They hate me. I can feel it when they look at me. I tried to kill their brother, no one would forgive that"

Lelo: "Just be hopeful. Let me go make myself useful in the kitchen"

Kush: "Did you speak to the kids?"

Lelo: "Yes."

Kush: "Don't tell them yet"

Lelo: "Ok. Please hold him" she gave the baby to him and walked inside.

She plugged on the coffee machine and took out bread and everything for breakfast.

Mamkhulu: "Aw MaNdaba you're up already." Lelo:

"Yebo ma. I couldn't sleep anymore"

Mamkhulu: "Where's the child?"

Lelo: "Outside with his father"

Mamkhulu: "Ok." She leaned over the counter. "You understand that from now on your lives are going to change? In terms of transparency"

Lelo: "Yes I do. That won't be so hard for me and the ladies since our relationship is on good terms"

Mamkhulu: "I'm glad. As the wife of the first son, so much will be expected of you. Mamnguni is off the hook now that you are here. Just pray she heals faster so that she will guide you through everything that we do back home. You say you didn't have a traditional wedding?"

Lelo nodded. "It has to be done for you to be considered a real Dube. Please don't toast my bread"

She then walked out of the main door. Lelo exhaled heavily and continued with breakfast...

•••

[Bonga]

I sent my eyes to the door as it opened.

Me: "Bafo. Are you starting early today?"

Mtho: "No I need to talk to you"

Me: "O-kay. You may sit"

He pulled a chair and sat down.

Mtho: "Thank you. Uhm, can I not come in today?" Me:

"Any valid reason?"

Mtho: "Yes. I'm taking Ndalo to the movies and then to a hotel. We haven't spent quality time lately she's complaining"

Me: "She has to. This is your family's life. Never ending drama"

Mtho: "Its hard man. Daddy K called saying visitors are now allowed"

Me: "Oh maybe he called to say that. Then we should go tomorrow"

Mtho: "Is that your new PA?" He chuckled.

Me: "Apparently, yes."

Mtho: "Oh man. I'll see you at home"

Me: "Sure"

He got up and ran out. He met someone at the door. Happy:

"Hey lover boy"

Me: "I hate you dude"

Happy: "My service provider just did me dirty man. All my gadgets were useless yesterday." We hugged. She sat on top of the desk.

Me: "I thought you cut me off"

Happy: "Why would I?"

Me: "I don't know."

Happy: "So tell me, were you sad?" She said biting her lower lip. I do not like this look. I cleared my throat.

Me: "Ofcourse I was"

Happy: "Does the door lock?"

Me: "Uhm yes"

Happy: "Please lock it up I want to show you something" I stared at her for a couple of seconds

and swallowed the saliva that I have no idea when it did fill my mouth. I took the tab and locked it.

Me: "Done"

Happy: "Go and make sure. I don't trust that thing"

As a good boy that I am I went to pull it. It was really locked.

Me: "See I tol-" fuck. "Uhm Happy..."

Happy: "come here"

She pulled me until she was against the desk. "I'm done playing these lousy games. I like you Bonga, that trip to Free State wasn't work related. I just needed to get away from you, to oppress the burning desire to hold you and kiss you"

Me: "What?" Her one hand was on my back and the other was undoing my belt.

Happy: "Please make love to me Bonga." she said on a very low seductive voice I've only heard in movies.

Me: "Your wish is my command"

I leaned over for a kiss. I closed the laptop and

pushed it aside and laid her on the desk. I moved from her lips to her neck. I sucked on it a little bit and continued with my journey down there. I left wetkisses from her breasts until the Godly temple.

I pulled it down, clean. She sure knew what she was going to do today, matching breast holder and an under wear. I tried parting her legs but she kept them close.

Happy: "Don't"

Me: "Why?"

Happy: "I'm not comfortable with it"

Me: "It's good to get someone in the mood"

Happy: "Seeing you is enough to get me in the mood, there's a Tsunami between my legs as we speak" I reached for a rubber on my pocket. I don't go anywhere without these, though a part of me wanted her in flesh but I couldn't risk it. I put it on and went back into kissing her. I was now between her fat warm thighs. This warmth isn't healthy for the 2 minutes dudes.

I penetrated bit by bit, she gave soft moans. Then she opened her eyes and looked into mine. What is wrong with her?

I pushed deep in and started the work. I gave out my best strokes, I occasionally sucked and kissed her boobs. Its always funny how we're fueled by moans. The way she moaned did something to me.

I pulled her up and made her hold on to the chair. I had a meeting in 5 minutes. Behind is my worst enemy yet very helpful when I wanna finish.

I inserted myself and pounded her hard and real fast.

Happy: "Yes baby...its all yours...ahhh!" I felt my soul leaving my body. I help on tight to her waist and I loaded off.

When last did I do this? Thank God I lasted for more than 8 minutes. She collapsed on a chair. I dumped the waste on the bin and came back to kiss her back. My shirt was wet from all the sweating. I pulled my pants up and took out water. I gave her a bottle.

Happy: "Thank you"

I squatted before her.

Me: "Where to from here?"

Happy: "Sucking your dick at every chance I get. Your girlfriend won't find out" I laughed.

Me: "I'm not that type of guy. I don't cheat. If I had a girlfriend we wouldn't have done this. The truth is I never wanted you to be my graduation date. I wanted you to be my girl"

She smiled.

Happy: "Do you still?"

Me: "Yes"

Happy: "Let's try it out then."

Me: "Thank you. What a way to begin our love story" she giggled. "I'm not safe yaz. All this time you wanted to lay me?"

Happy: "You have no idea what I'm yet to do to you cheese boy"

Me: "I can't wait. Did you cum?"

Happy: "No but I enjoyed it"

Me: "Ouch" she chuckled.

Happy: "Chill. I am a woman. I can still enjoy sex without climax."

She got up and dressed.

Me: "Nice ass"

Happy: "If you treat me right its gonna be officialllyours babe"

Me: "Just give me 3 months to prove myself"

Happy: "Yes Sir"

Me: "I am going to a meeting. You can wait up for me. I will be done in 20 minutes. We can have lunch together"

Happy: "I'll go buy us lunch then"

Me: "Good idea"

I took my tab and kissed her forehead. "Bye" I

headed out...

•••

[Khethelo]

They both hugged me. How I missed them.

Khethiwe: "We miss your cooking"

Me: "Excuse me Mrs Dube Jnr"

Tyler: "She's right. We do. When are you coming home?"

Khule: "Even if she comes home she will not cook." Tyler:
"Yoh Sir speaker."

Me: "Not now you guys. You're glowing mosadi"

Khethiwe: "Thank you"

Me: "How far are you?"

Khethiwe: "10 weeks."

Me: "Ncoa I'm happy for you baby"

Khethiwe: "Thank you mommy"

Tyler: "Tomorrow is Valentine's day. What should we expect as husbands?"

Khule: "I'm the only husband"

Tyler: "I'm gonna be one soon"

Khule: "From right there you can start referring to yourself as hubby"

Me: "Don't let him stand in your way wena daddy T. You're our husband"

Tyler: "The Queen has spoken. Who are you to oppose?"

Khethiwe: "Ouch!" Tyler rushed to her.

Me: "Are you okay?"

Khethiwe: "Yeah just a cramp"

Khule: "Take her to the Dr"

Khethiwe: "I'm fine really"

Tyler: "Let's go. Just to be on the safe side"

Khethiwe: "I'm fine Tyler"

Khule: "No. Go"

They all walked out. My phone rang. I even forgot they existed.

Me: "Hello?"

Mam Dino: "Ntombazane yam. How are you?"

Me: "I'm fine how are you and everyone?"

Mam Dino: "We're good. Your babomncane is just very sick and now they say we need to perform a ritual, a cleansing sort of thing to set him free."

Me: "What do you mean set him free?" She took a deep breath.

Mam Dino: "He should be long gone but he can't go unless he confess to his sins"

Me: "That's bad. Mina ma I am at the hospital. I prematurely gave birth and stayed in coma for 2 weeks I don't know if I'll be able to make it"

Mam Dino: "Mkhwenyana called and informed us I have forgotten, my mind is all over the place I'm sorry. I will come there and stay until you are all okay then we can make a return home to get this over with and done because it can't be done without you"

Me: "You don't have to. Just look after babomncane"

Mam Dino: "Khethelo. I want to come. You will tell me when can I. My airtime is running out."

Me: "Thank you. I will"

She hung up. If he thinks its pain that he is feeling right now he hasn't felt nothing because I am not going there until my children have fully recovered and that is in months to come...

•••

[Quinton]

I got off the phone with Khule and continued with my relaxation. After the stunt that Nkule pulled, I needed to relax. After seeing the house Yoli and her guys hit the road. I guess it had much to do with what Nkule did, she was no longer herself.

I could feel her absence. I checked the time. It was close to 8pm. I got up and dressed up then walked out.

I went to a bar downstairs.

It was parked. This never happens in Jo'burg. Durban people must be alcoholics.

Me: "Castle lite please"

Bar man: "Its on special. It comes with a shot" Me:

"Lemon included?"

Bar man: "Yes Sir"

Me: "Serve me then"

He did. I drank up and focused on my castle lite. It plugged on faster. Its been a while since I got drunk.I asked for a second one.

A very beautiful lady took a seat next to me. She ordered those female drinks. I ordered more shots.

Her: "Are they doing the trick?" I turned to her.

Me: "Pretty much"

Her: "My brother, can I have 5 of those?" She's blackbut have a different accent.

Me: "Whoa! Are you trying to die?"

Her: "I need something strong in order to die. Thiswon't kill me"

The bar man brought her order. She gulped them down in a moment. Wow.

Me: "I'd like a last one"

Her: "Lulama"

Me: "Quinton"

Her: "Are you having fun or fighting off something?" Me:

"I'm having fun. What about you?"

Lulama: "On vacation and exploring my home country"

Me: "Where are you from?"

Her: "Pretoria but I live in London" that explains the British
eccent

Me: "Oh good"

Her: "You live here?"

Me: "Yes. I just moved this side. I am having fun on my
last stay on this hotel. Tomorrow I'm moving to my new
house"

Her: "Wanna make your last day at a hotel worth it?" I
frowned. "I can keep you awake all night" I cleared my
throat. "Your mind is dirty sir. Let's go"

Me: "Where are going?"

Her: "My hotel room. I have 4 bottles of whiskey, snacks
and games to last you a life time"

I paid the bill then off we went. Why is my guard down? ...

•••

[Tyler]

It felt like a dream until I realized it wasn't she was really sobbing. I opened my eyes. I searched for her on the other side of the bed with my hand.

She wasn't there. She was crying in the bathroom. I quickly got up and rushed there. I found her on the floor.

Me: "Baby. what's wrong?" I picked her up and rushed out. She couldn't utter a word, I could tell she was in so much pain.

I was panicking. I put her at the back seat and got intoo and reversed out of the garage. I punched the code wrong 4 times. My hands were trembling. My whole body was.

I finally got it right and I drove off.

We arrived at the clinic. I rushed inside.

Me: "My girlfriend. She's pregnant and she's in pain"

Nurse: "what kind of pain?"

Me: "How the hell do I know! She's pregnant!"

Nurse: "Is she bleeding?"

A nurse from nowhere grabbed my hand and walked with me outside.

Her: "Mr Dube please show me your car" I pointed at it. I couldn't speak anymore I was crying. She rushed to the backseat. "Puleng I need a stretcher!"

A lady came with a wheelchair. They put her in it and rushed inside.

I followed behind.

Her: "Dr Mokoetsi she's pregnant"

Dr: "Help me put her in the bed"

The nurse pulled my hand again leading me outside the ward.

Her: "Please stay here. The Dr will be out in a minute"

I said Thank you and sat on a chair. She walked off. I kept stomping my foot on the ground.

God this is the time to show yourself. She wasn't bleeding. I guess that is a good sign.

I waited for about 40 minutes. The Dr finally came out. I got up.

Dr: "Dube"

Me: "Yes. Is she okay?"

Dr: "She is"

Me: "The baby?"

Dr: "I'm sorry man"

Me: "No"

Dr: "The fetus has no heartbeat."

Me: "But she wasn't bleeding"

Dr: "She was. She just had a pad on. My deepest condolences"

He walked off. I sat on the chair. I got up and sat down again. God wouldn't do me like that. I pushed the door open. She was asleep. I went to her, I put my hand on her stomach. I felt tears filling my eyes. I sat on a chair next to the bed and screamed

[2/26, 06:38] Zozaness: Chapter Twenty-Five

•••

[Katlego]

I felt someone shaking me also calling out my name. I mumbled opening my eyes, I hate it when someone wakes me up.

Me: "What?"

Chris: "Get up. Tyler is at the clinic"

Me: "What? Why? What happened?" I said getting out of bed reaching for a clothing nearer. I found my dress.

Chris: "He just said that and hung up"

Me: "Oh my God. I should go wake Khethiwe up"

Tyler: "He's with her"

Me: "God please no"

rushed after him...

We arrived at the clinic. We had to beg and beg before they led us into a consulting room that they

said she is on.

I knocked once and went in. He had his head buried in his hands. I sat on a chair and touched him, he jumped.

Me: "I'm sorry. What is going on?" His eyes troubled me, he had been crying and that isn't good. "Tyler" hesitantly sobbed. I looked at Chris he just tightened his jaws and looked up. I brought Tyler closer to me. I was fighting back the urge to cry.

Tyler: "We lost the baby" that stung my heart, the tears became stronger I failed to hold them in....

•••

The following day

[Khethelo]

I woke up to him busy on his phone. He did not look happy, he didn't even notice I am awake. I tried to sit up right, he got up and helped me. He kissed my forehead.

Khule: "How did you sleep?"

Me: "I slept very well thank you, the medication

worked wonders."

Khule: "I'm glad. The Dr said we can get rid of this wheelchair now"

Me: "I don't think I'm strong enough to walk on my own"

Khule: "I am your pillar of strength remember" I smiled.

Me: "Thank you"

He took a deep sigh.

Khule: "Khethiwe lost the baby" I gasped. "Its one thing after another. I don't know how to feel"

I wiped the tears.

Me: "Please pass me water" he did. He just took my hand and kissed it then walked out. He has no comfort when he's also hurting I've gotten used to it.

Dear God they were looking forward to it. They are young but I damn sure know they were going to figure it out.

My phone rang. I drank water again.

Me: "Mam Dino"

Mam Dino: "Ntombam. Can I come today?"

Me: "Uhm...something happened so I think these people will need their time alone."

Mam Dino: "Oh I'm sorry. Tell me soon as everything goes back to normal"

Me: "Don't you mind staying at a hotel?"

Mam Dino: "That sounds great. Why didn't I think of it. Let me book"

Me: "I will take care of the payments"

Mam Dino: "There's no need. There's enough money in all these bank accounts" I chuckled.

Me: "Ok blesser. Let me go take a shower and go see my little pumpkins"

Mam Dino: "Ok my Angel. Take care"

Me: "Thank you"

I hung up. Why the sudden change of treatment? She must be doing it for that cleansing. I tried to get off the bed and went to the bathroom as slowly as I

could...

•••

[Narrated]

Lelo finished serving everyone. Chris and Katlego walked in following each other. Chris went to the lounge after exchanging greetings with Lelo. Kat pulled a chair and sat down. Lelo fixed her a plate and went to sit next to her.

Kat: "Thank you"

Lelo: "How is she?"

Kat: "She's a mess. She's not saying a word."

Lelo: "I feel for her. Its quite a painful experience. And very traumatic for someone her age"

Kat: "Yeah it is. I will never get used to this family's constant bad luck. This is too much honestly"

Lelo: "How often do you pray?"

Kat: "Are you kidding me? Everyday!"

Lelo: "Sometimes we have to pray every chance we get. God is always all ears."

Kat: "I hear you"

There was noise from the lounge. They both rushed there. They found Khule and Calvin looking into each other's eyes panting.

Calvin: "I can not change the past. I had no intentions of coming here and acknowledge you as my family but I had to because somebody told me your mother has been looking out for me and that your wife's life depended on me. I had to do the right thing. I am not also enjoying staying here but I respect my elders. Stop using this "I tried to kill Tyler" bullshit. I did not! That should count for something. So just to make everything easier. I'm leaving"

Katlego looked at Mamkhulu. Mamkhulu just shrugged. Kat

Nudged Lelo.

Kat: "Your old wife duties begins now" she whispered to her.

Calvin reached for his phone on the table and headed to the stairs.

Lelo: "Where are you going?"

Calvin: "To take my child. We're leaving"

Lelo: "No we are not"

He stopped. "Don't look at me like that. It's only day 4 today. We'll leave tomorrow evening. You gentlemen should find a way to tolerate each other, like it or not you're of the same blood. Go cool off and forget about leaving cause it's not happening"

Calvin: "Are you out of your mind?"

Mamkhulu: "No she's not but you both are. Come back here boy" he hesitated a bit but eventually went back to sit down. Lelo and Kat disappeared.

Mamkhulu: "You think this is a game?" None of them were looking at her. "I am not talking to myself kids. Do you think this is a game?"

Chris: "No mah"

Mamkhulu: "Then why are you behaving like this?"

Chris: "We're sorry"

Mamkhulu: "Khule?"

Khule: "We're sorry"

Mamkhulu: "Calvin?"

Calvin: "We're sorry"

Mamkhulu: "I'm honestly sick and tired of you. You're behaving like toddlers. From now on, shall I hear you all arguing or ever putting hands on each other, I swear to you all the Dubes would rise just to watch what I will be doing to you"

She got up and headed out to the back area.

Khule chuckled.

Chris: "What could she possibly do to us they could need ancestors as audience?" They all laughed...

•••

[Quinton]

I climbed out of bed and dressed up quickly. I checked at the time. Shit!

I took my watch and walked out. She was nowhere in sight. I walked out the main door and got on the lift.

I found my room squeaky clean. I took water out of

the fridge and drank up. I read the messages from Khule. I called him back.

Khule: "Eita"

Me: "Sure. What do you mean she lost the baby?"

Khule: "I mean the baby isn't there anymore. I am even scared to go check up on them" I scratched my head.

Me: "I'll try to fly there tomorrow evening. How is everyone?"

Khule: "Coping. The little twins are getting there each days and then the older ones no longer drink milk"

Me: "Tell me you're forcing it on them"

Khule: "They spit it out. This meat is driving them crazy, their cheeks are expanding" I chuckled.

Me: "This is all your fault. You're a bad daddy. Those people are only 8 months"

Khule: "They look 2 years old. Why weren't you answering your phone last night?"

Me: "It was on silent"

Khule: "I sent someone to check on you but you weren't in your room?"

Me: "Are you stalking me?"

Khule: "No. I get worried when you don't answer the phone"

Me: "I was out drinking"

Khule: "Okay. Let me nap and go to the Hospital" Kylie walked in speaking to the phone followed by 4guys. I don't know why is she always this loud. She ordered them to pack up everything.

Me: "Okay man. I'll call you if I remembered"

Khule: "Aisuka" I chuckled and hung up. I poured myself coffee.

She handed me the phone.

Kylie: "Its Yols" well I can see that.

Me: "Hey Yols" she laughed.

Yoli: "God forbid. How are you Sir?" Me:

"I'm good Miss, how is yourself?"

Yoli: "As good as I've ever been before. Are you still at the hotel?"

Me: "Yes. I am moving out today though. Is that a kitchen?"

Yoli: "Yes it is"

Me: "You're redoing it?"

Yoli: "Yes." A woman appeared behind her.

Woman: "Who is this?"

Yoli: "Mr Dube"

She brought the screen closer to her.

Woman: "Yoli you better be not be pregnant by his child" she said and disappeared. Yoli laughed. "First a car now video calls, I really don't want black grandchildren" I laughed. I'm not even that dark and none of my kids ever took my complexion.

Yoli: "Mama! I'm sorry about that" Me:

"It's okay."

Yoli: "Where's your crazy girlfriend?"

Me: "Who's that?"

Yoli: "Nkule" I chuckled. That drama queen

Me: "At her house with her husband."

Yoli: "Ok. I'm building a garage for my baby"

Me: "I thought you were going to say you're busy with your learners"

Yoli: "I just arrived yesterday. I am currently busy with the kitchen then next week I'll go book for it"

Me: "Good girl. Kylie has disappeared somewhere in this house."

Yoli: "Please tell her to call me when you get to the house"

Me: "I will. Keep well"

Yoli: "Thank you. You do too. Bye"

She hung up.

I put the phone away and drank coffee.

Kylie: "Yoli is something else. She's building her mom a house"

Me: "Really? She only told me about the garage"

Kylie: "She told me because I'm her friend. And guess what?"

Me: "Yes?"

Kylie: "I will be her date for graduation. Her parents will both be there"

Me: "Then you aren't going"

Kylie: "And why is that?"

Me: "I'm kidding" she rolled her eyes and walked off.

She really isn't going. And I think I made a mistake with the Dube petrol card.

I took out my phone.

"Morning Miss Vilakazi. I have a little request. Please keep the petrol card away from your father, him and my dad had beef back in the day so he won't appreciate it that we have that kind of relationship.

And the fact that you worked for me, please don't let him know"

She already told her mom. This is going to blow out...

•••

[Tyler]

She got back from the bathroom. I took the bag and we walked out.

The drive to my house was silent and I didn't mind because I wasn't in the mood to speak.

We arrived after a while. I made her something to eat.

I found her curled up on the couch. I put the food on the table and sat on the armrest.

Me: "You should eat"

Khethiwe: "I'm not hungry"

Me: "You can't take meds on an empty stomach"

Khethiwe: "I don't want any medication. I want my child!"

Me: "Why did you have a pad on?" She got up and looked at me with her eyes full of tears.

Khethiwe: "I was bleeding"

Me: "Why didn't you wake me? And when did you

notice that you were bleeding?"

Khethiwe: "Where are you going with this?"

Me: "I don't know. You tell me. Did you even take the medication that the Dr gave you at the Hospital?"

Khethiwe: "Of course I did. Tyler what are you accusing me of?"

Me: "At this point. I really don't know, you had a padon which means you were aware that something was wrong but you didn't bother to let me know. Maybe if you loved this child as you claim you would've told me the moment you saw blood."

She got up and ran upstairs crying. I reached for my car keys and walked out...

•••

[Khule]

I parked and took out my phone to check up on them. The day went by fast today. The twins have gained 3 more kilos. I couldn't be happier.

He drove in, on a full blast. I think he has a loose screw. Yesterday we spoke about this but he's doing

it again today. He turned it off soon as he noticed I'm inside my car.

I called him. He walked towards my car.

Mtho: "Good evening"

Me: "Get in"

Mtho: "Are you sure?"

Me: "What are you smoking these days?" He got in. "What did I say about noise?" Mtho:

"I'm sorry I forgot to turn it off"

Me: "A little birdie tells me you did not avail yourself at work yesterday"

Mtho: "The lil birdie is lying"

Me: "If I could open the footage I could see you?" Mtho: "Yes" Bonga's car drove in.

Me: "If you ever skip work I will deduct your salary"

Mtho: "It won't happen again I promise. Can I go now? I'm hungry"

Me: "Go. Bring me juice. Tell Bonga to come here"

Mtho: "Ok" he got out.

Bonga got in after a few minutes.

Bonga: "Baba?"

Me: "Did you know I get the footage of Dube constructions of the day everyday"

Bonga: "No I didn't know"

Me: "Even of the CEOs office" he looked at me. "Yes I saw you. That is a place of work not of sex. You laying the poor child on desks. Tell me if you need a room with a bed" he kept his head down. "You can go"

He opened the door and walked off. I followed out.

Kat: "Uhm daddy we twins please pass by here" I went to them. "I have a problem here. My sister came unannounced. Can she stay for supper?"

Me: "You don't have to ask mama Hawu. She's welcome. Where's she?"

Kat: "She...oh here she is" she froze when our eyes met and then quickly walked over to stand next to Katlego. "Her name is Lulama, Luh this is Khule

Chris's big brother, Khethelo's husband"Me:

"Nice to meet you Lulama"

Luh: "Oh. Nice to meet you" she took a sip of wine. I

walked up stairs to change into cooler clothes.

The door swung wide open right after I finished changing.

Lulama: "You have a wife?"

Me: "Uhm yes"

Lulama: "You cheated on her?"

Me: "Sorry?"

Lulama: "You left her here and went to Durban. And why were you Quinton yesterday and Khule today?"

Me: "Whoa! whoa! I'm Khulekani and you're confusing me with my twin brother Quinton"

Lulama: "I'm not stupid"

Me: "So you all slept together?"

She looked at me disgusted and walked out. This is why he wasn't Answering his phone.

Katlego: "I'm so sorry. Apologize" she said nudging her.

Lulama: "I'm sorry. This is freaky"

Katlego: "On your first day you've already embarrassed me" I chuckled.

Me: "Its okay"

They walked off.

Lulama: "Is his wife even sure he only slept with him?"

Katlego: "She can tell them apart dummy and shut up he can hear you"

Yes I can. Let's just hope they used protection... [2/26,

06:38] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Twenty-Six

•••

[Chris]

I arrived at a pub that his car was located at. I looked

around for him. He was seated in a corner alone with a lot of empty bottles before him. I sat down beside him.

Tyler: "What are you doing here?" He asked and picked up a bottle to his mouth.

Me: "Did you see the time?"

Tyler: "No but I'm sure you did."

Me: "Yes I did. Its time to go home" he chuckled and shook his head.

Tyler: "I prefer to be here. With people who are all about having fun. I don't want to go home"

Me: "Who've drank 24 bottles already. Look I know how you feel but to accuse Khethiwe of such is just absurd"

Tyler: "She knew she was losing the baby. Why didn't she tell me?"

Me: "You did not ask her that. She's also going through a hard time and you putting a blame on her doesn't make it easier"

Tyler: "So she called you to vent? And how did you

even find me?"

Me: "It doesn't matter who she called and how I found you" I got up and pulled him up. He resisted. "I will carry you out of here. Save yourself embarrassment"

He took his bottle and we walked out. I searched for his car keys. Charles was waiting outside my car. I tossed the keys to him.

Me: "We're going to his house" he nodded and walked off. I put Tyler on the backseat. "Sleep"

I got in and drove off...

•••

[Khethiwe]

I felt the sun penetrate my poor eyes. I turned to face the other way. I couldn't force any sleep anymore. I felt weight pressing on the bed and then a warm hand on my arm.

I opened my eyes. She smiled.

Katlego: "I made you food"

Me: "I'm not hungry"

Katlego: "Its not real food. Fruit salad and juice. You need to take your medication."

Me: "Did they find him?" I sat upright and took a tray.

Kat: "Yes they did. They just arrived a couple of minutes ago. They're down stairs with Mamkhulu"

Right after I called Katlego last night she came to fetch me and Chris went on to look for Tyler.

Me: "Ok. I need to take a shower first." I put the tray aside and climbed off the bed.

Kat: "I will be downstairs if you need anything" Me:

"Thank you"

She walked away and I got into the shower.

I found him sitting on the bed with an ultra sound print out on his hands. I applied lotion and dressed up and took my food and sat on the couch. I started eating. You would swear there was no people in the room. Only the sound of the spoon against the bowl was audible.

Tyler: "I have looked forward to many things in my life but being a dad took the cup. Each day I wished it was the due date so I could hold him/her. Kiss the little lips, love them like they're the only thing in the world. Maybe if you told me the moment you saw blood the Dr would've been able to save it" I chuckled in disbelief.

Me: "So you really think I wanted my baby to die? I don't know what you think of me Tyler Dube but this is pure craziness."

Tyler: "Why did you have a pad on dammit!"

Me: "Don't you dare shout at me. I tried to wake you up but you kept saying "no" I used the last strength I had to reach for the toiletry bag and new pajamas." I stopped and cried. I don't know what hurt more, him accusing me of killing my child or the fact that I felt helpless. "Right after I changed and put the pad on I collapsed. I couldn't get up. You arrived after 30 minutes Tyler, after I have been calling you for minutes! Speaking of someone we should blame for the loss of our child it is you! Had you woken up when I woke you maybe it could've been saved" I got

up and headed to the laundry basket. I took out the sheet and a pajama pant. "This is your proof."

I took the tray and headed to the door.

Tyler: "Baby"

Me: "Go to hell" I closed the door behind me.

I found Lelo and Katlego in the kitchen.

Kat: "Aww baby. Don't cry" she took the tray away and hugged me.

Me: "He's still blaming me for it"

Lelo: "He's grieving wrongly. Calvin did that. Don't let him get to you my love. You know you didn't kill that baby"

Me: "Do we still have gin?"

Kat: "No alcohol until you're done with your medication"

Me: "I really need it"

Lelo: "It's day 5. We can go out"

Me: "I don't feel like being in a crowd"

Lelo: "We gonna bring the fun here then." Khule walked in.

Khule: "Wives"

Us: "Hello"

Khule: "Madladla can I steal you for a second?"

I nodded and followed him out until we were at the patio.

I sat down. He remained standing.

Khule: "I'm sorry about what happened. In everything just know we're here as your elder brothers. I would like you to go home this weekend and inform gogo about all this so we'll be able to come and pay damages and have you cleansed."

Me: "I will" I'm not even sure if gogo will let me into her yard.

Khule: "About Tyler. I'm gonna talk to him. If you feel like you can't stand his presence. You can take the keys of the old house and go stay there until Saturday"

Me: "Thank you"

Khule: "Everything will be okay." I nodded. "You may go back inside"

I got up and walked inside...

•••

[Quinton]

My phone rang just as I finished dressing up on my work costume.

Me: "Brother"

Khule: "Hey waiter. Why was your phone off last night?"

Me: "It was charging. I forgot to switch it on"

Khule: "Do you perhaps know anyone by the name of Lulama?"

Me: "No. Do we have a problem?"

Khule: "Yes."

Me: "What is it?"

Khule: "You shagged Katlego's elder sister" Me:

"You're out of your mind"

Khule: "She came to my room on some "So you cheated on your wife?" And "Why are you Quinton inDurban and Khule here"

Me: "Fuck! With blonde hair cut?"

Khule: "Yes"

Me: "She's there?"

Khule: "She was yesterday but I'm sure she'll comeback again today to see her baby sister"

Me: "What a small world. Bye daily sun my shift hasbegan"

Khule: "Tsek" I chuckled and hung up.I

pray we never bump into each other.

I took my note book and went to the front to do whatI'm getting paid for.

I went to this young man and his lady sitting at the corner. They had menus before them but no food.

Me: "Good day. May I take your orders?"

Lady: "Yes Sir please. I would like medium rare steakand greek salad and orange juice"

Me: "And you my man?"

Him: "I'll have what she's having"

Me: "Coming right up"

I took the order in and served other tables.

then fetched their order.

Him: "It has been damn 45 minutes"

Me: "I'm deeply sorry for that we have a problem with our machines"

Him: "Do you know I could report you to management and you lose this little job?"

Lady: "Zamokuhle"

Him: "No this is bullshit he must know." He put his car keys on the table. His key holder was of The Dube Logistics. He must be one of the new employees.

Me: "You work for the Dube? That company usually hires very respectable individuals. I'm surprised you treat waiters like this"

Him: "Maybe they owe something to them. Get the

fuck out of my face"

Me: "Don't settle the bill, its on the house. I'm deeplysorry again for delaying your order"

Lady: "Its okay sir"

Me: "Have a great day"

I walked away. Who hired this dumb ass?

•••

[Katlego]

We decided to go and visit Khethelo. We bought balloons and all the dramatic hospital gifts. I did notforget new tracksuits.

We saw Khule and some woman talking and laughing. She was even touching him, the nerve!

Me: "Hubby. I didnt think we'll find you here"

Khule: "Oh you're here. I came to do kangaroo but now I'm going home"

Me: "Mmmh. Is mommy awake?"

Khule: "Yes she is" I looked at him then at the lady.

"Oh this is Mtho's mother. These are my wives, Lelothe eldest, Katlego the middle one and Khethiwe the last born"

Her: "Nice to meet you all"

Me: "Nice to meet you too"

Khule: "Let me bounce"

He snatched the cup of juice out of my hand and headed to the lift.

Me: "Next time please keep your hands off"

Her: "What?"

Khethiwe: "Yes"

We passed her and walked on.

Me: "And Khule is too stupid to realize this bitchwants a piece of him"

Lelo: "Come on you guys"

Khethiwe: "Hhe wena first wife. Are you wearing a blind folder? That hard cheekbone wants Dube"

Me: "Shhhh"

I pushed the door open. "Surprise!"

She screamed in excitement.

Khethelo: "I thought you all forgot about me"

Me: "No ways!" We all hugged her.

Khethelo: "Y'all are so beautiful. What are you eating?"

Lelo: "Meat" we laughed.

Me: "Yah no we've had enough of it shame"

Khethelo: "Lelo can you believe it?"

Lelo: "It still feels like a dream mosadi"

Khethelo: "I'm just glad we are increasing. Where's Amo?"

Lelo: "Enquthu to do rituals for some family. How are you?"

Khethelo: "I'm good. I can walk on my own now" Me:

"That's amazing baby. And the twins?" Khethelo:

"We can go see them"

Khethiwe: "I'm holding the boy first"

We laughed and walked out to the nursery. We wore gloves and caps.

Khethelo: "Can I take them out?"

Nurse: "No ma'am."

Khethiwe: "Awww they so cute. Baby doll is taking daddy's complexion"

Me: "She better not"

Khethelo: "Nkosingiphile has albinism" Lelo:

"You're kidding me. My twins too"

Khethelo: "Really?"

Lelo: "Yes. But you can't tell from afar. They look likewhite people"

Me: "Ncoa. Even Ngiphile, I thought it was babycomplexion"

Khethelo: " I can't wait for them to be big enough. I miss home"

Me: "They will baby don't worry" Khethiwe's phone rang. She walked out.

Lelo: "Who eats a lot?"

Khethelo: "Nkosingithandile. I will just have to feed her the bottle when we get discharged. Or else I will be skinny"
I laughed.

Me: "She takes after their fathers"

Lelo: "True that. Next month I am taking Mpendulo off the breast. I'm tired"

We laughed. Khethiwe got in.

Khethiwe: "Ladies. Let me love and leave you. I have to go to the clinic to fetch my results. Bye"

Me: "Bye babe"

Khethelo: "Did you bring me food?"

Me: "Of course. Let's go eat"

Khethelo: "How is she holding up?"

Me: "She's trying. Tyler isn't making it any easier"

Khethelo: "Ugh that crazy bastard. He really irritated me with that bullshit"

Lelo: "Calm down"

Khethelo: "I'm calm"

We walked out and went to her ward....

•••

[Tyler]

She found me on the line. We were next. She sat faraway from me. I took out my phone and texted her.

'I'm sorry' she read it and faced the phone down.

'It was stupid of me to even think of that. I love you' She read it again and looked at me.

"Next" I got up and called her.

We both took a seat.

Dr: "Miss Dladla. Would you like me to give you your results in front of Mr Dube?" She nodded. "Okay. I ran the tests and it happens that your miscarriage was caused by the fact that your uterus can not carry children into full term"

Me: "Why does that mean?"

Dr: "It means that Miss Dladla could never be able to

carry a child up to 9 months. Her uterus isn't strong enough to keep the fetus up to at least 14 weeks."

Me: 'So that means we can't have kids?'

Dr: "No. There's are many methods. Surrogacy is one of them"

She got up and rushed out.

Me: "Excuse me"

I ran after her. I found her outside crouching and sobbing. I pulled her to stand up straight and hugged her.

Me: "Don't cry baby. We're in this together okay. We gonna have our own kids. I promise you."

She sobbed even more. I tried to remain strong but I failed. I ended up crying too....

[2/26, 06:38] Zozaness: Chapter Twenty Seven

•••

[Emihle]

We both stood impatiently out of the toilet. My insides were turning I had this strong urge to kick

the door down and see the results.

Brad: "What if it comes out positive?"

Me: "Well we're both dead"

Brad: "What is going to kill us?"

Me: "My brothers"

Brad: "Oh please. They are very fond of me they would be happy that I'm the father"

A lot happened last month. He ended up meeting the whole family our huge fight over some skank that showed up looking like a Christmas tree on Valentine's day disturbing our dinner. And my hypocrite brothers welcomed him with both warm hands. "Because he's not Jason" Khule said when I asked him why is he so nice to him.

Me: "Ok I'm opening this door" I pushed it open and went over to the tests. Whew!

Brad: "Are we going to be parents or not?"

Me: "Not this time around." I said with a genuine smile. "I should start taking an injection. The pill is alot of work"

Brad: "As long as it will treat you well"

Me: "It will. Let me bath and go to the hospital"

Brad: "I will tell Sipho to make us something to eat"he walked away.

Me: "It is your turn to fetch Khwezi from the soccermatch" I shouted.

Brad: "Thank you love"

I filled the tub. Imagine a whole me with an Indianbaby? MaNgcobo would skin me alive.

•••

[Khethiwe]

The worst yet the best 4 weeks of my life. Gogo welcomed me with warm loving arms when I went home. We cried into each other's arms until her daughter decided we disrupt the moment. I told them everything and gogo agreed for the Dube's to come. I couldn't be more happier. Everything went accordingly. Then a week later they came for amalobolo of which I regret agreeing to because Khule asked me if I still want to go ahead with them.

Tyler has changed so much after that. He says I'm seeing this but my gut can feel something is not right.

I jumped at the sound of someone speaking.

Tyler: "Aibo. What's up?"

Me: "Nothing. I was just deep in my thoughts"

Tyler: "Ok I'm going to Jo'burg. Are you tagging along?"
He moved to Pretoria. Each morning I drive to Jo'burg if I slept over, he's opening his law firm this side.

Me: "No. I was with them yesterday after knocking off"

Tyler: "Ok. I'll see you later then" he kissed my cheek and walked out.

I called Khethelo. She's enjoying not being the olderwife. The ceremony to welcome Mtho and Calvin home went successfully. All Khethelo could say was "At last I have some bargain off my shoulders"

Khethelo: "Babes"

Me: "Hey mommy. How's the top deck?" She laughed.

Tyler calls the babies top deck. He went crazy over Ngiphile, excited that at last there's another light skinned male in the family.

Khethelo: "They are good and we might get discharged anytime from today"

Me: "Wow. That is good news. I will see you guys on Monday"

Khethelo: "Where's husband?" Me:

"He just left for Jo'burg"

Khethelo: "Oh Ok. Has he not come back home again?"

Me: "No. But things are still awkward. Something is off about us"

Khethelo: "I think you guys should talk"

Me: "I told him yesterday before I came here but he's been up and down. This morning was our chance to speak but he just came and told me he's going to Jo'burg"

Khethelo: "What has gotten to him! I'd tell Khule to speak to him but you guys have to talk about it first"

Me: "I have been trying but he doesn't seem like he wants to talk at all. I was thinking maybe we should just call off the engagement. It's possible we're not ready for this part of our lives"

Khethelo: "Do not speak like that. This might be a test to see if you guys are ready for the next step. Prove it that you are"

Me: "We are not. It's very clear"

Khethelo: "The fact that you're willing to sit him down and lay it before him that you're not managing well with his behavior means something babe. Try"

Me: "I am trying" A tear escaped my eye.

Khethelo: "Try harder and if you fail even at that. Pack your things and leave that engagement ring on his kitchen counter and take a vacation to Mauritius." I wiped my tears.

Me: "I have one last try in me"

Khethelo: "Don't cry baby. You got this okay" Me:

"Thank you"

Khethelo: "Just drive here or call Liam to fetch you."

We'll have lunch outside. Bring wine" I chuckled.Me:

"Okay"

Khethelo: "Waiting on you pumpkin."

Me: "Bye hun"

She hung up. She'll forever be a mommy to me. She's the easiest to talk to. She listens and understands. I put on my shoes and took my bag. I can't believe I stopped drinking wine right after the Dr broke to us the news of not being able to carry to term, and then he does all that he's doing. I am trying to give him what I think he needs.

And one of the nights he did not come home and I never bothered to ask...

•••

[Bonga]

Although there are challenges at work but I won't dwell much on that because life has been terribly amazing. Everything that needed to be mended at home was. The fathers weren't like before. They were adjusting into having Bab Calvin as their older

brother and that was best for everyone.

My love life? All can say is God loves us all. She's everything. I love her and I'm certain that we make each other happy.

The door pushed open. By the way daddy Q let Mtho and I move into his house. Mtho's 8 weeks with daddy came to an end and his mother let us go ahead with the ceremony of introducing him to the Dube ancestors. It was the funniest thing ever. How Mkhulu Ndoda said it. We all just forgot it was supposed to be a quiet moment and laughed.

Me: "I wasn't expecting you today"

Mtho: "That's why I came. I bought us new fifa"

Me: "Hold it right there genius. Where did you get the money?"

Mtho: "Why are you like your dads? I made the thing to buy fifa to be done. Are we playing or not?"

Me: "Hell yeah. But first, we should take the ladies out for a spa day or something"

Mtho: "Can we spend a moment without you"

mentioning those two? They're happy without us. As we speak they are in Gold Reef city without us but you're here thinking of taking them to a spa day."

Me: "You're not serious" he shrugged and focused on his fifa. I took out my phone and started dialing Happy.

It rang unanswered for a couple of seconds.

Mtho: "She's having fun she won't answer"

Happy: "Peanuts"

Me: "Yeah right. Why wasn't I informed about Goldreef city?"

Happy: "I'm sorry my jelly bean but I had to take Ndalo out. She's having that time of the month and it could be very draining. We just decided this morning"

Me: "Never go anywhere without informing me"

Happy: "I'm sorry it won't happen again"

Me: "It better not" I hung up.

Baba strictly told me to look after her because she's

now having a thing with me she will be a good target to every enemy out there.

Mtho: "Can we play now?"

Me: "Yeah. Have you heard from Yezwe?"

Mtho: "No. He's isolating himself. I'm done reaching out"

Me: "He's one of us"

Mtho: "He knows that very well but doesn't bother to text, call or show up"

Me: "He's still digesting this whole thing"

Mtho: "You're such a good person it sucks." He got up and disappeared to the kitchen.

Yezwe is very different. He doesn't really interact with humans. I hardly saw him when we were at Estcourt. I should go check up on them...

•••

[Katlego]

She threw herself next to me and took my meat.

Me: "How did you get in?"

Luh: "I bribed the cameras"

Me: "I'm serious Luh"

Luh: "Ok fine. I mistakenly saw the code but I promise I will call you to open up for me"

Me: "You're something else. How did it go?"

Luh: "Horrible. I hate your mother. I couldn't stand her lying ass before me. I just couldn't. I lost it and hit her"

Me: "What!"

Luh: "Please don't judge me. That woman ruined my life."

Me: "But hit her?"

Luh: "Please don't even try act innocent. At some point you also felt like roughing her bitch ass face up"

Me: "Yes. But I didn't. You went there to mend things not make them worse" she huffed and rolled her eyes.

Luh: "It was just a tiny slap"

Me: "It doesn't matter! Lulama I want a very beautiful wedding"

Luh: "Why do you need her? I'm here for you"

Me: "Lulama your overseas mindset is crazy. The Dubes are very cultural. Chris is looking forward for me to be his wife, he's tired of waiting. Mother also ruined my life but we have to put that behind us" she gave me a disapproving stare. "It happened, we can't undo it. The best we could do is move on. If not for you please do this for me. At least pretend"

Luh: "I really wanna do this but seeing her just brought so many memories."

Me: "It's about time your son came home. Do it for him and I." She exhaled.

Luh: "I will go tomorrow again and apologise"

Me: "And take it all off your chest. Let her know how much you resent her trust me you're going to feel better"

Luh: "Ok psychiatrist" we laughed.

I finally went to my mother two weeks ago. We talked things through like adults that we are and we came into agreement that she will be the mother she's never been. A good mother and also a good grandmother. I had to put my anger and resentment aside. It's about time I officially became Mrs Dube.

Luh: "Where's my one night stand?"

Me: "Would you please leave my poor brother in law in peace?" She laughed.

Luh: "He's so crazy. You should let him know I do not do relationships. There's no need for him to be running away from me"

Me: "Whatever"

Luh: "Where does Dr Pastor put his cigars?" Me:

"He doesn't smoke"

Luh: "He's such a pastor. Where's your gin?" She said getting up and heading to the kitchen.

Me: "There must be some on the pantry"

Luh: "Wuuuh Dankie mpilo!" She shouted.

She's a piece of work but I'm just glad she's here...

•••

[Khethelo]

Around 4pm Khethiwe said her goodbye. She was better than what she was when she arrived.

He got in with more food. I am ballooning. My breasts are always awfully full sometimes I cry when the milk is spilling out.

Me: "I don't want you cheating on me in future with someone skinnier" he chuckled and kissed me.

Khule: "I'm still very scared of women wifey so that wouldn't happen."

Me: "You mean you haven't had sex all this time?"

Khule: "I have." He looked at his hands and we laughed.

Me: "You're so crazy. How was the boys day?"

Khule: "It was good. Quinton stayed on video call the whole time"

Me: "I can't get over the bond that you both have."

Khule: "I love him. A lot. Although he's a little crazy but I wouldn't trade him for the world"

Me: "You should go visit him"

Khule: "Yeah when the children are okay" Me:

"They are okay plus Mam Dino is here."

Khule: "Don't even try convince me. I won't go"

Me: "I give up. You can go see them. I wanna rest a little"

Khule: "Ok....wait, there's something odd about Tyler"

Me: "You think?"

Khule: "Yeah. He's distant. He hardly focuses on anything"

Me: "Did you try talking to him?"

Khule: "Yes but he just dismissed me. I'm worried about him"

Me: "Maybe you should go to his place and address this"

Khule: "I will. Let me go to my muffins. I love you. Eat, we need that milk"

Me: "Tell your children I'm not their cow" he laughed.

Khule: "Bye sweetheart. I want a quickie when I get back"

Me: "Just go Dube" he smirked and closed the door. A message came through.

'Linda has agreed to sign the papers now please my friend, help me get my man back.'

Nonkululeko Ndlela! I curse the day I met her. She killed her child, she says it was stress but I know it wasn't and divorcing her husband because she believes she belongs with Quinton. Quinton made it clear he's over whatever it is he had for her but she's not backing down. She wants her MAN back....

[2/26, 06:38] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Twenty Eight

•••

[Khule]

I told Chris that this is a bad idea but he insisted I do it.

What does one say to a mamazala?

I gathered all the strength I needed and walked down. She was busy on the stove.

Me: "Good morning ma"

Mam Dino: "Morning son. Shouldn't you be at the hospital? Its almost 9am"

Me: "I'm heading there right now"

Mam Dino: "I made these. Please make sure she drinks it" Khethelo and Amahewu? I took the bag she had packed all the food on.

Me: "Thank you"

Old people suffocate me. Especially in such cases.

Lesedi and I were together for years but I could count the times I interacted with her parents. Its not over 5 times, I avoid in-laws at all costs. Having mam Dino here is stressing me out.

...

I arrived at the hospital. I can't wait for them to get discharged. I need a decent sleep.

I turned when I felt a poke on my back. Me:

"Hey. I didn't know you were around"

Lucia: "I am. I arrived last night. How's the doubletrouble?"

Me: "They are good thank you."

Lucia: "That's great. So you let the boys stay in their own?"

Me: "Yeah. But he's doing on his school work if that's what you're worried about"

Lucia: "No no, not at all. I was just surprised you trust them that much"

Me: "They are good boys. "

Lucia: "Not Mthobisi. Uhm...do you know anything about electronics? My PC is acting up"

Me: "I have a friend that can check it out for you. I will email you his numbers"

Lucia: "Thank you. It was nice to see you"

Me: "Likewise"

I headed to the lift.

I started off at the nursery. The room was empty I immediately felt hot flushes. I turned back and rushed to Khethelo's ward. I opened the door. I found her looking over the cot. I took a deep breath. She noticed me.

Khethelo: "Guess who's here?" She picked Nkosingithandile up. "Hey daddy"

Me: "I almost died"

Khethelo: "I tried calling you but it put me through voicemail."

Me: "Are they ready to go home?" I picked Nkosingiphile up. "He's so heavy. We should thank Mam Dino and her food" we laughed.

Khethelo: "When they are old enough I will just have to go on diet and go to the gym"

Me: "Your house is big enough to have a gym Mrs Dube and enough money to get a personal trainer"

Khethelo: "Am I still going to be a prisoner?"

Me: "No but you will not wear tights in front of those men at the gym" she chuckled.

Khethelo: "Your jealousy is out of this world."

Me: "Thank you. We have more six weeks until sex"

Khethelo: "Are you counting?"

Me: "Yes ma'am." I took the bag and packed her clothes.

At long last we're going home...

•••

[Tyler]

Finally everything is coming in together. Painting is done we're only left with furnishing.

It's nothing big, it's portable, enough to accommodate me and my clients.

My phone rang. She left without good bye this morning.

Me: "Morning"

Khethiwe: "Morning. How are you?"

Me: "I'm good. How is yourself?"

Khethiwe: "I'm great. Did you find your lunchbox?" Me:
"Where?"

Khethiwe: "On top of the counter"

Me: "I didn't check"

Khethiwe: "You never check anything these days.
Have a nice day" she hung up.

I put the phone back at my pocket and went to my car.
I'm meeting with the furniture people...

•••

[Quinton]

I should remove the door bell. Kylie thinks its a toy. The
meeting got cancelled so she flew back. I should've found
her something else to do there. I opened. She smiled.

Me: "Are you sure you're 27?"

Kylie: "Yes. Hello"

Me: "Hi." She got in. I closed the door.

Kylie: "Don't close. I'm with Yoli"

Me: "Where is she?"

Kylie: "At the back."

I nodded and walked on to the couch.

Kylie: "Do you have coffee?"

Me: "Yes. I haven't eaten you can make us breakfast"

Kylie: "Get a girlfriend or a maid. I'm not your maid" Me:

"What would I do with a girlfriend?"

Kylie: "Kiss it. Love it and it will cook for you"

Me: "I am not ready to be asked 'why was your phone off' thank you"

Kylie: "Some girlfriends are cutie pies"

Yoli: "Yoh good Morning. Why is the back unlocked?" She had a cup of coffee in her hand.

Me: 'Just incase the house catches fire" they laughed.

She sat down.

Kylie: "No sitting we're going to the kitchen. Aren't you working today?"

Me: "My shift starts at 6pm"

Yoli: "When I grow up I wanna be like you." She got up and they went to the kitchen.

The security tab flashed. Nkule? I opened for her. I haven't seen her in a while.

The door opened.

Me: "Oh my you gave birth already?"

Nkule: "Well hello to you too" she didn't look like her jolly self.

Me: "Hello"

She sat beside me. "Where have you been hiding?"

Nkule: "I was grieving. I lost my child"

Me: "I'm so sorry to hear that"

Nkule: "Thank you."

Me: "How are you guys handling it though. It must be so hard"

Nkule: "There's no us anymore. He blames me for the loss of our child so he filed for divorce" she started sobbing.

Me: "He's such a coward. I'm so sorry" I brought her in for a hug.

Nkule: "And being on my own here makes it worse. I can't even go to my mother's house because my dad keeps on telling me to fight for my marriage"

Me: "I'm sorry."

Someone cleared their throat. Nkule quickly moved off. She placed a tray with food on the table.

Yoli: "I didn't know you had a visitor. I'll bring you something to drink"

Nkule: "No thank you. I am leaving anyway" Yoli nodded and walked off.

Nkule: "I didn't know she moved in"

Me: "No. They visit"

Nkule: "They?"

Me: "Yes. Kylie and her"

Nkule: "Oh. I thought y'all are"

Me: "Are what?"

Nkule: "Together." I laughed.

Me: "You need to get that out of your mind"

Nkule: "The more you deny it is the more I see its true.
Why would you give her a car if you didn't love her"

Me: "We're not having this conversation again."

Nkule: "Can we go out for drinks later?"

Me: "I'm working"

Nkule: "Weekend? I really need a bit of fun before I kill myself"

Me: "Will let you know" she smiled and got up and said her goodbye and left.

Kylie came in with her food.

Me: "Where's Yoli?"

Kylie: "Cleaning up. She has that neat freak person going on" I chuckled.

Me: "I should get a nanny and a maid"

Kylie: "You're fetching the girls?"

Me: "Yeah, after their birthday though. I can't live with them on my own right now"

Kylie: "I see."

Yoli joined us. She sat on a chair. She didn't look like herself.

Me: "Do you like the new place?"

Yoli: "Yes. Its beautiful"

Kylie: "I will be visiting her every weekend. They have 4 bars in that complex"

Yoli: "And you will be going alone to drink"

Kylie: "Come on. That barman doesn't look like a player"

Me: "He's hitting on you?"

Yoli: "Yes. And Kylie thinks its funny" Me:

"Kylie" she giggled

Kylie: "What? She should live a little, be kissed from

head to toe, reach orgasms and-

Me: "Shut up"

Yoli excused herself. Kylie put the plate down.

Kylie: "Why did you snap? You're scaring the poorchild"

Me: "Why do you want her to date that monkey?"

Kylie: "I'm joking. Jesus" she narrowed her eyes at me.

"Tell me I'm seeing things"

Me: "I care for her. She has a bright future ahead and boyfriends are nothing but distraction"

Kylie: "You better because she's a child" Me:

"What do you take me for?"

Kylie: "One can never be too sure"

She picked her glass and walked to the kitchen.

A man can't be protective of a female without being suspected of having feelings these days. Its sad...

•••

[Bonga]

Time moves fast. We did not feel Sunday. I thought we had dodged the bullet of going to church but nope the van came here to pick us up.

Oh and yes I still have my nerd PA. I thought we'd have improved by now but no. Everyday feels like a new day. I packed my things and headed out.

Me: "I'm leaving now."

Nkazi: "Safe journey Sir. You have an early day tomorrow"

Me: "I will do my best by arriving early" she smiled and nodded.

I walked to the lift. It parted. Mtho and her mother got off. I greeted.

Me: "You come in on Mondays now?"

Mtho: "I wanna be absent tomorrow. Mom drove me here"

Lucia: "I wanted to see the place. Its really beautiful" Me: "Thank you"

Lucia: "Well. I will fetch you later baby"

Mtho: "No don't. I am going to dad's. Mam Khethelogot discharged"

Me: "You're a life saver. Mam Katlego told me to bring a gift"

Mtho: "I bought mine"

Me: "Lucky you. Let me go"

He whistled away. We got on the lift. I felt a bit of headache.

I saw Lucia and Bab Khule kissing on the parking lot. He got into his car and drove off. She stayed behind looking at the car while brushing her stomach with a genuine smile on her face.

"Mr Dube? Mr Dube can you hear me? Where's the paramedics?"

I slowly opened my eyes. I saw many faces staring at me. Lucia being one of them.

I cleared my throat and Sabelo helped me sit straight. Lucia:

"Oh my God you scared me"

Me: "I'm sorry" I attempted getting up but they

pinned me down. "I'm fine"

Lucia: "Are you sure?"

Me: "Yes!"

I got up and took my things and rushed out.

Why would God reveal that to me?...

•••

[Katlego]

It was getting really dark. Everything was in place. A received a text from Khule saying they are coming. He had to fool her and say there's fumigation going on here they can only come after 7.

Me: "Okay guys they are coming" it was just us the Dubes. Calvin couldn't make it but Lelo and the kids came.

Bonga seemed distant. I went to him. "Is everything okay?" He didn't hear me. He had his eyes locked on Lucia's direction. I shook him. He startled.

Bonga: "Ma?"

Me: "What's going on with you?"

Bonga: "Nothing. I'm just a bit sick"

Me: "You should go lie down"

Bonga: "I'll be fine my queen don't worry"

Me: "You better. I don't like seeing you like this" He gave me a weak smile.

I walked back to the ladies.

Khethiwe. My poor baby. I sat next to her. She was on Google searching for other ways of conceiving.

Me: "Don't do this to yourself"

Khethiwe: "I can't help it" she locked the phone.

Me: "The stress you're giving yourself might result to hardship on conceiving so please"

Khethiwe: "Look at him. He only greeted me and passed by. Its like I am not here"

Me: "Stop focusing on that. Enjoy this moment. The stress you've been giving yourself lately is unhealthy babe" she sighed and drank her healthy water.

I received another text saying they are outside the

gate.

Me: "Okay. Everybody on standby"

This family is increasing each day. There's many of us now. I went to Chris.

Me: "Is Q on?"

Chris: "He's not picking up"

Me: "Please keep trying"

Chris: "Yes ma'am" I looked at him. He chuckled. He says he usually says that when I'm being bossy. I'm not bossy.

The door opened.

"Surprise!!!" She laughed and hit Khule.

Khethelo: "You're one weird family. Did you perhaps forget to hide the cars?" We laughed.

Me: "After so much effort though"

Khethelo: "Well I am surprised by the deco not you being here"

Tyler: "Can we eat the cake now?" I don't know why

he's like this. We took turns on hugging Khethelo. Chris hovered the twins with the triplets. They kept wanting to touch the babies. I'm sure they thought they are toys.

We took out the gifts. Lucia excelled. She bought a twin stroller and a bag full of clothes.

Khethiwe went upstairs to nap. She's not the one to be stressed.

Mommy and daddy gave out a speech. Happiness written all over their faces.

Khule: "You're the best family anyone could ever ask for. Thank you so much bo Mbuyazi. Bonga and Mtho I'm proud of you both, I wasn't expecting such mature baby gifts" we laughed. "In conclusion.

Thank you Mrs Dube for giving me such beautiful children"

Khethelo: "My pleasure sthandwa sam" they kissed. We cheered.

This is what we call a happy life. We're left with Tyler and Khethiwe's matter to fix then we continue having a smooth year because I am starting on planning for

my wedding next Monday....

[2/26, 06:38] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Twenty Nine

•••

[Khethelo]

Nothing beats having a supportive husband and Angel kids. I slept like a baby, I expressed for them.

I woke up all alone. I made the bed and went to pee. I found them lying peacefully on the bed.

Me: "Morning little cats. Where's your daddy?"

How long does it take for a child to be able to speak anyway?

I kissed their little cheeks. If Ngiphile was awake she'd be opening her mouth right now ready to suckme. That's how much she loves food.

The door opened.

Khule: "I was hoping I'll find you in bed"

Me: "I couldn't sleep anymore. My body is now programmed into waking up at 7. That smells nice"

Khule: "Made with love by husband" he put it on the table.

Me: "Wuuh thank you husband."

Khule: "Your kids love milk. I discovered a new trick, while I feed the other one I use a cloth to support another one's bottle so they both get to eat" that's how most people do it but I won't burst his bubble.

Me: "Really? That's nice"

Khule: "Eat before Mam Dino comes and feed you porridge" we laughed.

Me: "Where is she anyway?"

Khule: "I hid the maize so she drove to the mall. She must be on her way back now" I laughed. This woman.

Me: "Her porridge isn't the ordinary one. Its flavoured. I like it"

Khule: "It really makes milk?"

Me: "Yes love."

Khule: "Oh that's great. We should buy more maize then"

He climbed on bed and lied next to the kids. Its really nice to see him this happy. The way he looks at them, he's sold.

Khule: "Can you believe they are ours?"

Me: "It feels unreal, doesn't it?"

Khule: "Thank you baby. I promise to try make time for you too okay?"

Me: "Hhaibo! I'm still your wife, I need your full attention"

He laughed.

Khule: "You'll definitely get it when we're not busy" Me: "I will just move downstairs"

Khule: "As long as you will leave some milk for us" I'm done. I chuckled and got up and headed to the bathroom.

Khule: "Oh I almost forgot. We're going to Centurion

to Tyler's office"

Me: "Ok. Are you guys going to talk to him? Khethiweis really suffering"

Khule: "Chris will cause the only thing that will happen if I talk to him is a hiding. I went to check on her last night, I found her crying. This should be their happy phase not this"

Me: "Calm down. Try to talk to him in an older brother manner"

Khule: "My older brother manner is a punch in a face"

Me: "Come here"

Khule: "Who's gonna watch the kids?" Oh God please kill me already.

Me: "You will peep your head in"

He peeped it in.

Khule: "Hmmm?"

Me: "You will not beat him up. You will find out his problem and you will address it as adults, no raising

of voices or hands"

Khule: "Yes ma'am"

Me: "Thank you. I love you" one of the twins meowed he rushed to them.

Khule: "We're out of milk!"

Me: "Go buy it"

Khule: "Khethelo"

Me: "My name is baby!"

Khule: "Baby we're out of milk"

Me: "That's more like it"

He showed his ugly sad face with Ngithandile on his arms. I laughed. I got out of the tub.

Khule: "Rinse the breasts"

Me: "I feel like you guys cow" I rinsed them and walked out.

I sat on the bed and took him. He pulled a chair and sat before me. The whole view was amusing for him. He was smiling from ear to ear. The sleep junkie was

even snoring.

I wish it could stay like this forever...

•••

[Chris]

I put Sisekelo down. I curse the day they started walking.

Me: "Please take your children"

Kat: "I told you not to wake them up" Me:

"I thought they were gonna be nice" Kat:

"Now you have to bath again"

Me: "No madam I will just wipe the paint off"

Kat: "Change the top too"

Me: "You should go to Khethelo. We're leaving in the next 30 minutes"

Kat: "Soon as I finish up cleaning we will go" Me:

"Okay"

I went upstairs to rinse the paint off my face and changed into clean clothes then went down. They

are always so well behaved with their mother.

If they were with me they'd be hitting each other with these snacks bowls with cheese curls all over the place.

Me: "Is Lulama still around?"

Kat: "Yes. You know business junkies she's around making deals"

Me: "And then there's you and Khethelo"

Kat: "We're mothers and Dube men provide and we have salons thank you"

Me: "Salons that you pay people to run for you"

Kat: "Yes. We are busy. And besides, Luh has noman and her child is 10 and in boarding school"

Me: "All I'm trying to say is hire nannies and maids and go be whatever you want before you blame being married to us in future shall anything go wrong"

Kat: "I see you're trying to fish out my ideas. Bye my animal" she reached for a kiss. "Send my love to Tyler" she gave me a bag. "Just in case y'all get

hungry"

Me: "We're such lucky men"

Kat: "You better not forget"

I turned to say bye to the triplets but they were fast asleep on top of each other.

Me: "Ai bye mommy. I love you"

Kat: "I love you more"

I headed out...

•••

[Jason]

I received a text from the mother of my child reminding me about our Drs appointment.

Our son is 2 weeks old now. He isn't really well so in that case we consistently see the Dr to make sure he's okay.

I bathed and drove to her place where she stays with her mother. I found them ready.

I carried the bag to the car. She buckled him up then

we got in.

Me: "So, how are you guys?"

Bianca: "We are good. His temperature is still normal its just throwing up"

Me: "Maybe this is deeper than what meets the eye"

Bianca: "Please don't start"

Me: "I am going to call my dad to come home and have my son properly introduced to our Ancestors end of story"

Bianca: "I will not have my child put in a smoke of that herb"

Me: "Our child!"

Bianca: "That goes against my belief. I do not believe on dead people. Siyanda will be healed through western methods and God not ancestors"

I just looked ahead the road. This topic never takes us anywhere.

We arrived at the Dr. I took him. He looked weak. I should call my dad as soon as possible. The queue

was a bit longer.

Bianca: "Can you please get me my inhaler in the car?"

Me: "Why isn't on your bag?"

Bianca: "My bag is in the car. I feel sick"

I got up and walked out.

I unlocked the doors. A black jeep parked next to me. I took out the inhaler and closed the door. I stepped on someone when I turned.

Me: "I'm sorr- why don't you watch where you're going?"
He looked at me up and down and shook his head then walked over to the passenger door. He opened and Emi stepped out. I felt my palms get sweaty. I walked back inside as quickly as I could. I gave Bianca her inhaler.

Bianca: "Are you okay?"

Me: "Yes"

I became anxious. I gave the baby to Bianca.

Me: "I want to buy coffee. I'll be back" she nodded.

I asked the security guy where did they go and went that direction. I spotted her going to the Ladies.

I walked as fast as I could before anyone can notice. I got in and leaned on the wall.

She came out and went to rinse her hands. She startled when she noticed on the mirror that I'm standing behind her.

Emi: "Not today Jason"

Me: "Why not?"

Emi: "I am going to scream"

Me: "Scream"

Emi: "What do you want?"

Me: "I want you. I want to feel your lips against mine, I want to feel the warmth of your body against mine" I placed my left hand on her stomach and the right one on her hip. Her scent hit my nostrils I felt my whole body tingle. She did not move. I nibbled her ear. Tears ran down her cheeks "I can't get myself together over you Emi. My heart still mentions you everyday. My body still yearns for you. I love you.

Please forgive me now or else I will kill him, how will you ever forgive yourself knowing he died because of you? I can't stand the thought of you kissing him, letting him into my castle, screaming his name...it drives me nuts. If you knew you were gonna leave me someday you shouldn't have let me taste you, you shouldn't have ever loved me. Think about this. You have 7 days. Next Wednesday I will come to collect my answer."

I kissed her cheek and walked out...

•••

[Emi]

My whole body trembled. The tears flew uncontrollably. My heart beat harder. I couldn't move.

"Hello? Are you okay?" All I managed to do was shake my head. She took my hand and pulled me out. She took me to her car and gave me water. I drank it down and calmed down a bit.

Her: "Can I call someone for you?"

Me: "Yes my boss." I looked for Brad's number and

gave them to the lady.

Her: "He's not picking up" I remembered he's in a meeting.

Me: "He's inside that building in a meeting. I will just take an uber back to work"

Her: "I will take you"

Me: "There's no need"

Her: "I insist"

She closed the door and walked to the driver's seat.

Maybe I shouldn't have insisted on coming here with him.

'Jason is harassing me. He's threatening to kill Khanif I don't take him back'

I sent to Khule. I don't care if they bury him alive or feed him to the lions as long as he will never disturb my peace...

•••

[Bonga]

She got in looking as beautiful as always. She gave me a hug and kisses all over my face.

Happy: "We're going shopping, movie and a romantic night at a hotel"

Me: "I'm not in a mood for people"

Happy: "I will book the whole mall then"

Me: "Don't be ridiculous"

Happy: "I really can't stand this grumpy boyfriend." She shut down the laptop and pulled me up.

Me: "Happiness"

Happy: "I don't wanna hear it"

She took my phone and pulled me all the way out.

Happy: "Nkazi. Please cancel all his meeting for the day"

Nkazi: "He doesn't have any ma'am"

Happy: "Thank you babes. Even better"

...

The road took us to Pretoria Menlyn mall. By the

time we finished shopping I was feeling a whole lot better.

Me: "I don't think we need a movie"

Happy: "You think?"

Me: "Yes. Let's go eat I'm hungry" Happy:

"Restaurant of your choice then" Me: "Ok

then"

Happy: "Not Nandos please" we laughed. What is wrong with Nandos?

We settled for the first one we came across. We ate over a silly conversation. We're graduating in 2 weeks.

My phone rang.

Me: "Baba"

Bab Khule: "Drive to Pretoria after work. We have a problem"

Me: "Is everything okay?"

Bab Khule: "No. Just drive here"

He hung up.

Me: "Uhm babe, that was baba he says I must come to daddy Ts place after work"

Happy: "Is everything okay?"

Me: "I don't know"

Happy: "Go then. I'll take an uber to the hotel"

Me: "Will you be okay?"

Happy: "Yes. Go"

I got up and kissed her then rushed out.

I got to the parking lot. I got in the car. I realized the car parked before me is Daddy T's. I saw him walking towards it with a woman holding hands. He tossed the plastics on car beside his.

He hugged the lady and they kissed and then he brushed and kissed her stomach. They looked very happy. He got in his car and drove off. The lady placed her left hand on her tummy and brushed it smiling.

I felt a light headache and failed to move my feet...

[2/26, 06:38] Zozaness: Chapter Thirty

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[KHULE]

He walked in followed by Bonga.

Chris: "The fact that you don't see anything wrong with this makes me mad"

Tyler: "So you want me to beat myself up until I die?"

Bonga: "What is going on?"

Me: "He got someone else pregnant"

Bonga: "Oh"

Chris: "You knew?"

Bonga: "I had a vision yesterday but it showed Bab Khule and Mtho's mother. I guess it was a sign because the same exact thing they showed I saw it today at the parking lot"

Tyler: "Can you all stop judging me?"

Bonga: "Why? Why would you do that to her?"

Tyler: "It just happened okay? What could I have

done? Tell her to abort it? No"

Chris: "So you decided you gonna be cold to Khethiwe, tell me this, was she pregnant when we went to pay amalobolo?"

Tyler: "Yes but we didn't know"

Me: "Why would you cheat?"

Tyler: "I was clearing my head"

Chris: " You clear your head with a vagina? Unprotected? Why did you go ahead with the negotiations?"

Tyler: "Because I love Khethiwe!"

Me: "Are you hearing yourself? Do you know how shuttered she's gonna be when this comes out?"

Tyler: "She'll heal"

Bonga: "Happy is waiting for me at the mall. I will see you guys at home"

Me: "Yeah I'm also leaving. Because the more I see your face is the more I wanna hit your head against this wall"

I took my car keys and followed Bonga out.

Tyler: "Before you go. I need you to represent me. I wanna take her as my second wife"

Me: "Count me out"

Tyler: "Why are you guys acting so righteous? What happened to brotherhood?"

Chris: "Brotherhood does not favor bullshit"

We got in the cars and drove off. I can't believe him right now. We've all had our crazy moments but none of us has gone this far to hurt the woman we claim to love. I am disappointed in him.

•••

[Tyler]

The following morning. I woke up and walked my dogs. I don't know why would they judge me. I can't have my first child born out of wedlock.

Arriving back home I found missed calls from Khethiwe. I called her back.

Khethiwe: "Hi"

Me: "Hey, how are you?"

Khethiwe: "I'm good. Were you out for a jog?"

Me: "Was walking the dogs. Gone to work?"

Khethiwe: "No I will be working from home. Its thattime of the month"

Me: "Oh ok. I will have goodies delivered for you"

Khethiwe: "I'd love that." We went quiet. "I wish you could just let me know what is going on with you"

Me: "Nothing is going on with me"

Khethiwe: "I know you and you haven't been the Tyler I know"

Me: "It must've been the stress about the office"

Khethiwe: "Is there someone else?"

Me: "Where? Where does that come from?" Khethiwe:

"In your life. When last did you touch me?"

Me: "I've been stressed about the office Khethiwe there is no one else."

Khethiwe: "If you say so then. Let me finish up here"

Me: "Okay. I will call you later"

Khethiwe: "Bye"

She hung up. I put the phone down, the pain in her voice when she asked if there's someone else. It rang again. It was Jessica.

Me: "Babe"

Jessica: "Hi love. Its almost 8am and there's no sign of you"

Me: "I decided that I will fetch you and spend the night"

Jessica: "Really?"

Me: "Yeah. I'll fetch you when I knock off"

Jessica: "Okay bye daddy"

Me: "Bye mommy. I love you"

Jessica: "We love you more"

I hung up. I logged on the Pandora website and searched for rings in stock...

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[Emi]

My day got ruined the moment I opened my eyes and realized there's a curse called Jason Nzima. What's up with men who always feel entitled? This is a very scary generation to date.

Brad: "You're awake. Finally. I was searching for places we could visit and we have 3 options: Mpumalanga, Mauritius and Cape Town."

Me: "It's during the week babe. We have to go to work"

Brad: "You're not going to work until I've taken care of this matter. I think we're too familiar with Cape Town though. What other place can we go to?"

Me: "Anywhere is fun. As long as I will be with you"

Brad: "I love you okay? And I will make sure you get your happily ever after"

Me: "I love you more"

We briefly kissed. My phone rang.

Me: "It's Khule."

Brad: "I'll go make us breakfast" I

answered.

Me: "Bhuti"

Khule: "Are you okay?"

Me: "Yes I am now"

Khule: "I will fix this okay?"

Me: "Yes" tears automatically streamed down.

Khule: "Baby? I will fix it I promise. Who are you with there?"

Me: "Brad"

Khule: "Ok. I will pass by later and take you homewith me"

Me: "Okay"

Khule: "I love you monkey and I will make sure this asshole never ever looks your direction again"

Me: "I love you more"

He hung up. I wish he run him over with a car. My phone beeped.

'You have 6 days remaining' I felt anger other than being scared. I need a gun. Maybe I should sort him out myself...

•••

[Khethelo]

We're really housewives and we're unbothered. We were on video call with Lelo and Kat.

Kat: "You guys make me miss breastfeeding" Lelo:

"Get pregnant"

Kat: "I'd rather die"

We laughed.

Me: "I miss being pregnant. Looking after these people is too much for me"

Kat: "Those babies are Angels"

Me: "No. Ngiphile wants to stay sucking my poor boobie"

Lelo: "You should buy her a pacifier"

Me: "Mam Dino threw them away. She said I will not

feed them the breast anymore" they laughed.

Kat: "Lo gogo mara. You will get skinny phela if she stays sucking you"

Me: "I will secretly feed her the pacifier"

Lelo: "Don't get caught" Khule walked in with grocery bags.

Me: "Will talk later ladies the hubby is back"

Them: "Bye"

The little Barbie was already asleep. I placed her on her rocky and went to daddy.

Me: "You're such a crook. Why did you steal my card?" He kissed me.

Khule: "Mine are freezed. We're in trouble with SARS"

Me: "You haven't been paying tax?"

Khule: "Yes. The salon isn't paying" ohhhh. It is registered under them.

Me: "That's bad. I thought Tyler legalized everything"

Khule: "Well he forgot about that. But our lawyers are on it"

Me: "I'm sorry"

He left me standing there and went to kiss his babies.

Me: "So, did he say what his problem is?"

Khule: "That boy is out of his mind"

Me: "What's up?"

Khule: "He wants to take a second wife"

Me: "What? What second wife? He doesn't have even a first one"

Khule: "He has all that covered by the look of things."

Me: "Is he considering Khethi's feelings? I never thought of him to be this selfish"

Khule: "Neither of us. The girl is pregnant. He said Khethi will get over it" selfish bastard.

Me: "So he went outside and made a baby. Is this how y'all mother raised you? That you go and seek

for bitches outside for a baby if your wife can't give you one?"

Khule: "Don't start"

Me: "Don't start what? You also wanted a surrogate"

Khule: "Its not the same. He cheated on her"

Me: "Its the same to me. You also wanted a child out of our relationship. I really can't believe Tyler, a baby and a wife? Khethiwe will be broken my God I can already feel her pain"

Khule: "Please don't tell her. Tyler will handle that himself"

Me: "That's if he has balls to do it"

I took out the potatoes. I have never wanted to stab someone so bad. How could he do this to Khethiwe? After all she sacrificed to be with him? Men are ungrateful creatures.

"Dumelang" I brought my eyes up. Oh poor thing.

Khule: "MaDladla. How are you?"

Khethiwe: "I'm good. How is you all"

Me: "We're good love"

Khethiwe: "They are growing too fast."

Me: "They must. I am already tired of breastfeeding them"

Khule: "You're a bad mom. I will be outside if you need me"

Me: "Okay"

He walked out. Khethiwe came and helped me chop the veggies.

Me: "You didn't go to work today?"

Khethiwe: "No. Period pains make me grumpy so I prefer being grumpy around you all" we laughed.

Me: "How are you though?"

Khethiwe: "Surviving."

Me: "Things between Tyler and you?"

Khethiwe: "Still the same but this too shall pass" Me:
"It will baby, it will"

She smiled and we focused on peeling and chopping.

Mam Dino is creating a garden for us so I get to be our chef today...

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[Katlego]

I got a surprise visit from my mother. Our relationship isn't normal but we're trying with everything we could for it to work.

I invited Luh to come over after her meeting. Chris left with his children to only God knows where.

I made us juice and biscuits. We were sitting at the patio.

Mom: "So. Are you gonna hire a wedding planner?"

Me: "Yes. I would've done it with my sister wives but they are all busy"

Mom: "Okay. There's a friend of mine from France. He's best at it"

Me: "We hire local"

Mom: "We'll hire both. I just want to make it up to you. I want this to be the best wedding"

Me: "Without paparazzi right?" She chuckled. Mom:

"Definitely. It will be intimate as you wish"

I received a text from Luh that she's outside. I opened up for her.

Mom: "Did you keep those earrings you wore that time?"

Me: "Yes and I will not wear them"

Mom: "Ok"

"Girl this house is-" we turned to her direction.

Luh: "What is this?"

Me: "Sit down"

Luh: "I won't be long"

She sat down.

Me: "Can you guys compromise? For my sake atleast"

Mom: "Not when she doesn't want to hear a word I say"

Luh: "That's because everything that comes out of

that mouth is lies, all you do is lie"

Me: "What if she's not. Sis please"

Luh: "Katlego I am sorry but I really can't get over what your mother did to me"

Mom: "I don't know how many times you want me to apologize. It happened, I can't undo it. I take all the responsibility, I admit I messed up your lives but now I have changed I want to be that mother you never had, I want my grandsons to grow up with me around"

Luh: "My son is already grown. He's 10, 10 mama! In that 10 years you never even once tried to find me"

Mom: "You didn't wanna be found. I knew where you were, that company you have shares on, I pulled some strings for you to get them. I knew one day you were gonna come back home. I understood the anger and hurt you had that is why I never bothered you. I know all about your secret meetings with your father. Now stop being too hard, deep down you know I also had no choice but to marry you off. Even if you will act like you don't see me its Okay, just be

present for your sister's wedding planning"

Luh: "That sounds better. So, have you found a wedding planner?"

She's something else...

•••

[Khethiwe]

The whole time at Khethelo's place I felt like I was suffocating. I left around 2pm.

I couldn't get what I heard out of my head. I passed by the shopping center and bought 24 pack of Savannah. Only alcohol will make me feel better.

I threw myself a pity party. I can't believe this. How did I get here?

I called an uber to take me to centurion. I couldn't cry. Somehow my body was numb.

It dropped me off at the gate. I opened and went in. It was getting dark. The door wasn't unlocked. There were people. Two ladies. There were roses all over the floor, candle light dinner. It looked beautiful.

Me: "Hello. Is Tyler here?"

Lady1: "No"

I went to the fridge to get some ice and then went upstairs.

I found the ladies already gone when I got back. I sat down on the floor. This is supposed to be very romantic. He must be really in love with her.

I took the wine out of the bucket and opened it. I realized it's personalized with their picture at the beach. Mmmh nice.

I gulped down the first glass. I heard little giggles.

'You gonna love it I promise' he said. My blood started boiling.

They both startled when they saw me occupying their table.

Me: "Welcome. I hope you don't mind I opened your special wine. There isn't any in this house so I happened to be thirsty"

Tyler: "Khethiwe"

Me: "That's my name babe" Tyler:

"What are you doing here?"

Me: "This is my home too remember?" I got up and walked towards them. She hid behind him, he shielded her, how sweet. I chuckled.

Me: "Hi doll. My name is Khethiwe. Were you going to propose tonight or it was gender reveal day? Congratulations by the way"

Tyler: "Can you go wait for me in the car?" She didn't even nod, she rushed out.

He pulled me to the kitchen soon as she vanished.

Tyler: "Why are you acting crazy?" I slapped the fucking hoeness out of him.

Me: "I'm not acting you little bitch. I'm really crazy"

Tyler: "Khethiwe" he said hardening his stupid face. I chuckled.

Me: "Why? Why are you bullshiting me? What did you say in the morning when I asked you? I had to find out through your family members, all they would've been watching is a stupid me going up and down Drs

trying to give you a fucking child whilst you're getting married and having a child on the side! God thank you Tyler for being such a supportive and loving partner!" I pushed him off and went back to the lounge. I ripped everything apart. He appeared. I threw the bottle of wine at him followed by glasses. I was now wet with tears. He was bleeding on his forehead.

Me: "If you dare get anywhere closer to me I will shoot you dead you whoreman. That bitch outside will be a widow"

Tyler: "Babe please calm down. Let me explain"

Me: "Shut up! Just shut up! While we were mourning the death of our child you went to seek comfort from someone else's vagina, without a condom. Did you think of me when you did it. Now you're playing happy family with her while I am suffering, thinking you're still finding it hard to deal with the loss of our baby. Why didn't you tell me you're no longer in love with me? Why didn't you man up and end things?"

Tyler: "I love-" I laughed.

Me: "You're a very funny guy. I wanna hear you sayit"

Tyler: "I love you"

Me: "I want you out of this house"

Tyler: "and where am I gonna stay?"

Me: "Doesn't your bitch have a house? Were you gonna sleep with her in my bed? Do you always bringher to sleep here when I'm not around?"

Tyler: "Would you please calm down?"

Me: "I asked a question"

Tyler: "No"

Me: "Okay bye"

Tyler: "I-"

Me: "I said Bye. You can come fetch your clothes tomorrow morning. I wish y'all collide with a truckand you all die"

Tyler: "I'm sorry"

Me: "Fuck off"

I ran up the stairs. I tried catching my breath but I failed. I sobbed until I made it to our bedroom. I took his gun out of the safe and shot our picture down.

My whole body pained.

It doesn't matter how much I cry honestly. She's given him what I can't. All I have to do is pack my bags and leave them in peace.

But how? I love him...

[2/26, 06:39] Zoaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Thirty One

•••

[Khethiwe]

I woke up to my head pounding. Ouch!

I slept on the floor. I tried getting up balancing with the bed.

I sat on it for a while. The mess on the floor. I walked to the bathroom. I sat on the toilet seat for minutes before I peed.

The first thing I saw when I got up is my reflection on the mirror. I looked horrible. I washed my face. I can't go to work looking like this.

I walked out. I left my phone in my car last night.

I need to get a cleaning company because I don't have time for this mess.

I even left it unlocked. I opened and got in. I found tons of missed calls from him and messages. A few from Khethelo and Chris.

I ordered pizza and called the cleaning company.

I don't know how am I feeling today. I'm emotionless. I texted Khethelo that I'm good.

She called. I really don't feel like talking. I waited for it to stop ringing and texted her that I will call her later.

My pizza arrived draw with the cleaning people. I told them to go in and work their magic.

I stuffed myself up with pizza and juice.

I ended up falling asleep. I heard a knock on the

window. I half opened my eyes, they were so painful and the sun penetrating them didn't make it any easier.

I rolled the window down.

Man: "We're done sisi"

Me: "Really? That was quick. I forgot to forward your details to my pa. I will process the payment right now"

Man: "We already received payment thank you"

Me: "From where?"

Man: "We automatically do when we clean thr Dube houses" oh?

Me: "Oh ok thank you then"

Man: "You can go in now"

Me: "Thanks"

I took my pizza and got off.

They bid me good Bye. I went inside. It looked refreshing.

I went to the kitchen. I poured myself water.

"You know I had to dig it out of Khule what that dog brother of his was saying last night on the call. I wanna burn everything that has to do with his lousyass"

She pulled me and hugged me for dear life. I wish I had tears to cry right now.

Katlego followed.

Katlego: "I want that bitch kicking and screaming I want to drown her in boiling water"

Khethelo: "No. She deserves a knife on that vagina, along with that stupid Tyler" I found myself laughing.

She let go of me.

Me: "I'm sorry. You guys are just hilarious."

Katlego: "I am so mad. Where is he?"

Me: "He left with her. You should've seen the setting I found here. Roses all over the floor, a bottle of wine with their picture. He was going to propose I think"

Them: "What?"

Me: "Yes. He had no shame nor remorse whatsoever." I chuckled.

Kat: "You should kick him out"

Me: "Already did"

Khethelo: "You did well. In fact take those 2 cars herecently bought"

We joined accounts after amalobolo so everythingnew he bought it with the joined accounts.

Me: "I don't know how to feel"

The door swung open. This bitch is familiar with thishouse. How the hell did she know there's a door there?

I chuckled and took a bucket of ice cream out of thefridge.

Her: "Greetings"

Khethelo: "Hello"

Her: "Have you packed his bags?"

Kat: "Who are you?"

Her: "Khethiwe have you packed his clothes or should I go pack them myself?" I swear to God if she wasn't pregnant I would be on top of her roughing up that ugly face.

Khethelo: "Khethiwe who's this?"

Me: "Your sister wife. And no baby girl I haven't because he's gonna fetch them himself."

Her: "Bitch plea-"

Katlego was already on top of her. Slapping her continuously.

We rushed to them and got her off.

Katlego: "Let go of me!"

Me: "Calm down" Tyler came in. He rushed to his boo on the floor. She was crying like a little cat.

Tyler: "What the hell is going on?"

Katlego: "Let go of me. I need to talk to this couple" we held her as tight as we could.

Tyler: "Go wait in the car. Can I please speak to Khethiwe?"

Khethelo: "No. You want to kill her? No we're not going anywhere"

Tyler: "She's my wife. I would never do that" Katlego sarcastically laughed.

Kat: "Is it? If you could dip your penis into someone else's vagina then I'm sorry to break it to you. You're very capable of killing her"

Tyler: "This is none of your business" Kat:

"Fuck you msoon we bari"

Me: "Can you guys please stop? What do you wanna say"

Tyler: "Can we speak upstairs?"

Khethelo looked at me.

Me: "I'll be fine"

Khethelo: "Scream as loud as you can if he tries anything"

I let go of Kat and led the way up.

I sat on the bed. He got in too. He closed the door and leaned on it with his head tilted.

Tyler: "I'm sorry babe. I know it doesn't make anything right but I am truly sorry Mgabadeli. I meant for none of this to happen. This is probably the worst mistake of my life."

I lied on my back. And we stayed silent for a while.

Me: "Why would you disrespect me like that? Why would you bring her here? Is that how little I mean to you?"

Tyler: "I swear I didn't know she was coming here. When I went to her place I didn't find her I called and she said she's coming here. I really didn't know"

Me: "That means you gave her the power to come here and disrespect me. Tell me, were you gonna marry her behind my back?"

Tyler: "No"

Me: "You don't care about me and it hurts"

Tyler: "I do."

Me: "Then why were you going ahead with having a second wife without asking me how I feel about it. You know if you sat me down and spit it all out. It

would've been better. It wouldn't hurt this much, I wouldn't be so broken. The fact that I love you so much is what is killing me. Not to mention that she's carrying your child. I feel useless, I feel like I am not worthy your love because I can't give you any children. I don't know how to live after this."

Tyler: "Please don't leave me"

Me: "Why? Why should I stay?"

Tyler: "Because I love you and I'm willing to make this right"

Me: "Are you going to unimpregnate her?" His eyes dropped. "I thought as much. This will be the wound that will never heal."

I got up and walked to the closet. I heard a knock. "Are you still okay in there baby?"

Me: "Yes I am. I'm coming"

Tyler: "Where am I going to stay?"

Me: "With the mother of your child. I don't want to stand in your way of happiness"

Tyler: "This is my home"

Me: "So what's it gonna be? There are days you will not sleep here? And I get to witness?"

Tyler: "You don't even live here"

Me: "Well I am now." I packed his clothes. "Do you love her?"

Tyler: "No"

Me: "You are going to marry someone you don't love?"

Tyler: "I'm doing this for my child!"

Me: "Don't you dare raise your voice at me"

Tyler: "Yes I am wrong but you're being irrational. If you were in the position I'm pretty sure you would've done the same thing"

Me: "What? Cheat?"

Tyler: "No. Do what is best for the child"

Me: "You're wrong. I wouldn't. You know why? Because I will never know how to have my own child. Just take this suitcase and leave"

Tyler: "I'm not leaving."

He opened the door and walked out.

I heard commotion. I sat on the bed opposite the mirror.

How did we get here? We were in love just weeks ago. I hate my life...

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[Bonga]

I found Bab Khule alone.

Me: "Where's mama?"

Baba: "They went to Khethiwe. She overheard us talk about Tyler taking a second wife"

Me: "I came to consult the elders. We need a solution to this"

Baba: "The solution is beating Tyler up" I laughed. "I'm serious"

He took his phone out of the pocket. He sighed. Me:

"Is everything okay?"

Baba: "Katlego beat the woman up and she's laid charges against her"

Me: "She's arrested?"

Me: "Yes"

Me: "She's already bringing us problems. Let me go talk to these people"

Baba: "I will be driving to the station they're at." Me:

"The kids?"

Baba: "They are with mam Dino and mma mokgothoat Chris's"

Me: "Ok."

I went to the ancestral room at the back.

I hardly come here. I swept and put on my wrapper. I

burnt incense.

Me: "Gogo. I know you told me to be on my own but I need you right now. I call upon all the Dube ancestors, your child needs guidance. You said that MaDladla was the woman for bab Tyler, none of you mentioned him having a second wife. MaDladla has

found out about it and like any woman who can not accept deceit, she will leave. The woman baba is marrying is pregnant."

I felt the headache and then I saw gogo.

Gogo: "Make sure MaDladla does not leave. Tell her we will never give her anything beyond her capability. Tell her to stand her ground, its part of being a wife.

Tyler will have to marry that girl, she's carrying our precious cargo."

Me: "He has to marry her first?"

Gogo: "I don't know. He'll decide. Whatever his decision is, don't let MaDladla leave. Always remindher there's light at the end of the tunnel"

Me: "So if-"

"Bonga! Bonga" gogo disappeared. I saw Mtho kneeling before me.

Me: "You just disturbed me"

Mtho: "Ow. I'm sorry I thought you were having a bad dream. I'm sorry"

Me: "Its okay. Don't you have classes today?"

Mtho: "I had one and I'm back."

Me: "Ok"

Mtho: "Wena? Aren't you supposed to be at work?" I got up and hung my wrapper back.

Me: "I'm heading there now. I came to talk to gogo"

Mtho: "How does this thing work?"

Me: "Its a secret. Let's go"

We walked out. Where am I gonna get strength totell mam Khethiwe to stay?

•••

[Khule]

I haven't been here in a while. Charles has always been good to this house. You'd swear he lives here full time. I parked and lit some cigarette.

His van drove in. That was quick.

I got out of the car. I walked towards the van. He stepped out of it.

Charles: "Grootman"

Me: "Charles. That was quick"

Charles: "Its really easy to capture queens" Me:

"Take them inside"

He opened and told the lady to go inside the house. I

called Jason just as they went in.

Jason: "Nzima"

Me: "Didn't you have toys when you grew up?"

Jason: "Who's this?"

Me: "Look. Your baby mama and your son are here. I heard he can't live without his constant medication. I will keep them here with me until you go and apologise to my sister and go to the mental institution and tell them you're crazy and you need help. If I haven't got the report that you're at the hospital under their care I will stop giving your son his medication"

Jason: "My child has nothing to do with this. Let them go and I will apologize to Emi and leave her alone I promise"

Me: "Just do what I just told you."

I hung up. I went inside. I called Charles on the side.

Me: "Tighten the security. If this moron comes hereto attack, don't hesitate to shoot the bitch"

Charles: "Noted"

Me: "I'm leaving now"

walked off...

•••

[Narrated]

Bonga parked outside Tyler and Khethiwe's house. It was already dark. He was chatting with Happy. He had no courage to go in. He was scared of how Khethiwe might take this.

He kept taking deep breaths. He even prayed.

He stayed in the car for a good 40 minutes then he finally drove up to the gate and spoke on the intercom.

The gate slid open. He drove on and parked then got out. He headed in. He found Khethiwe at the kitchen

cooking.

Khethiwe: "What a nice visit. Thanks to Tyler for breaking my heart" they laughed and hugged.

Bonga: "How are you though?"

Khethiwe: "I'm surviving. Wena?"

Bonga: "I'm good. Is he here?"

Khethiwe: "Nope. I'm alone"

Bonga: "Good. What are you making?"

Khethiwe: "Dumpling and mutton"

Bonga: "I will eat supper here. Happy will eat herrabbit food alone today" she laughed.

Khethiwe: "You gonna drive back to Jo'burg?"

Bonga: "No. We're at the hotel 20 minutes away from here"

Khethiwe: "Why didn't you bring her along?"

Bonga: "I can call her to come"

Khethiwe: "Go ahead"

He called her. They spoke for minutes before he

hung up.

Bonga: "She's coming."

Khethiwe: "Lovely"

Bonga: "So, are you gonna leave him?"

She pressed her lips together and looked down.

Khethiwe: "I don't know. I love him but I don't know if I can stand this"

Bonga: "Stay"

She frowned. "Gogo promised a good outcome. A lot is going to happen, most of it will be unbearable but please stay strong and don't leave. Stay in this house full time"

Khethiwe: "I can't Bonga. It's too much"

Bonga: "This is your house, you're the chosen one for him. You love him right?" She nodded tearfully. "Then stay. MaNgcobo would never mislead you. She has her own reason why she wants you to stay"

Khethiwe: "I'm gonna have to think about it. It's not easy"

Bonga: "I know. Take all the time you need" She smiled at him and stirred her stew.

Bonga sighed in relief...

•••

[Quinton]

The buzzer buzzed like crazy. I took the tab and viewed the gate camera. I opened the gate for her. I was already in bed.

I got out and went downstairs. We met at the lounge. She unbuttoned her coat.

Me: "What is going on?"

Nkule: "I Want you to make love to me"

Me: "What?" She dropped the coat downm "What are you doing?" I took the fleece and covered her.

Nkule: "Please"

Me: "What going on with you?"

Nkule: "He didn't do it like you. No one has ever done me like you did, I couldn't anymore. I am sorry I

turned your love down, I thought what i felt for you will go away but it didn't. I am insanely inlove with you Quinton. I miss you, I miss your touch, your kissand how you felt inside me. Please give me that.
Please give us another chance"

Me: "Get dressed and leave. You can't run here to fight with your demons. You're going through a lot I understand but running to another man's bed is notit"

Nkule: "Don't you love me anymore?"

Me: "I do. As a friend though. What I felt for you died a while ago and right now this isn't you speaking butjust a broken heart"

Nkule: "Its me. I mean it"

Me: "Come. You will use the guestroom. We will talkin the morning"

I picked her coat up and we went up.

I showed her to her room and went to mine.

This is what we call being tested by Satan...

[2/26, 06:39] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Thirty Two

•••

[Tyler]

I got up and walked to the door to open for her. She followed me in.

Jessica: "You don't look happy to see me" Me:

"I am"

I took out ice and put it in the glass.

Jessica: "I called you the whole night last night. Why weren't you picking up?"

Me: "Because I was thinking. A man needs some thinking to do once in a while and I don't appreciate you coming here unannounced. What if you had found Khethiwe here?"

Jessica: "I would've told her to you for me" Me:

"Jessica"

Jessica: "She will never forgive you for this. Wena

just focus on us and stop day dreaming about Khethiwe ever coming here."

She headed to the bedroom. "Your phone is ringing!" I went there too. I took it.

Me: "Hey"

Bonga: "Have you seen Mam Khethiwe or even tried getting hold of her?"

Me: "No. Is everything okay?"

Bonga: "No. Her belongings are all gone and there's a letter here for you and for the rest of the family"

Me: "Where are you?"

Bonga: "At your place"

Me: "I'm coming"

I hung up and looked for something to wear.

Jessica: "What is going on?"

Me: "Khethiwe left"

Jessica: "So?"

Me: "Not now please"

Jessica: "Not now what?"

Me: "What is wrong with you? I don't like how you've been acting lately."

Jessica: "That's because you're driving me crazy. Why are you helping that woman out?"

Me: "She's not that woman she's my family and family helps each other"

Jessica: "She assaulted me for Christ's sake! I'm pregnant, that could've led to miscarriage, do you not care about that?"

Me: "Maybe if you had not go be there and disrespected them. None of it would've happened"

I walked out and slammed the door. Fuck!

•••

[Bonga]

Bab Khule, Mam Khethelo and Bab Chris arrived.

Mam Khethelo made breakfast for us.

Bab Chris: "Where are the letters?"

Me: "On the left shelf" he took them out and opened

the one meant for "Family" Bab

Chris: "Tyler messed up" Bab

Khule: "What does it say?"

Bab Chris: "Thank you for being the best family I've ever had." Bab Khule sighed.

Bab Tyler walked in. He greeted. Bab Khule attempted going at him but we stopped him.

Bab Chris: "Are you happy now?" His face dropped. "I'm asking a question! Are you happy?"

Mam Khethelo: "Please calm down gentlemen"

Bab Khule: "Do you know how much trouble is this going to put us in? Why are you so stupid?"

Bab Tyler: "I did not tell her to leave"

Bab Chris: "You're more stupid than I thought. You did tell her to leave. Just in actions."

Bab Khule: "Do not rest until you find her. Because if you don't I will make sure when Mantuli comes looking for her granddaughter she finds you and you face the chief because her being alone in that state

of mind. Anything could happen and you will be responsible for it"

He took Mam Khethelo's hand and they walked out.

Tyler: "Please wait for 10. They are releasing Katlego" I gave him the letter.

He said thanks and walked out.

have a bad feeling about this...

•••

[Khethelo]

From Pretoria I breastfed my little cats and fell asleep.

This family's drama is really draining. We have like 3days to start preparing for the wedding but how?

When these men are focusing on something they stay on it until they find a solution. Chris won't be able to be part of the preparations when he's like this.Its even hard to sleep. I shouldn't be awake but I am.

I realized the babies aren't here. I jumped out of bed.The door opened as I walked towards it.

Khule: "Hey love"

Me: "Hey. Have you seen the kids?"

Khule: "Yes. You my lady should worry not as I your husband has something in store for you" I smiled.

Me: "What is it?"

Khule: "May I please take your hand?" I hesitantly nod.

He took it and led me out, all the way down the hallway. I hardly visit this part of the house.

He opened the door. I looked at two females standing with big smiles on their faces then back at him.

Khule: "Since you can't go to a spa. I brought the Spato you"

Me: "You're something else you know that?"

Khule: "I'm not something else, I am your husband. Ladies please do your magic. Babe, I will be downstairs fixing yet another surprise. I love you" he kissed me.

Me: "I love you. Please don't burn my kitchen down"Khule:

"The alarms are always on standby"

Me: "Khulekani"He

laughed.

Khule: "I'm kidding. I'll see you later"He

walked out.

Lady1: "We'll begin with body massage"

Me: "Thank you"

Lady2: "Please change we'll wait outside"Me:

"There's no need"

I stripped naked. They passed me a towel. I wrapped it around and climbed on the bed.

Lady1: "You're a very lucky lady. We don't do this"

Lady2: "Ever. You're lucky to have him"

Me: "I guess so"

Lady1: "Does he have any siblings?" We laughed.Me:

"Yes but unfortunately they are very taken"

Them: "Too bad"

I got into my relax mode as they ran their soft magical hands on me. I am indeed lucky.

The door opened. I lifted my head up.

Khule: "Q wants to speak to you" he handed me the phone.

Me: "Hello"

Q: "Mama Dube. How are you?"

Me: "I'm good how are you?"

Q: "I'm okay. Have you spoken to Nkule?"

Me: "Uhm...no I haven't. Why?"

Q: "I think she could really use a friend"

Me: "What's up"

Q: "She's seeking comfort in all the wrong places. Try calling her"

Me: "I will. Thanks for letting me know"Q:

"No problem. Bye"

He hung up. What is wrong with this woman.

My phone beeped.

'Some bitch is standing on my way. She has Quinton wrapped around her little stinking finger'

I called her.

Nkule: "Hey" Me:

"Let this go"

Nkule: "What do you mean?"

Me: "I mean leave Quinton the hell alone. What you're doing is called embarrassing yourself. If there's someone you think he likes then leave them alone."

Nkule: "Khethelo. You know how much I love him" Me:

"You chose Linda over him"

Nkule: "It was a mistake!"

Me: "Well that's none of his business. If you can't handle loneliness, come to Jo'burg"

Nkule: "Bye"

She hung up. I sighed. This is absurd...

•••

[Katlego]

This woman clearly has no idea who she's dealing with.
The nerve of her!

She better pray we don't cross paths, because if we do I
will rough her up.

Chris: "Okay. What's up?"

looked at him.

Me: "I'm mad"

Chris: "Don't be. You beat her up, she got you
arrested you're now even"

Me: "I'm not even on anything with that hoe. Her and I
still have unfinished business"

Chris: "Well it better be finished because it seems like
she's not going anywhere"

Me: "Meaning?"

Chris: "Mother said he should marry her" I
felt hot. Every place with hair hot itchy. Me:

"Your mother is crazy"

Chris: "Mama ka Hawu"

Me: "She is. Why does she always support madness. Marry her? That thing is not fit to be a Dube wife.

Why would she approve of permanently bringing that demon into our lives? What about Khethiwe?"

Chris: "She said its for the best!"

Me: "Best for you? For Your hoe brother? Because it's clearly not the best for uKhethiwe"

Chris: "Well its going to happen either way."

Me: "And I will make sure she divorces in 2 weeks"

I adjusted the seat and closed my eyes. What kind of mother is this? She chooses people for his crazy sons and flood them with endless troubles. She daretries me, I will slit her son's throat...

•••

[Quinton]

I hate these night shifts. I fail to sleep when I get home. By the time I think of taking a decent nap it's time to prepare for the damn shift.

My phone rang.

Me: "Hello"

Nkule: "Hey. I'm sorry to bother you but I forgot my card there"

Me: "Oh. I will look for it"

Nkule: "On the tv stand"

Me: "Okay let me check" I got up and checked. "Oh here it is"

Nkule: "Thank you. I am in your neighborhood. I will come get it now now"

Me: "Okay"

I called the girlfriend to check if she may pop in while Nkule is here. We've been calling each other since the day began. I have a very hard task ahead. I have to accommodate her 22 year old self until she's completely comfortable with me.

Yoli: "Hey. Did you trim your beard?"

Me: "Hey. Yes I did. Do I look like a snack?" She chuckled.

Yoli: "No you look like a main course."

Me: "Thank you my Queen. Am I gonna see you before I go to work?"

Yoli: "Yeah if you come"

Me: "No. Come by. You'll sleep over"

Yoli: "Uhm"

Me: "No excuses. Just come maybe I might change my mind about going to work"

Yoli: "You will get fired"

Me: "You don't get fired when you have connections"

Yoli: "I wanna be you when I grow up. I will see you later then. Let me cook because I know your pots are dry"

Me: "Yeah a little. Dish up for me too" she stared at her screen for a while.

Yoli: "Uhm Ben is coming over"

Me: "Tell him you're busy"

Yoli: "Oh he's talking about tomorrow. Bye"

Me: "Ok Bye baby"

She's in pyjamas. That's good. I accepted Bab Nkomo's request to let Nkule in.

I should tell Kylie to get me a maid. My pots are always dry for real.

She walked in.

Me: "You look beautiful"

Nkule: "Thank you. I'm going out. If I stay in that house a minute longer I swear I will go crazy"

Me: "Shouldn't you be mourning your child's passing?"

Nkule: "What difference is it gonna make? She's dead"

Me: "Oh"

I handed her the card.

Nkule: "I'm sorry about Tuesday night" Me:

"Water under the bridge"

Nkule: "Thank you. So, are you and Yoli together?"

Me: "No"

Nkule: "What is going on between you two then"

Me: "A lot. Except for being together"

Nkule: "The way you panicked when she arrived last morning it seemed like you didn't want her to be here"

Me: "She's a child. I don't want her getting exposed to adults who look like they spent a night together. Why did you take off the gown?"

Nkule: "I was hot"

Me: "Please don't ever do it again."

Nkule: "Noted. Keep well"

Me: "Thank you. Go well"

She turned on her heels and left.

She's getting me suspicious.

'I want you to tail Nkule for me. I feel like she's kind of obsessed with what might be going on between me and someone else'

I sent to Charles. Women act really crazy at times...

•••

[Khule]

My cellphone rang as I played with the little ones. I missed them. Mam Dino took them to their siblings at Chris's.

Me: "Hello"

Calvin: "Dube. I got a call from Tyler asking for a meeting"

Me: "Is it? He hasn't called me. What did he say about?"

Calvin: "He didn't explain. That's why I'm calling, is everything okay?"

Me: "You haven't checked your emails?"

Calvin: "No. I just landed and saw his tons of texts and he just called"

Me: "Well he fucked up. Got someone else pregnant and Khethiwe left. Nobody knows where she is. He's planning on taking the pregnant woman as a second

wife"

Calvin: "What?"

Me: "Yes. So the sooner that meeting happens the more time he'll have to look for Khethiwe"

Calvin: "Uh...I'll be there tomorrow evening. Send my love to everyone"

Me: "I will. Please do too."

We said our goodbyes. I don't know if he's young or just plain stupid. Why does he want a meeting?

I heard commotion coming from outside. I called Khethelo down to watch over the kids and walked out.

The security guys were dragging a drunk man out. I

reached them.

Me: "Let him go"

Scelo: "Sir?"

Me: "Let him go"

They let him go and stood a couple of feet away

from us. He could barely stand. The Jack Daniel on his hand looked heavy.

Me: "What are you doing here?"

Jason: "I'm...I'm looking for Emi"

Me: "Didn't I tell you to stay away from her?" He looked at me and drank from his bottle.

Jason: "You did. But that doesn't mean I should really do that"

Me: "Are you testing me?"

Jason: "No. I just want Emi that is all" Me:

"Do you want to see your child alive?"

Jason: "You really think I care about that baby more than I do about Emihle? Kill it if you want. I want Emi"

Me: "You need help Jason"

He hit the bottle on the ground.

Jason: "Why doesn't anyone fucking get it! I don't need the help you all keep telling me about. The help

I need is Emi. When she's in my life I am better, no Psychologist could ever help me, no medicine, no nothing. You think I never tried? She's my light, my life has purpose when she's in it, I don't drink nor smoke. You wanna know the truth? I resent that baby, it wasn't for it she would still be mine. Dube..."

He started crying and knelt down.

Jason: "Please. I would do anything, I would give up everything that belongs to me. Please just help me get her back, even if as just a friend. I haven't had a decent sleep in 4 months. I need her"

Me: "You're very stupid if you think I will let my babysister next to you. Seek help and then we will talk."

I turned to the guards. "Drive him home"

I headed inside. I called Charles and told him to release the girl and her baby. This moron is really crazier than I thought...

[2/26, 06:39] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Thirty Three

•••

(Unedited)

[Emi]

I was scared to fall asleep last night. I also didn't want to go to neither of my homes, my brothers deserve their time with their wives and kids without me popping up every now and then.

I don't know when but I ended up falling asleep. Brad is in North West, I have a very boring weekend ahead. Today I am not going to work. Its leisure day and I really don't feel like chatting and laughing.

I got up and went to the bathroom. I did my business and filled the tub. I want to visit Khethiwe, maybe take her out to the movies and then go clubbing later.

My phone rang. I went for it.

Me: "Aren't you supposed to be in a meeting?"

Brad: "Correct but how am I going to concentrate when I haven't heard from you?"

Me: "I'm sorry. I just woke up and I was going to text you after I have taken a bath" he sighed.

Brad: "You should've texted me the minute you woke up.
Any plans for the day?"

Me: "Yeah. I will go visit Khethiwe and go out"

Brad: "Ok love. I love you"

Me: "I love you more"

He hung up. I need my jeans from his place. I texted him to text his lady to pack them up for me and then went back to the bathroom.

...

After an hour of trying to get hold of Khethiwe I gave up and drove to Khule's. I found Khethelo with an old lady having juice.

Khethelo: "It's gonna rain in ice creams today I swear"

Me: "Oh please. I was giving you all time to yourselves. How are you baby?" We hugged.

Khethelo: "I'm good. This is mam Mathebula our new help. Mama this is Emihle, our little sister. How is yourself?"

Me: "Getting there love. How are you ma?" We shook hands.

Her: "I'm good how are you sisi?"

Me: "I'm good thanks. Can I steal you for a minute?"

Khethelo: "Sure"

We walked to the lounge.

Me: "Where's Mam Dino?"

Khethelo: "Upstairs with her grandkids."

Me: "Mmmh. I've been trying to get hold of Khethiwe. Do you know what's going on?"

She cleared her throat and looked ahead on the t.v.

Khethelo: "She left."

Me: "To where?"

Khethelo: "Nobody knows yet. Your brothers are still looking for her"

Me: "And nobody thought of letting me know. Wow"

Khethelo: "You were also in a very bad head space. We couldn't have made it worse. And your brother

asked for a meeting I guess he will bring his woman with him"

Me: "Why? She's just his baby mama. There's no need to stuff the family up with her"

Khethelo: "He's marrying her"

Me: "What? What the hell is wrong with him? Oh poor Khethiwe"

Khethelo: "Yeah. Your mother improved"

Me: "I seriously do not understand why do we still listen to her. She hated polygamy with all her being why on earth would she approve of this?" She shrugged. I'm defeated. "Let me go get my jeans at Bryanston. I'll see you all later" she got up and walked me out.

Khethelo: "He was here last night"

Me: "Who?"

Khethelo: "Jason. He loves you, being separated from you is killing him and it is driving him right to the edge. He says he resents his child because you would still be with him if it had not been conceived"

Me: "He needs help"

Khethelo: "Maybe a friend. You should call him sometimes"

Me: "Not in my wildest dream"

Khethelo: "Are you still mad at him?"

Me: "Yes"

Khethelo: "Why?"

Me: "Because he broke my heart Khethelo"

Khethelo: "You want him to get over you?" I nodded
"And you want to get over the broken heart he caused you?" I nodded. "Contact him. Take the sessions together, take the guards with you until they are over"

Me: "Brad wouldn't allow that"

Khethelo: "Its for your own good. What is the point of carrying on with a bleeding heart from the past?"

Me: "I will take psychological sessions just not with Jason"

Khethelo: "Great. I still think you should give him that"

call though"

Me: "Bye Mrs Dube"

She smiled and waved as I drove out.

The nerve of this guy. He said all that to Khule? Its either he has a soft spot for him or turning weak.

You know sometimes I feel like traffic lights have a thing on me. They always turn red whenever I'm in a hurry.

I can't believe my mother and Tyler. I know he's always gotten away with everything but I didn't know she favors him even from above.

"Wanna race?" I startled. He's on his psycho character again.

Me: "Why are you following me Jason?"

Jason: "I want to race"

Me: "Don't you have friends?"

Jason: "No. If I win you will have an ice cream date with me at our stop, which is the mall"

Me: "If you lose?" I turned to his direction for the first

time since this conversation started. He looked decent.
Beard shaved and a fresh hair cut.

Jason: "You gonna take me to a psychologist of your choice
and drive me there every appointment"

I raved the engine.

Me: "The robot is about to open"

Jason: "Good luck"

Its a good thing golf estates roads are always empty.

I took off before the robot gave me access. I will take
care of the ticket.

I made it to the mall first. Both victories worked in his
favor but it doesn't matter as long as he will go for help
and get the hell out of my of my life...

•••

[Tyler]

One simple thing can lead to such a big mess. The day I
went out to find comfort in Jessica's arms I did not think it
will take us this far. I am failing to cope with everything
but either way I have to let the family

know about my decision.

Jessica: "You need to stop beating yourself up" Me: "I can't help it. Are you ready for tonight?"

Jessica: "No but there's no turning back now, is there?"

Me: "No. What time is the Drs appointment?"

Jessica: "2pm. For now I want to go to the mall and buy something fit to meet your family"

Me: "Okay. I will just stay here and watch soccer" she kissed me.

Jessica: "I love you and everything is gonna be okay"

Me: "Yeah I guess"

She smiled and walked out.

I went to the bedroom and took the letter out. I had no strength to open it up yesterday.

"You're a very good person. That is why God blessed you with a child. Give her the love you gave me and give your baby even more. You have my blessing. All

the best in everything you're working on and yet to work on. Thank you for loving me"

I read it all over again. This is not what I expected. I expected maybe a page or more.

There's still no trace of her. None of her cards have bought anything. I am still waiting for more updates from the guys.

My phone rang. I haven't heard from her in a while.Me:

"Baby sis"

Emi: "Tell me its not true"

Me: "What?"

Emi: "That you're marrying that ill mannered woman and made Khethiwe leave"

Me: "I did not kick her out, she left on her own"

Emi: "Is it? Would she have left if you didn't hit her with all that baggage? You know I always thought you have changed and loves Khethiwe. But this? I am failing to recognize you. I am so mad at you. You better find Khethiwe, we are the generation that easily gets attacked by depression yet you sleep

without knowing where someone as broken as
Khethiwe is"

She hung up. She wouldn't hurt herself. Would she?

•••

[Quinton]

My phone rang right after I came out of the shower.Me:

"Bab Nkomo"

Bab Nkomo: "Eh son, there are people here for you"Me:

"Okay. I will be there in a few"

I hung up and tried calling Yoli but it went to
voicemail. I made the bed and dressed up and left.

I arrived at my house. I have never seen these people
before. They drove in after me. I led them inside.

They took a seat. This did not look like a friendly visit.I

leaned on a chair.

Me: "To what do I owe this pleasure?"

Man1: "Mandla Nkosi"

Me: "That's your name?"

Man1: "No. Does that name ring a bell to you?"

Me: "No"

Man1: "The boy you killed last year"

Me: "Whoa whoa don't associate me with killing I donot kill"

Man1: "Dube I don't have all day. I am the one he sold the merchandise to. He had a wire on him, I have proof that you killed him"

The other one which I believe is his errands boy tookout a tape recorder and played an audio. It was me and Jake. The same exact conversation we had thatday I shot that moron.

Man1: "Now, I have a deal for you. I would like you to transport a few things for me"

Me: "Not interested"

Man1: "Well you better be because if you don't. I will anonymously send this to the police and it will be over for you, I learned that you have only one chance"

Who's this fucking idiot?

Me: "Get out"

Man1: "These are my numbers. I will wait for your call until Thursday. If I don't hear from you until then I will send this little present to the police. You know how every captain in Jo'burg would love to lock any of you up"

Me: "If you know what's good for you, you will get your butt up and leave this house and never look back or expect a phone call"

He got up.

Man1: "I will be waiting for that call"

They followed each other out. God its too hot for this. I want to keep my hands clean now I have little children and wives.

The meeting that Tyler asked for I won't be part of. I hate madness. Khethiwe is messed up. And I will make them all look for until God take them. Tyler is a spoilt brat, we asked him if he was sure about commitment he agreed. Pure bullshit, he could've avoided this. The bloodshed, Khethiwe fled home for what? For him to thank her with a plate full of shit. I

don't even wanna see that woman because I would strangle her. Nobody disrespects my loved ones like that.

My phone beeped.

"If you do not put a leash on your bitch I will run her over with this car Quinton Dube."

I called her. She did not pick up. I called Charles men. Ruphus and Gail.

Him: "Mr Dube"

Me: "Ruphus or Gail?"

Him: "Gail"

Me: "Oh hey. Have you been following the girl?"

Gail: "Yes Sir. She's driving to your house as we speak. It looks like she's been following a white X7 around, she even had a bit of a quarrel with her"

Me: "Okay thank you"

I hung up and tried Yoli again. It went to voicemail this time.

I granted access for Nkule and waited on the couch.

Nkule: "You have no shame you know that"

Me: "Do you know what I do to people who bother people I love?"

Nkule: "You love her! Oh my God I've been so stupid! Is she no longer a child? Do you know what her parents could do to you if they found out she's dating a man your age?"

I got up and walked to her.

Me: "If you do not untangle yourself from my life the moment you walk out that door I swear to you Nonkululeko hell will break loose. If you ever bother Yolanda again I will need only one bullet to take you out" she gasped. "Find a hobby, look for a job and work like any other woman your age and get the fuck out of my life!"

I didn't even realize I had her by her collar. I let go. She cried and ran out...

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[Narrated]

Right after sun set. Everybody arrived. They shared

hugs. The women remained in the kitchen making supper while the men drank at the lounge waiting for Tyler.

Lelo: "So Khethelo. Are we also gonna be there?"

Khethelo: "They always include us but I don't know this time"

Kat: "I'm good nna. Because if I see that Tyler's face I will kick it. He better show up with Khethiwe or be upto date with her whereabouts"

Lelo and Khethelo laughed.

Khethelo: "When last did you have your periods?"

Kat: "The robot is red as we speak."

Khethelo: "You've been ready to attack the past weeks."

Kat: "That's because I am sick and tired of everything that is happening"

Lelo: "I need your guts."

"Evening"

They all turned. Katlego scoffed and turned to the

stove.

Khethelo: "Hey. Your brothers are at the lounge"

Tyler: "Thank you"

He pulled Jessica all the way to the lounge.

Kat: "Oh my God did you see that face? She totally has no idea where she was coming to"

Lelo: "She's cute though"

Khethelo: "We've never seen her without make"

Chris: "Can I steal you ladies for a second?" Kat:

"Yeah sure. We're coming"

She lowered the stove and they went to the lounge.

They sat next to their partners. Calvin gave Tyler a go ahead.

Tyler: "I know it has been a very chaotic 2 weeks of everyone. For that I'm sorry. Khethiwe decided to leave me, I don't blame her. I'm a dog but I can't be forever punished for that. This woman sitting over there is Jessica Ngcolosi, she is carrying my child. We have been seeing each other behind Khethiwe's

back. Like any other decent man, I would like our child to be born within the wedlock. All I am asking is for you guys to support me regardless of my mistake. Khethiwe can only be the person to punish me. And for you to accept Jessica as my wife"

Kat: "Do you love her?"

They all turned to look at her.

Kat: "For real. Does he? Because it would be very selfish of you to marry someone just because she's carrying your child. Marriage is a very big commitment, you just can't marry for something as small as pregnancy"

Calvin: "Mama ka Hawu has a point. Do you?"

Tyler: "Uhm I-"

"You are a very bad family. How is this meeting carrying on without me? Oh I'm so glad you kept my seat safe" she sat next to Tyler. "Oh please take my bags upstairs. First room on your right. Good evening bo Nyamazane. Forgive me for arriving so late. The weather is crazy in Mauritius, I took your advice by the way" she said winking at Khethelo.

Khule: "Welcome back MaDladla"

Khethiwe: "Thank you. This couch is uncomfortable" She got up and sat on Tyler's lap.

Khethiwe: "Ooh that make up. You came to introduce her?"

Kat: "Yes"

Khethiwe: "Okay. Let me not stand in your way"

Jessica got up and attempted going out. Khethiwe quickly stopped her.

Khethiwe: "You have failed rule number one of being a Dube wife. You do not walk out on our men. Secondly you do not apply this much make up, thirdly you put on a doek on your head and a scarf around your shoulders at least on such occasions."

Jessica: "Bitch please. Move out of my way" she said on a lower voice.

Khethiwe: "Sit down."

She pushed her back to the couch.

Khule: "Uhm Jennifer. We do not swear in this

house"

Jessica: "Je-ssi-ca"

Kat: "Can I dish up for everyone?"

Khethiwe: "No. Jessica and I will. But firstly I got starters. I don't want her in my house, you Dube elimthende will have to buy her a house, secondly I want you home every night, if you don't come back I will come wherever you are and take you home because you vowed to never make me sleep alone that day of our traditional union."

Jessica: "That is crazy"

Khethiwe: "You are not even on the database yet but you're already seeing things."

Chris: "Can we be left with Madladla please?" All the women walked out.

Chris: "Why are you back?"

Khethiwe: "Your mother said I shouldn't leave, right Bonga?" He nodded. "So this is me not leaving. Although I will be friends with gin and tonic till all this madness blows over"

Khule: "We are just glad you're back"

Khethiwe: "Its against my will though." She got up and walked to the kitchen.

Katlego screamed and hugged her.

Khethelo: "Since when aren't you scared of them?"

Khethiwe: "Gin, is there any in this house? I'm getting sober. Where's that horse bitch?"

Lelo: "She's outside"

Khethiwe: "God knows I can't stand her or her man."

Khethelo: "Then why are you back?"

Khethiwe: "That crazy ass mother inlaw. I had a very terrible dream. Even Mantuli told me to come back when I called her to vent"

Lelo: "In everything just know we're here for you. As much as we don't feel pain as you but we will take this road with you."

Kat: "Amen to that."

They did a group hug.

Khethelo: "We love you and we will die where you die"

Khethiwe: "Thank you guys"

Kat: "Let's have some gin. Pity you 2 can't"

Khethelo prepared it for them and then juice for herself and Lelo.

Kat: "To happy life and making Jessica's stay unpleasant!"

They looked at her surprised. And then laughed.

Them: "Cheers!"

They took out serving bowls and dished up over a silly conversation. Laughing in between.

Jessica remained in the car crying. She called her mother.

Jessica: "She came back mama. They love her. They just sat there while she insulted me and said nothing"

Her mother: "Do not worry. She will leave again. Just be the perfect girlfriend you can be and you will win"

the man"

Jessica: "I don't know how much more of this I can take. He loves her"

Her mother: "Remember why you're with him. We need this money Jes. Just obey everything. 3 years will be over in no time"

Jessica: "Bye mama. Someone is coming" She hung up. Bonga knocked on the window. Bonga:

"I came to get you"

She faked a smile and got off the car.

They walked back inside....

[2/26, 06:39] Zoaness: Chapter Thirty Four

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[Khethelo]

Last night went a bit tougher than expected. It led to Jessica leaving before anyone else. Khethiwe and Katlego made her very first day unpleasant. They started talking about every fun we have had in the past.

They are ready for this mission of making her stay unpleasant. And its already working.

I put Ngiphile down. I wish they stay like this forever.They look more human now. You can tell who lookslike who. Their father is counting down to the next month where he can safely drive around with them.

I walked to the bathroom. We bath with the door open because "a thief will come and steal the babies"

He got on. Looking like a snack that he is. He kissedhis babies and walked to the bathroom door.

Me: "Fresh haircut?"

Khule: "Yes. You noticed" he said with a grin.Me:

"I always do babe"

Khule: "I cut my hair 3 times the time you were pregnant and you never noticed" I laughed.

Me: "That was a very busy time. I'm sorry"

Khule: "Mmmh"

He sat on the bed. "Do you think you can convince

your sisters to be civil with Jennifer?"

Me: "Jessica. And I am not sure about that. Khethiwe can't, she feels too little and disrespected as it is.

The best way to deal with this is to keep them away from each other at all costs"

Khule: "On family gatherings? What will happen?" Me:

"The new girl will not come."

Khule: "Hhaibo"

Me: "Yes. She chose to be second best right? She must deal with the consequences."

Khule: "I hope Tyler realizes the mess he's put us in"

Me: "She doesn't look like she can even fry an egg anyway so her absence will be very normal"

Khule: "You sound like you're mad on Khethiwe's behalf"

Me: "Of course I am. She shouldn't even be here, tell me something, even your ancestors bully ours?"

Khule: "How on earth am I supposed to know that?" Me:

"I don't know. But your ancestors always seem

to have a bigger say on our lives"

Khule: "That's because you belong to the Dube side. You're introduced to them, sprinkled with gull and that make you a full Khethelo Dube. Same goes for all of you. Except for Jenni- I mean Jessica, because she's not paid lobola for"

Me: "Its unfair"

I got out of the tub and wrapped a towel around then emptied it. I heard the door close. I turned to his tallself, he cupped my face and hungrily kissed me. I stopped him when he reached for my towel.

Me: "3 months isn't over"

Khule: "Fuck 3 months."

He kissed me again. I failed to fight him off. I missedhim. I let him tour his hands all over my sensitive body parts. He pushed me against the wall. I reached for his pants, unbuckled the belt. My towel had already fallen off.

He slid in. All the hairs on my body stood up. Hegave me a couple of deep strokes. I stopped him

and pushed him to the toilet sit. I closed it and pushed him to sit down. I got on top and slowly moved up and down, left and right.

I went on and on until my inner goddess took over. I went on harder and faster. He dug his nails on my back and groaned a little aggressive. My work is done here.

He caught his breath and kissed my boobies that were leaking.

Khule: "I love you and I missed this"

Me: "I love you and I missed it too."

I got off and turned the shower on. He joined me. It led to another nasty session....

•••

[Khethiwe]

I shook him. He mumbled only God knows what. He stared at me and then shrugged.

Me: "Its 9 o'clock. Let's pray"

Tyler: "Since when do we pray?"

Me: "Since you went out there and created problems for us"

He got off and knelt beside me.

Me: "Thank you Lord for your protection over my family. I come against any plot, ploy or scheme that the enemy has planned for us and I render it useless in Jesus name. We are the head and not the tail, above only and not beneath. No weapon or pregnant Jezebel formed against us will prosper and every tongue that rises against us will be condemned. We have the minds of Christ and victory is ours today in Him. We are children of the most high and we rest in his goodness and faithfulness today. Please keep this home full with warmth and love, when storms of baby mama drama try to hit us, let us feel nothing. In Jesus' name. Amen"

I opened my eyes. He was staring at me. Me:

"What?"

Tyler: "That was..."

Me: "Powerful? I know. Breakfast will be ready in 10 minutes. You may take a shower so long"

Tyler: "No. I would love to keep you company while you make it"

Me: "Oh? Be my guest"

He followed me out. We got downstairs and I took out all the ingredients.

He was so observant than ever. I finished up and served him.

Tyler: "Thank you"

Me: "Are you gonna go to Jessica's place after eating?"

Tyler: "No. You know I spend my weekends in doors" Me: "Great. I'll go take a shower"

I walked up the staircase.

I threw myself on the bed. I don't know how long am I going to keep up with this. I got up and fixed myself a glass of gin and tonic. I took my phone and my speaker and went to the bathroom. I filled the tub while listening to my depressing music.

How far is even this kangaroo? I can't really stomach

the fact that she is pregnant...

•••

[Quinton]

I woke up alone. I'd like to think she doesn't sleep. I fetched her yesterday after she called me crying saying she can't find her apartment keys.

She was a bit drunk. She slept on the tub while I sat there thinking she's taking a bath.

I went to pee and went downstairs. I found her watching cartoons on the kitchen tablet while drinking coffee. I kissed her cheek.

Me: "You smell nice"

Yoli: "Just finished taking a bath"

Me: "Mmm. We watching cartoons?" She chuckled.

Yoli: "No. I thought you were gonna freak out. I'm watching Orphan Black"

Me: "What is it about?"

Yoli: "Cloned girls. Its pretty interesting"

Me: "Movie or series?"

Yoli: "Its a series. I'm still on season 1 episode 4."

Me: "We gonna start it afresh together. What are we eating?" I said walking to the fridge.

She got off the chair and got to the fridge before I.

Yoli: "I will make us something to eat. Sit down and watch the series." She pushed me to sit down.

"Tomato, cheese, ham, avocado and eggs. Feel anyof it?"

Me: "As long as it is food babe"

Yoli: "I got you then my icepop"

Me: "Is that my pet name?" She chuckled.

Yoli: "Maybe"

She took it all out. And started making her magic.Yoli:

"Nkule is really crossing boundaries"

Me: "I took care of it. I'm sorry she bothered you"

Yoli: "I don't feel safe now. People who act like hertend to have serious psychological problems"

Me: "Nothing will happen to you I promise"

Yoli: "Thank you. Coffee or Tea?"

Me: "Coffee. You know I am a businessman right?" Yoli:
"Yes"

She placed the tray before me.

Me: "Thank you. In the cooperate world there's a lot of enemies. And every man's weakness is his family"

Yoli: "Meaning?" She sat down next to me with her food.

Me: "Meaning you are my weakness. Whoever might want anything from you might use you. There's an old friend that showed up yesterday demanding that I do some illegal transportation for him. If I don't give him what he wants he will go for any of you. So in that case I am asking for permission to hire guards for you."

Yoli: "I thought that only happens in movies"

Me: "No. That's just a potray of businessmen reallives. So?"

Yoli: "Just do what you have to do"

Me: "Thank you. You won't even notice they are there"

I kissed her hand. She smiled. She isn't so childish after all.

Yoli: "Do you also hurt people?"

Me: "When necessary. Yes" Yoli:

"Okay"

O-kay. Why isn't she freaked out?

Oh she's Sam's daughter. Nothing freaks that bloodline out. Lesedi shot Khule's sidechick and told us to get rid of the evidence...

•••

[Calvin]

I thought my foster family had drama but it is nothing compared to my real one.

I do not feel that Jessica lady. Her eyes wander a lot. She's seems guilty of something.

Lelo: "Your cigarette has burned out"

I didn't even realize. I killed it on the ash tray.Me:

"Have the kids left for school?"

Lelo: "Yes. Are you okay?"

Me: "Yeah. I just don't have energy to go to work"

Lelo: "When last did we do something fun?"

Me: "8 months back"

Lelo: "Let's go out to the movies" I laughed.

Me: "Are you for real? We haven't been to bioskop in 6 years"

Lelo: "Yes. We are going today. I will go get you something to wear"

Me: "But I'm dressed"

Lelo: "Nobody goes to the movies in a suit my love" we laughed. What is wrong with wearing a suit to the movies.

I received a text from Siba.

"I found someone to transport the merchandise for

us. We will see you in a week"

Well he better. I got on the family group. There were no messages. I called Tyler.

Tyler: "Hello"

Me: "Dube. How is it going, are you still intact?" He chuckled.

Tyler: "By the grace of God. Yes I am. She's acting very calm its scary"

Me: "Just go with the flow. Don't meet up with that Jessica woman as yet. Just wait a week or two"

Tyler: "If it's going to help I will try. I'm drained by all this, Jessica on the other side is being difficult"

Me: "If you gonna have two wives you better learn to control them because if you don't, this love story will end with a casket" he sighed.

Tyler: "I will try. Thanks for checking up on me" Me:

"Send my love to makoti"

Tyler: "I will. Please do send mine to everyone" Me:

"I will. Bye"

I hung up. Lelo came in with clothes. I dressed up. I

received an email from Quinton.

I viewed it. It was of Mandla Nkosi.

"That moron came here blackmailing me to transport only God knows what for him. Can you find me some dirt on him?"

I called Siba. Siba:

"Bozza yam"

Me: "Tell me Quinton Dube isn't who will transport those fucking guns"

Siba: "He will"

Me: "Just tell me when you're tired of living Siba."

Siba: "Why are you so protective of these Dube fools lately?"

Me: "Stay the hell away from them. I will kill you Siba and your family will not get to bury you. Look for another way to transport my guns or you will shit bricks"

Siba: "Fine!"

I hung up. Lelo:

"Ready?"

Me: "Yes my Queen."

Lelo: "We'll pass by Amo's to drop Mpendulo off" Me:

"No problem"

I took her hand and we walked out...

•••

[Nkule]

This place shouldn't have people living in it. What do they do on rainy days? These shacks could wash off.

To make the matter worse I wore heels.

Me: "Greetings bhuti. Please show me to Bab Myeza's house"

Him: "That one with people outside"

Me: "Oh ok. Thank you"

I kept on walking. I fell the line. There were just 5 people ahead. I was anxious.

Quinton and his bitch will learn who Nonkululeko is

today. He is stupid if he thinks I will give up just like that. His threats mean nothing to me. I know he wouldn't hurt me.

After 4 hours I finally went in. He ordered me to take my shoes off. I did and sat down.

Bab Myeza: "Talk girl. Time is running out"

Me: "I want him to come back to me, love me, forget about that pig"

Bab Myeza: " R500."

I reached for my purse and took the notes out.

"Place it on the mat" I did.

He took out two plastics with the muti.

Bab Myeza: "With this one, you gonna pour it on his meal. And sprinkle some on his lotions. Then this one. Call out your competition's name, say all that you want her to do and then blow. Do it every morning and when the sun sets. In less than a week. He will be all yours. Take this, go and don't look back"

I did as instructed. I bet Yoli didn't see this coming....

[2/26, 06:39] Zoaness: Chapter Thirty Five

•••

[Tyler]

I knocked and waited. She opened and huffed. I got in and closed the door. I placed her food on the counter.

Me: "Hello"

Jes: "So you don't take my calls anymore?" Me:

"I do but things are complicated Jessica"

Jes: "You made this bed Tyler. The least you could do is lie in it. You can't please that hoe wi-"

Me: "Refrain from that. You will not disrespect her like that"

Jes: "Whatever. I am part your lives Now, she must get used to it. I will not stay a whole weekend not speaking to you just because "its complicated" you need to man up and learn to handle your women"

Me: "I brought your food. When is the next Dr's appointment?"

Jes: "I don't know"

Me: "You will call me when you're done being like this"

Jes: "What am I like? Now I have to pretend like I'm okay with you going awol on me the whole weekend?"

Me: "No but you have to act like a decent woman and keep it in mind that I am your man and you should adress me with respect. Not talking to me like you're talking to a doll and lastly, no insulting Khethiwe"

I headed to the door.

She really disrespectful. I received a text from Quinton that he is in Jo'burg. I will drive there after work. Even though we will fight about everything that is happening in my life.

I got in my car and drove back to the office...

•••

[Emi]

He walked in and kissed me.

Brad: "I missed you"

Me: "I missed you too. How were your meetings?"

Brad: "3 sucked, 4 were worth it. Went to play golf yesterday" I laughed. He doesn't really like it.

Me: "I hope you tried to be as nice as possible"

Brad: "I had no choice. I swear my father was proud of himself. He set it up" I laughed. "It's not funny babe. I wanted to leave the moment we arrived"

Me: "You didn't die, be thankful. Have you eaten?"

Brad: "Yeah. I grabbed breakfast at the airport."

Me: "Okay. Are you staying for a while or you're going somewhere?"

Brad: "You want me to stay?" He smirked.

Me: "I want us to talk"

Brad: "That's scary"

Me: "Please sit"

He pulled a chair. I sat on the desk. I took a deep breath. He was staring deep into my soul. I was now

scared.

Me: "Promise me you won't get mad" he raised his left brow. "Please?"

Brad: "That means the chances of me getting mad are very high. Talk"

Me: "Uhm. On my way from home the other day I saw Jason. He put me up for a race, he said if he wins we'll go out for ice cream and if I win I will suggest him a good therapist and attend Uhm..." his stare was getting uncomfortable

Brad: "Go on"

Me: "Attend the sessions with him" I said quickly and got heading to the fridge to take water out.

I turned to him.

Brad: "I will see you around 1pm. We're going out for lunch" I nodded rapidly.

He walked out. What was I thinking? I should contact Jason and tell him I won't be able to attend the sessions with him.

"Miss this is a private property and you might be

charged with trespassing"

The door roughly pushed open. This psycho. Vee:

"I tried to stop her. I have called security"Me:

"How may I help you Bianca"

Bianca: "Get your claws off my man"

Me: "What man?"

Bianca: "Jason doesn't need your lousy help Emily. Just because you're from the mighty Dubes family that does not mean everyone fears you. I don't care how much money you have. Keep your stupid psychiatrist and filthy money to yourself. Stay the hell away from the father of my child"

Me: "How far are these security guards?"

Vee: "They should be here any minute"

Bianca: "I hope you heard me"

Me: "I did. I just don't take orders from women who trap men with babies"

The security guards came in and dragged her out.

Vee: "You paid for Jason's therapist?"

Me: "Don't judge me Vee. It's complicated" I took a seat.

Vee: "Sure as hell it is"

She walked out. My phone rang. I let it ring. I can't speak to him right now. This thing of helping him will cost me my relationship and peace...

•••

[Khethelo]

The door wasn't even locked. I found her lying on the couch with an empty bottle of gin in her chest. I shook her.

Khethiwe: "You're here"

Me: "Yes. Tell me you didn't drink this bottle all alone"

Khethiwe: "You think Jessica helped me drink it? No I drank it alone. Why are you here?"

Me: "I came to get you"

Khethiwe: "And where are you taking me?"

Me: "Home."

She called me crying 2 hours ago. Khule suggested I fetch her.

Khethiwe: "There was no need. You could've just told me to come and I would've taken a taxi"

Me: "Its dangerous to be a drunk female walking alone Khethiwe. We are facing that crisis as women at this very instant. I couldn't risk it."

Khethiwe: "Dangerous?"

Me: "Yes. Not only drunk women but every woman. Let me go get your bag upstairs"

Khethiwe: "Bring my four cousin under the bed"

Me: "Ok"

I packed her a few clothes and took her cosmetics and purse.

I found her sleeping again. I woke her up. I set the alarms and we walked out.

...

We arrived at home. She slept all the way here. I

woke her up and gave her pills.

She drank up.

Khethiwe: "Thank you. I feel like shit"

Me: "Come. I'll run you a bath and make you food"

Khethiwe: "Thank you sisi"

I smiled and pulled her all the way to the house. Qand Khule will never grow up. I left them playing games, they still were. I wonder if these kids ate.

Khethiwe: "Greetings"

Them: "MaDladla"

Khethiwe: "How are you?"

Them: "We are good how are You?"

Khethiwe: "I'm...I'm okay I guess" she said and carried on up the stairs.

Me: "Did the kids eat?"

Q: "The little ones just did. The older ones are stillfull. We ate popcorn"

Me: "Popcorn? Its been 3 hours since they ate. You

guys"

Khule: "I tried feeding them porridge but they didn't want it"

Me: "That's because they eat pap and soup after breakfast. I said it when I left and even told you where it is"

They looked at each other.

Khule: "Oh yeah we heard you. Just that I was saving it for later" now I am not convinced if my babies ate at all. I saw the empty bottles next to them. At least.

Me: "Mmmh"

Khule: "But we turned off the stove after 15 minutes as you said"

Q: "And took it all out of the boiling water"

Me: "You both are hubby goals" they smiled. Satisfied with themselves.

I walked up the stairs. Khethiwe was already showering.

Me: "I'll make you food then"

Khethiwe: "Please do"

I walked out and went down. I marinated and put the potatoes and chicken in the oven then went to the lounge.

I picked Hawu up. He cried for me to put him down and ran to his sisters.

Me: "Do you guys ever rest?"

Q: "They are the most active people on earth."

Khule: "But sweet. They never cry, just playing around and making noise"

Me: "And eating meat" we laughed. They truly love meat.

Khule: "Who was she with?"

Me: "Alone"

Khule: "Drunk?"

Me: "A little"

Q: "She must go back to work"

Khule: "I don't think she'll be able to focus"

Q: "Staying at home, alone drinking throughout the day isn't going to help with anything Dube. She must go back to work for distraction"

Khule: "Or move in with any of us. Living with Tyler will set her off"

Q: "I want to punch that moron"

Me: "No punching please. Khethiwe really needs us close. All that talk of taking turns on Tyler was just alcohol talking."

Q: "She said that?" I nodded. "That is not good. We will talk to her when she comes down"

Khule: "You talk to her. She isn't scared of you" Q:

"You reckon?"

Me: "That is actually a good idea. I'll go check on her"

I firstly checked on the food on the oven and then went up...

•••

[Khethiwe]

I hate it when I have to face my reality. The alcohol

was wearing off.

Khethelo walked out after telling me Quinton would like to talk to me.

I heard a knock after a while. I went to open for him. He told me to come with him.

He led the way to the balcony. I took a seat on the couch. I've never been to this part of the house. It's quite beautiful. The view of other houses and the pool down there. It's calming. He leaned on the rail smoking.

Q: "How are you?"

Me: "Surviving"

Q: "Each day is a curse but feel blessed to be able to go through it?"

Me: "Kind of"

Q: "Khethelo tells me you said things on the meeting. You agreed to share him"

Me: "It's not like I had a choice"

Q: "So you stoop that low?" I looked at him surprised.

"Answer me."

Me: "I love him"

Q: "So you're compromising your peace for love? I am mad. Mad at Tyler for doing this to you and mad at you for coming back. This could've been his wakeup call. He will not see anything wrong with this deceit if you stay in that house, prepare him warm meals and have a warm bed waiting for him. He is a child, it's too much power you're giving him of taking turns on you and that girl, don't you think?"

What is the right thing to do???

My grandma told me to go back to my house and stand for my home and now Quinton with this.

Me: "I don't know what is right or wrong at this moment honestly"

Q: "Staying with Tyler is very wrong right now. He will never see his mistake. He is my brother and I know how stupid he can get. You have 4 homes that you can stay at, 5 with Emi's place. You can take her to live with you at your place but I would've preferred you to stay where there's one of us. I care for you

Khethiwe, I don't want you losing focus of what's important because of all this. If you keep fighting this pain off with alcohol you will have a much bigger problem that might cost you your job. I suggest that you go back to work. Distracting yourself with alcohol isn't gonna help"

He has a point. But where do I begin? I will die thinking he's with her everyday. How will I fall asleep sober?? My mind would probably explode.

Me: "This is the hardest thing I've ever had to go through my entire life"

Q: "And I'm sorry."

The triplets came running. Sisekelo came to me. I picked her up.

Me: "They've mysteriously grew so tall." Q:

"They aren't even a year old that time." Me:

"Their birthday is in July?" He nodded.

Me: "Then I can keep myself busy with planning their party."

Q: "That's a good start. We have only May and June

remaining anyway"

Me: "Count April in. Its only the 3rd today"

Q: "It will be over in a blink. Msawakhe is very good at being the acting CEO. He submits every day"

I chuckled.

Me: "He's better than me then"

Q: "You've doing very well. You just submit after a week" we laughed.

His phone rang. He excused himself. I remained behind with the busy bodies. I so wish to be their age...

•••

[Quinton]

I got in my room and answered.

Me: "Baby"

Yoli: "You said you'll call me ngo 11"

Me: "Uhm.." I checked the time. "Its 11:03"

Yoli: "3 minutes late"

Me: "I was gonna finish up what I was doing and call you"

Yoli: "You didn't tell me Nkule has access to your brother's house too"

Me: "Huh?"

Yoli: "She just checked in to your brother's house saying she's having breakfast"

Me: "I'm upstairs with Khethiwe. And she's friends with my brother's wife"

Yoli: "When are you coming back?"

Me: "No let's talk about Nkule. Are you upset?"

Yoli: "When are you coming back? I want to wait up for you with ice cream"

Me: "I'm coming back tomorrow with the kids they will stay for a week though"

Yoli: "Ok that's good. Am I allowed around them?" Me:

"Yes you are"

Yoli: "Exciting. What do they like? Can they talk?"

Me: "Yeah. They talk Mandarin though" she laughed.

Yoli: "I will call you later. I am going with Kylie to mymom"

Me: "Have fun. Don't drink too much"

Yoli: "You make it sound like I drink always. But anyway I've quit"

Me: "That's good baby. Bye my love"

Yoli: "Bye. I miss you"

Me: "I miss you too. I'll see you tomorrow okay"

Yoli: "Can't wait"

I chuckled and hung up. I checked the texts. I found many from Ruphus updating about Nkule's whereabouts. He mentioned she went to my house last night and then airport this morning flying to Jo'burg. I walked out and went downstairs.

I heard female voices coming from the kitchen.

Indeed she was here.

Me: "Mamnguni can we talk?"

Nkule: "Oh hey Q. I've been telling her about Durban"

Me: "Really?"

Nkule: "Yeah. I am making something to eat. Want some?"

Me: "No thank you. I am full" Khethelo

followed me to the lounge. Khule: "Is

everything okay?"

Me: "No" I slid the door and stepped out.

Khethelo: "I didn't call her over"

Me: "This woman is crazy Khethelo" Khethelo:

"You think she's following you?"

Me: "Yes. And 2 days ago she was at this dodgy place, a witch doctor's home."

Khethelo: "I will talk to her"

Me: "Don't. I will"

I went back in.

Khule: "Stop. What's up?"

Me: "Nkule. She has some psycho ass shit going on."

Khule: "Let her be"

Me: "I don't Want her around my children"

Khule: "Let me handle it."

Me: "Make sure she leaves"

walked out...

•••

[Nkule]

They came in following each other. Khule leaned against the fridge, Khethelo stood next to him.

Khule: "Quinton tells me you've been everywhere that he is"

Me: "Coincidences"

Khule: "They are very odd don't you think?"

Me: "No. We live at Umhlanga and have mutual friends here"

Khule: "Okay. We gonna book you a hotel."

Me: "What? Why?"

Khethelo: "Because Q doesn't feel comfortable to have you around him or his children"

Me: "I am visiting Khethelo here Khulekani. Not Q or his kids"

Khule: "Well Q and his kids live here. Your uber will be here in 30 minutes"

He walked out. Wow!

looked at Khethelo.

Khethelo: "Don't look at me like that"

Me: "You're also behind this? You're okay with him kicking me out?"

Khethelo: "This is not my house. And tell me Nkule what were you doing at a Witch doctor's house?"

My mouth went dry. I gulped.

Me: "Stay out of my business. You are a very unsupportive friend I've ever heard"

Khethelo: "I do not support madness Nkule. You want to poison him? Really?"

Me: "You don't understand. You're with the man you love, you're living the precious life. I also want my happy ending!"

Khethelo: "You had that with Linda Nkule"

Me: "I didn't love him okay? I love Quinton, its onlyhim that I want but that fat pig is making it hard forour relationship" I started crying. It hurts to even think of it.

Khethelo: "Let him be."

Me: "I can't! And I won't. Please help me Khethelo"

Khethelo: "You're not yourself friend"

Me: "Don't call me that unless you will help me"

Khethelo: "No"

Me: "Its okay. I knew you were going to change onme one say because of this high life"

I got up and pulled my suitcase out. I wanna die....

•••

[Calvin]

I found them all seated.

Me: "Its Monday midday but you look like you just feel off a garbage can."

Zondo: "Hade Grootman we've been very busy" I sat down.

Me: "Make it snappy. I don't have all day"

Zondo: "She met with her mother and some dude we're still investigating who he is 3 times over the weekend. Her mother owes SARS 4 million. All her belongings are held by the state until he pays the money, she has a duration of 4 years to pay back that money"

Me: "Okay. That low life Nkule?"

Scelo: "She has been following who seems to Quinton's lover all day yesterday, went to Q's house later on. Then today she flew here and spotted getting off at Khule's house."

Me: "Ok. That woman Lucia?"

Scelo: "She's been up and down. Just work"

Me: "Lulama?"

Zondo: "She's also busy with work"

Me: "Ok good. 2 of your guys will look after each wife, including Quinton's girlfriend in Durban. And keep the closest eyes to these nut cases called Nkule and Jessica. They are on a mission. What about Jason?"

Zondo: "Oh that one. He was fighting with his baby mama earlier today at Mandela square and then he went to the nut case Dr"

Me: "A therapist?"

Scelo: "Yes and Emi followed a short while after. Should we go ahead and kill him?"

Me: "No, not yet. Keep a close eye on him too"

Zondo: "Yes Sir."

Me: "You may be dismissed"

They walked out. When big brother duties call. I should move. Seems like every one of these kids are faced with extended women who are crazy. This Jessica is a Gold digger and that Nkule is a nut case. When Q accidentally sent me a text telling someone

to protect Yoli from Nkule I decided to tail her. That Yoli woman really needs to be saved from that psycho. Who follows a person even to the gas station? And then flew here after going to Qs house. She's really crazy. My job is protect my family from people like her.

The door opened. I smiled.

Lelo: "Feel like making more babies?" I Chuckled. She's bringing the spark back into our marriage. We are happy.

She unbuttoned her coat.

Me: "I'll never get over how sexy you are Mrs Dube" she chuckled and sat on my lap.

Lelo: "I like the sound of that Mr Dube" we laughed. Its awkward.

Me: "You smell nicer. New fragrance?"

Lelo: "He noticed."

Me: "How could I not?"

We kissed. Its like the olden days in high school....

[2/26, 06:39] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Thirty Six

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[Khule]

My phone rang, disturbing my sleep. Its Calvin. Whatdoes he want so early in the morning? I answered.

Me: "Hello?"

Calvin: "What's the code?"

Me: "What code?"

Calvin: "The gate code Khulekani."

I got up and took the tablet. He is at the gate. I opened it for him and unlocked the front door thendressed up.

I found him making coffee.

Me: "To what do we owe this pleasure?"

Calvin: "Stupidity. Good morning" he handed me acup.

Me: "Thank you. Good morning"

Calvin: "Where's the rest?"

Me: "Upstairs"

He took out his phone and called them all to comedown.

Me: "How's Lelo and the kids?"

Calvin: "Very good. They said they are coming thiside on weekend"

Me: "Fantastic. I'll take them out"

Calvin: "They would love that." I heard footsteps.
"You look terrible. Want coffee?"

Quinton: "No. I want to know why was my sleep disturbed"

Chris: "Calvin its 6:50"

Calvin: "And the sun is out. Which means every manwith a family should be awake"

Tyler: "Good morning"

Us: "Morning"

Calvin: "Do you guys know who you are?"

Me: "Yes"

Calvin: "Why are you acting like you've forgotten? Oris this what you do? Let every dick and Tom into your cycle without investigating who they are, where they from and why are they associating themselves with you?"

Quinton: "Where is this going?"

Calvin: "Its going to: You do not just fuck every woman you come across. You investigate them!"

Me: "Calm down. Who's fucked who?"

Calvin: "Quinton. You slept with Katlego's sister" Quinton:

"I didn't know. Don't judge me okay"

Calvin: "If you thoroughly investigated Katlego you would've known she has a prodigal sister and you wouldn't have fucked her. How is it going to be now on family gatherings when you have a wife?"

Quinton: "Is this about me?"

Calvin: "Its about you all. That looney called Nkule is

going to kill that woman you're seeing"

Me: "What? You're seeing a woman?"

Quinton: "Its not that serious. She's just a companion"

Calvin: "You're a businessman. You do not do that. Ifit is not serious. Break up with her before she becomes yet another bitter ex."

Quinton: "I will."

Calvin: "You guys need to be men that you were. Not these marshmallows you are. That boy Jason is seeing a therapist in Sandton, Emi went with him yesterday. The look on your faces show you no absolutely no clue about what's happening around you. I have hired guards for women. Why don't theyhave anyway?"

Chris: "Because it was still safe"

Calvin: "There is no safe period for a man's weakness!"

Me: "You don't have to shout Dube we hear you"

Calvin: "I'm just mad at you both" he said pointing at

Q and Tyler. "You need to keep your pants up. Jerk off if you're bored. You Tyler we even have a woman upstairs crying her eyeballs out because you had no decency to even use a condom when you slept with that woman. That woman is yet to bring a whole fucking drama into this family and I hope you are ready."

Tyler: "I wish anyone could just stop reminding me of how much I fucked up"

Me: "How? Seeing her doesn't remind you?"

Tyler: "Not now KK please"

Quinton: "I will handle the Nkule issue"

Calvin: "How? Its either you give her what she wants or you kill her; of which you can't"

Quinton: "I'll find another way"

Calvin: "I hope you do. Make breakfast for the women. Tell them how you love them and appreciate their existence in your lives. I will see you all on Friday"

He picked his phone up and walked out.

Chris: "He's right"

Me: "Very right"

Quinton: "He's his father's son. Asking no questions, just shouting and giving out orders"

We laughed.

Chris: "What are we gonna make for the women?"

Tyler: "Braai meat, make salads and pap"

Me: "Aren't they on diet?"

Quinton: "Knowing their crazy asses. They would never say no to meat, let alone food made by us"

Chris: "True. Go make the fire. Tyler and I will cook pap and make those salads"

Tyler: "Why us?"

Quinton: "Just put the pot on the stove"

We walked to the storeroom to get coal and the braai stand and then went outside to make the fire.

Me: "What's her name?"

Q: "Who? Pass me the lighter" I did.

Me: "Your companion"

Q: "Sindi"

Me: "Is she special?"

Q: "No"

Me: "Then why are you with her?"

Q: "For my sexual needs"

Me: "Why are you saying that like its normal?"

Q: "It is in my world. I'm avoiding sleeping with every woman in Durban"

Me: "That doesn't mean use someone's child"

Q: "She's aware. Can we please stop talking about this?"

Me: "Yeah sure." I walked back inside to get the meat.

•••

[Quinton]

As if I had no enough stress of Nkule calling and sending me numerous crazy texts the whole night.

I don't know how and when will I ever be brave

enough to tell them about Yoli. It's gonna cause a really huge tension between us.

My phone vibrated. Its her again with another crazyass message of how much we were made for eachother.

I called her.

Nkule: "Hey love" Jesus Christ!

Me: "How are you?"

Nkule: "I'm good. How are you?" Me:

"Can I see you before I leave?" Nkule:

"Yeah sure. When?"

Me: "11:30"

Nkule: "Where?"

Me: "I'll send you a location"

Nkule: "Ok. Just know that I really love Quinton" Me:

"We'll talk when we meet. Bye"

I hung up. I didn't even realize Khule standing in front of me.

Khule: "Was that her?"

Me: "No. Nkule. I need to talk to her" I handed him my phone showing him the messages she sent.

Khule: "This...this has some sickness in it. What the hell?"

Me: "It's been a year for Christ's sake. Why did she turn me down if she loved me so much?"

Khule: "She's sick that's why. Just go there and try to talk. This will end badly if you don't act like you understand"

Me: "I'll try"

We put the meat on the braai stand. She must just get admitted to the mental hospital...

•••

[Katlego]

I felt a soft kiss on my cheek.

Chris: "Wake up. Breakfast is ready"

I opened my eyes.

Me: "What time is it?"

Chris: "9am. I've bathed the kids. They are downstairs eating" I smiled.

Me: "Thank you baby. Let me brush my teeth"

I got off the bed. I snatched a towel and covered myself before he finishes me up with his stare. Hechuckled.

He's on a mission these days. I see he's trying to ruin my wedding with a baby bump. Little does he know that the pill is being the best goalkeeper.

I ended up taking a shower. I came back to him lying on his stomach busy on the laptop.

Chris: "You're never honest. Your teeth brushing always end up being a shower"

Me: "Imagine eating breakfast with a bunch of Dubai men while reeking of the previous day's bad odour. Come on babe"

Chris: "You do it even when we're alone" whatever!"So tell me, when are we going for cake and desert tasting?"

This disease of loving sugar gets stronger each day.

Me: "Luh will update me. There's also food, wine and whiskey tasting"

Chris: "Praise the Lord!"

Me: "Amen!" We laughed and kissed. He helped me tie my hair and then we walked out.

I greeted and kissed my babies cheeks. I'm invisible when their fathers are around. This 3 days they will spend away will really effect me. Chris pulled a chair for me. Chris opened a chair for me. I sat down.

Me: "This looks appetizing. Are you guys trying to mess with my diet?"

Khethelo: "Don't look at us. We didn't make this" I looked at the men. They had smiles of pride. I chuckled. They're such a mystery.

Tyler came in with another serving bowl. He put it down and sat next to Khethiwe. He kissed her cheek. I wish I could carry all that load of pain for her.

Quinton: "So today we decided to take this day to be your men, chefs, cleaners and everything more"

Khule: "Baby sitters"

Tyler: "Errands boy. Shall anyone need anything from anywhere. I will get it for you."

Chris: "We don't say this too often but you're the best things that has ever happened to our lives. There wasn't so much light and love in this home until youall arrived. I know we are not the easiest people to love but you're loving us regardless, you'd swear we're perfect. Never get tired of it. I promise unconditional love, support, protection and care in return. And breakfast made by us every once in a while"

Khethelo: "Aw. We love you guys"

Me: "Our choice in men is very tasty. This gravy smells nice"

Khule: "Help yourself out"

Khethiwe was wiping away her tears. Tyler comforted her. We must burn that jezabel.

We dished up.

Khethiwe: "Let's hope there's no bhekamina ngedwa"

here" we laughed.

Chris: "There is"

Me: "Well I don't mind"

Khethiwe&Khethelo: "Sell out"

We laughed and closed our eyes to say grace. And then started eating. This is worth creating on my diet. It tasted of team work and effort.

Quinton: "How are wedding preparations going mama ka Hawu?"

Chris: "There's cake, dessert and whiskey tasting" he said excitedly. Since when is he mama ka Hawu?

Khule: "Are you kidding me? Are we allowed to come to?"

Chris: "Yes. It would be unfair if you weren't"

Quinton: "Please text me the date. I will come"

Khethelo looked at me and chuckled. Khethiwe excused herself.

They went on and on about what fun that day is going to be while we stuffed ourselves up...

•••

[Khethiwe]

I got in the kitchen and took out ice and put it on the glass.
He got in.

Tyler: "Are you okay?"

Me: "Yeah I'm good" He nodded and stared at me as I cut
lemon.

Tyler: "Is that for gin?"

Me: "No. I decided to cut down drinking" I poured
water.

Tyler: "I'm sorry"

Me: "Its okay. Can we talk?"

Tyler: "Yeah sure"

I led the way outside to the patio. We sat on different
chairs. Something inside had suddenly calmed down, really
calm.

Me: "I'm going back to work on Monday"

Tyler: "That is good. I will get a driver for you. Its not

safe to drive from PTA alone in the early hours of the morning"

Me: "That won't be necessary. I am moving back to my place. I spoke with Emi, she agreed to stay with me. We will visit here and Chris's once in a while." He came and sat beside me.

Tyler: "But why?"

Me: "Because I need peace. I can't watch you go to bed with everyday, I can't keep ruining my life with alcohol. A part of me is really tired."

Tyler: "Are you leaving me?" I felt tears burn my eyes.

Me: "Where am I gonna go? I love you Tyler. I hate that even now I love you even more. I just need some real quality time to heal"

He hesitantly hugged me. I still felt safe and loved in his arms. I really wish we weren't going through this...

•••

[Bonga]

It has been a hell weeks for my relationship. There

hasn't been peace but today things are looking great.

My phone rang rang. I wonder when does he actually attend class.

Me: "Dube"

Mtho: "Ndalo tells me Happy has been throwing up"

Me: "Yeah she told me. I think she's coming down with flu"

Mtho: "Women don't just throw up unless they're pregnant"

Me: "She's on contraceptives."

Mtho: "Good. Bye"

I hung up. She can't be possibly pregnant.

Nkazi walked in.

Nkazi: "Sir. Miss Mngomezulu is on the call" I checked my phone.

Me: "Its not on. Please tell her I'll call her just now" Nkazi:

"Yes Sir" she walked out.

I called her.

Happy: "Bonga" whatever happened to sweet names.

Me: "My office phone isn't working"

Happy: "I will pass by during lunch"

Me: "No need I am taking you to lunch. Have you gone to the Dr?"

Happy: "No. I feel better today. I can't be on the public though"

Me: "Okay come to my office then. I have a meeting for an hour and a half in 10 minutes. Nkazi will call you when I'm done"

Happy: "Okay"

Me: "Bye. I love you"

Happy: "I love you more"

I hung up and prepared for the meeting...

...

I found her already waiting outside my office. We hugged. She did not look good, she seemed distracted.

Me: "I thought you were gonna bring food"

Happy: "I did. Sis Mellisa offered to warm it up and put it in plates"

Me: "Ok. How are you feeling you don't look okay"

Happy: "That's because I'm not. I passed by the Dron my way here to get a nasal spray."

Me: "I'm sorry. You are on the pill right?" She frowned. "I'm asking."

Happy: "Yeah"

Me: "You possibly be pregnant right?" She looked away. "Happiness?"

Happy: "I am"

Me: "Don't play like that"

Happy: "I'm not playing"

I hit the desk. Fuck! I got up.

Me: "How? You just said you're on the pill!"

Happy: "Don't shout at me"

Me: "Why the hell shouldn't I? How did you get

pregnant while you're on the pill?"

Happy: "These things aren't 100%. Jesus Bongawhat is wrong with you?"

Me: "I don't want a child! Fuck!"

I went to stand over the window. God this can't be happening.

Happy: "I thought you loved me"

Me: "Happy please. Not now."

Happy: "Why are you mad?" I turned.

Me: "Because you allowed for us to have raw sex while you knew this shit isn't 100% safe! I do not want a child"

Happy: "Well it is here now. I can't return it"

Me: "How far are you?"

Happy: "4 weeks"

Me: "Terminate it"

Happy: "What?"

Me: "Terminate it"

She looked me straight in the eye. Tears fell.

Happy: "You're unbelievable" she picked her bag up and walked out.

I loosened my tie. Mellisa got in with the food. She put it on my desk and quickly rushed out. I took the bloody plates and smashed them against the wall.

What kind of sick punishment is this

[2/26, 06:39] Zoaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Thirty Seven

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[Khethiwe]

It's been hell of 2 days. I have tried to stay away from alcohol as far as possible. All I can say is: I'm finding it difficult to face my life.

Yesterday I went to my house. Emi is trying and I'm grateful but it will take more than laughter to mend my heart.

She came in with groceries. I got up and helped her

with the bags.

Me: "Why didn't you call? For a moment I thought you weren't coming back"

Emi: "I decided to pass by the mall and get a few things. How are you?"

Me: "I'm good babe thanks. How are you and how was work?"

Emi: "I'm fine and work was fine thank you. Are we cooking or eating out?"

Me: "No we'll go out tomorrow. Let this be an indoor Thursday" she chuckled.

Emi: "Okay. Let me go change"

Me: "I already cooked rice and made salads"

Emi: "I'll roast chicken then"

Me: "Okay" she left.

I took it out and packed the grocery. I heard a knock on the door. I went to open.

Tyler: "I tried to call you but your phone is off"

Me: "Yeah it is. It's charging"

Tyler: "Are you okay?"

Me: "Yeah. I'm good. How are you?"

Tyler: "I'm fine. I came to check if you're okay" Me:

"Thank you. Do you wanna come in?" Tyler: "Yes please"

I shifted for him to get in and closed the door. I made him something to drink and served him. We sat in complete silence. Just looking at each other. I had no idea what to say to him.

Me: "Are there any new clients?" I finally said.

Tyler: "Yes. 4. Pretty hectic cases"

Me: "Don't worry. You got this" He smiled.

Tyler: "Thank you. Are my clothes still here?" Me:

"Where would they go?"

Tyler: "Cabbage can" I chuckled.

Me: "No. They are still where you left them"

Tyler: " Oh. Can I stay over?" Oh dear Lord.

Me: "Yeah." Quinton said I shouldn't allow it but I miss him. I hate myself for it.

Tyler: "Thank you" Me:

"You're welcome"

We focussed on the TV. Emi: "Which dildo size do you want?" She shouted from the bedroom. God please kill me now. We discussed about getting ourselves dildos last night. He looked at me with a very strange face.

Me: "Uhm..."

Emi: "There are pretty much big sizes here. Or you want Tyler's size?"

He coughed.

Me: "We have a visitor Emi"

She popped her head out. She screamed and slammed the door.

Emi: "I'm sorry" I laughed.

He was still looking at me.

Me: "We had a conversation last night. I didn't know she was serious"

Tyler: "If its gonna make you happy. Buy it" I frowned. "I mean it. As long as there'll be no other man. Competing with a dildo is better than competing with a dude"

I chuckled.

Me: "I am good thank you. I can abstain"

Tyler: "But you know we can be intimate without actually penetrating?"

Me: "I don't think that's a good idea"

Tyler: "I miss you Khethiwe" he placed his hand on my thigh. I took a deep breath and got up.

Me: "Let me prepare us something to eat cause Emi won't come out"

Tyler: "Why? We all know she's old and having sex" Me:

"You wouldn't understand"

Tyler: "Yeah right."

I watched him as he fiddled through the channels. I

miss those days. When he was just mine and mine alone. How does one be angry at someone like this and still love them so deeply?

It doesn't make sense...

•••

[Bonga]

We chose this particular Friday to be a freaky one. Everyone gets to dress up in whatever they want.

I didn't know this place has so much super models.

Talitha: "Good morning Mr Dube" she greeted as I passed the reception desk. She's our receptionist.

Me: "Morning. Do you have surprise coffee for me?" She usually greets me in such a high spirit when she has coffee for me.

Talitha: "I so wish. But I have something better"

She handed me a wrapped box. "From the Dube constructions stuff. Happy Birthday in advance"

Me: "Aren't you guys the sweetest? Thank you so much"

Talitha: "Have a good day Sir"

Me: "Thank you"

I walked on. Nodding all the way to the greetings. I usually come in early to avoid being greeted with so much respect by people older than me. I somehow feel guilty.

I finally got to my office. Nkazi wasn't in hers.

I tried Happy for the millionth time. It took me straight to voicemail. I went to her place last night but she didn't open the door.

She got in. Its magic. Women have magic. I could only recognize her because of the glasses and braces when she smiled.

Nkazi: "Good morning sir"

Me: "Morning Nkazi"

Nkazi: "Your schedule is very clear today. The meeting you had with bricks suppliers just got cancelled. It was your only meeting for the day"

Me: "Thank you. You look amazing"

Nkazi: "Thank you."

She's nothing like the Nkazi I know today. She had a tube dress and heels on. So simple yet so beautiful. She's always in fluffy dresses. She dresses exactly like American nerds. In this hot she puts stockings, a dress and something on top and a head band. But today she styled her afro.

Me: "Don't buy me lunch today. I won't be here"

Nkazi: "Okay."

She walked out.

Mtho budged in.

Mtho: "Tell me that isn't Nkazi"

Me: "It's her broe"

Mtho: "That ass! Her boobies were staring right at me. I swear" I laughed.

Me: "Her father kills"

Mtho: "Mine does too. Can I ask for her numbers?" Me:

"No. You shall not date any employee"

Mtho: "You want her for yourself? You can say. Your secret will be safe with me"

Me: "Why aren't you at school?"

Mtho: " I don't have any classes on Friday thank you. And I'm going to mom's today. Have you reached happy?"

Me: "No. I am going to her place right now"

Mtho: "Okay. Who bought you this gift?"

I had forgotten about it. I took it and opened it. It was chocolates and ties. I smiled.

Me: "Its from the stuff. Pre birthday gift"

Mtho: "Is it today?"

Me: "No. On Sunday. Let's go"

Mtho: "I am meeting Ndalo first then I'll go home" Me:

"Cool"

...

I arrived at her place. I knocked till the guy who lives next door came out and greeted me.

Him: "You want the lady who lives there?"

Me: "Yeah. Have you seen her?"

Him: "She moved out last night"

Me: "Okay thank you"

I tried her work phone. It went through voicemail too. I sat outside on my car. What have I done?

I called Ndalo. She did not pick up.

I leaned my head against the steering wheel. I can't connect to gogo or anyone above.

My phone rang. I answered.

Me: "Hello"

Man: "Mr Dube?"

Me: "Speaking"

Man: "Its detective Mcira. We've found a car registered under Mr Khulekani Dube here at the zoolake, not crashed. Just parked under the tree. We tried his phone but it goes straight to voicemail. Anyclues of where he might be?"

Me: "No. I haven't heard from him in 24hours. "

Man: "Ok thank you. Please pass by the station totake it home"

Me: "I will"

He hung up. I tried him. It went to voicemail. I triedBab Q. It went to voicemail too.

I suddenly got a weird feeling. I started my car and drove home...

•••

[Khethelo]

Me: "Khulekani Dube this is your last warning. I amgoing to the police to report a missing person." I hung up.

Nobody in this family has their phones on. Katlegoshould have arrived by now but no.

Mam Dino came down.

Mam Dino: "They are finally asleep"

Me: "Thank you mah" we hardly slept a wink last night. They cried the whole night. Khule did not

come home. He went to get us wings and never returned.

Mam Dino: "I'm sure he has a better explanation."

Me: "I have a bad feeling about this ma. I can't wait for that 48 to report that he's missing"

Mam Dino: "He possibly be missing" Me: "I

wish he's out cheating than dead" Mam

Dino: "You need to rest"

Me: "No. I need to go to and ask around"

Mam Dino: "Take Katlego with you"

Me: "She's coming" She

walked in.

Kat: "I'm sorry. My car started acting up. Dumelang mma"

Mam Dino: "Yebo sisi. Let me leave you two to discuss this" she left.

Me: "Even Quinton's phone isn't going through"

Kat: "Chris went to that hacker guy to search for his

car's location."

Me: "I'm kak stressed"

Kat: "Let's just pray he's safe wherever he is"

Bonga got in.

Bonga: "Is baba here?"

Me: "No. He didn't come home last night"

Bonga: "His car was found at the zoo lake"Me:

"I told you Katlego"

Bonga: "The police are on it"

Kat: "Since when do those things ever find anything?Get private investigators Sbongakonke."

Bonga: "How?" We both stared at him. "Uhm okay. I'll see you guys later"

My phone rang. I picked it up.

Me: "Hello"

Caller: "Can I speak to Mrs Khethelo Dube"

Me: "Speaking"

Caller: "you're speaking Dali to Nkosi. I'm calling concerning Mr Quinton Dube, whose car was found on the robot with broken windows. Seems like he has been abducted. May you please rush to the station?"
What is going on? I couldn't hold back the tears anymore.

Me: "I'm sorry sisi I'm in Jo'burg"

Caller: "I'm sorry. I will be with you shortly please don't hang up"

Me: "Okay"

Kat: "What's going on?"

Me: "Quinton's car was found on the robot with broken windows. They think he's been abducted. Khule is too. Please call Calvin and Chris"

Kat: "Is there ever peace in this home? God!"

She reached for her phone in her bag.

Caller: "Mrs Dube? Are you still there?"

Me: "Yes I am."

Caller: "Officer Sthole will call you shortly. We will

need you to work with us in this okay. He will be the only police you will be communicating with concerning this case okay?"

Me: "Okay"

Caller: "We're still waiting on the footage of last night to see what really happened"

Me: "Okay thank you" Katlego came rushing to me.

Kat: "My kids!" Oh my God. I sat down. I'm too weak for this. "I'm leaving for Durban"

Me: "Go"

She took her bag and ran out. What is going on!

•••

[Khule]

I felt ice cold water splash over me. I jumped but I felt my hands were tied. I opened my eyes. I have never seen this moron before.

He smiled.

Him: "That was your breakfast" I looked around. I saw there was someone else across the room.

I can't even recall how I got here. I only remember being dragged out of my car and that was it. They drugged me. Bloody cowards.

He splashed the other person too.

"Fuck!"

Me: "Quinton?"

He removed the black thing off his head. Quinton:

"Khule. What's going on? Who's this?"

Me: "I don't know. Probably another friend from the past"

Quinton: "My kids are alone at home...wait. Are you in Durban or Jo'burg?"

Moron: "Neither" he laughed and walked out.

Me: "Where's the nanny?"

Q: "I told her to take a day off last afternoon. Then around 9 I went to get beer from the liquor, a car stopped right in front of mine as I was driving into a

stop. They broke my window and kicked me. That's all I remember"

Me: "They drugged you"

Q: "Fuck whoever this is. I'm gonna kill him!" Me:

"Save your energy for beatings. He got us."

Q: "Shhhh" I looked at him. "Those are sea birds. We're definitely not in Jo'burg"

Me: "This is fucked up."

The door opened. Oh shit. He got in, followed by his goon that was here.

Nzuza: "Hello boys" he pulled a chair and sat down. The moron pulled Q to be next to me. Nzuza looked at us. "You don't listen, do you?"

Me: "What is this about?"

Nzuza: "Don't make me stupid Dube. I admire your guts though. The way you have big balls to keep messing with me is very scary"

Me: "It would be better if you came straight up about the whole point of this" he chuckled.

Nzuza: "My teaser Scorpion" This
bloody old man.

Nzuza: "Better yet. Just call the guys"

Me: "Whatever you're about to do. Make sure you kill us
because if you don't...." he put it on my rib cage. I
groaned.

Nzuza: "Shut the hell up!"

Four men with big ass arms got in. Nzuza:

"Beat them till their clothes dry" They
started punching us....

•••

[Calvin]

After receiving a call from Katlego. I called each and
every one of my contacts who may help in finding out
where these dudes might be. I sent out extra security to
their homes.

I called my ladies in Durban to go check who is with the
kids at Q's.

I called Charles. He is better than most of my guys. He's someone we can all rely on.

Charles: "Boss Kush"

Me: "Have you heard about Q?"

Charles: "No. What's up?"

Me: "He's taken. Khule is unreachable so I think they both are. I need you to go to the police and tell them they've been found. I don't want them involved in this case cause I will kill whoever has them"

Charles: "Consider it done Sir"

I hung up. I texted Lelo to tell her sister to not talk to any police.

I called Mandla.

Mandla: "Madonna "

Me: "The Dube twins are missing. You're not responding right?"

Mandla: "What? Of course not"

Me: "Okay. Get me the last night's robot footage to prove you aren't"

Mandla: "Kush you know that's not easy"

Me: "Well make it be! I want it before the sun sets. You know what's at stake if you don't deliver"

Mandla: "Fine I'll try"

Me: "I love that"

I hung up. I have until midnight to find these headless chickens who don't know the importance of security. I wish whoever has has them. Punch their teeth out...

[2/26, 06:39] Zoaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Thirty Eight

•••

[Katlego]

I arrived in Durban just as the sun set. Luckily enough I found a plane to Durban that was about to depart in an hour. The whole journey my palms were sweating. I've never been this worried. Khethelo called me earlier to inform me that I shall talk to no

cop.

How insane is that? The police should be who we run to but no we can't because they never really do anything. All they know is roaming around looking for imaginary thugs and wear bullet proofs to certify documents.

I punched the code at the gate. The old man wasn't at the gate. There was no sign of him.

I drove in.

I rushed towards the house soon as I parked. The door was locked. I called Chris.

Chris: "Have you arrived?" Me:

"Yes. The door is locked"

Chris: "Uhm let me call Kylie to bring you sparekeys"

Me: "Okay"

I hung up. I wanted to cry so bad. I sat down on the deco pot.

The gate slid open. A white car drove in. Quinton's

X7. I sighed in relief and got up.

I stopped halfway when I realized its not him. Shegot off and came towards me.

Her: "Hi. Is Quinton here?" Me:

"Hi. No he isn't. You are?"

Her: "Yoli. Do you perhaps know where he is?"

Me: "No. I'm waiting for his PA to bring me the keysso I can open here and get my kids"

Yoli: "You must be Katlego" I frowned. She passedme and went to the door.

She unlocked.

Me: "What's your relation to Quinton?"

Yoli: "Just a friend." I walked in.

This is a very messy lounge. I turned. She was gone.I saw her car drive out. Do they have matching carsor?

And why does she have keys to his house? Their friendship must include very hot steamy sex.

Me: "Hawu! Sikelela!"

I heard little giggles. I went to the kitchen. There they were. Hawu sitting on top of the stove with an open pot of meat beside him. Sisekelo was fast asleep, messy with meat soup. Sikelela was crawling around with a piece of meat in her hand.

Me: "You kids are very creepy. How on earth did you get there? Come. Let's go bath"

For once. I'm grateful for their snake instincts or else I would've found them dead of hunger. I wonder if Q left the lounge that messy or they messed it up. I carried them one by one to their nursery.

Whoever decorated this house is really good. Especially the nursery. The 4D flooring of the kids picture. Its truly amazing.

I bathed them. Miss sleepy head was crying. She doesn't like being disturbed from anything.

Me: "Let's go clean daddy's kitchen and cook" I opened the door and we walked out. They started with their noise.

I took my phone and called Khethelo to inform her I found them safe and sound. There was still no clue of where these men might be. I knelt before the couch and prayed...

•••

[Quinton]

My body was numb from all the beating. I couldn't even feel my face.

They had stopped roughing us up. We hadn't had such a beating in 16 years.

At some point I felt like my teeth were gonna fall off. He got in. We could barely talk.

Khule: "Water please"

Nzuza: "This is not your mother's house you asshole. Tell me Dube. Where did you find the gut to hit on my daughter?" he rolled up his sleeve. "You know I'm caught between killing you with my own bare hands and feeding you to the sharks. You take me for a poe's boys"

Khule: "This is a very huge misunderstanding. What

daughter?"

Nzuza: "Oh don't play with me Dube. Do you want to get her killed too?" He punched him. He groaned.

Me: "He has nothing to do with this!"

Nzuza: "Oh yeah he does. Why did he let you date her? He's very much guilty as you but you're extremely guilty"

Khule: "What is he talking about?"

Me: "He's really clueless about this Nzuza. Please let him go and deal with me" he punched me. Fuck this old man.

Nzuza: "This is the only way I'll let him go" he took out a gun and pointed it at Khule.

Me: "For Christ's sake would you please stop!"

Nzuza: "I actually should've done this the moment I learned that you killed my daughter."

Khule: "Pull the trigger. What are you waiting for?"

Nzuza: "Don't push me son! I only want one thing from you" he turned from the hardcore thug to an

emotional pastor. "I just want you to stay away from everything that has to do with me. I was very angry when I wanted to insure Yolanda's car and then I saw that it is insured by your company and you're the one that gave her that car. And when I saw you leaving her place with your kids earlier. I knew it from right there that I had to put a stop to this"

I could feel Khule's eyes pierce right through my skin. "You can't use my child to get Phila back you fucking morons!"

He punched me countless times. Me:

"I'm not using her for anything!" Khule:

"You lied to me"

Me: "Yes! That proves I am not using her to get Phila back."

Nzuza: "It doesn't make any difference! The moment you found out she's my daughter you should've stayed the hell away from her"

Me: "I tried but I couldn't"

I gained myself another punch. He looked at Khule.

He was staring at me with so much rage. I lied for a good reason.

His phone rang. He cut the ties. Does he want Khuleto kill me?

Nzuza: "I'm here busy with your lousy asses when I should be with my child, comforting her. And just know that if you don't leave my baby girl alone I will make your lives very unpleasant. That's if I won't kill you" he looked at Khule again.

He untied me too. "Kill each other" bloody fool! He walked out.

Khule flew to me and punched the living day lights out of me.

Me: "Stop!"

Khule: "You lied to me!"

moved him off.

Me: "For a good reason"

Khule: "Fuck good reason! You know he could've taken our kids and did only God knows what. This

man hates us. Why would you go for his daughter?" Me:

"Its a long story"

Khule: "Stay away from her"

Me: "You're now aiming too high"

Khule: "He's gonna let us go and torture us from the weak spots we never knew we had"

Me: "We'll be extra careful"

Khule: "Aren't you listening to me? The kids are alone at your place as we speak. Do you know what could happen to them?"

Me: "Security is very tight"

Khule: "You're very stupid. Nzuzi isn't an immature"

Nzuzi: "Right I'm not. Your Mamnguni is meeting up with PI's. If you don't stay away from me and mine I will invade yours and you will be burying every week. And by the way I'm selling you to one of the buyers who would love to punch those disgusting old age faces. Do you even know you're way older than my child?" He said getting in.

Me: "You need to find a way to make her stay away too because she has access to my house. If I don't pick up the phone she'll show up"

He put a taser on my stomach. I saw heaven gates open....

•••

[Tyler]

I woke up to my phone vibrating. She was fast asleep.

I took it and walked out.

Me: "Morning"

Jess: "Morning. I'm at your gate"

Me: "I'm in Jo'burg"

Jess: "Wow. And you didn't tell me?"

Me: "Since when I report myself to you. Jessica for once, just resume your role of being a woman in this relationship"

Jess: "I'm not your Khethiwe Tyler. I will not bow to any kak thing you do. I drove all the way here for

nothing. Why couldn't you act like a decent person who's in a relationship and tell me you won't be here?"

Me: "Because you shouldn't be there in the first place. That is my wife's house"

Jess: "She fed you well last night, didn't she? Well in that case I also want my mansion"

Me: "Have a good day"

Jess: "Don't hang up on me!"

I hung up. She coughed. I turned.

Khethiwe: "Maybe its urgent"

Me: "Its not. And my weekends are spent home.

Morning"

Khethiwe: "Morning. I'll make you food" I grabbed her back to me.

Me: "You don't have to be this good to me Khethiwe. I think its best if you shout at me" she looked deep into my eyes.

Khethiwe: "I want to but my heart doesn't let me. I

am angry at you but I also want you here with me. To hold me and assure me I will never lose you even in this situation." A tear fell from her left eye. "That's how much I love you"

I brought her in for a hug.

Me: "I love you so much. I wish I had never done it. I feel like words aren't enough to let you know how sorry I am and how much I regret it"

Khethiwe: "Just make me feel like she isn't in our lives"

I kissed her forehead. God knows I am impatiently waiting for her to give birth so I can end this...

•••

[Khethelo]

I heard voices downstairs. I checked the time. It was 10am.

I got up and went downstairs.

Me: "Morning. Hey you guys" I pinched their chubby cheeks.

Katlego: "Morning babe"

Me: "Why didn't you wake me up ma?"

Mam Dino: "You just slept this morning. These littlefellas still have the milk you expressed last night"

Me: " What would I be without you though" she hasbeen very helpful. Our relationship took a very unexpected turn. She somehow turned to be my pillar of strength. Babomncane doesn't exist in herworld anymore.

Sam called me a few days ago. He said he's recovering. Mam Dino didn't even seem interested when I told her.

Mam Dino: "They are peacefully sleeping in their room. Let's go little ones"

The triplets followed her to the lounge. They love her because she always feeds them.

Katlego: "Apparently your brother inlaw has a friend.A female best friend. Who drives his X7, knows his gate code and has the spare keys to the house"

Me: "Tell me you're kidding. She sounds like a

girlfriend"

Katlego: "She seems pretty young to be his girlfriend though"

Me: "Do you know those varsity slay queens? They could date someone as old as Bab Gede" we laughed.

Katlego: "If they are dating. He'll be drawing unnecessary attention to the family. The news people are giving us a big break"

Me: "Maybe they are just friends"

Katlego: "Let's hope so. I am not ready to have a 19year old sister wife." I laughed.

Me: "I don't think he's over Chloe or even ready for a relationship at that. And he wouldn't go for someone that young"

Katlego: "He's a man."

Me: "True"

Katlego: "Any leads?"

Me: "Nope. I'm waiting for an update from those

guys"

Katlego: "Okay. I just hope they are okay"

Me: "I prayed till I fell asleep."

Kat: "Your eyes are swollen"

Me: "I was also crying"

She hugged me.

Me: "Lelo and the kids are coming over"

Kat: "Should we cook?"

Me: "I think so"

Kat: "Ever noticed something about Yezwe?" Me:

"No. What is it?"

Kat: "I think he's gay"

Me: "No!"

Kat: "I saw him at Mall of Africa the other day holding hands with whom seemed to be his lover. He's a muscular one I think"

Me: "Lelo told me he also slept with their lawyer that slept with Calvin"

Kat: "Bisexual then"

Me: "Yoh. He will never come out. This family is very old fashioned to understand"

Kat: "Not if we make them understand"

Me: "Which will be even harder"

Kat: "We must stay ready"

Emi got in.

Emi: "Guess who slept over?"

Me: "Tyler?"

Emi: "Yes. Why did he cheat? They love each other" Kat:

"He's an asshole that's why. No offense"

Emi: "None taken. He really is. That bitch Jessica just reminds me of Bianca. Very stupid"

Me: "We heard you are taking Jay to a therapist"

Emi: "Don't judge me"

Kat: "Nobody is. How is Brad taking it?"

Emi: "I don't know. We haven't spoken about it since I told him. What do you have? I'm hungry"

Me: "Why didn't you eat at your place?"

Emi: "They looked so cosy and inlove on the couch. I didn't wanna be there and ruin their moment."

Us: "Awww"

Kat: "We should burn that jezabel right after she gives birth" we laughed.

Me: "You're very violent. You heard about your brothers?"

Emi: "Yes. They'll come back safe and sound don't worry"

Me: "Aibo Emi"

Emi: "No one has guts to kill them. Plus there's Calvin. He's also a thug like them, he'll find them"

I guess I needed to hear this. I appreciate that they are thugs in suits today....

•••

[Calvin]

I smiled alone when I found out Nzuza is the one that took them.

We once worked together to bring some asshole down a few years back. I gave him a call last night and pretended to need help to get these Dube twins. He confidently told me to come to Durban today so we could talk.

He ordered me to meet him at Siphingo beach.

I was leaning against my car smoking. This place is very odd. There was a shack in between the bushes.

"Madonna" I turned.

Me: "Samson my man"

Sam: "You look fresher. How have you been?" We shook hands.

Me: "Pretty good. How have you been?"

Sam: "Very good. So you say you want the twins"

Me: "High and low. I want to rip them off of everything they have. The young one got my brother behind bars and the state took everything"

Sam: "What? What is wrong with this blood line?"

Me: "Only God knows. Are you gonna help me?"

Sam: "Yes. One of them is messing with mg daughter. Remember Lesedi?"

Me: "Yeah. How old is she now?"

Sam: "She's no more. She was shot dead at their home because these bloody idiots ran home whilebeing chased with guns. She was married to Khulekani"

Me: "I'm sorry to hear that man. They deserve to be smashed with hammers on the head"

Sam: "If there's anyone who could do that. It is you. Because I can't kill them."

Me: "You know me" he handed me the keys.

Sam: "They are in that shack. I need to take my daughter to Ulundi. Her sister passes away. I shouldn't even be here. Keep me updated"

Me: "I will"

We shook hands then he left. He got into his car anddrove off.

I went to the shack. I unlocked. They were lying down on the floor, out.

I took water and poured it on them. They jumped up.

Khule: "What the hell man!"

Me: "Wake up"

Quinton: "Wait...what are you doing here? Where's Nzuza?"

Me: "I killed him. Let's go"

Them: "What?"

Me: "How else was I gonna get you if I didn't?" Khule:

"That's the grandfather of my child you fool!"

This is a very stupid beef. They hate each other but don't wanna see each other dead?

Me: "I'm joking. Smile"

They blankly stared at me. "I wanna see if they punched your teeth out. You look like you were stung by bees" I chuckled.

I led the way out. It took them 5 minutes to get to the car. I love Nzuza's boys. They will now learn the importance of security.

Me: "Quinton. Text the girl that it's over"

Quinton: "She doesn't need that right now. She just lost her sister"

Me: "That psycho old man will go after the women if you don't break off this relationship"

Quinton: "I will text her next week"

Khule: "Just go silent. She'll know. Have you slept with her?"

Quinton: "No"

Khule: "Good. She'll get over you in no time"

Quinton: "Where's this place?"

Me: "Siphingo"

Khule: "He took me to Durban? This old man is nuts"

I laughed. I was watching them from the rear view mirror. I will not take them where there's kids. They'd probably scream and run off.

Me: "Can I borrow you guys a mirror?"

Khule: "Fuck you Calvin."

Quinton: "How did you find us?"

Me: "Connections. As long as nobody knows that I'm a Dube. I will be the ticket out of such situations"

Quinton: "Can we pass by the hospital please"

Me: "Prince Mshiyeni is a couple of minutes away. It's a public though"

Khule: "As long as it has nurses and doctors man we're good"

I laughed. I find this whole thing very funny. Them getting beaten up? It's a miracle...

[2/26, 06:39] Zozaness: Chapter Thirty Nine

•••

[Khethelo]

Nothing shall forever be hidden. In May God remembered babomncane. He took his last breath after having me rushed to Durban. He confessed that he killed my parents. Mam Dino confessed that Sam and Nhlelo are my father's children. Turns out babomncane was infertile so my grandmother had my father sleep with Mam Dino. Old people are

disgusting at times. What kind of madness is that?

We've been avoiding each other with the siblings ever since. I guess we're all not coming into terms with that bomb they dropped on us.

I've had two pregnancy scares over the two past months. I know he can't make children anymore but God is mysterious. One can never be too sure.

I never really believed that Phila's grandfather is sick until Khule told me it's him that abducted them because Quinton was dating his daughter.

He promised to let her go and so far it seems like he did really let her go because he's always here since then. He gave up his waiter job even.

...

I heard a "Whooooo!" And whistles from outside. I turned on the surveillance tablet. It was the newly weds. They're back. Finally they gonna take their kids. I had one hell of a week with them.

The young twins could now sit. 4 months and very healthy you can't tell they were prematurely delivered.

I was cooking for the Dube family that was sitting by the fire place at the other patio. Khethiwe and Lelo have been doing this to me. Dodging cooking and everything.

They walked in with bags. They went grocery shopping.

Lelo: "It smells nice"

Me: "Please don't talk to me. I'm done. You may now serve the people"

Khethiwe: "Katlego will"

Katlego: "Katlego is not doing anything lovie" she said coming in. We screamed.

Me: "Look at that marriage glow"

Katlego: "You may now safely address me as Mrs Dube"

Us: "Mrs Dube" she dramatically bowed. We laughed and hugged her.

Lelo: "How is marriage sex?"

Katlego: "Out of this planet. I might have caught

some new feelings"

Khethiwe: "You making me wanna reverse my decision"

Me: "Aibo stand your ground mamas"

Tyler paid lobola for that Jessica of his. She was helping out at Kat's wedding, brushing her tiny bumpevery now and then. I wanted to die. Khethiwe just went to her grandmother's house. She only came to help out during the day and leave in the noon.

Kat: "What did you guys say I had to do?"

Me: "Dish up for the men"

Kat: "How? The younger wife is outside. She should dish up" we laughed.

Lelo: "You're such a bully"

She took out plates and dished up. We served our alcoholic husbands. Jessica was snuggled up next to Tyler. Khule had the audacity to ask me to bring an extra plate for her. I did. He's been testing my patience lately.

We finally finished up and made coffee and went to

the lounge very ready to hear all about the honeymoon nastiness...

•••

[Emi]

He was back at work. No longer drinking nor smoking. His sessions were now once a week. Our friendship brought a strain into my relationship. Brad and I fought all the time. I decided to stop tagging along into Jason's sessions and started meeting with him secretly to hear about his progress. We met on Tuesday. He begged me to go with him to the movies. I was looking over my shoulder for Brad. It felt like cheating.

...

Beside Tyler's dramatic love triangle. Everything was going well in the Dube family. Two weeks ago Kat and Chris wedded. Everyone's life is heading the right path. Brother Calvin is the boss at work and also to us. Not that I'm complaining though. He makes sure we're all okay every time.

I took my phone and confirmed the time arrival of

the triplets cakes. Their birthday is tomorrow. 1st of July. The day we all witnessed that the Dube ancestors are real. I am still shocked up to this day.

I saw a text from Khethiwe asking if I will join them.

I am not. They must enjoy their time with their crazy husbands.

I changed and took my car keys. I texted him that I'm coming over. I didn't get time to see him yesterday at work.

...

My phone rang as I drove in to his house. I answered. Me:

"Hey Jay. Can I call you later?"

Jason: "No."

Me: "I'm good. I am currently busy at the moment"

Jason: "My son is in coma"

Me: "Oh my God I'm so sorry. What happened?"

Jason: "He fell off Bianca's sister's bunk bed" he was crying. "I'm sorry I just didn't know who to call"

He hung up. I called him back. He didn't pick up.

"Which hospital are you in?" I sent him. "Netcare Milpark hospital" he replied.

"Okay. I'll see you later. Don't cry he will be okay"

I locked my phone and got out of the car. Brad came out.

Brad: "I was starting to wonder what's holding you up" we hugged and kissed.

Me: "I was busy on the phone. Nice haircut"

Brad: "Thank you MaDube" I chuckled. We've been learning my clan names on our blissful days. He took my hand and led me inside the house.

Me: "It smells nice in here"

Brad: "I'm cooking"

Me: "I love being here already" he laughed and poured me wine. He drinks wine whenever he cooks. I bet he feels like a real chef when he keeps sipping on that glass.

He gave me pickles to chop.

Brad: "Jason was here last night" I choked on the wine. He handed me a napkin.

Me: "What did he want?"

Brad: "To get his tablet that was on the back seat of the jeep." Shit! "I don't know how I feel about this. You were driving the jeep on Tuesday. How did his tablet end up at the back seat if you don't meet anymore?"

Me: "We bumped into each other babe"

Brad: "And the tablet jumped to the backseat?" He was too calm it scared me.

I thought Jason was done with being crazy. He deliberately put that tablet there. Why didn't he call me to get it for him? He's so stupid.

Me: "No. He must've slipped it in there without noticing. I'm sorry"

Brad: "He wouldn't be disrespecting our relationship this much if you didn't give him so much go ahead"

Me: "I'm not"

Brad: "Of course you are. Why would he have guts to

come to my house and say all that shit he said?" Me:

"What did he say?"

Brad: "Everything. You're old Emihle. I will not keep on telling you to stop going out with him or calling each other. It will seem like I'm controlling your wife. I said you should stop at first because I wanted to protect our relationship, but now I see you'd rather have this relationship fail than to stop seeing Jason."

He finished up his wine and went up the stairs.

The guilt I felt couldn't be compared to anything. I followed too. He was in the shower. I went in.

Me: "I'm sorry"

Brad: "You said that the last time"

Me: "I'm truly sorry Brad. I swear I am not doing anything more than talk."

Brad: "I do not know that"

Me: "I love you"

He turned the shower on and applied the gel to his

body like he didn't hear me...

•••

[Narrated]

Nzuza's phone rang right after they parted ways with Yoli.

It was his wife. He answered.

Sam: "Mama"

Mrs Nzuza: "Mshazi. I've been calling your hotel room. I forgot you said you are meeting with Yoli today"

Sam: "I'm sorry my love. Yes I was. We just parted. How are you there?"

Mrs Nzuza: "We are fine. Phila is catching flu. I just called Dr Nzimande to pay us a visit"

Sam: "That's bad. It must be this cold"

Mrs Nzuza: "I think so too. So, when did Yoli say she's going to visit us?"

Sam: "Don't go there"

Mrs Nzuza: "Why? How long are you going to hide Phila away from her? You said she's no longer seeing

that boy. What could be the matter now?" Sam:

"What if she asks to take her to Durban?"

Mrs Nzuzza: "I'll simply say no. What is happening portrays me as an evil stepmother to your family. They all keep asking me why wasn't I at the ceremony."

Sam: "Do not mind them. About Yoli visiting. I still have to think about it"

Mrs Nzuzza: "Its ruining my image Samson"

Sam: "To irrelevant people."

Mrs Nzuzza: "You don't understand"

Sam: "I will call you later. Send my love to Phila. Tell her I'll see you tomorrow evening"

Mrs Nzuzza: "Will do"

She said and ended the call.

She looked at the sleeping Phila who had changed to look exactly like her father overnight. Nzuzza's worst fear was Yoli seeing her. He wasn't ready for questions that would follow and fears that she might

want to take her to Durban and Quinton gets to see her....

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[Calvin]

Lelo came and sat on my lap. She looked at me. I don't know how she still looks at me the same wayshe did on the very first day we kissed. Her love is truly eternal. Even when she's angry at me, her eyesalways sell her out. They portray so much love that she has for me.

I can't believe I was once stupid to let a woman intoour bond. That was the very first time and I swear onmy babies lives that it was the last.

Lelo: "Why are you sitting here alone? Its almost8pm"

Me: "I came for a smoke and to think about some things"

Lelo: "He's not okay"

Me: "Who?"

Lelo: "Quinton. Seems there's a part of his world that

is missing"

Me: "There is. And I'm working on it."

Lelo: "Please baby. I don't like seeing him like that." Me:

"Khule has an older daughter"

Lelo: "Really? How old?"

Me: "3."

Lelo: "With thr previous wife?"

Me: "Yes. It happened that she was the wrong place at the wrong time. People who came for Quinton fired shots at the house. She was in the kitchen. Bullets got her"

Lelo: "Oh my God no baby"

Me: "Yes. The little girl was 6 months or so. You remember Sam?"

Lelo: "Sam? Ndlanzi?"

Me: "No. Sam Nzuzza. That business associate of mine who would always ask for scotch" she chuckled. She was pregnant with the twins that time. She hated everyone. Especially Nzuzza cause he

always asked for scotch while everyone settled for whisky.

Lelo: "He was such my mood droper. So what about him?"

Me: "The wife was his child. He took Khule's daughter and cut him out completely. Threatening to expose them of something dirty they did. Now, the girl Quinton was seeing is his other daughter that he discovered recently. It was him who abducted them"

Lelo: "You have secrets you know that?"

Me: "You do not tell your woman things you have not figured a solution to"

Lelo: "What's your plan?"

Me: "Let's just say I'm gonna bring Phila home and Quinton's wife"

Lelo: "As long as nobody is gonna get hurt or arrested"

Me: "You know me better than that"

Lelo: "Let's go sleep. I have a surprise for you"

Me: "Is it?" She briefly kissed me.

Lelo: "Yes baby"

Me: "I have a phone call to make. I'll be with you shortly"

Lelo: "Okay. Don't keep me waiting"

She said going away. I took my phone out and called Mandla.

Mandla: "Kush man"

Me: "Is it done?"

Mandla: "Yes bozza yam. We just left her place. She was resisting I had to drug her"

Me: "As long as you left her water and pills nearby"

Mandla: "I did"

Me: "And that bastard. Did he die?"

Mandla: "No. We rearranged his face a bit. He passed out after a few punches"

Me: "Weak bitch. Okay continue keeping a close eye on them. Don't disturb their outdoors activities"

Mandla: "Noted"

I hung up and went inside longing for my surprise...

•••

[Quinton]

This is where my nights end up. In the club with a thousand bottles before me. Fighting every urge to contact her in any form.

She's important but my children are extra important. I can't risk the whole family's safety for only one person. But I can't help but wonder what she does in her days. If she ever tries to call me. If she misses me at all.

I miss her. Her pictures are all that I have and what I will forever hold on to. Being in Durban doesn't feel right anymore. It is less exciting. Hence I spend all of my time this side now.

Nzuza sure as hell can hide his skeletons. It's been 3 months and my trusted sources haven't found anything that I can backfire with. They haven't stopped digging though. Even if it takes me years to

find it I will make sure he regrets the day he ever took away Phila and bullied me to leave Yoli alone.

I took my phone out and texted Lulama if she's busy. She called.

Me: "Hey"

Lulama: "Hi. Why? Do you need something?"

Me: "Yes. I need company"

Lulama: "Where are you?"

Me: "Taboo"

Lulama: "I'm coming"

I hung up and bought another round of shots.

After an 1 she arrived. I was now really sloshed. I was starting to lose my vision a little.

Lulama: "Let's go"

Me: "Where to?"

Lulama: "Home"

She helped me up and we left.

When I opened my eyes we were at the Houton flats. The alcohol had worn down a bit.

Me: "I thought you said you we are going home"

Lulama: "We are home. My home"

Me: "I need to go home home. Please request me an uber"

She came closer and ran her hand on my shaft. I looked at her. My mouth went dry I swallowed nothing.

Our lips met. We kissed. Her hand was moving up and down my now rock hard jumbo. She unbuckled the belt and undid the button. She took it out and gave me a hand job. She stopped kissing me and looked at me. The street light was lighting the whole car up.

Lulama: "You wanna take this party inside?"

I nodded.

I fastened my belt and got out of the car.

She locked the door after we got in. I pinned her against the door and pulled her dress up. I put the

condom on and slid aside the damn panty and penetrated.

I went in fast and hard. Yoli crossed my mind. She said she'd leave me if I ever cheated.

I stopped.

Lulama: "Why are you stopping?" I

exited her.

Me: "Please borrow me your keys"

Lulama: "Are you fucking kidding me?" I

zipped my pants up.

Me: "Does it look like I'm kidding? Are you going to give the keys or not?"

She walked past me. I guess that's a no. I opened the door and walked out. I requested an uber and waited by the gate.

I felt something hit me. I looked up. She closed the window. I looked down. It was the car keys. I went back in and took the car and drove off...

[2/26, 06:39] Zoaness: Chapter Forty

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[Quinton]

Ever just followed the road? Not single idea of where you're going but you're just letting it lead you. That was me. I had no idea where I was going. I just needed to be away from her.

I can't get the picture of her crying out of my head. She was hurting. I was responsible for it. I shouldn't have left her.

I pulled up. The road had ended. I was at the beach. I took my cigarette and lit it and got out to sit on the bonnet.

I watched the waves there far down. The sound they made was calming somehow. The cold breeze hit me. I appreciated it.

I took out my phone and called Tyler. He's the one who understands what I'm facing. Khule would give anything for me to never look Yoli's direction. Of which I can not do. I knew I loved her but when I saw her after this long I realized I loved her more than I thought I did.

My heart smiled when I saw her standing over the sink.
I wish she'd hugged me.

Tyler: "Dube"

Me: "You sound wide awake"

Tyler: "I am. Khethiwe isn't feeling okay"

Me: "What's wrong?"

Tyler: "She drank too much. Now she's throwing up" Me:

"Get her anything metal to keep in her mouth" Tyler: "Is
the ring okay?"

Me: "Yeah. It should do the trick"

Tyler: "Okay bafo. I take it you've arrived"

Me: "Yes and I found her here"

Tyler: "No"

Me: "Yes. I tried kicking her out but she refused. She cried
and asked why I left her"

Tyler: "Why would you kick her out?"

Me: "Our relationship puts everyone's lives at risk"

Tyler"

Tyler: "Then so be it. If Nzuzza wants a fight, fight is what he'll get. Where is she now?"

Me: "My house. I'm at the beach"

Tyler: "YOLO Quinton. Go back home. Cuddle. Tell her everything in the morning. You're in love Dube. Something you've hardly experienced in your life. Don't let this love be taken away too. Take this risk. If she's worth it"

Me: "She is"

Tyler: "Then go home to your woman. Fuck the wrinkled Nzuzza and your twin brother." I chuckled.

Me: "Thank you bafo."

Tyler: "I love you dickhead. And mostly I want to see you happy dawg"

Me: "I love you too." He laughed.

Tyler: "He said it!"

Me: "That is to last you for the next 5 years. Bye" Tyler:

"I'm honored"

I hung up and threw away the remaining cigarette

away. I got off and got in the car and drove off.

It was 5 minutes past 2am in the morning when I arrived home. Her car was still outside. Did she buy a new car? Or she exchanged the X7?

I turned the lights off and went upstairs. The door was still open. She was fast asleep. I undressed and got in the covers, carefully not to wake her.

I put my arm around her. She mumbled something. Me:

"Shhh sleep"

Yoli: "Don't ever leave me" she whispered.

Me: "I won't."

We drifted to sleep...

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[Khethiwe]

"Hands up! To the left! To the right! Everybody Say...Hands up! To the left! To the-"

Me: "Can you please keep it down?" He just made my headache worse.

Tyler: "Good morning my Queen. Here I have cold water with slices of lemon. Rooibos with honey and lemon. Grandpa and a green apple. What would you like to nurse your hangover with first?"

Me: "All of it" I sat on my butt. He smiled. He's so cute. I smiled.

Tyler: "What?"

Me: "Your smile still gets to me. You should hit on me again" he handed me the grandpa.

Tyler: "Would you still agree to be my girl?"

Me: "In an instant. Remember you poured water at me" he laughed.

Tyler: "You liked acting like that company was yours"

Me: "I was tired of your face"

Tyler: "Why? You loved me too much it hurt to seeme?"

Me: "Oh please"

Tyler: "You said something about light skinned men"

I laughed.

Me: "Yes I did. And you broke my virginity and didn't make me cum" he laughed.

Tyler: "Aibo baby. But I did make up for that day." Me:

"Oksalayo you didn't make me cum that day" Tyler:

"You feel like cuming now?"

Me: "No"

He put the tray aside and pulled my legs so I could lie on my back. He moved the blanket off.

Me: "I need to brush my teeth first. This grandpa is so bitter" I crossed my legs. "And bath"

Tyler: "You talk too much" he got on top and kissed me.

He went down with the soft kisses. This is what our relationship has become. He's been pleasuring me like no one's business.

He grew beard. Its even nicer when he's down there. He began with his business. I moaned.

Tyler: "Don't make noise Calvin is on the next room"

Me: "I thought these walls are sound proofed"

Tyler: "They aren't"

He kissed my inner thighs and faced my vagina and French kissed it. God bless whoever trained him for this.

His tongue explored my castle. He never shifts his focus from the clit. He inserted a finger. I hate this combo! It just speeds things up.

He had me moaning like a puppy cold on the rain, pushing his head in and squeezing my thighs together. This thing drives me insane.

I popped my champagne after calling out all his clan names. He grabbed a towel and cleaned me up. I felt powerless. He kissed my forehead.

Tyler: "Breakfast is now ready"

He walked out. As long as it is not made by that Jessica. I will eat. She likes taking over people's kitchens and keep on brushing that bump of hers or flaunting her left hand for the world to see the ring.

I called my p.a. and told her to cancel all my

meetings. I am not going anywhere with this hangover...

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[Khethelo]

Everyone came down. Lelo and I made breakfast. It didn't seem like anyone is going to work today. Even brother Calvin was here. Yesterday was hella hectic. We shut down the party with drinking. We played alcopoly. Jessica and Lelo volunteered to look after the kids when we're drunk. I was more than happy to drink.

Quinton vanished. He called later saying he's flying to Durban. Sisipho, Yezwe and the twins left after the party. Because school.

Bonga came in sweating and panting. Me:

"I thought you were at work"

Bonga: "No. I woke up with a very bad headache" I chuckled. If the house burned down last night, there would've been no survivors.

He drank water. And exhaled.

Me: "Breakfast is ready"

Bonga: "I'll go rinse off the sweat"

Me: "Okay baby. Wake Mtho up" He
nodded and went up.

I carried extra forks to the dining room.

Tyler: "Are you trying to get us fat?" Me:
"Maybe" they laughed.

Khule: "What happened last night shall never
happen"

Calvin: "I haven't drank like that in 5 years"

Lelo: "Yes and you gave away our brand new car"Us:
"What?"

Calvin: "I replaced it"

Lelo: "You still gave it away"

Khule: "Who did he give it to?"

Lelo: "Some woman. His girlfriend" Calvin:
"She wasn't my girlfriend baby"

Chris: "We should fetch it"

Katlego: "I second that." We laughed. "Jessica please pass me the salt" she did. "Thank you. When are we preparing for your wedding?"

Jessica: "My mom and I are on it"

Kat: "You really wanna wed with a huge belly?"

Jessica: "Yes. He has to be born in a wedlock"

Khule: "He?"

Jessica: "I'm just predicting. Where's Khethiwe?" I saw Katlego roll her eyes.

Tyler: "She's upstairs."

Jessica: "She sleeps a lot for a wife. I thought mamkhulu said no one should sleep past 9"

Khule: "At Estcourt. Not here" that came out a bit cold.

Me: "Ice cream anyone?"

Jessica: "Isn't too cold for Ice cream?" She has a horse mouth!

Chris: "Its never too cold for Ice cream"

Bonga: "Amen!" He was followed by Khethiwe and Mtho. The tub circled around. They love ice cream its insane.

Khethiwe: "Morning" she sat next to me.Us:

"Morning"

Mtho: "I almost died last night"

Khule: "Here's grandpa. Daddy Tyler came to our rescue"

Mtho: "Thank you."

We ate. Laughing at old stories. I wouldn't trade this for the world.

The men went out for a smoke after we finished eating. Mtho and Bonga went upstairs. We remained alone.

Lelo: "last night's sex"

Kat: "mmmh do not take me there"

Khethiwe: "I wish I wasn't throwing up the whole night"

Jessica: "And took away my chance of getting some"

Khethiwe: "I didn't ask him to come" Jessica:

"You could've been faking for-"Lelo:

"Jessica."

Jessica: "What? She's always sick whenever Tyler has to be with me"

Me: "You should lay your complaint with him. No there"

Jessica: "Why? The person who's always sick is here. I should be telling her to stop" Khethiwe got up and walked up the stairs.

Kat: "This wouldn't be so hard if you acted less of a spoiled brat Jessica. Everyday you have something to say. You're here for Tyler not Khethiwe. If you continue with this thing of always picking up a fight you will be very unwelcome in my house"

She got up and walked to the kitchen.

Jessica got up and went up the stairs. Lelo looked at me. I shrugged.

We decided to clear the table and go breastfeed our babies...

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[Khule]

Nothing beats being with these baboons. Our relationship is at it's best. Brotherhood is even tighter.

Tyler: "You guys are no different from the woodstove smoke pipe. The 20 is out" he picked it up. "Only 5 left"

Calvin: "Its Chris"

Chris: "I smoked only 4"

Me: "Me too" we looked at Calvin.

Calvin: "Well I'm the oldest. You can't compete withme"

Chris: "So you keep saying. Has anyone checked onQ?"

Tyler: "Yeah I spoke to him in the morning. He's shuttered"

Me: "He will be fine"

Tyler: "When?"

Me: "When the time is right"

Tyler: "And when is that? Tell me something you guys, has any of you ever been kept away from the woman you love?"

Me: "Where are you going with this?"

Tyler: "I take that as a no. Why are you putting him through that hell of being robbed off the chance of love. He loves her"

Chris: "And you would know that how?"

Tyler: "Because I was as miserable as he is when the whole Dube clan told me to stay away from Khethiwe"

Me: "And you went ahead with her and we lost 12 people! Something that could've been avoided if you had listened to your elders. Same thing is gonna happen if Quinton ever goes back to that girl"

Tyler: "He loves her!"

Chris: "And beside her being Sam's daughter. She's a child!"

Tyler: "Love knows no age. And as far as I am concerned. Every woman in this home is a child"

Me: "She's 22. Bonga's age"

Tyler: "I hate to break it to you but you guys are full of shit"

Calvin: "Tyler"

He walked back inside.

Calvin: "I need to go somewhere. I will see you guys later"

Chris: "let's go check out the progress of everything at the Dube construction"

Me: "That actually is a good idea"

We all left....

•••

[Tyler]

God knows I regret the day I met this woman. I

impregnated a radio. If it wasn't for the fact that I want this child to be rightfully mine when it is born I swear I would've let her go honestly.

Jessica: "I asked a question"

Me: "What is your question Jessica?"

Jessica: "Why do you act like you love me in front of your people and then behind closed doors you are very distant"

Me: "I don't know what you're talking about"

Jessica: "When last did you touch me?" Me:

"Yesterday"

Jessica: "I mean sex. Its like all you wanted was to plant this baby on me and never touch me again"

Me: "You wouldn't believe me if I told you"

Jess: "Try me"

Me: "Its custom. We are not allowed to have sex with our pregnant women. I have a very dark past and sleeping with you is not good for the baby. Plus I have sex with Khethiwe, the last thing we need is

having our baby catch all the bad vibes on me"Jess:

"Why didn't you just tell me at first?"

Me: "I thought you were okay with it"

Jess: "Are you gonna spend the night with me?"

Me: "Uh...I promised Bonga we will go out for drinks.We'll be back around midnight"

She nodded and walked out. Since Khethiwe found out I haven't been able to be intimate with her further than a kiss.

Her attitude made it worse. Now I can't even kiss her.But I try for the sake of peace.

Khethiwe came out of the bathroom.

Me: "I didn't know you were here"

Khethiwe: "What do you mean? This is my room"Me:

"Of course"

Khethiwe: "Why did you lie to her?"

Me: "I'm taking you out tonight"

Khethiwe: "No. Take her out. I have a meeting I

should prepare for tonight" Me:

"We'll do it together then"

Khethiwe: "No baby. Yesterday you should've spent the night with her and you ended up here"

Me: "I'll see you later"

I kissed her and walked out...

•••

[Quinton]

I woke up all alone. She was nowhere in sight. I found a note on the fridge that she's gone to a presentation.

I texted her to take an uber back here. Her father could be tracking the car.

I cooked while waiting for her. I called the triple trouble. They could utter a few words now.

I turned the stove off and took a beer out of the fridge and went to watch tv.

The main door opened. She smiled when our eyes met. A nervous smile though and a low wave. She

was in a suit. So beautiful. She looked different. More beautiful.

Me: "I wasn't expecting you this early"

Yoli: "I was the first one"

Me: "Are you gonna take a seat?"

Yoli: "Yeah. Of course"

She took off her heels and sat on the other end of the couch.

Me: "Your hair was hanging last night" she now had cornrows. That's why she looked different. Her big forehead was out on display.

Yoli: "I started off at the salon in the morning" Me:

"What time did you actually get up?"

Yoli: "5am"

Me: "You can get your own personal hairdresser if you want one"

Yoli: "Why would I want my own personal hairdresser?"

Me: "So you will not have to wake up at 5am to go to the salon" she chuckled.

Yoli: "I do my hair once a month. I don't need a personal hairdresser"

I shifted closer to her. I picked her legs up to my lap and gave her a foot massage.

Me: "My twin brother was married before. To the woman he loved dearly. Her father never liked the idea of them being together but he gave them his blessings anyway. 3 years into their union. They had a daughter." I turned to look at her. "I have a very scary past. I used to...commit a lot of crime. Kill sometimes" she didn't express any emotion. I cleared my throat and continued. "Yeah. So, one of the days a deal went wrong. It led to a physical fight which led to shooting. I managed to escape and ran to my parent's house. We were in the neighborhood. I thought I had lost them. Unfortunately I didn't. They followed me there and started shooting straight at the house just a couple of moments after I got in and passed her on the sink washing dishes. I wish I had thought faster that they could be following me.

All the bullets that were meant for me. She caught them. Her father took her daughter and promised hell if we ever try to get closer to his family ever again. He hates us. And now I met you. I realized there's a resemblance. I was hoping you aren't related" she frowned. "My brother's wife was Nzuza's daughter.

Your sister. The one you saw on the picture."Yoli:

"Wait wait wait. What?"

Me: "Yes.

Yoli: "I told you who my dad is maybe 2 or 3 days after we met. You knew all that long but you still wanted me?"

Me: "Yes. I was hoping he will maybe accept it when he finds out but no. He abducted us, had our asses beaten to a pulp. Told me to stay away from you or else he'll come after everyone we love. Knowing him, he meant it."

I looked at her again. She was crying. I brought her in for a hug.

Yoli: "I'm sorry"

Me: "Its okay"

Yoli: "I wish you had told me the truth instead of vanishing on me"

Me: "I was scared he might kill my kids and send you away where I might never find you again"

Yoli: "The nerve of him. I can't believe him right now." She moved off me. "I'm gonna talk to him"

Me: "I don't think that's a good idea."

Yoli: "So what do we do now? Sneak around?" Me:

"It's gonna be fun"

She chuckled.

Yoli: "That's why you told me to use uber?"

Me: "Yeah. Where's your car?"

Yoli: "At my place. That was Ben's"

Me: "Oh. Why aren't you surprised by all this?"

Yoli: "Everything that happened when I wasn't there is none of my business. I'm sad to hear my sister passed on that way. But I'm sadder my father is

keeping away her child from it's father. He out of all people shouldn't let that happen. She's turning 4 in months. She doesn't deserve to be caught up in all this drama. They aren't her parents. It doesn't matter what kind of life they could give her, she also needs her father"

Me: "We'll sort it out. Worry not" I kissed her. Yoli:

"He had you beaten up?" She laughed.

Me: "It's not funny babe." She pressed her lips together "And just so you know. My family is also against this relationship"

Yoli: "They're unfair." She paused. "Do you love me that much?"

Me: "Yes I do and I will give it all up for Nzuza to let me have you"

Yoli: "Promise me you'll never leave me. Come hell or high waters"

Me: "I promise." She smiled with tears in her eyes and hugged me then let go.

Yoli: "Why did you walk away last night?"

Me: "Because I'm gonna get you pregnant"

Yoli: "Really?" I nodded. "Whoa. We should use a condom then"

Me: "It might burst" Yoli:

"I'll go for injection"

What on earth is wrong with this child.

Me: "We will not be having sex until I've fixed your father's issue" I got up and headed to the kitchen.

Yoli: "And when will that be?" She said following me.Me:

"You wanna have sex?"

Yoli: "Yes." I raised my brows. "I had a boyfriend. But I dumped him"

Me: "What? Who is he?"

Yoli: "No one important. That smells nice"

Me: "I asked a question Yoli. Did you kiss him? Did he touch you?"

Yoli: "Yes I kissed him and no he's never touched me.The night we had planned to spend together I got

kidnapped"

Me: "What?"

Yoli: "It was a very generous abduction. I think my dad was my behind it"

Me: "He did great. Jesus Yoli you were planning on sleeping with him?"

Yoli: "Yes. You abandoned me"

Me: "I didn't. I sent you flowers yesterday. How is that abandoning you?"

Yoli: "Who do you think was kissing these lips? Touching this ass? Firmly grabbing it? Pinning me down on the bed and leave me hanging because he has to take a shower?" I chuckled. I gestured for her to come closer. She did. I kissed her all the way to her ear.

Me: "You don't know what trouble you're inviting for yourself by wanting this" I took her hand down to my pants and made her feel it.

Yoli: "I love trouble Mr Dube. Otherwise I would've ran out that door when you told me my father and

your family are against this." She whispered back.

I rest my case. This little voice that keeps on telling me to sleep with her and get her pregnant is getting strong. But I'm stronger.

Me: "Dish up for us and stop being a pervert" she giggled and took out plates.

Me: "I need to pee"

Yoli: "I love you"

Me: "I love you more."

ran upstairs.

I looked at my reflection on the mirror. I couldn't wash off the grin on my face. I am grateful for whatever thing that made me fly down here last night....

[2/26, 06:39] Zoaness: Chapter Forty-One

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[Calvin]

2 weeks later...

It didn't take that much to gather the information I have acquired on Nzuzo. He's as dirty as all the business men out there.

He's just good at hiding it. Quinton is back with the girl. I seem like the only one to know about that.

They are trying their best to hide it but I'm not the one to hide anything from.

I heard a soft knock and the door opened.

Lelo: "Are you trying to die in here?"

Me: "No. I was finishing up a few things"

Lelo: "It's 10 now. Come to bed"

I turned off the laptop and we walked out. I heard voices from downstairs.

Me: "Is there anyone there?"

Lelo: "No"

Me: "Get in the room. I'll be back"

I saw Khule coming up the stairs. I turned to see if she's gotten to the room. She was still at the door.

Me: "It's Khule"

Lelo: "Okay" she got in. I went down.

They were all here.

Me: "What's up?"

Khule: "Quinton is still seeing Yolanda. I received a text from Sam"

Tyler: "Can't we just kill him and get along with our lives?"
Khule eyed him.

Khule: "You have to talk to him"

Me: "Who?"

Khule: "Quinton"

Me: "Say what? If that beating and threats Nzuzagave out did not keep him away. What makes you think talking to him will?"

Chris: "There's nothing as stupid as a man in love. He's risking everyone's lives"

Me: "Meet me tomorrow morning. Its high time you stopped dancing to Sam's tune"

Tyler: "I knew you'd fix this. Unlike some people I know who would rather eat poop if Nzuzza told them

just because they don't want their kids taken"

Chris: "Shut up"

Chris's phone rang. He excused himself.

Me: "You failed your daughter Khulekani. If you had went ahead and let him get you arrested. You would've had full access to your child by now. But you chose freedom over her"

Khule: "I wanted what's best for her"

Me: "No life is best with an absent father"

Chris came in rushing.

Chris: "He has Katlego and the kids"

Khule: "What? Damn you Quinton!" They rushed out. I went upstairs to get a jacket...

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[Khethelo]

Here we go again. Living in fear and having 50 men walking up and down the yard. Some planted in every room in this house. The only place you can be and not see them is the bathroom.

Whatever it is that this girl has on Quinton is very strong. He knew very well that being with her endangers everyone's lives but he still went ahead. The kind of love that makes you reckless of your own children's safety is not healthy. He's acting like someone under the spell of some sort.

When Khule came in here last night rushing to his safe. He couldn't even talk. I became crippled for a couple of seconds when he told me that Katlego and the kids had been taken on their way home from here. The guards were shot. 1 passed on, 3 were taken to hospital.

Being us is not safe. Guards or no guards. Whoever wants to get to us does.

Just by watching these men standing still in every corner of this house like statues I got dizzy.

I was only with my kids. Who had no single idea of what is happening. They were crawling around on their stomachs, chasing nothing. I hate how big they've grown. They are no longer my cute little things. I feel like their servant. They only remember I

exist when I have to breastfeed them.

I turned on the TV. I've never been bored by a TV this much. My mind was just wandering around. Its 12pm and I haven't heard from any of them. I took my phone and texted Lelo asking if Calvin has called. She was as worried as I was.

"Really now? I hate this life" I turned to where the voice came from. It was Emi and Khethiwe. I chuckled. They looked irritated.

Khethiwe: "We're good now bhuti. There's no need to accompany us even inside" they guard turned and left.

They tossed their bags on the couch across and sat down.

Khethiwe: "Why do we have to live like this?"

Me: "Because we have people like Quinton in this family"

Emi: "What on earth is wrong with him? There's a lot of Durban hotties. Why would he be with someone he shouldn't be with?"

Khethiwe: "No. Quinton isn't the problem here. Sam Nzuza is. Its been years. There's absolutely no need for him to be still like this"

Me: "He has every right. His daughter died under their home. And now his other daughter is dating the very same man his older daughter took a bullet for? Come on, every parent would act this way"

Emi: "Let's just pray he doesn't harm Kat and the kids."

Me: "He won't. He is just scaring these 2 apart. Q should really make up his mind after this whole thing has blown over"

Khethiwe: "It better blow over soon. Its only Wednesday for Christ's sake. I have so much work to do"

Emi: "Me too. Working half day isn't gonna help"

Me: "Why half day?"

Emi: "That's what they said. They called Brad and told him I will be working half day from today until the "family crisis" is over. People are gonna start

talking there at work. Thinking I'm given special treatment because I'm fucking him"

Me: "Well that's true"

Emi: "Calvin legit told him I do not need that job anyway"

We laughed. He's just him.

They got in following each other. They looked terrible. I got up and met them half way. He kissed my forehead.

Khule: "I need a bath"

Me: "Yeah sure. I'll make you food. Hey guys"

They greeted back and walked along to throw themselves on the couches. I take it we still have to go through this day praying for their safe return...

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[Khethiwe]

I ironed the clothes he had taken out to wear. They cleaned out their mountainous plates. Its like they hadn't ate in 2 months. When Khule and Chris came

to get Tyler 9. He had just finished eating.

He walked out. Looking all sorts of drained. Sometimes I laugh thinking of the hell Jessica puts him through but today I feel sorry for him because she'll cause unnecessary drama although she knows she's too troubled about his kids and wife being lost.

"For the sake of peace" as he always says whenever he does anything for her. He's buying her a house. She legit chose a house worth 2 million. They're still working on the paperwork. She will move in soon.

Me: "Your eyes look like they gonna fall off"

Tyler: "I feel like my brain is gonna fly out. We spent the whole night looking at all the possible places he could've stashed them at but no luck"

Me: "So where are you going from now?"

Tyler: "To our reliable guys." He paused and turned to me. "This is gonna sound weird but I'm not that worried"

Me: "What? Why?"

Tyler: "Its Hawu and his sisters which are his

strength that got abducted. They get in action when needed. So I feel like they can get out of this mess without our help"

Me: "That's just very crazy babe. They're kids. Take this brief nap and go find the kids"

Tyler: "When they could just snake all the way home."

He lied on his stomach. I smoothly ran my fingers on his back. He likes being babied.

Each day my heart gets better. Especially now that I have seen Jessica isn't so important as I thought she was. Maybe I should finally give in and go back to our normal sex life. We've been having oral. Him doing me not the other way around...

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[Quinton]

There were guards in every corner. They let me in.

I found Emi and Khethelo sitting at the lounge. I greeted them.

Me: "Why is your phone off?"

Emi: "Me? It must be the signal." I nodded.

Me: "Where's everyone? I picked the twins up, kissed them and put them down.

Emi: "Upstairs. Sleeping."

Me: "Come here. I need to talk to you"

She got up and went out to the back.

Emi: "Have you found the kids?"

Me: "No. I'm working on that"

Emi: "Bhutiza do you realize the trouble we're in?" Me:

"Yes. I need Jason's numbers"

Emi: "I don't have them." Me:

"I need to speak to him"

Emi: "I can give you his address. He must be at work though"

Me: "Okay"

We walked back in. I found Khule and Chris. I greeted them. Khule told Emi and Khethelo to take the kids upstairs. They did. So much judgement in

their eyes.

Chris: "Are you happy now?"

Me: "I wish you people could just leave me alone. Itold you I will find them"

Khule: "Why the Fuck did you go back to that Child!"

Me: "How many times do I have to tell you. I love her!"

Chris: "So you love her more than you love yourkids?"

Me: "You're wasting my time" I walked on to the exit.Khule grabbed me by my arm.

Khule: "Stay the hell away from her. When we findthe kids. Stay the hell away!"

Me: "Uyahlanya. Both of you. I don't know what substance you're abusing but nidakiwe"

I snatched my arm away and walked out. Who thehell do they think they Are? Nx.

I called Jason's office. Asking if he's in. The PA toldme he's in a meeting in Wynberg.

I drove to his office anyway.

My phone rang as I pulled up in their parking lot. I took a deep sigh and answered.

Me: "Mama"

Yoli: "You lied"

Me: "About?"

Yoli: "I happened to see the email from my dad and many more messages from your brothers on your laptop" shit. I forgot to close and lock it. I told her to leave the house why is she still there.

Me: "I didn't want to bother you"

Yoli: "Have you found the kids?"

Me: "No. I'm somewhere to meet a guy who might help me"

Yoli: "I'll try to fish out where he is"

Me: "No stay out of this"

Yoli: "Bye I love you"

Me: "Yolanda" the line went dead. I called her back. It

went straight to voicemail.I

texted her.

"This is between I and your father. Stay the hell out of it"

A car parked next to mine. Jason got out. Nice.I got out.

Me: "Jason"

He turned and frowned. Jason:

"Dube. Am I in trouble?"

Me: "No. I need your help" he stared at me for a while.

"Jason I don't have all day"

Jason: "Ofcourse."

He led the way in. Why are women so smitten?

Greetings all the way to the elevator.

Jason: "You're charming my employees pants off"

Me: "You mean to tell me all these women are single?"

Jason: "No."

Me: "So they are cheating?" He chuckled.

Jason: "No. They are admiring you. The last magazine you were on you were shirtless, that was enough to get women drooling wherever they see you"

Me: "They're cheaters"

Jason: "I rest my case"

We got to his office. He offered me a drink. And we sat down.

Me: "I need your help. Someone has my wife and my children"

Jason: "I didn't know you were married"

Me: "She's Chris's. Practically mine too."

Jason: "Oh. So how may I be of help?"

Me: "I need you to track that someone's location for me. Hack his accounts if need be"

Jason: "Whoa. Do you know the kind of trouble I got in to the last time I did that. A very dangerous drug Lord called Kush or whatever his name is took me in

and made my life a living hell so no because nobody keeps me protected from the bad guys you want me to dig dirt on. So no" Calvin is a drug Lord?

Me: "There'll be no one to protect you from cause when I find him I'm gonna kill him"

Jason: "I'm really sorry your kids are in danger but I can't help you"

Me: "Okay. Get me his location only then" he narrowed his eyes as though he was deep in his thoughts.

Jason: "I can also dig up dirt but what's in it for me?" Me: "Money ofcourse"

Jason: "This company is running very successfully. I make a million if not 2 a week. So put up a better offer Dube"

Me: "25% of the Dube Logistics" he smirked. Jason:

"Very tempting but no"

Me: "What the hell man? Each minute that passes is the further my children are going with this punk"

Jason: "I want Emi. I want you to vouch for me. Toher and to your brothers."

Me: "Udakiwe"

Jason: "The choice is yours. I give you what youwant. You give me what I need"

Me: "She has a boyfriend you dumb ass" Jason:

"There's this new thing called break up"

Me: "Make yourself available at Khule's house around 6"

Jason: "Do we have a deal?"

Me: "I hate you for this"

I got up and left. I texted these idiots to stay homeand rest. Because as soon as we find Nzuza's location we're heading there.

....

When I arrived home. I sat there listening to God'ssons crucify me.

Nzuza sent a video of Katlego begging them not tohurt her children.

I called Jason. The sun has set. Calvin had gotten busted that he's our brother so there was no way he can do what he did last time.

He had some information on him but it was pointless because Nzuzi would kill them because it's taking him to jail anyway. We were now waiting on Jason.

Khule was walking up and down. Making everyone dizzy.

Calvin: "Can you please sit down"

Khule: "No"

Me: "We are all as anxious but being all over the place isn't helping"

Khule: "You shut the hell up. God knows what am I gonna do to you if he hurts them."

Me: "He won't"

Khule: "Did you see the video?"

Me: "Yes." The door opened. Jason came in pulling a huge ass suitcase.

He quickly stopped. Jason:

"You set me up?"

Me: "Set you up?" He pointed at Calvin. "Oh turned out he's our brother"

Calvin: "Eita. Can we get down to work?"

Jason moved forward uncomfortably.

Tyler: "Its gonna be okay Jay. Did he try to kill You too?"

Jason: "He did far worse than that"

Tyler: "I know. He killed me too" oh God not this again.

Calvin: "Tyler we have a serious matter here"

Tyler: "What? Are you ashamed you killed us? Don't be ashamed."

Me: "Jason. Get your things ready I'm about to call him"

Jason: "Firstly. Did you tell them what I want in return?"

Me: "Not now Jason"

Calvin: "What does he want?"

Jason: "Emi"

Calvin: "Fuck you"

Jason: "Nzuza's phones are very hard to track. Only me and maybe 3 of hackers who are able to trace untraceable phones. And those hackers live in New Orleans, Kenya and Beijing."

Khule: "Just open the damn equipment"

"I didn't know you hated me this much" she said and ran back upstairs.

Calvin: "Shit. I'll go talk to her. I want you to have traced him down when I get back"

Jason: "Yes Sir."

He opened his suitcase. He fiddled through it. "You may make that call"

I dialed his cell. It rang.

Khethelo came down. She looked mad. Khule attended her.

Nzuza: "I'm listening"

Me: "I will stop seeing her"

Nzuza: "How do I know you mean it?"

Me: "Because I love my kids"

Nzuza: "Maybe I should kill one of them so you'll make sure you don't ever step anywhere near my daughter"

Me: "There's no need." Jason gave me thumbs up. I heard the gun go off and a baby cry. I clenched my jaws.

Me: "Nzuza I swear to God-" he hung up.

Tyler: "What? Why are you crying?"

I excused myself. I got to the kitchen and balanced against the counter. I'm gonna shoot him!

God knows I will if dares hurt them.

Tyler came.

Tyler: "The guards say there's Yolanda Vilakazi at the gate. I told them to let her in"

Me: "Are you crazy?"

I rushed to the main door.

They came in first.

Yoli: "These are very many people. Good evening"

I went to her.

Me: "What are you doing here?"

Yoli: "To clean up our mess. Wanna kiss me" she was whispering.

Me: "Are you drunk?"

Yoli: "Yeah. I need courage to face you and your people. Hi everyone. My name is Yoli"

Khule: "We know exactly who you are. The question is what are you doing here??"

She moved me out her way.

Yoli: "This is very creepy. It's like you're standing here with me and also standing there next to your other wife. Can I have a chair?"

I pulled a chair for her. "Thank you. It is very

unfortunate that we get to meet under such circumstances." She paused and giggled. God takeme now. How did she even find me?

Me: "You can't be here baby"

Yoli: "Why? My name is Yolanda everyone. Yoli in short. I'm sorry for being drunk. I hope this impression doesn't last. I'm a very decent lady. Tellthem baby"

Me: "You are my love."

Chris and Khule were looking at me.

Jason: "Okay. He's in Midrand. His location isn'tsteady though. He's moving around"

Yoli: "Is that my dad?"

Me: "No"

Khule: "Yes. And you know what he took? My kids.You know why? Because you and Quinton are stupid"

Yoli: "Well. With all due respect we aren't stupid weare inlove"

Chris: "Love that puts everyone in danger"

Yoli: "Pastor Chris. Hi" This isn't the time but I found myself chuckling.

Tyler: "Can we now go to Midrand?"

Yoli: "No. I have a plan"

Calvin came down.

Calvin: "Have you found- whoa. What is she doing here?"

Khethelo: "Nobody knows"

Yoli: "You must be Khethelo. I've heard a lot about you. And greetings brother Calvin. Maybe you aren't mad at me as these two. I have a plan."

Calvin: "Yes?"

She took her bag and took out what seemed like hand cuffs, duck tape and a rope.

Tyler: "I thought y'all weren't shagging" he whispered. Me: "We aren't"

Tyler: "These are bondage things"

Me: "I have no idea where on earth she got those"

Yoli: "Quinton. Come tie me"

Khule got up and took the bag with his guns.

Khule: "This is madness"

Yoli: "You're very impatient. Listen to me. I am my dad's precious gift. He would give anything to keep me safe. I shot the bodyguard he sent for me. To make my plan real. I punched him a couple of times. Don't widen your eyes baby I called him an ambulance. I shot him on the knee. He'll be able to walk right? Well I'm not there. Hurry up tie me before he calls my dad and tells him I shot him. Our plan will be doomed. Do you have a darker room?"

Me: "What's your plan Yoli?"

Yoli: "Who's the scariest here? Brother Calvin. Yes, You're the one that's going to video call him. Show me tied in a chair crying and begging for my life. He will go bananas. Tell him to give you the kids in exchange for his beautiful daughter. That thing you sent Q brother Calvin you'll use it after this mess to get Phila. Not now."

Calvin: "Take her to the meditation room Mamnguni"

Yoli: "I need coffee to tame down this alcohol or else I'll pass out."

Tyler: "Coming right up"

They left.

Calvin: "I like her"

Khule: "Oh please! Just go and do that freaking coffee"

Tyler: "You're so bitter. Jason you can leave"

Jason: "Where to? I'm part of the family now"

Calvin eyed him.

Calvin: "I'm gonna kill you. Just see what you can find in his closet. We might have something interesting"

Jason: "On it"

Khule: "What if it doesn't work?"

Calvin: "It will" he walked upstairs.

This plan of my drunk girlfriend will actually work.

I'm getting married this December....

[2/26, 06:39] Zoaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Forty-Two

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[Emi]

I really can't believe them. Not so long ago Khule was eating me alive for taking him to a therapist. Now they're suddenly so desperate for his help and they're selling me to him.

I vented to Amo. She supposed to come visit in June but she had back to back career expos. Her art was really taking her places.

Only God knows what is going on down there. I couldn't sleep. I haven't seen Bonga and Mtho anywhere today.

I called Bonga. It rang unanswered. I called Mtho.

Mtho: "Auntiza"

Me: "Hey. Where are you guys? Are you safe?"

Mtho: "We're at our place and yes we are. Are you?"

Me: "Yes I am. Where's Bonga?"

Mtho: "Upstairs sleeping."

Me: "Make sure all doors are locked okay"

Mtho: "Okay. Goodnight"

Me: "Goodnight hun"

I hung up. The door opened. I turned my flash light on.
He blocked the light with his hands.

Me: "What the hell are you doing here?"

Jason: "Emi? Where's the switch"

Me: "What switch? Get out"

Jason: "Can we talk?"

Me: "No. Get out or I will scream"

Jason: "5 minutes" I sighed. He found the switch and turned
the lights on. He smiled. "Hi"

Me: "4 minutes."

Jason: "I miss you"

Me: "I don't. I thought we were friends"

Jason: "Are you high on briyani?"

Me: "Walk off dude. I wanna sleep"

Jason: "Why don't you take my calls anymore?"

Me: "Because you're ruining my relationship. Tell me. Why did you leave your tablet in that car?"

Jason: "Because-" the door opened. Tyler came in.

Tyler: "I knew you were up to no good. We said last room down the left corridor you asshole. Get out"

Jason: "I came to say good night"

Tyler: "She's 23 she doesn't need bedtime stories. Get lost"

He got out. I pulled the cover over my head.

Tyler: "Just so we're clear. I wasn't part of the plan of trading you. Good night"

He switched off the lights and walked out...

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[Narrated]

Nzuza walked up and down waiting on his men to give him feedback.

He kept trying Yolanda's phone but it took him straight to voicemail, making him even more frustrated.

Jack and Sparrow. His right hand men got in.

Jack: "We found her car beside the road with opened doors"

Nzuza: "And Gizards?" Gizards is the man he sent to guard Yoli.

Sparrow: "Nowhere in sight. We found his phone there at the car."

Nzuza: "Trace Yoli's phone"

Jack was just staring at his tab. He gulped and looked at Nzuza. "What?"

Jack: "Uhm. It...it looks like Yoli has been-" Nzuza snatched the tab out of his hands.

He looked at Yoli crying, tied on a chair with her dress ripped.

Sam plastered the tab on Sparrow's chest. His hands were shaking.

Nzuza: "Get the boys on standby. We have a mission"

Jack: "Yes Sir"

They walked off. He groaned and banged the table before him the bottle of whiskey fell off.

His phone rang. It was a private number. He answered with his hands trembling.

Nzuza: "Wtf you want?"

Calvin: "My kids"

Nzuza: "Madonna what I'm about to do to you isn't friendly. Release my daughter immediately!"

Calvin: "Will you be releasing my wife and my children?"

Nzuza: "I will go there right now and shoot them all dead. You hear me!"

Calvin: "And I will do the same to your daughter"

"Baba! Please help me!" Yoli cried in the

background.

Nzuza: "Madonna I'm gonna kill you" he said calmly.

Calvin: "We both gonna die. Meet me at Waterfall sports ground at 12 midnight. Not a minute late. Bring what's mine and I'll give you what's yours and then we go our separate ways"

Nzuza hung up and collapsed on a chair. He repeatedly cursed...

{At Happy's home}

Her niece came to call her. She put on a hoodie and followed the little girl out.

Happy: "Where are they?"

Niece: "In gogo's room" they held hands as they went there. She knocked once and went in. Her mother was already inside the covers. Her sister was sitting on the chair before the dressing table.

Her mom: "Come sit here. Why are you wearing a hoodie? Is the heater not warm enough?"

Happy: "Yes. I'm freezing"

Her mom: "You can take it off and get in covers with me"

Happy: "No thank you. You called me here for that?"

Her sister: "No. Since you arrived here you've been avoiding us"

Happy: "Really? I'm sorry. Work has me by my nipples"

Her mom: "Take off the hoodie"

Happy: "Mom I am cold"

Her mom: "Take it off Happiness" she snapped. Happy startled and tears filled her eyes.

Her sister: "How far are you?" Happy:

"15 weeks" tears ran down. Her mom:

"Who is the father?" Happy: "I don't know"

Her sister: "How?"

Happy: "It was a one night stand. I'm sorry" she ran out.

Her sister and her mother looked at each other....

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[Katlego]

I don't know what drugged me but I was out for a couple of minutes. I realized the kids weren't here. I panicked. The light was now dim.

The door opened.

Me: "Where are my kids?" He slapped me so hard my nose started bleeding.

Nzuza: "Your men think they can play smart with me? I will kill one of your- where are they?" I just looked at him. He took out a gun and put it on my head.

Nzuza: "Where the Fuck are they?" I wish I had any tears to cry right now. This anger I had right now! If I could have this gun on my hand I'd shoot him with all the bullets in there.

He slapped me again. And walked around the room. He walked out leaving the door opened.

I felt something smooth rubbing against my feet. I

slowly sent my eyes down to look.

Me: "No no no no you guys. No. Turn back!"

I closed my eyes. "Sikelela Sisekelo Hawu. I am dead serious. I have a terrible phobia of snakes please"

One of the enormous snakes wrapped itself around me. I felt tears warm their way down.

It unwrapped after a couple of minutes which felt like hours to me. I couldn't bring myself to open my eyes.

I felt loose. I wasn't tied anymore. I said a little prayer and opened my eyes. They were now by the door.

Me: "He's gonna shoot you. Come back here" whoever that was swirled out. The second one followed. The third one came back to me. I jumped over it and ran out. The other 2 was nowhere in sight. The 3rd one was behind me. I heard males groan. I ran to the door that seemed like it led outside.

I tried pulling it. It was locked.

"Going somewhere?" I slowly turned and

immediately put my hands up when I saw a gun.
Where's the damn snake I was with? These kids!

Nzuza: "Where are the kids?"

Me: "I don't know"

I don't know what happened I just saw him on the floor
rolling side to side covering his eyes screaming.

Nzuza: "You bitch! What did you do?"

This is my chance to kick his ass. I went over to him and
kicked him. He kept shouting Jack.

Me: "Where are the keys? I will freaking shoot you right
now"

He took them out of his pocket. Along with car keys.
Fantastic.

Me: "Kids! Let's go!"

went to unlock.

Me: "Sisekelo!" They were there outside the door. Back to
their original beings. I took them to the car. How am I
gonna speed with them not in their car seats? I reversed
out. There were men lying down

groaning like the one we left inside.

Me: "What did you kids do to these people?" Luckily the gate was open. "Why are you so quiet?" I turned the light on and looked at them on the rearview mirror.

They were busy with drumsticks. "Where did you get those?" I suddenly smelled KFC. I pulled up and checked. There was a bucket and bread. "You guys! I'm also hungry you know that?" I took my share and drove away eating.

I didn't even know where we were. I just set the GPS to lead us home. I need to bath...

•••

[Calvin]

It was getting closer to 12am. His phone was just ringing. No answer.

Chris: "Still no answer?"

Me: "Yeah"

Khule: "I knew this plan wasn't going to work"

Tyler: "If by 12 he hasn't answered we will go straight to Midrand and kill if we have to"

Quinton: "That's very unnecessary. No more blood is going to be shed. Not this time"

Me: "Yeah. If we go there we gonna talk like adults to Sam."

Chris: "Why? Quinton isn't planning on breaking up with the girl"

Quinton: "If there's someone whose blood has to be spilled. It will have to be mine"

He said and went to the kitchen.

Khule: "Wake me up when we are leaving. This is all too much"

He walked up the stairs.

I went outside for a smoke. What kind of mess is this?

My phone rang. It was him. Honestly. I was no longer mad. Khule was right. This is too much.

Me: "Are you there yet?"

Nzuza: "They escaped"

Me: "What do you mean they escaped?"

Nzuza: "She fucking escaped! She's driving closer to Khule's house. I'm coming to get my daughter"

I hung up. I went to the front. Indeed a car flashed lights. They opened the gate. It drove in.

I went towards it. She got out. Her t-shirt was bloody. She started crying. I pulled her closer.

Me: "I'm sorry. Did he hurt you" we let go.

Katlego: "My nose bled."

Me: "Where are the kids?"

Katlego: "At the back"

I opened the door. They were fast asleep. I picked 2she took the other one and we walked inside the house. Chris rushed to us and hugged her. She cried even more. I gave Hawu to Quinton.

Me: "He said he's coming to get Yoli" Quinton hugged Katlego.

Quinton: "I'm sorry you had to go through all that"

Katlego: "It's okay. I had my heroes with me"

Chris: "Aren't you hungry?"

Katlego: "We found KFC on the car we stole. All we need is a bath and sleep"

Quinton: "The car you stole?"

Katlego: "We escaped. I'm in a big trauma. These kids aren't good for my diabetes"

Me: "Take them upstairs. We'll talk in the morning" Chris went up with them.

Quinton: "How did that happen- oh no. They must've done their miracle babies duties"

Me: "It was about time. I feel relieved. Go wake Yolanda up"

Quinton: "Okay. I need to smoke first." He walked out. Khule came down.

Khule: "Where's Quinton?"

Me: "Outside smoking."

Khule: "Chris says they escaped"

Me: "Yeah. Nzuza called and said that. Katlego will explain everything when she has rested enough. Fornow let's wait for Nzuza to fetch Yoli"

Khule: "Where?"

Me: "Here"

Khule: "Why here?"

Me: "Because its about time I put an end to this madness"

Khule: "I don't trust this man. I'll get the guards todrive the women and kids to Chris's"

Me: "The keys to Lelo's apartment in Sandton arehere with me. They can go there"

Khule: "Let me go help Khethelo pack up for the kids"Me:

"Ok"

I sat down and leaned my head back. I need a decent sleep. I took out my phone and texted Lelo that Katlego and the kids are home safe...

•••

[Khule]

I gently shook her. She covered her head. I moved the blanket off.

Me: "Wake up. We're leaving"

Khethelo: "Can I sleep for few more minutes?" Me:

"No you can't. I've packed your bags. Let's go" She sat up straight.

Khethelo: "Where are we going?"

Me: "Sandton. Nzuza is coming here to get his child. He's very wicked you can't be here" she nodded. I gave her the robe and got up. I took the kids, she took the bags.

We met the complaining Emi at the door.

Emi: "In my next life God better not make me a Dube"

Khethelo: "Me too."

Me: "In 30 minutes you will be sleeping on comfortable beds stop whining"

They got in different cars. Escorted by guards. Chris and I stood there watching them drive away.

Chris: "Do you think its going to help out?"

Me: "What?"

Chris: "Calvin's gathered information"

Me: "He didn't explain much on what it actually is buthe seems certain that it's going to work"

Chris: "I just want this whole thing to be all over andwe carry on with our normal lives. I had a patient to perform s heart surgery on today but I was too distracted to do something like that. He passed onthis evening after a failed operation"

Me: "I'm sorry man"

Chris: "I feel awful. I failed her. She left her 5 months children behind"

Me: "You're not God. Let's go inside its freezing outhere"

Chris: "I need a smoke"

Me: "Let's smoke then"

He took out a pack of cigarettes. He gave me one. Itook out a lighter and lit up for both of us.

Me: "Cry if you want to"

He bowed his head and silently cried...

•••

[Quinton]

She rolled over and placed her hand on my face. She will deny it tomorrow when I tell her. How I wish I'd met her before she discovered who her father is. We would've been happy for at least for quite some time.

The alarm I had set went off. I moved her arm off me and tickled her feet. That's the quickest way to get her up.

Yoli: "Quinton please don't" she said in a sleepy voice.

Me: "Wake up sleeping beauty. Your daddy is coming to get you"

Yoli: "Now? Is he coming with the kids?"

Me: "Katlego escaped with them. They are somewhere safe now"

Yoli: "That's good. Wait..." she sat on her butt. "They escaped?"

Me: "Yes"

Yoli: "And he's coming to get me?" I nodded. She climbed out of bed. "That can't be good. What if he hurts you guys?"

Me: "He won't. Are you hungry?"

Yoli: "No. I want to pee" I pointed at the bathroom door. "Thank you" she rushed in.

I heard a knock. "It's Tyler"

Me: "Come in" he did.

Tyler: "I sleep for 2 hours and suddenly we have only one in this house and I don't see her in this bed"

Me: "She's in the bathroom. Khule decides they go away since Sam is coming here"

Tyler: "He is?"

Me: "Yes" he frowned looking at the window.

Tyler: "That must be him" I got up to look. It was him.

Me: "Let's go" he stopped me.

Tyler: "I don't think that's a good idea. Stay here. I will come here to call you when its time to bring Yoli down"

Me: "Ok" he walked out. I stood over the window looking at the guards going up and down inspecting.

She hugged me from behind. She rested her head on my back.

Me: "You're so short"

Yoli: "Thank you." I chuckled. We went quiet.

Yoli: "What's going to happen now?"

Me: "You gonna go home with your father and I will humble myself to the ground until he allows me to be with you"

Yoli: "That thing your brother said he has against him. Isn't going to work?"

Me: "Even if so. I want him to give us his blessings willingly not because we blackmailed him"

Yoli: "I see"

I turned. She was crying.

Me: "Don't do this"

Yoli: "I'm afraid you gonna leave me again" Me:

"I won't"

Yoli: "You did"

Me: "Trust me I won't. I know better now. I promise you we will live peacefully very soon"

I cupped her face and kissed her.

The door opened.

Khule: "Sweet Jesus. You're still kissing her?"

Me: "Let's go baby" she put on her shoes. I took her bag and we walked out. I can't be facing Nzuzo and also my demonic twin brother who's mean for absolutely no reason.

This meeting seemed very peaceful.

Nzuzo: "Let's hope this is the end gentlemen. Calvin put your dog on leash."

Yoli: "Keep well"

They walked out.

Me: "You lied to him and said I will not see her anymore?"

Chris: "Quinton for the sake of peace. Please!" Me:

"What happened about blackmailing him?"

Calvin: "You never went to cleanse that man's yard. You should've took an animal to that home to apologize!"

Me: "You think we didn't?"

Calvin: "Twice?"

Me: "Yes and he threatened us"

Calvin: "If he really wanted you behind bars don't you think he would've did it? Yoh didn't appear to be sorry to him. From this Saturday onwards we will be going to EC to beg and apologize to him until his ego has enough comfort dance. If you really love Yoli as you claim you will do it. Now I had very 2 hectic nights in a row. I need to sleep"

He walked up the stairs.

Tyler: "I will be your leader my dear brothers. Chris, get your pastor uniform ready. This is gonna be fun"

Maybe I was better off without any feelings. This love shit costs a lot....

•••

[Bonga]

I woke up in a place I couldn't recognize. There were all kinds of alcohol bottles around me.

"Look at you party animal. Get up. My parents are gonna be here in an hour"

I tried to get up. My head was so heavy I wanted to hit it against the wall. She was in her undies.

Me: "Who are you and where am I?"

Her: "I'm Boipelo And you're in Revonia. Who are you?"

Me: "Bonga. How did I get here?"

Boipelo: "I don't know. You just came with your share of alcohol and danced like it was your last day on earth" I honestly wish it was. I feel like shit.

Me: "Did we have sex?"

Boipelo: "I can't recall much that happened last night" I checked myself. I was still dressed as yesterday when I left the house. She laughed. "Relax. We Didn't. You passed out while still kissing me"

Me: "Oh thank God" she raised her eye brows. "No offense"

Boipelo: "None taken"

I checked for my belongings. They were all still there. Just R200 missing, I assume I bought more booze with it.

I said my goodbye.

Boipelo: "Your car just got washed. Tip my little brother" I nodded and walked out.

I tipped the kid and drove away. I smelt like a tarven. I called Paul. He's helping me trace down Happy.

Paul: "Zebra"

Me: "Amuse me Paul"

Paul: "I'd love to but dude its about time you

swallowed your pride and ask your fathers to help you"

Me: "Not even a little bit of lead?"

Paul: "Nope. She's probably out of the country" Me:

"Fuck. My dads are gonna freaking kill me"

Paul: "Don't tell them you told her to terminate. Just say you fought over a minor thing"

Me: "They will find out I did tell her to and kill me"

Paul: "I'll be getting my funeral suit then."

Me: "Fool"

I hung up. I'm not ready to die. This is all gogo's fault. She's making it hard for me to find her so I will ask my crazy ass fathers who will probably shoot me dead when they find out I told her to terminate their grandchild.

I hate it here....

[2/26, 06:39] Zoaness: Chapter Forty-Three

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[Khule]

It's about time I went back to the gym. The fatigues I suffer lately need my muscles to stretch a bit. I made the bed and went to the bathroom to wash my hands.

I dressed up and went downstairs. The triplets ran to me.

Me: "Do you guys ever sleep?"

Khethelo: "It's 9. They are supposed to be awake." Me:

"Morning"

Them: "Morning"

Me: "Is Chris at work?"

Katlego: "Yeah"

Me: "Tyler, Khethiwe and Quinton? Where are they?"

Khethelo: "Tyler went out. Khethiwe is upstairs. I haven't seen Quinton"

Me: "Ok" I sat down next to Katlego. Emi and Khethiwe came down.

Emi: "Morning morning"

Me: "I thought you left last night"

Emi: "I did. And came back in the morning. I wasn't gonna spend such a cold Saturday alone. I'm used to having my babe with me"

Khethiwe: "We will go back home on Monday wenamy love"

Emi: "I can't wait. I miss tv"

Khethelo: "But we have tv"

Emi: "The one that is always playing Mr Bean? Nothank you"

We laughed. They really have taken over the TV.

Khethelo's phone rang. She answered and gave it tome.

Khethelo: "Its Q"

Me: "Sure"

Q: "You do remember we are twins right?"

Me: "Yeah"

Q: "And you don't want me to die?"

Me: "Depends. Where are you? Why are you whispering?"

Q: "I'm in deep shit man. I ended up at Sam's house yesterday. I don't know how but I'm here. He took all of the cars out of the garage and he's washing them. I was supposed to leave at 6 but by 5 he was already up and roaming around"

Between twins there's always a stupid one and that is Quinton. Why on earth would he end up at Sam's house?

Me: "You are very stupid you know that?" Q:

"Yep. I'm a fool. Please come get me" Me:

"No. I'll fetch your corpse though"

I hung up. "Emi go get my phone upstairs"

We are supposed to go there today and apologize but he decided to be stupid.

Khethelo: "Is everything okay?" Me:

"Yeah."

Katlego: "What time are you gonna go to the Nzuzas?"

Me: "We'll probably go tomorrow. Bab Ndoda will be coming with us"

Katlego: "Okay"

Emi came down with my phone I texted Calvin about his brother who's stuck at Sam's house...

•••

[Quinton]

She kept looking at me and laughing.Me:

"This isn't funny"

Yoli: "But I told you we'll oversleep"

Me: "Do you understand that he will shoot me if he finds me here? And why did you allow me to stay over?"

Yoli: "You insisted"

Me: "I was drunk"

Yoli: "Ben is working something out. We gonna get

you out of here don't worry"

Me: "If it means burning this house down for me to get out of here without him noticing. Then so be it"

Yoli: "Wait. I'll burn a paper and you gonna take it up there and the alarm will go off"

Me: "That's crazy"

Yoli: "Hhaike. Go back to the closet I wanna go eat"

Me: "I'm still disappointed you actually listened to a drunk person"

She pushed me to the closet and closed the door. My phone vibrated.

Me: "You better be calling me with a solution of getting out of here" he was laughing. "Am I the only one who doesn't find this funny?"

Tyler: "You're in trouble. Ofcourse you won't find it funny. I've organised fumigation team to come there. Yoli better tell him now that that her room has roaches. They'll come with an extra worksuit and then you'll all depart after they are done"

Me: "Thank you. How long should I wait?".

Tyler: "About 30 minutes. You're such a risk taker." Me:

"You, Khethiwe and Yoli are stupid"

Tyler: "We thought you were behind us for real"

Me: "Wherever man"

I texted Yoli to make up a story for those guys to come here.

This closet is just another room. I fit a wig and specsto pass time. She doesn't like jewellery. I've never seen her wearing bracelets or those huge earrings.

She only wears those tiny ones. The ones that are for little kids.

I came across her diary. It was empty. I put it back. I opened another drawer there were her face paintings. She seems to like this stuff. I've never seen her wearing any lipstick other than red. She has lots of red lipsticks. Isn't 2 enough?

Women. She has eyelashes too. I opened another one. This child needs God himself.

She came in.

Yoli: "What are you doing?"

Me: "Why do you have these bondage things?"

Yoli: "For the future"

Me: "Yolanda"

Yoli: "Yes baby?"

Me: "Why is your mind so wild?"

Yoli: "Because I don't want a boring sex life Quinton." She closed the drawer. "My dad bought the story and he's very allergic to those chemicals so he's getting ready to go to his friend's place."

Me: "That is the best news I've heard all day. Were you that convincing?"

Yoli: "No. Nqaba is the one that came down and spoke to him"

Me: "Who's that?"

Yoli: "It's my cousin"

"Yoli!" I froze.

Yoli: "Chill. That's Ben"

She walked out.

Ben: "Let's perform that magic on you"

Yoli: "Q won't fit here"

Ben: "Well does he have a choice?" I peeped through. He's crazy. He brought a suitcase. What on earth is he even wearing?

"Yoli. You're getting new more clothes while you have animals in here?" Shit!

I tucked myself amongst clothes.

Yoli: "Oh I'm attending a very important event later I have to fit these dresses"

Nzuza: "Ok. Make biscuits for your friend here."

Yoli: "Are you leaving?"

Nzuza: "Yes. Don't cook we'll go out"

Yoli: "Okay bye"

I heard footsteps fade away. I took a deep breath.

"They have arrived" A message from Tyler read.

Yoli came in.

Yoli: "He has left. Come"

Me: "You saw him getting in the car and driving off?" Yoli:

"Yes. And I can see your feet"

I came out.

Me: "Where's Ben?"

He budged in.

Ben: "I'm here."

Me: "I'm gonna need your car keys"

Ben: "No"

Me: "What are you even wearing?" He patted his black afro.

Ben: "I didn't want him to recognize me."

Yoli: "I'll make you something to eat"

Me: "Thank you but no I need to go home" I stretched out my hand to Ben.

Ben: "This is Ben abuse." He handed the keys over. I left them standing there. I walked as fast I could.

Waiting for a bullet to pierce through my flesh at any moment. I made it out. I passed the fumigation guys.

I had no time.

I unlocked the car. It was parked a bit far from the others. I rushed there and got in and drove off.

I called Tyler.

Tyler: "You don't know how much your call means to me"

Me: "I won't be needing your service anymore. Thankyou though"

Tyler: "As long as you're alive"

I hung up. I kept checking if there's no dodgy car following me. I'm never drinking again...

•••

[Khethiwe]

Only God knows where Quinton disappeared to last night.

I filled popcorn into the containers and went upstairs to the mini cinema.

Kat: "This wine tastes like water"

Khethelo: "Emi is taking her sweet time"

Me: "The mall is a bit far you guys" I handed them their popcorn and put Emi's on her seat.

Khethelo: "These smell heavenly" Me:

"They taste heavenly too." Khethelo:

"Has Tyler heard from Q?" Me: "I didn't ask. Let me ask him"

Khethelo: "Are you sure you guys came back together?"

Me: "Yeah. He stayed behind to speak with Yoli and then-"

Kat: "What? He's still seeing her. You were with her?" Me: "Yes"

Khethelo: "And you didn't tell us? He could be lying somewhere dead Khethiwe"

Me: "He's fine wherever he is" Kat:

"So Yoli is who invited you?" Me:

"Yes"

Khethelo: "Why did you lie and said it was Tyler's client?"

Me: "Probably because you would've told your men and they would've come and ruined the whole thing. You guys should see them together. They love each other"

Khethelo: "Yeah right"

Me: "And that thing you said to her in the bathroom was really unnecessary"

Khethelo: "I'm trying to protect this family Khethiwe"

Me: "Maybe that isn't your place. You could've approached her in any other way. Not that one."

Khethelo: "What? Did I have to take her to a spa maybe and kneel and ask her to stay the fuck away?"

Me: "Yes if that's what you think is better. You called her a 19 year old slay Queen. She's 22, old enough. And her father is filthy rich. What is it that you think she's actually digging from Quinton?"

Kat: "You on her side now?"

Me: "No. I'm on Quinton's side. You and your men

think its only you who deserve to be loved. He lovedChloe and she passed on. He loves Yoli now. You guys are too focused on what Nzuzo might do but Quinton's happiness matters too."

Kat: "What he might do? He took me and the kids. Tell me if he took you. Would you still be behind thismadness of a relationship that puts everyone's livesin danger?"

Me: "You aren't dead. Nzuzo killed no one"

Kat: "He slapped me!"

Me: "I'm sorry that happened but guys Yoli isn't her father. If you were in the same position of breakingup with your men would you do it?"

Khethelo: "Yes! You went away from Tyler"

Me: "Later. After people had died and I was gonna come back trust me."

Kat: "Now you understand why they have to break up?We can't have more people dying just becuase someone is inlove"

Me: "If you all need someone to hate. Let that be

Quinton not Yoli. She's just a little sweet innocent soul."

Khethelo: "Oh please"

Kat: "Maybe your eyes will open the day Nzuza send men with guns to attack us and Tyler falls a victim"

Me: "Lamu fell a victim but Q never turned against our relationship. So yep I would still be on their side wearing my black mourning attire"

Khethelo: "You're bewitched"

I picked my glass of wine and popcorns. I need to be alone.

I can't stand this. I bumped on Emi at the door. Emi:

"Are you okay?"

Me: "I'm good. I just need to lie down" She nodded and walked on to my room...

•••

[Tyler]

The paperwork got finalised this morning. The house

finally belonged to Jessica.

She was going from room to room.

The food I had ordered arrived. The gents were coming over to see the house so I ordered enough.

I called her to come down to eat.

Jess: "This house needs a redo" Me:

"And why is that?"

Jess: "I do not like the master bedroom's color" Me:

"Ok" Yoli will take care of that.

Jess: "You look bored"

Me: "I'm not bored I'm hungry. Have you found the dress?"

Jess: "Its really hard to find a dress that fits as I want"

Me: "I told you we can go sign and have the ceremonies after you've given birth" Calvin is the one that actually came up with that plan. My heart won't let me have a wedding with her first. Khethiwe refused that we get marked now. She said she wants

hers to be special. Done with love and patience not done just because I have to marry Jessica.

Jess: "Will I change my surname?"

Me: "If you want yes"

Jess: "Okay"

We ate in silence.

Jess: "I miss sleeping next to you" Me:

"Me too"

Jess: "Can you sleep over?"

Me: "Yeah sure." She smiled and hugged me. "My brothers are coming over"

Jess: "When?"

Me: "Today."

Jess: "We haven't even settled in yet. Can't you cancel?"

My phone rang. Bonga. I even forgot he exists.

Me: "No. You can warm the food up for them when they arrive." I answered the call. "I almost wrote to

Khumbulekhaya"

Bonga: "My sins can't keep me home. I messed up" Me:

"What did you do?"

Bonga: "I told Happy to terminate a child"

Me: "Whose child?"

Bonga: "Mine"

Me: "Are you on drugs?"

Bonga: "No baba. I haven't seen her since that day. I have hired PIs but no luck. Please help me"

Me: "How long has it been?"

Bonga: "About 3 months"

Me: "Do you know what are they gonna do to you when they find out?"

Bonga: "Yes. I was hoping you'll soften them up forme"

Me: "Nope. Come home and talk to them"

Bonga: "You know I can't do that"

Me: "Then you don't want to find Happy. I'm so

disappointed in you"

Bonga: "I know"

Me: "Come home. I want you to be there when I speak to them"

Bonga: "Thank you so much baba"

Me: "You owe me"

Bonga: "I do"

We said our goodbyes. The 4 dark men walked in. My father's genes are very strong. I thank the Angel that Ben was talking about.

Me: "Y'all are quads. Same height, complexion and everything"

Calvin: "I'm just more handsome. Greetings mommy"

Jessica: "Hello. How did you guys get in?"

Calvin: "Ask no questions hear no lies. Do you have beer?"

Me: "Yeah sure" I took out the 6 pack I bought on my way here. Quinton was just looking around like a lost puppy.

Chris: "I'm starving. The lady I buy food from was not at work today"

Khule: "Why didn't you take a lunch box with you?"

Chris: "I don't like bread"

Jess: "You can go to the lounge. I will bring you food just now"

We left her.

Quinton: "Are you gonna redecorate?"

Me: "She says so"

Quinton: "If so. Hire Yoli"

Me: "I also thought of her"

Khule: "You keep looking for ways to bring her in"

Quinton: "She's in"

Calvin: "Nzuza is so gonna kill you. Tomorrow you should stay behind"

Chris: "No. He must come just so Nzuza will shoot him if he feels like shooting somebody. Where did you get the guts to go to that man's house?"

Quinton: "Alcohol"

Khule: "I told you to stick to Castle Lite"

Me: "You should've seen him taking in raw gin"

Calvin: "I'm worried you didn't see him get on the boot"

Chris: "I'm even more worried about that child letting you sleep at her father's house"

Q: "Her name is Yolanda"

Khule: "A child Yolanda"

Q: "Khethelo is only 25. She's also a child but I don't call her that"

Me: "Amen"

Calvin: "Hey stop it. Nzuza is going to give you guys a chance. He knew you were there trust me. So Chris and you Khule get rid of the Satan that pushes you to be against this relationship. Tomorrow we'll also apologize that Q slept at his house"

Q: "Nope. Don't"

Khule: "We will"

Chris: "I just got more hungry"

He went to the kitchen. Calvin and Khule walked outside.

Me: "What happened to your cheek?"

Q: "Calvin punched me." This one is very abusive. I laughed.

Me: "I would've punched you too if I was older" Q:

"Tsek"

Me: "Dude!"

He went to the kitchen too.

Jessica came.

Jess: "Your brothers have taken over the kitchen. I will go lie down"

Me: "Okay"

She doesn't like them at all. I don't know if it's hormones or she's just pure evil...

•••

[Katlego]

The door swung open as we cooked. The sun had set. I miss my house now.

Luh: "This better be worth it"

Khethelo: "I wasn't expecting you so early"

Luh: "I'm going to dinner at 8pm. So yeah I'm here" Me:

"Anything to drink?"

Luh: "Water will be fine"

Me: "Are you pregnant?"

Luh: "No. I wouldn't dare"

I poured her water.

Luh: "You look like you killed a person. Out with it"

Khethelo: "We need to help us break Quinton up with his girlfriend" she frowned. "They shouldn't be together"

Me: "I was kidnapped with the kids by her father to send the message across"

Khethelo: "We know its too much to ask"

Me: "Its either they break up or we all live miserably"

or die"

Luh: "You guys aren't straight with what you want me to do"

Us: "Fancy him"

Me: "Seduce him. Sleep with him if you have to"

Luh: "Hhe banna basadi ke lona. Have you lost your minds? I don't like Quinton. It was just sex"

Me: "Get him to sleep with you then. We'll make sure that Yoli finds out and then she'll dump him"

Luh: "You both are witches. I can't believe I wasted my time coming here. Pour me wine"

Me: "We are begging you sis"

Luh: "No. Try that wicked witch Nkule"

Khethelo: "Yes! Why didn't I think of her? Thank you Lulama" she ran up the stairs.

Luh: "I give up on you"

Me: "We are desperate, okay?"

Nkule will break them up. I am crossing fingers...

•••

[Jessica]

Tyler left with his brothers. Nobody irritates me more than those men. All they know is smoke, eat and drink alcohol.

He's always talking about them. I'm competing with them and also with that Khethiwe.

I had just finished bathing when my phone rang. Me:

"Hi"

Mother: "Open the gate"

Me: "Where are you?"

Mother: "At your gate"

Me: "What? You can't be here!"

Mother: "Open up Jessica"

I hung up and opened the gate. I saw her coming in.

I put on shoes and went downstairs. I opened the door for her and waited.

She came in.

Me: "What are you doing here?"

Mother: "Why have you been ignoring my calls?"

Me: "He was here. Also his brothers."

Mother: "Take the offer of signing at court. Time isn't on my side. Convince him to marry in community of property"

Me: "No. This house is under me. After giving birth I'll sell it and we pay SARS and the remaining amount will be for me and my baby"

Mother: "What baby? There will be no baby. I want you to kill it next month."

Me: "What?"

Mother: "Don't tell me you're catching feelings for this child. You will be divorcing this man in 8 months. Do you think Den will still want to marry you with someone else's child? Don't be stupid"

Me: "I don't want him anymore. I told you this" she slapped me.

Mother: "Do you think the money we'll live off will come from heaven? Don't be stupid. When we are

done paying SARS you will go be with your rightful husband"

Me: "I think you need to leave"

She walked away. She has made everything to get us into any possible trouble. I had to marry Den until I found out I am pregnant with Tyler's child. She suggested I say its Den's but I couldn't. I now had to proceed to date this Tyler just because I'm pregnant with his child and he's my mother's ticket into paying SARS and 50 people that she owes only God knows how much. Now she wants me to kill this little innocent soul that Tyler is so desperate to have. For everything he's doing. The money he paid at the lobola negotiations I owe him at least this baby

[2/26, 06:40] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Forty-Four

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[Quinton]

I thought they forgot about me but immediately

when I stepped in everyone ran to their work station. Even Nqobile, the receptionist started typing on the computer.

Me: "Morning Miss"

Her: "Morning Mr Dube. How do you do?"

Me: "I'm pretty well thanks. Is Miss Dladla in?"

Her: "Let me confirm"

She took the phone to her ear.

Martha offered me coffee.

Martha: "Just the way you like it Sir"

Me: "Thank you Martha" she smiled and walked back to whatever she came from.

Nqobile: "She is in Sir. You can go through" Me:

"Thank you" I walked on to the lift.

I took a sip of my coffee. What a way to begin my yetto be busy Monday.

I didn't get enough sleep last night. I snuck Yoli in around 10pm we talked and talked and talked. I don't

know when we slept but we woke up at 4 and took her back home. But before she left we looked for dishes that she gave to Tyler but we didn't find them.

I knocked and went in after she told me to come in. She smiled.

Khethiwe: "I'm gonna die today"

Me: "No you won't."

I put the paper bag before her.

Khethiwe: "Thank you Mbuyazi. Did you know I didn't have breakfast?"

Me: "Yes. You'll make your own coffee though"

Khethiwe: "Yes I will. Where did you get that one?"

Me: "Martha"

Khethiwe: "Should Yoli be worried?"

Me: "Not at all."

Khethiwe: "Good. So, what is it that you want?"

Me: "Is it that obvious?"

Khethiwe: "Unfortunately yes"

Me: "Okay. I want you to help me set up a candle light dinner" she laughed.

Khethiwe: "I love where this is going. Are you gonnado it at home or hotel?"

Me: "At a hotel"

Khethiwe: "Ok. When?"

Me: "Tomorrow evening. She has to go back to Durban on Wednesday"

Khethiwe: "Ok. I will knock off early today then. I onlyhave 2 meetings for the day"

Me: "Thank you"

Khethiwe: "Let me eat my food then"

Me: "Let me leave you into it"

I got up and left.

I called the girlfriend as I drove off. It rang for awhile.

Yoli: "Hey" she was panting

Me: "Are you jogging?"

Yoli: "Yep. From downstairs. I'm jogging away from dad and his brother" I chuckled.

Me: "Okay. How are you?"

Yoli: "Fine. Wena? Did you sleep after taking me home? Are you driving?"

Me: "I'm good and yes I did sleep and yes I'm driving and you are connected to Bluetooth ma'am." She chuckled.

Yoli: "Good."

Me: "Will I be seeing you today?"

Yoli: "I doubt. Mrs Nzuzwa will be baking tonight so I have to help her"

Me: "Meet me at Mandela square on the next hour" Yoli:

"Don't you get tired of seeing me?"

Me: "I do. Don't wear leggings please" she laughed. Yoli:

"It's 15° Quinton. I can't wear a dress"

Me: "You have stockings. Put them underneath and address on top"

Yoli: "What is wrong with leggings?" Me:

"Everything. Get ready. I love you"

Yoli: "You're very weird Mr Zebra. I love you like that though. My dad calls you a thug" She laughed. That old clown.

Me: "But you know I'm not. He's just bitter that his daughter loves another man other than him"

Yoli: "We'll see when your daughters grow up. And trust me you all aren't ready for Phila" I chuckled.

Me: "We really aren't. She's such a chatterbox"

Yoli: "But sweet. My dad is calling me. Bye boo" Me:

"Bye sweetheart"

I hung up. A message from Khule came through. I viewed it.

"I'm going to Sam's to ask for Phila. Wish me luck" I

called him back.

Khule: "Were did you disappear to?" Me:

"To see Khethiwe. Where are you?"

Khule: "I'm home. Getting ready to go"

Me: "With who?"

Khule: "Chris"

Me: "Okay. I'll see you when you get back"

Khule: "Where are you now?"

Me: "Kylie's place."

Khule: "Okay"

We said our goodbyes. I had parked on the drive way. I got out and headed inside.

The lift wasn't working so I took thw stairs. Worst 5minutes of my life.

I wanted to die as I reached the 3rd floor. I knocked. Kylie:

"Who is it?"

Me: "I need water"

The door opened. She laughed. She was on the call. I walked in and went to the fridge to get water.

Kylie: "Quinton is here. Let me call you back" shehung up.

Me: "Was that Yoli?"

Kylie: "No, Ben. How are you?"

Me: "Dying. Who's your landlord? Is he trying to kill people?"
She laughed.

Kylie: "They are fixing it. We were all given notice that it will be out for 3 hours"

Me: "Wow. What is for breakfast?"

Kylie: "Ray will arrive with it just now. Let's get to real business. What do you want?"

Me: "You were my friend before you chose Yoli over me. Remember?"

Kylie: "Yes you are my friend. That is why I know you want something because you could've called if you wanted to check up on me"

I found chips on the cupboard. I opened them. Me:

"Well I'm here to check up on you"

Kylie: "Fine then. Tell me about yesterday. Didn't Yoli's father shoot you?" We laughed.

Me: "No but he kept calling me Queen. Told us to

share cans of beers and denied us food"

Kylie: "No!"

Me: "Yep. Before all that, he made us wait for hours. Tyler and I even went to mall of Africa to buy snacks."

Kylie: "I like him. He's my hero"

Me: "Yeah right. And then he told me to come to his house and ask him to take Yoli out"

Kylie: "That's good. I'm so happy for you guys" Me:

"Do you have ice cream?"

Kylie: "Yes" I opened the fridge and took it out.

Me: "Do you think you can trick Yoli to go out tomorrow evening?"

Kylie: "You wanna surprise her?"

Me: "Kind of."

Kylie: "You're really inlove"

Me: "Yes. This is the moment of: God really answer prayers. It feels so good to love someone without

trying so hard"

Kylie: "Okay I'm gonna cry. I'm so happy for you man. Just to think you were doubting her and couldn't even pronounce her name" I laughed.

Me: "When?"

Kylie: "Before she came to Durban. You called her Moli"

Me: "I don't remember that. The only thing I remember is I felt something for her the next morning after I chased her the previous night"

Kylie: "You my friend is a crook. Do you remember you had to move in with me?"

Me: "Yes. But I couldn't leave her there to be on her own"

Kylie: "Yoli must tell the name of the healer she goes to."

We laughed. I love how much I love her. Ray came back with all sorts of goodies. This is why I will not be having sex anytime soon. I don't even trust those condoms. A pregnant woman is my worst fear...

•••

[Khethelo]

Khule finally left after hours and walking around doing nothing. He was anxious the whole night.

I cleaned up and washed the dishes we used for breakfast. This house is back to being too big.

Katlego left with her kids. I'm left with these forever eating little rascals.

Nkule is Nowhere to be found. Even her social media platforms no longer exist.

I saw Hawu running in. Thank you God.

Me: "Hey you" he hugged my knees. The girls ran intoo followed by their mommy.

I hugged them all.

Me: "I was about to go upstairs and join the twins"

Kat: "Oh well you can't because we have to cook up a storm for Phila's welcome home party. Lelo will come with her whole family."

Me: "Why is it always us? Let's hire s catering

company"

Kat: "That will seem otherwise. Lelo will be here to help us"

Me: "I don't think I'm up for cooking really"

Kat: "What is wrong with you?"

Me: "I can't find Nkule"

Kat: "Just get over it already. Nzuza has now given them his blessings"

Me: "Still. What is Quinton gonna do with that child?"

Kat: "You need fresh air. Quinton doesn't want Nkule. He loves that child"

Me: "Since when do you know he loves her?"

Kat: "Since last night. His brothers are willing to tolerate the relationship so should you"

She went to the kitchen. Mtho came down.

Mtho: "Morning"

Me: "I thought you left for school"

Mtho: "No. But I'm going now. I will go visit my mom"

today"

Me: "No you can't. Your little sister is coming hometoday"

Mtho: "Little sister?"

Me: "Yes. From your father's previous marriage"

Mtho: "Oh. He once mentioned having a child younger than me. Ok I will come back then"

Me: "Tell Bonga to avail himself since he's no longer reachable"

Mtho: "I will bye"

Me: "Drive safely"

Tolerate the relationship? They are all high on crack I swear...

•••

[Khule]

He made us wait an hour today. I guess we're making progress.

Mrs Nzuzza led us to her husband's office. We took

seats and she went out. Nzuzza:

"How may I be of help?"

Me: "I would like to take your granddaughter out for dinner"

Nzuzza: "Will you be good to her?"

Me: "Yes"

Nzuzza: "Do you have enough money to take her to the movies? Buy her new clothes and change her hairstyle every weekend?"

Me: "Yes I do"

Nzuzza: "I do not like you Dube. You also know that but I will give you a chance to father your daughter."

Me: "You have no idea how much that means to me"

Nzuzza: "Get a paper and a pen"

Chris took Nzuzza's from his desk. "She doesn't eat beef. She doesn't drink milk. She's allergic to some fabrics, not sure which ones but she is. She reads at 9am, 12pm and 8pm when she goes to bed. She's allergic to dogs and cats. She only consumes

banana in fruits. Her greek salad should have no feta. She has her own special Dr in East London. When she talks you should keep the conversation going, her IQ is a bit high so try not to get surprised whenever she speaks. You should also find her a good teacher that will be teaching her when she's at your house. You got all that?"

Chris: "Yes I did"

She pressed an intercom.

Nzuza: "Philasande. Khulu's office please. Its urgent" How is this man raising my child?

The door opened. I gulped. She has changed so much. She kept her eyes down until she got to her Khulu.

She is beautiful. Just like her mother. I failed to hold back the tears. I missed out on so many special moments in her life.

Nzuza: "Do you still remember him?" She shook her head. "Look at him"

She looked at us both.

Phila: "Why you stopped calling?" She got off Nzuza and ran to me excitedly. I picked her up. We hugged.

Nzuza got up and left. I haven't held her in years.Me:

"I love you princess"

Phila: "Never stop calling me. I love you too" she moved off. "You never told me your name"

Me: "Uhm...can I tell you something?" She nodded with a smile that revealed her tiny dimples. "I am your father"

Phila: "Really? I mean why did you stop calling me if you are my daddy?"

Me: "It was complicated. Do you feel like visiting my place"

Phila: "Can my mommy come too?" I looked at Chris.

Nzuza: "That's Yoli. No Barbie you can't go with mommy"

Phila: "But why?"

Nzuza: "Because mommy has a lot of things to do"

Me: "She can come actually."

Phila: "Thank you. You are sweet. Can I visit himkhulu?"

Nzuza: "Yes."

Phila: "Please come help me pack"

Me: "This is daddy Chris"

Phila: "Hi daddy Chris. I have 2 daddies?"

Chris: "Nope. You have 5" she giggled.

Phila: "I am truly a princess."

Nzuza: "Go ask mommy to help you pack"

Phila: "Please be here when I come back"Me:

"We are not going anywhere"

She got off and ran out.

Nzuza: "You can spend as much time as you like with her. I will fetch her when we come back from our first ever vacation without our little princess"

Me: "I'm sorry. Thank you so much for this" He

noded and went out.

Chris: "Finally" I took a deep breath.

Me: "Finally"

She came back with Yoli. She greeted us and told us we are good to go.

Chris asked me to drop him off at work. The bubbly princess said she wants hot milo. There isn't any at home. We drove to the mall.

Yoli: "I'm sorry my father did all that to you" she said as she took a trolley.

Me: "Its all good"

Yoli: "Did Khethelo come during my sister or after my sister?" I looked at her.

Me: "After"

Yoli: "She has ever seen her in pictures?" Me:

"Why are you asking all that?"

Yoli: "Because she doesn't seem to like me and I know its not only about my father beating you guys up and abducting Katlego and the kids. Its more thanthat"

Me: "Has she ever told you she doesn't like you?"

Yoli: "No. But she did tell me to stay the hell away from Quinton. I guess that explains it"

Me: "Maybe she was just mad about the drama that your father caused"

Yoli: "Let me hope so"

We bought everything that Phila might need and drove home.

We found Katlego, Lelo and Khethelo.

I introduced Phila to everyone. Soon as I told her the babies are her siblings she totally lost it and forgot we exist. I went to the kitchen to make her milo.

Khethelo came in. She didn't not look happy.

Khethelo: "I didn't know that Nzuza giving them his blessings meant she can come to our house"

Me: "Phila insisted she come"

Khethelo: "Phila is 4."

Me: "But thinks more than a 4 year old. And Yoli is Quinton's girlfriend. Ofcourse she's allowed into this

home"

Khethelo: "Really?"

Me: "What is going on with you?"

Khethelo: "Nothing"

She ran up the stairs. I poured the milo into hersterilized cup and went to the lounge.

Yoli: "Can I go to the bathroom?"

Kat: "3rd door on your left"

She walked up.

Lelo: "People who don't know you would think she'syours with Yoli."

Me: "That explains the creepy stares at the mall"Kat:

"Its really creepy. Let us go start cooking' They got up and left.

Phila: "Maybe you will answer this. Where do babiescome from?"

Quinton paused. I looked at him. He shrugged. Philalooked at him then at me. She stood on her feet.

Phila: "Share your secret. How do you do this?" Me:

"What?"

Phila: "Splitting into 2"

Me: "This is my twin brother. Daddy Quinton"

Phila: "Aren't twins a boy and a girl? Like the babies?"

Me: "No"

Quinton: "Hello baby"

Phila: "Oh my God he speaks! Hello daddy. I now have 3 daddies. Yet to meet the other two" she hugged Q's knees. He picked her up. "I know who is who. You have hair on your face and daddy...what's your name?"

Me: "Khule"

Phila: "Yes. Daddy Khule doesn't have hair."

Quinton: "Yes he doesn't"

Phila: "Do you know my mommy?"

Quinton: "No. Do you have a picture?"

Phila: "Here she is. Mommy meet my other daddy. He looks exactly like daddy Khule"

Yoli: "Hi daddy. He indeed looks like daddy Khule"

They shook hands with Quinton. She is their daughter. I wouldn't be surprised if she wants to live with them.

Phila: "I've always wanted a mommy and a daddy. Come daddy Khule. Let's have a group hug"

I got up. We hugged. She giggled. I

have never been this happy...

[2/26, 06:40] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Forty-Five

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[Quinton]

I rolled over until I reached the other end of the bed. I opened my eyes and looked around. She was seated on a chair beside the drinking coffee looking at me.

Me: "Morning" she smiled.

Yoli: "Morning."

Me: "You were watching me sleep?"

Yoli: "Yes. I couldn't sleep"

Me: "What's wrong?" I sat up straight before her and took the cup out her hands.

Yoli: "Khethelo."

Only God knows what is wrong with that one. She was nasty through out the dinner last night.

Me: "Khule said he'll talk to her"

Yoli: "Do you know what will happen if Phila tells Khulu one of the mothers shouted at her?"

Me: "Khule is gonna talk to her. It will never happen again"

Yoli: "I should be going home today"

Me: "Yeah you should"

She frowned. "I mean...your dad is going to beat my ass" she chuckled.

Yoli: "I love you"

Me: "I love you more. Come here" she came and we cuddled. I had finished her coffee anyway...

•••

[Khule]

Only a little person can knock like that.

Me: "Come in"

Phila: "I can't reach the handle daddy" oh yeah. I stretched and got off the bed. I checked the time. It was only 7:30am. Now tell me why is she up?

I opened.

Phila: "Good morning" she had a tiny bowl of cereal in her hands. "Breakfast?"

Me: "Who made that?"

Phila: "Mommy Khethiwe. Can we talk?"

Me: "Yeah sure come in"

Phila: "My room would do. Mommy is sleeping right?"

Me: "Yes"

Phila: "We should not disturb her. Sad people do not like being disturbed"

This is me trying not to be surprised right now. This is too much for a 4 year old.

I pulled the door closed and we headed to her room.

Phila: "Okay. I have a few things to ask" she handed the bowl over. "You can sit down"

I did. "You can eat while I talk"

Me: "Oh okay thank you"

Phila: "I do not like this room. I am asking for princess butterflies on the wall. I am asking for a purple room. I saw the one I like on internet"

Me: "Internet? You can use internet?"

Phila: "Yes daddy" she pulled something behind me. Me:

"Wait. Where did you get that?"

Phila: "Daddy T." Great Tyler. Just great. "Purple princess room" she said to the tab and smiled. She showed it to me.

Yoli will have to cancel her Durban trip.

Me: "Its beautiful"

Phila: "Thats how I use internet. I can't write other names but I can say them. Is the porridge nice?" I think Khethiwe did not make this.

Me: "It is nice my love. Let's go make decent breakfast now"

I picked her up and we headed downstairs...

•••

[Tyler]

Khule and Phila came down. We were all almost done eating. I hate to see the older twins take early retirement.

The Dube attorneys is running successfully but I'd rather sleep throughout the day.

And to make it worse. There is that devil worshiper in my life. She lives to torment me. She said she is not comfortable with being around my people when I invited her over yesterday.

Khethiwe: "Did daddy like the cereal?"

Emi laughed.

Phila: "He did. Right daddy?"

Khule: "Of course my baby I did. Morning"Us:

"Morning"

Khule: "Where is Bonga?"

Me: "Upstairs"

Khule: "What's wrong with him? Its like he's avoidingus"

Me: "That's because he got Happy pregnant and toldher to abort. Reports say he hasn't seen her since that day"

Q and Chris: "what?" Where did they come from?

Bonga came down. Khethiwe and Emi took their bags and bid us goodbye. I told Phila to go upstairs.The 3 dark men were staring at Bonga.

Q: "Talk!" Bonga looked at me.

Me: "It was now or never man"

Khule: "Tell me if you want me to punch the words out of that mouth"

Bonga: "I was scared"

Quinton slapped him.

Quinton: "I thought I raised you better than that man. Find her"

Bonga: "I tried. I really did but I can't find her"

Chris: "How long has it been?"

Bonga: "4 months." Khule attempted to slap him but Yoli greeted and took a further duster and dusted off the vase.

Khule: "Get out. Go find her. If you're not home by 7pm tonight. Whoa unto you my boy I will crash that stupid head"

Chris: "I just need you out of my sight right now Bonga or else I'll hurt you"

Bonga: "I'm sorry"

Q: "Sorry? You better pray she did not abort it S bongakonke. You better pray. Now get lost"

He picked his laptop bag.

Chris: "Where the fuck are you going with that? You're only going to need your phone to find that girl. Fuck Bonga marn"

Bonga grabbed his phone and rushed out. Yoli disappeared to the lounge. She's smart. She was just there to protect this little moron. She knew they wouldn't have done anything to him while she's watching.

Me: "Nzuza was here"

Q: "Where?"

Me: "At the gate. I didn't let him. He thinks he's all that"

Khule: "Why wouldn't you let him in?"

The intercom buzzed. .

Chris went to get it.

Chris: "Its him again"

Me: "Just make Phila's room footage appear" Q:

"Ai marn. Let him in"

Me: "Let me go upstairs just in case he shoots you guys"

Khule: "And never give Phila an iPad. She wants butterflies purples now"

Me: "Purple princess butterflies you mean?" Q:

"What is that?"

Me: " She's 4. She wants a dramatic room."

Khule: "That is why I will be hiring Yoli"

Q: "Hire her today"

Me: "Why? I am the one that's going to" Q:

"Its just a tiny room."

Me: "like the size of your brain"

I got off the chair fast as he came charging at me. "Yoli!!!"

He stopped. Yoli appeared. She laughed when she saw Quinton behind me.

Yoli: "You guys." She walked on to the kitchen. Me:

"Where are you going?"

Yoli: "To make breakfast"

Us: "No!"

We looked at each other.

Khule: "You can watch your Sofia" she really was watching sofia. I laughed.

Calvin came down. I thought he left.

Calvin: "MaNzuza morning"

Yoli: "Good morning how are you?"

Calvin: "I'm pretty well thanks. How about yourself?"

Yoli: "I'm good thank you. May you please go upstairs for a while? I wanna gossip with my brothers"

Yoli nodded and went. I couldn't be happier. I love gossip.

Calvin: "Are you going to stand there or you'll come join us?" I really want this gossip but also I don't want Nzuza to shoot me. What is taking him so long anyway.

I went to take a seat.

Khule: "Are we in trouble?"

Calvin: "I want you all to seat these women down. The tension I felt on that table last night was horrible. Did you speak to Khethelo?"

Khule: "Yes I did but she riddled through the whole conversation. She apologized though"

Calvin: "Her behaviour was totally out of the way. So each one of you will seat your women down and find out where did their spirit of lighting the whole room with their existence go"

Honestly speaking. They did not give Yoli and Phila a warm welcome.

Everyone was just focused on the grumpy Khethelo. My phone beeped. I am late. I viewed the message.

"If you do not sleep here tonight you will never seeme again"

I sighed.

Chris: "We will"

Calvin: "Good. Let me go then"

"Is anybody home?" That's my cue. I picked my briefcase up and followed Calvin.

Calvin: "Father inlaw"

Nzuza: "Yes Madonna Dube. Where are my princesses?"

Calvin: "Upstairs. Keep well"

Nzuza: "White Dube." That is supposed to be me. I nodded and we passed him....

•••

[Katlego]

I stopped at the staircase when I heard men sing national anthem. I slowly went down.

I closed my mouth with my hand. It was KK, Q and Chris. Yoli's father was seating on the bar chair watching the performance. I unlocked my phone and video tapped this moment.

Nzuza: "Okay done. Now sing shosholoza"

Khule: "I've never heard of that"

Nzuza: "Okay sing rude boy"

Chris: "What is that?"

Nzuza: "Rihanna's song. What do you wanna sing? Just dance atleast"

Chris: "I don't understand why you are making us alldo this. He is the one that wants to marry your daughter" oh my God! He wants to marry her.

Q: "Chris I would've done anything Kat's father ordered us to do for you to marry Katlego. Now please"

Chris: "Katlego's father is decent"

Nzuza: "Hey where's your wife? I brought her a peace offering. Twerk"

Khule: "Quinton was right."

Q: "Khule don't"

Nzuza: "What did you say about me? Go get yourwife Dr Phil" I chuckled.

Chris headed up. He saw me. He laughed.

Chris: "Come"

Me: "He's my favorite"

Chris: "He's stupid"

We reached them.

Me: "Good morning"

Nzuza: "Is this how you look and smell like in the morning?"

Chris: "Are you flirting with my wife?"

Nzuza: "You're dirty. She's my daughter."

Khule: "The daughter you almost killed"

Nzuza: "I wasn't going to kill you. She knows I wasn't going to. I brought you something"

He reached for something in his pocket. I took the box. I opened it.

Chris: "How is this a peace offering?"

Nzuza: "Tell me if you do not like it" I was still in awe. How did he know?

Me: "Where did you find it?"

Nzuza: "I had it remade"

Me: "This is the best peace offering ever"

Q: "What is it?"

Me: "A necklace my dad bought me on my 21st birthday. I lost it. It was limited edition"

Nzuza: "And here it is again."

Me: "Thank you so much"

The trio was watching at us like we aliens.

Nzuza: "Okay gents. Twerk"

Khule: "How long does weed stay in the system?" He whispered to Chris.

Me: "I'll make you guys breakfast"

Nzuza: "Can I see my children please. Tell me Quinton. Where did Yoli sleep?"

Me: "Emi's room" Q was still stammering.

Yoli came down holding Ngiphile followed by Phila. Yoli:

"Baba? What brings you here?"

Nzuza: "My car. Hey pickles" he said picking Phila up. The men chuckled and followed each other out.

Yoli: "You gonna give me a lift?"

Nzuza: "Whoever brought you here will take you back home. I just came to see if you guys are okay"

Phila: "My daddy is going to buy me butterflies"

Nzuza: "Is it? Isn't daddy the best? Gogo and I are leaving for a vacation"

Phila: "With me?"

Nzuza: "No. You are still spending time with daddy, right?"

Phila: "Yes. I have 5 daddies and 5 mommies"

Nzuza: "I'm so happy for my love. Let me go. I will call later okay?"

Phila: "Okay"

He bid us goodbye.

Yoli: "I thought you wouldn't want to be in the same room as him"

Me: "Yeah but I actually get where he's coming from. And besides he brought me a peace offering" I showed her the necklace.

Yoli: "Its so beautiful. I'm jealous"

Khethelo stormed down. She snatched Ngiphile out of Yoli's arms.

Yoli: "I'm sorry. She was crying I thought-"

Khethelo: "Don't ever touch my baby" she said and stormed upstairs.

The room went dead quiet.

Phila: "Why is she sad?"

Yoli: "Someone stole her teddy"

Phila: "Please buy her a new one"

Yoli: "I will baby"

Me: "I'm sorry about that. I will go talk to her"

Yoli: "No I will."

Me: "I will be here if you need anything"

Yoli: "Thank you" she left.

Phila: "I can make pan cakes. Best pan cakes" Me:

"Really? Let's make them then"

Phila: "Why the internet doesn't answer my question?
People say it knows everything"

Me: "It does know everything. What is your question?"

Phila: "Where do babies come from"

Me: "Heaven"

Phila: "Yes I know that. How do they get here?"

Me: "Please pass me bacon on the deep freezer baby"

She also can use internet? I really can't with this child...

•••

[Khethelo]

I put Ngiphile next to her brother. I drank water. I

heard a soft knock.

Me: "Come in"

I started making the bed. She walked in. I sighed. Yoli:

"I came to apologize"

Me: "You do not take someone's child without their permission. Didn't your parents teach you that?"

Yoli: "My mistake. I'm sorry." She paused. "This is about my sister isn't?"

Me: "I don't know what you're talking about"

Yoli: "I'm not Sedi. I will never be her. We might look alike but I'm definitely not her. If you're worried that maybe Khule will be reminded of her if he sees me then you're wrong. If he wants to remember her and misses her trust me he missed her before I even got here. What you are doing is affecting everyone. The way you shouted at Phila yesterday wasn't motherly. I'm sorry if you feel like we are here to take your family away but you are Phila's mother, I am your twin sister. I'm sorry for what my father put you all through but he came around and I'm not saying everything should be forgotten but at least be civil with me. This hurts"

Me: "Get out"

Yoli: "You are putting Q and Khule in a very weird position"

Me: "I don't want to repeat myself."

She walked out. This is my worst nightmare. I'm

even mad she caught it up. I know he sees Lesedi inher. She will be a constant reminder of her. And Philaon the other hand. I feel like Lesedi's spirit just moved in to this house....

•••

[Khethiwe]

Nothing makes me happy more than a half day. My phone rang as I packed up.

Me: "Husband"

Tyler: "Wifey. Lunch?"

Me: "You're very generous when you want to tell me you're going to Jessica's"

Tyler: "Can I?"

Me: "Seriously babe. You do not need my permission. Where are you taking me for lunch?"

Tyler: "Timmons. Your favorite burger is on special" Me: "I will find you there"

The door opened. I chuckled. I hung up.

Me: "You're such a charmer"

Tyler: "I know." He gave me flowers and pecked my lips.
"You're beautiful"

Me: "You told me in the morning." I smelt the flowers.

Tyler: "You looked beautiful then and you look beautiful now"

Me: "Or you're just easing your conscience"

Tyler: "I am but you truly are beautiful. I hate how much you know me"

Me: "Then stop being so transparent"

Tyler: "Can I get a quickie?"

Me: "I should've known"

I picked my bag and ran for my life. He laughed and followed me.

We got on the lift. We kissed.

Me: "You know there are cameras in every corner of this building?"

Tyler: "Really? Let's go to my office then"

Me: "I do not see myself driving to Pretoria sorrylove"

He spanked my ass as we walked out the lift. The stares!

Me: "That's inappropriate"

Tyler: "What is? Grabbing it?" He grabbed it. I walked faster, away from him. He chuckled.

Why on earth did I fall in love with this moron out of all the people that were hitting on me?

He opened the car door for me. I got in.

I don't remember ever opening the door for myself since we dated.

I texted Yoli if I should bring gin. She called. Me:

"Hey sugar plum" he looked at me.

Yoli: "You want us to drink in a house that has brother Calvin and pastor Chris?"

Me: "We'll chill by the balcony" I remembered about their special date later.

Yoli: "I'll have just one glass" Me:

"No problem. Bye"

Yoli: "Bye sweets"

Me: "We gonna have to do McD. I forgot I have to setQ and Yoli's dinner date"

Tyler: "They are going on a date?"

Me: "Yes. I made a booking at Southern Sun Sandton."

Tyler: "Do tell him I helped out"

Me: "Of course" he smiled and increased the speed heading to Sandton....

•••

[Emi]

My life is going the wrong route. Brad asked we take a break and I deal with my demons. I don't even know how to. I've ended up on Jason's bed 2 times already and he won't stop calling.

I packed my things. I worked till late today. There's nothing interesting at home or my place. The tension

at home is sickening. What happened last night totally put me off.

I checked the time. 7pm. The right time to drive to work and get wings then drive to burger.

I was the only one left on this floor. I got on the lift. My car is parked underground.

There weren't even security guys. I rushed to it. I unlocked it. I got in and warmed up the engine. I felt like someone is watching me. I'm a very huge coward.

I drove off.

"What if I was a killer?" I instantly braked. If I didn't have a seat belt fastened I'd flew out the windshield.

Me: "What the fuck Jason! I could've hit a car or even worse, a human!"

Jason: "Hello"

Me: "I am calling the police"

Jason: "That won't be necessary. The police station is just around the corner"

Me: "What do you want?"

Jason: "You. Why aren't you taking my calls?" Me:

"Because I don't know why you calling me"

Jason: "You sleep with me, tell me you love me and you don't why am I calling you?"

Me: "The sex was a mistake"

Jason: "2 times in a row? Keep it in mind we did more than 3 rounds on these occasions. How is that a mistake"

Me: "It was just sex okay. Stop calling me"

Jason: "There's no need for you to keep fighting it. I love you Emi"

Me: "You're a psycho Jason. Nobody wants to be with a psycho"

Jason: "That is who I am without you. If you could just give us a month to see if we still got it. And that wasn't just sex"

He opened the door. He kissed my cheek and stepped out.

I really said I love him. I wasn't under the influence of sex. I just said it out of the blue while watching t.v.

If I love him then what am I feeling for Brad? Because what I feel for both of them isn't the same.

I hate my life....

•••

[Quinton]

I was starting to doubt that Kylie did get Yoli to come with her. It had been 30 minutes already.

I called Kylie but it went to voicemail. I

loosened the tie.

I heard giggles and then a knock. Finally. I'm nervous. I said come in.

She closed her mouth with both hands. Kylie laughed.

Yoli: "I hate you both"

Kylie: "I love you more. My job here is done. Have a great night"

Me: "Thank you mama ka bunny"

She smiled and walked out.

Yoli: "You're such a crook you know that?" Me:

"You look heavenly"

Yoli: "Thank you. I assume you bought the dress. I love it. It's beautiful"

Me: "You make it look beautiful"

She smiled and finally moved forward to me and we hugged. We kissed briefly then I pulled a chair for her and sat down too.

Me: "There's only snacks. Food will be served around 7:40"

Yoli: "No problem babe. Even if there weren't these snacks it would be still special. The setting is heavenly. Who helped you?"

Me: "Tyler and Khethiwe. Do you remember the day you took a shower at my place? The day you ran out wearing only a towel?" She laughed.

Yoli: "Yes. No need to remind me"

Me: "You remember What I said?"

Yoli: "Yes I do"

Me: "I meant it" she smiled and squeezed my hand. I kissed hers and pushed the chair back and knelt on one knee.

She looked... i don't know.

Me: "Yolanda-"

Yoli: "What on earth are you doing?"

Me: "I'm asking you to be my-" she screamed. Not the excitement scream.

Yoli: "Quinton I just recently learned that my paternal grandma died of heart attack please think of my poor heart" she was talking too fast. Even her hand was sweating. I took the box of a ring out.

Yoli: "Oh my God he's serious." She snatched her hand away. She took her clutch and rushed to the door. I followed her. She opened and ran. In heels, she ran! I stood there watching her Caster Semenya away....

[2/26, 06:40] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Forty-Six

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[Khethelo]

Calvin came out. I passed him heading back in while Yoli's car started.

I went straight to the kitchen to get water.

I stood there before the fridge trying to recall what I came to get. I felt a poke on my shoulder. I turned. I remembered I need water.

Emi: "They are asking for you" They are the least company I wanna be around with right now.

I took out a bottle of water and followed Emi. I sat next to Katlego.

Calvin: "I just realized we have a long way to go. You do not walk out on a meeting MaNzuza. Ever!"

Yoli: "I'm sorry I was-"

Calvin: "I'm not done. I will tell you all when its yourturn to speak. I did not call this meeting to only let you both know you have humiliated yourselves. I called it for you too to make peace. I asked my brothers to speak to each one of you. Did they?"

We all nodded. "Tyler did Khethiwe say what her problem is?"

Tyler: "She said she doesn't have any but Khethelo does"

Calvin: "Okay. Chris?"

Chris: "She did say she had a problem because she feared Quinton being with Yoli will lead to the terror that happened at Estcourt but after I told her Nzuzza had given them a chance she put her selfish reasonsaside and she's happy for them"

Calvin: "Khule?" He looked at me.

Khule: "She just said she doesn't have a problem. It has been 2 weeks if I'm not mistaken she always gives me that same answer. I've begged her in any way but she won't say a thing"

Calvin: "Quinton"

Q: "She said she doesn't have any she's just worried about Khethelo's attitude towards her and Phila"

Calvin: "Well. Lelo said she doesn't have any problem too but she can see the tension between Khethelo and Yoli. Do you guys see what is happening to you both is very visible? Tonight we are going to fix this. Khethelo tell me, how do you feel about Yoli?"

Me: "I do not feel any emotion"

Calvin: "I'm not playing here Mamnguni. What happened the very first day you saw her?" I do not have time for this. The judgement in all their eyes. I bet I am the biggest traitor here. Katlego raised her hand. "Yes Mama ka Hawu"

Kat: "We went to their table. I greeted. Only Kylie and Ben. All I remember well is that I wasn't nice and I'm sorry"

Calvin: "Siyabonga. I want to know what happened in the bathroom?"

Me: "I told her to stay away from our family and

Quinton. She said she won't because she doesn't think Quinton would've risked all our lives if he didn't love her so much. She was proud her father kidnapped my kids and Kat. She totally got me mad. I questioned what kind of a woman is she"

Yoli: "That was after you said I'm a 19 year old slay queen who can't keep her claws off older men"

Me: "Well can you?"

Calvin: "Khethelo!"

Me: "Sorry"

Calvin: "Ok. That was before Nzuza forgave us right? Let me just say you were still angry he abducted your sister and kids. What happened after you heard he will not be hurting anyone? That he gave them his blessings and letting us have Phila"

Yoli: "I heard her begging someone to make it quick and come because Khule is now allowing me to their home that means this relationship is going far" I looked at her. "Yes. I heard you. The door wasn't closed. That's when I realized this was deeper"

Khule had his head facing down. They do not understand!

Calvin: "Is it true?" I nodded and looked away. "We are your family Khethelo. You mean out of all these people none of them you had to confide in about your problem. Not even your husband?"

Me: "He wouldn't have understood. He would've thought I'm overreacting like all you does"

Khule: "Since when have I ever thought you are reacting?"

Me: "You would've told me I'm seeing things and preach the same verse you did the time I found you watching your wedding's videos" Tyler gave me tissues. I wiped my tears. Khule and Quinton were looking at me with eyes full of...hurt? I don't know. My eyes were blurry with tears.

Khule: "I've known how Yoli looks for 6 months now baby." Has he? Where has he seen her?

Me: "I was...I am scared everyday you see Yoli you see her. That when time goes on you going to start loving her and abandon me. And when you brought

Phila home it just got worse. I just assumed I will not be needed anymore. I felt the presence of Lesedi. I felt like you going to miss her and end up filing for divorce. I know I don't make sense but that's how I feel"

I felt him hug me in. I didn't see him coming.

Khule: "If you trusted me it wouldn't have gotten this far. You would be surprised if I told you not for even a single day I ever saw Yoli and thought of Lesedi.

Even when I saw Phila I only realized she looks a bit like her now and that was it. I love Lesedi but she passed on, how I love her is different from how I love you. You are not her replacement. I love you Khethelo. Yoli is Q's. It can be a bit trauma for you seeing them together and I now understand but I got you. Nothing will ever change how I feel about you.

Even if she rose from death nothing would change. No offense Yoli" she laughed.

Yoli: "None taken"

It felt like a huge weight had been taken off my shoulders.

Calvin: "We are sorry you had to go through all that" Me: "Its Okay. I'm sorry Yoli"

Yoli: "You owe me an ice cream date"

Me: "After here" she chuckled. Looks like everyone was crying here.

Yoli: "I'm also sorry. I'm looking forward into knowing you again"

Me: "I'm deeply sorry. And I'm also looking forward to it"

Quinton: "Whew!"

Me: "You both are very terrible at problem solving"

Yoli: "Very horrible. What if we were gonna kill each other at Bali?"

Khule: "You would've?"

Calvin: "What would you been doing there?"

Me: "Apparently we had to go there to fix our relationship"

Calvin looked at them.

Khule: "What did you want us to do?"

Calvin: "Sit down and talk!"

Quinton: "We don't like that"

Yoli: "They gave us an ultimatum"

Khule: "No need to be nosey about it"

Me: "Didn't you?"

Q: "It was his idea" Khule:

"And you agreed"

Q: "Phela I thought you were smart"

Yoli: "We are now alone" I looked around. We laughed. Where have they gone to?

Khule: "Ok. Jokes aside. You really okay now?"

Me: "Yeah. Pretty much. Maybe I didn't really hate you that much Yoli I just need to get this off my chest and reassurance from you husband"

Q: "I couldn't be happier. Thanks to Calvin"

Yoli: "Yes cause you have poor problem solving skills"

Q: "You've already said that"

Yoli: "I'll say it again"

Khule: "Call Mtho to come with the kids"Q:

"I don't have airtime"

Khule: "Do you ever have airtime?"

Q: "Why is it always me to call people? What does your phone do?"

I got up. Yoli followed me.

We found the ladies preparing snacks and champagne.

Me: "Is this our dinner?"

Lelo: "No. This is for celebration. Emi just ordered food"

Me: "Celebration for what? You guys are dramatic"

Khethiwe: "Hug. I'm not convinced you guys are cool now"

Me: "We'll let that come naturally" I took yoghurt and dipped in chips.

Kat: "This feels like a dream"

Yoli: "It does. I'm so happy. Feels like I just submitted a mathematics assignment" we laughed.

Me: "Now that's a true relief. Is anyone going to pop this champagne or what?"

Tyler: "Yes"

His brothers followed. They smell like ashtrays.

Tyler popped the champagne with the help of Q. They poured us all half glasses and kept the bottles for themselves.

Calvin: "To more peaceful and loving years" Us:

"Cheers!"

Calvin: "Okay. Bonga got Happy pregnant. Told her to abort. She ran away. He's still looking for her though" Amen hallelujah!

Khule: "Yoli and Khethelo are expected to have themselves removed from the newspapers because we are very busy looking for the mother of our first ever grandchild"

Me: "Okay"

They left.

Yoli: "Why are you saying okay?"

Me: "Because we will"

Yoli: "How?"

Kat: "We might have to kick asses" Yoli smiled.Yoli:

"Cool then"

Khethiwe: "You all are freaks"

Emi: "This needs gin"

Lelo: "What's up with you and gin?"

Emi: "I missed my periods. After I shagged Jason" she said and poured gin and drank it as raw as it is.

Wtf?

•••

[Tyler]

I woke up earlier than expected. Fridays are my restdays I don't know why was I up. Khethiwe was fastasleep. I didn't even see her come to bed last night.

When we came back from dropping Yoli off they were still drinking.

I saw a cockroach. A huge ass cockroach. I got off the bed and tip toed to it. I caught it and went out. Their door was slightly open. They have moved the triplets to their own room I think they want to reproduce new noise makers and meat finishers.

Me: "Good morning Mr and Mrs Dube elimthende"

They startled.

Chris: "Man what's up?"

Me: "I brought your cockroach" I tossed on top of them and ran out. I found Phila heading to the stairs. "Excuse me miss" she turned and ran to me. I picked her up.

Phila: "Good morning"

Me: "You smell good"

Phila: "Thank you. I bathed and sprayed mommy Khethelo's spray."

Me: "Where did you get it?"

Phila: "In her bag. Her bag is on the room I slept it. I don't like that room either"

Me: "Mommy Yoli will do your rooms in every home princess rooms"

I put her on the counter.

Phila: "I can't wait. My hair needs a salon" Me:

"Do you know what you want to do?"

Phila: "I always choose when I get there. Will you please take me to the salon?"

Me: "Yeah sure. Why not? Let's first have breakfast"

Phila: "Why don't we eat out?"

Me: "You actually have a point. Let's go change"

We went upstairs. I took a quick shower. Khethiwe was still asleep. I dressed up and went to dress Philaup.

We left...

•••

[Kat]

I finished bathing. I wanted to die. I hate Emi for this. Chris:

"Sleep. We'll order in"

Me: "I need to make a remedy. For me and every woman in this house" he chuckled.

Chris: "You guys are something else. What should I order?"

Me: "Anything spicy and hot"

Chris: "There are kids"

Me: "Order mild for them" I walked out heading downstairs. I found Khethelo boiling water. She looked worse.

Me: "You undid your hair"

Khethelo: "I don't know how or when. Where's that demon of a child?"

Khethiwe: "I am late for work" she almost tripped and fell.

Me: "I don't think you can go to work like that"

Khethiwe: "I have an important meeting at 10. Why did you take off the braids?"

Khethelo: "I don't know. I just need coffee right now" Me:

"Why didn't you use the coffee machine?"

She hit her forehead.

Khethelo: "I'm still wasted. Where's Yoli?"

Me: "Didn't she leave last night?" Khethiwe:

"Let me go bath"

Q: "Morning my beautiful people. I will take care of the meeting mama Dube"

Khethiwe: "Thank you hubby. I feel like shit"

Me: "Yoli left last night right?"

Q: "Yes she did"

Khethelo: "Have you checked on her?"

Q: "I'll pass by her place. Stay in okay. I don't want you guys collapsing far away from home"

Us: "Thank you" he headed out.

Calvin came down. He greeted us and bid us goodbye. I now feel terrible for not making them breakfast. I ordered it via uber eats to deliver it to

their offices.

Khethiwe went upstairs to bath. We remained downstairs and drank coffee. Emi and Lelo joined us. They just made coffee and sat down. We sat in complete silence.

Me: "So. You think you are baking?"

Emi: "Yes"

Lelo: "You don't look happy though"

Emi: "Ofcourse I'm not. Who wants to have a baby with that psycho?"

Khethelo: "Were you not on the pill?"

Emi: "No."

Me: "Are you guys back together?"

Emi: "No. It was just a moment of weakness."

Lelo: "You should buy a test"

Khethelo: "I have 2 in my bag"

Me: "You have another pregnancy scare?"

Khethelo: "No. I bought them last time"

Lelo: "This is why I tied my tubes"

Me: "Isn't painful?"

Lelo: "Not at all."

Me: "I want to tie mine too. Chris has been giving me injections I don't get and talking about little babies" they laughed.

Lelo: "These people have a very strong sperm. Gotest"

Emi: "I'm scared"

Khethelo: "Just go"

She got off the chair and left.

Me: "When is that monkey Jessica giving birth?" They laughed.

Lelo: "You also impatient for them to try for a baby?"

Me: "Yes! And I know she will catch and its going to be a healthy baby"

Khethelo: "You guys never even asked her if she wants to go to that Dr"

Me: "I know she will agree."

There's a Dr that has helped many women who can not carry full term. They all have bouncing babies today. And when that ugly duckling gives birth. We gonna consult him and we gonna have another littlebaby.

Me: "Everyone is so pregnant. If Bonga's girlfriend did not abort the child it will be age mates with Tyler's"

Lelo: "I doubt she would've gone away if she aborted it"

Khethelo: "True. How come is Yoli not pregnant?" Me:

"Condoms"

Khethelo: "Oh. I forgot those exist"

Me: "Have you ever used a condom nje with KK?"

Khethelo: "Nope." She took a sip of her coffee. We laughed.

She's such a bad bitch...

•••

[Emi]

This is the scariest shit. I put the tests away and washed my face passing time.

After 5 minutes. I picked the tests up without looking at them and put them in my pocket and went downstairs.

Lelo: "What do they say?"

Me: "I didn't look at them"

Khethelo: "Hhaibo. Let me see" I took them out and gave her. "You're shaking".

Me: "I will collapse"

She looked at them, looked at me and then at them. Oh God I'm pregnant. I leaned at Katlego. I couldn't keep the tears in. Why am I so careless!

Lelo took them from Khethelo.

Lelo: "We are here Emi"

Me: "How could I do this to Brad?"

Khethelo: "He asked for a break so just gather courage and tell him you're pregnant"

Me: "Its not that easy Khethelo" Kat squeezed me in.

Kat: "What was he expecting wanting a break? He pushed you into Jason's arms"

Lelo: "You are sure its Jason's?"

Me: "Yes. I got off the pill because Brad and I werenolonger having sex. I'm fucked"

Khethiwe came in. She narrowed her eyes at me.

Khethiwe: "You're pregnant?" I nodded. She hugged me. She let go. "You aren't thinking of terminating it,are you?"

I am actually.

Them: "Emi!"

Me: "What am I gonna do with a baby you guys?"

Khethiwe: "You gonna give it to me Emi please"

Lelo: "I am not bluffing when I say we are here foryou. Brad will get over it. Your brothers will keep Jason at his best behaviour"

Me: "I'm scared you guys"

Khethelo: "Don't be"

They started lecturing me. Yoh a big ass heavy belly? I'm not ready for that.

Khethiwe suggested we watch a movie while we feast on the greasy breakfast. Khule and Chris only came down to get the food. Nobody can touch them when they are watching soccer with their babies.

We fell asleep on the couches and woke up to someone shouting our names.

Yoli: "These are coffee aftermath. Wake up"

Lelo: "Child where do you get all this energy?"

Yoli: "I woke up and jogged. I drank pills and treated my hangover with everything in front of me"

Kat: "Your voice can tell"

She squeezed herself between Lelo and I.

Yoli: "I bought you tests and ice cream and lot of goodies just in case its positive"

Me: "You are late you gonna be Malumekazi" she covered her mouth and reached for ice cream.

Yoli: "Here. Tame down the trauma" Khethelo:

"I'll have these donuts with chips" Me: "These
are for me Khethelo tu"

Khethelo: "Please. Are we still going to Indonesia?" Kat:
"Who do you know there?"

Yoli: "It's the vacation that was supposed to fix our
relationship"

Khethiwe: "So now you want to go without us"

Khethelo: "That is actually a good idea. We should go
away on vacation. Only us"

Lelo: "When? That needs to be soon"

Yoli: "Today"

Us: "What?"

Yoli: "Yes. Let's disappear"

Me: "They'd find us in an instant"

Yoli: "Not if we use my father's card to hire a car and
everything else"

Lelo: "I hate to say this but its gonna be fun"

Kat: "Flight tickets? Accommodation?"

Yoli: "Let your slay queen take you places. Its gonnabe a road trip. Mpumalanga is near and has fun activities"

Khethelo: "You are corrupt. Let me go pack"

Khethiwe: "Why are you packing? We will transfer money to Yoli's dad's card and shop as soon as we get there"

Katlego: "Emi this is good therapy for your stress" Me: "I guess."

They got up. Kat and Khethelo went upstairs to kisstheir babies then got back.

I was hoping they'd change their minds but no. We were still on our indoor outfits. I wouldn't ask for better sister in-laws. These are the best.

•••

°9 hours later°

•••

[Quinton]

Calvin called. He made mad because each time he called I thought it was my guys.

Me: "Nyamazane"

Calvin: "anything?"

Me: "No nothing. Your side?"

Calvin: "The cctv footage shows 2 men parking the car at the parking lot. I have got their names my guys are looking for them"

Me: "Keep me posted"

Calvin: "I will"

If those monkeys are the ones that took my wive they will regret the day they were born.

I was babysitting. They were all out looking.

I must've fallen asleep. I woke up to my phone ringing. It was private number. I quickly answered.

All I heard is music.

Me: "Hello?"

Caller: "Hey baby. The music is too loud here. Can

you here me?" I sat up straight.

Me: "Yoli? Where are you? Are you safe?"

Yoli: "As safe as royal jewellery. I...I wanted to tell you that yes I will marry you. Next time just write me a letter don't do that candle light thing. It scares me"

Me: "Are you drunk?" She giggled.

Yoli: "Nope. I love you sugar daddy"

"Yoli come the men are about to strip. Whoooo! The Dube men could never do this for us"

Me: "Is that Khethelo? Where are you guys. we are worried sick about you"

"Where's the camera Emi?" That must be Khethiwe.Me:

"Yoli? Yolanda!" She hung up.

Khule: "You found them?" He said coming in.

Me: "Yes. Sounds like They are in a club watching stripping men"

Tyler: "What? Do they know I almost got shot looking for their stupid faces? Give me the number they called with"

Me: "Private number"

I picked Phila up and went upstairs.

100% sure this was Yoli's idea...

[2/26, 06:40] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Forty-Seven

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[Khule]

By the grace of good Lord we all managed to try and not find the women as per wish. Lelo would call every hour reassuring us they are still okay.

They came back in one piece. And now my children have been taken off the breast because Mam Dino said it is not healthy to continue breastfeeding them after Khethelo went out for 3 days.

Yoli is her father's daughter. As to how he convinced these women to go, I don't know.

And then there is Phila and Tyler. On a very peaceful Saturday. They decided they gonna wake everybody

up with kinky songs and left.

Khethelo: "Breakfast is ready" I closed down the laptop and followed her down.

Me: "Where's Q?"

Khethelo: "He didn't come back yesterday. I just sent Liam to deliver his sneakers at his house"

Me: "At whose house?"

Khethelo: "Q's house" Me:

"That's odd" Khethelo:

"He's with Yoli"

Me: "That's good then. I will be going to work to check a few things later"

Khethelo: "Is everything okay?"

Me: "Yeah. I just haven't been there for weeks. And Bonga being absent I need to check a few things" she moved her eyes away from me and wiped Ngiphile's mouth. "Spit it out"

Khethelo: "What?"

Me: "You do that a lot when you know something"

Khethelo: "You guys are too hard on him"

Me: "How? By letting him take responsibility of his actions?"

Khethelo: "Do you know that he hired 3 PIs but still no luck? I think if you really want this grandchild you will start looking for it's mother because Bonga can't."

Me: "He told you that?"

Khethelo: "Yes. Baby please; my child has lost weight even. This is weighing hard on him too. He was scared, that's why he told her to abort. Please understand that"

Me: "What if she did?"

Khethelo: "She wouldn't be in hiding sthandwa sam. You managed to find out we were in Mpumalanga. Finding Happy wouldn't be so hard" I chuckled.

Me: "Stop going through my stuff please. I will get my guys on the searching spree but that doesn't mean Bonga is off the hook"

Khethelo: "Thank you Mbuyazi" she kissed me.

"Ewww" oh they are back.

Me: "Where have you guys been?"

Phila: "We were at mommy Khethiwe's place. Daddy you won't believe what she said"

Me: "What did she say?"

Phila: "She said I will be the next boss at her work" Me:

"Wow congratulations. Let's eat"

Phila: "No thank you. I ate ice cream"

Khethelo: "Tyler Dube"

Tyler: "You promised not to tell Phila" she giggled and covered her mouth.

Phila: "I forgot. I'm kidding daddy I didn't eat ice cream we ate chicken burger"

Khethelo: "And now you going to eat your daily cereal because if you don't you will be weak and never be like Sofia" this how we've been getting herto eat her foods because God knows what does Tyler feed her on their their secret dates.

It feels good to have so much peace in this house. I wish we all lived here...

•••

[Katlego]

I woke up all alone. The kids also weren't here. I had time to clean and put all the laundry on the machine and had a nice relaxing bath.

Being alone can never be compared to anything.

"Babe?" That was the best 6 hours of my life. Poof there goes my good time. I've been on this tub for an hour straight and I wish I can stay an extra 30 minutes.

Me: "Bathroom" the door opened. I got out of the tub. He wrapped his arms around me.

Me: "I'm wet"

Chris: "That's exactly how I want you" I chuckled.

Me: "You're very naughty daddy" he smirked and kissed me. I swear he is so obsessed with bathroom sex. He picked me up and sat my ass on the dresser. He went down low with his kisses.

Me: "Where are the kids?"

Chris: "Sleeping" he spread my legs apart and came back to kiss my lips. He inserted his finger, I flinched in pleasure. He sucked on my nipples too.

This is the only time this gender is able to multi task. I kept brushing his head down to his shoulders. I have been on jail since I came back from Mpumalanga. So this felt really amazing.

He went down and put my legs on either shoulders. Our eyes met. We chuckled. I shaved. Last week I didn't let him do it because it wasn't shaved.

He started working out his magic. I just lose it and moan like a mad woman when he's down there.

He stopped.

Me: "Why are you stopping?" I was now breathing like a hair dryer.

Chris: "Because once you cum you will lose all this energy" he slid himself in. I don't do that!

I wish I had the strength to tell him that now but the way he plays his guitar is as good as his finger and

his mouth.

I held on to him for dear life as he pounded me hard and fast and I gave in.

He put his one hand around my waist and the other against the wall. He went on for quite sometime. I feel very powerless after reaching climax. He's right.

I felt him tighten his grip. He let out a soft groan and hugged me tighter, panting. I took a deep breath.

Me: "I love you" he kissed me on the shoulder.

Chris: "I love you more. I bought breakfast"

Me: "Thank you." I cupped his face. He smiled. He took my left hand and kissed it.

Chris: "Where's your ring?"

Me: "On my box. I was cleaning it." He took a towel and cleaned us.

Chris: "Ok. Your mom called. She's asking for the kids"

Me: "I found her missed calls. Did you tell Q?"

Chris: "That one is unreachable. I will drive to Khule'slater to let him know"

Me: "Ok babe. Let's take a quick shower then cause I will be going to Emi's place"

I helped him take off his t-shirt.

Chris: "Speaking of that one. What is wrong withher?"

Me: "Why?"

Chris: "She's been acting very weird. I passed by herplace yesterday. She seemed very distracted she told me she quit work. That's not like her"

Me: "She's a female. We go through different phasesin life. It must be one of those"

Chris: "Well I am worried"

Me: "Don't be"

I turned him around to scrub his back. Why is Emi so transparent?...

•••

[Bonga]

I have been all over the place looking but no luck. I am starting to think she killed herself maybe. I finally gathered courage and went to her home, I found that they moved out in March. I have Paul tracing them down for me.

I can't be sleeping in hotels forever. I missed home. I punched the code and the gate opened. I wonder if Sis Linky came to clean.

I called Mtho on my way to the door. He didn't pickup. He hasn't been answering my calls lately. He's not loyal at all.

I put the key and unlocked.

It was squeaky clean. Looks like someone has been here though. I went to the fridge and took the water out. I drank it all and collapsed on a chair.

I have not been able to communicate with anyone above. Even the leaf is mute. There is nothing I haven't tried but it's not working out.

"I take it she's outside waiting" I startled.

Me: "Baba?"

Baba: "Yes. Is she outside?"

Me: "Uhm...I...she. I can't" he raised his hand to slap me.

"Quinton!" He formed it into a fist and hit the counter.

Me: "I am trying baba. Really I am but she's just no where to be found"

Baba: "Tell me S bongakonke why would you tell herto terminate?" I went quiet. "I'm not talking to myself dammit!"

Yoli: "Would you calm down please? You're scaring him"

Baba: "He needs to answer me. Why?"

Me: "I was scared" for the first time ever I cried while thinking of it. "I am scared I am not fit to be a father. I am scared I might choose anything else but it"

Baba: "I've always told you, you are not those people Bonga. You are my son, not theirs. What happened then, we buried it with the past. I have had never been a father when I got you but I figured it out. Tell

me, did I ever fail you as a parent?" I shook my head. He'd never. Not even once. He was always there being a father to kids he got from the street. "Now tell me what makes you think you are gonna fail that child? You've already failed Happy but do not fail your child. I am very angry at you. I am sorry if you felt like telling someone to terminate was the way to solve your fears. I set a very bad example for you. Goupstairs and rest. I will find her and you will make it up to her"

Me: "That's if she didn't go ahead and terminate it"

Baba: "I doubt. Just pray she kept it. Ask your gogo if she did or not" I sighed.

Me: "I can't reach gogo. I think I'm being punished"

Baba: "Well I don't blame her I also want to hit you against the wall"

He walked to the lounge.

Yoli: "Is this her?"

I didn't even see her get over this side.

Me: "Yeah"

Yoli: "We've met twice"

Me: "Where?"

Yoli: "Durban and here at Fourways"

Me: "Whoa whoa. You talked or you just saw her?"

Yoli: "We talked. She's pregnant"

Me: "Oh Jesus thank you. Baba, Yoli says she's pregnant!"

Baba: "Whoa! Babe?"

Yoli: "He's talking about Happy" we laughed.

Baba: "You know her?"

Yoli: "Yes. I met her at the beach and then met her at that event we went to. She said she lives in Durban"

Me: "Then I have a better lead now. Excuse me"

My heart felt a less heavy now that I know she kept the baby...

•••

[Khethiwe]

Gogo: "You're happy again. Do not let anything take

that away from you"

Me: "I won't my love. I am coming to see you next weekend"

Gogo: "I would be so happy my Angel. I haven't seen your mother since last week"

Me: "Maybe her husband is home"

Gogo: "So you are okay with staying his fiance?" Me:

"Perfectly fine"

Gogo: "Have they set the date of their marriage yet?" Me: "I don't know. Tyler hasn't told me anything" Gogo: "Pray. Just pray about it all." I heard a knock.

Me: "I will gogo. There's someone at the door. I will call you later"

Gogo: "Take care"

Me: "You do too" I hung up.

I got up with the bowl of cereal to put it on the sink and went to the door.

Me: "Hey" he attacked me with a hug and kissed my

cheek.

Me: "I thought you had a busy day today."

Tyler: "I am. This is part of it. We should take this hairstyle out" he took my hands. "And these nails" I frowned and smiled.

Me: "I get bored going to the salon alone"

Tyler: "Lucky you. You got yourself a hubby. Are you gonna go change or? But I find you very beautiful in this lazy outfit" I chuckled.

Me: "Let me go get my bag"

I went for my bag and came back only to find him eating. I wish to know where does all that food go because he's still in shape.

Me: "I was thinking I should visit gogo next week"

Tyler: "Oh?"

Me: "Yes. I haven't seen her since the wedding and I miss her"

Tyler: "Can I come with you?"

Me: "That would be odd"

Tyler: "Gogo is very fond of me"

Me: "Take Jessica on a vacation"

Tyler: "Are you really going to visit gogo?"

Me: "What is that supposed to mean?" Tyler:

"Why won't you let me go with you?"

Me: "Because I am giving you and your baby mamatime to bond"

Tyler: "Did I say I want to bond with her?" He snapped.

Me: "I'm not trying to fight here babe. I was just making a suggestion"

Tyler: "It doesn't sound like a suggestion to but rather an order"

Me: "I'm sorry then."

I locked and we got on the lift.

Tyler: "Why can I not come with you?" Oh my God!

Me: "Because I want to talk to gogo. Privately" Tyler:

"Ok then. I'll be at home too"

Me: "And want to see me every 2 minutes?"

Tyler: "Do you realize you're my wife? Actually you should've informed me maybe 2 weeks prior about this"

Me: "What on earth is wrong with you Tyler Dube? I just decided an hour ago that I wanna go visit her"

Tyler: "I am coming with you" he opened my door for me. I got in.

Me: "As long as-"

Tyler: "End of discussion" he closed the door and walked around to enter.

We drove off. "We gonna pass by the Dr on our way back I need to collect some blood tests"

Me: "Ok" he's annoying at times.

He's been all over me like bad rash. I need to breathe without him being all up in my face. I do enjoy having him around but not all the time!

Whoa...does he think I might...? No way!

Me: "Do you think I would cheat on you?"

Tyler: "What?"

Me: "Yeah. You've been everywhere I am. Calling every 5 minutes since I found out about Jessica. You think I might go for revenge"

Tyler: "I know you wouldn't do that"

Me: "Why are you all over me then?"

Tyler: "Because I love you! You're my best friend. That's what friends do. Be all over one another, bring them lunch at work, random visits and all that."

Me: "It looks like you're keeping tabs on me"

Tyler: "You left me. That scared the shit out of me. I never wanted to let you out of my sight since then. I'm sorry if it's too much but the thought of losing you shrinks my balls" I laughed.

Me: "You didn't have to say that. I am not going anywhere I promise"

I hugged his arm. "Get on the drive through. I need Mcflurry"

Tyler: "This is why I hate this route"

I chuckled. He looked at me smiling. "I love you" Me: "I love you more."

I rested my head on his arm. I am glad he's here now...

•••

[Quinton]

After dropping Yoli off at her father's house I drove to Khule's.

My phone rang. This is the third time. I connected it to the car Bluetooth.

Me: "Nyamazane"

Chris: "I thought you were dead. Where have you been?"

Me: "My house. What's up?"

Chris: "Kat's mother is asking for the kids." Me:

"Oh ok. For how long?"

Chris: "What's wrong with you. Say no"

Me: "Why?"

Chris: "She still lets Pitso visit. I can't have my kids around that fool. So, I will give her your numbers and say no"

Me: "You want me to be a bad person?"

Chris: "Not entirely but make up an excuse. Say you're going to Estcourt with them"

Me: "I will call you later man"

I hung up. Why is everyone so evil in this home?

arrived at Khule's.

Me: "Look at you both. So cosy and beautiful on the couch while your kids passed out on the stairs" Khethelo jumped up. I laughed. "I'm kidding. How are you fam?"

Khule: "Except the fact that we have as stupid as you. We are fine. How are you?"

Me: "I'm good. Chris told me to deny Mrs Mokgotho the kids"

Them: "Why?"

Me: "He says she's still friends with Pitso"

Khule: "Oh. They can't go if it is so"

Me: "Then you're the right candidate for the job. When she calls you will answer"

Khule: "With pleasure"

His phone beeped. "Its Calvin." He reached for his iPad.

Khethelo: "Did you eat?"

Me: "3 hours ago"

Khethelo: "I'll make you guys something to eat"

Khule: "Please let it be meat"

Khethelo: "Yes Sir" she walked off.

Khule: "Hey baby"

Calvin: "Hhey wena" we laughed. I went to stand behind Khule. "Oh you're here too. Let me put Tyler and Chris on too and read the response from Sam"

Me: "What did he say?"

Calvin: "Be patient" he chuckled and shook his head. "Oh here they are."

Tyler: " We having meetings via FaceTime now?
Levels"

Calvin: "So guys. Q asked me to send Sam a letter, asking for Yoli's hand in marriage. So I'm sitting herein my office. I came to look out a few things. I sent him the letter to his home address and via email. Heresponded to the email with just LOL"

He then cracked of laughter. They all did. I knew this wasn't going to be easy. Not while weed is still legalin SA.

Me: "Send him a letter with emojis now" Calvin:

"He's doing this adultery thing wrong."Chris: "I like him"

Tyler: "Don't look sad Q. Laugh like you laughed when he made Bab Gede and his fellas sit outsidehis gate for the whole day when they went to paylobola for Lesedi"

Khule: "Please remind him. Lol is better"

Me: "Do you guys know he can do this for months"

Chris: "That will prove how much you want his

daughter. We should send these letters every hour"

Tyler: "I know what he needs. He needs a fresh babethat will strip and twerk for him. He's going through menopause"

Me: "I'll go help Khethelo with juice"

Tyler: "Shame. Bye Queen Latifa" Me:

"Ok Taylor Swift"

I walked to the kitchen. Why on earth did I fall for that clown's daughter though?...

•••

[Emi]

Kat and Yoli better be here when I'm heavy and unable to walk. Kat came by during the day with goodies. And then around 6pm uber eats deliveredme very greasy foo. I feel so pregnant its not evenfunny.

Kat advised me to send Brad a message and tell him.

I did. I want this guilt to be over by the time I give birth. He didn't respond. I tried calling him but it went

straight to voicemail.

I should move back in with Khethiwe. This thing of living alone is going to send me straight to a mental hospital.

I was curled up on a couch watching tv. I heard a knock. I turned down the volume. The knock persisted. Who could it be? People are asleep around 11pm.

I got up and walked to the door. I cleared my throat.Me:

"Who is it?"

"Its me" my heart beat faster.

Jason: "Emi?"

Me: "What do you want?"

Jason: "I need to talk to you"

Me: "Talk"

Jason: "Please let me in. I will say just this and leave"

I unlocked and he stood there. Looking as decent as ever.

I stepped aside for him to enter. He didn't move his eyes off me. I gulped.

Me: "Talk"

Jason: "Please keep it" I frowned. "The baby" I felt my hands tremble. I failed to maintain eye contact.

Me: "I don't know what you're talking about" I said walking to the kitchen area.

Jason: "I saw the message you sent your Indian boyfriend. I know I am a nut case, I know carrying my child is a curse to you but please MaDube I will do anything for you to give me that child."

Me: "Stay away from me Jason. This isn't your child"

Jason: "I know it is. And I'm sorry you fell pregnant. I will do all the necessities I promise I will proceed with the shrink sessions."

Me: "There is only thing I need you to do. I need you to give me space. And if you make any attempts to get anywhere near me I will kill myself"

Jason: "Emihle"

Me: "Out!"

Jason: "okay fine. Don't cry, I'm sorry okay?"

I went to the door and held it open. He slowly walked towards it. He stopped before me. I closed my eyes. He kissed my forehead.

Jason: "Just in case you change your mind I will be here"

Me: "I won't"

I heard footsteps fade away. I slammed the door closed and went down against it and broke down.

This is not what I imagined my life to be. It is definitely not what I wanted for my child.

I felt severe cramps. I tried getting up. They got worse. I'm not supposed to be feeling such pains. Unless...

[2/26, 06:40] Zoaness: Chapter Forty-Eight

•••

[Happy]

"I'm in love with you there's nothing I wouldn't do, catch a bullet for you. As long as you want me to. I'm

inlove with you..."

The radio went off. I stopped dancing and turned.

Pat: "You're dancing. Having the best time of your life while the Dube men have found you"

Me: "What? How? Pat!"

Pat: "This is beyond my control. I tried really I did"

Me: "They can not find me" He rushed to the kitchen to get me a glass of water. I sat down on the couch trying not to cry. I took the glass.

Me: "Please get me my inhaler"

They can not find me. I don't want them around me or my child. Especially that Bonga. I want nothing to do with that stupid excuse of a man.

He handed me the asthma pump. I inhaled. He was brushing my back.

Pat: "I'm sorry babe" I wiped off the tears.

Me: "Please book me a ticket"

Pat: "To Jo'burg?"

Me: "No. Anywhere far away"

Pat: "You can not travel more than 6 hours Happy you know that. They were meant to find you eventually! You're carrying their blood. Sooner or later they were gonna find you"

Me: "You do not get it Pat. He told me to abort. A whole 7 hours, he still had not changed his mind. I texted him if he was sure he said 'certain'. Now tell me why would I want to be found? Why would I want that man and his people close to my baby and I?"

Pat: "Well his people didn't tell him to tell you to terminate"

Me: "I need to be alone" Pat:

"Okay go to your room"

Me: "Alone in the whole house"

Pat: "Just pretend I'm not here. I will make you food. Your mom is gonna call anytime"

I sighed. I am now gonna have to be interrogated for lying. But he acted like a one night stand. It makes no difference.

My phone rang. Indeed it was my mother. I put it on silence.
Can the world give me a break!

And these kids kick me like they are paying me for carrying them. I want frozen margarine...

•••

[Quinton]

What a way to find out we gonna be uncles. Every year someone is pregnant in this home.

A lot is going on right now and it all needs solutions. Emi doesn't want her crackhead Jason near her, Tyler no longer wants to marry his Jessica and Calvin and Khule went to Happy's home. The Happy I know doesn't want anything to do with us. We're waiting on them to get back.

Yoli came back with the fruits Emi asked. Yoli:

"I didn't get banana love"

Emi: "Thank you. These are fine."

Me: "Do you want anything else?"

Emi: "No. I am good. I just need to go home"

Me: "You will stay with Khule and Khethelo"

Emi: "No. I don't wanna be a burden. I will survive on my own"

Tyler: "Not happening. You almost died yesterday. If it wasn't for that caretaker you would've both died"

Emi: "Well we are not. I will keep y'all numbers on speed dial"

Me: "It's just the meds talking."

Khethiwe: "I will move in with her"

Yoli: "I will come on weekends" Me:

"You both are my stars"

She started crying again. Khethiwe and Yoli comforted her.

Me: "The doctor told you not to stress Emihle."

Emi: "I do not want what this baby is about to bring into my life"

Me: "We will keep Jason away until you're fine with him being around" I'm yet to ask Yoli how come this is Jason's child while she was dating the Indian guy.

The visitor's hours came to an end. I warned her about trying anything stupid before we left.

Me: "We're driving to Chris's" I said to Tyler.

Tyler: "Are they back yet?"

Me: "I don't know but they said we'd meet there." He nodded and we parted ways to our cars.

Me: "You aren't used to good things. Why do you always rush to open your own door?"

Yoli: "Because I don't wanna get myself used to things that might not last" I raised my brow.

Me: "You're weird."

I drove away. "Can I ask something? I know I shouldn't but I am curious"

Yoli: "I'm panicking right now"

Me: "Its about Emi" she nodded. "How is that babyJason's?"

Yoli: "Its been a while since she broke up with Brad.They tried working things out with Jason but it failed"

Me: "That's...its fucked up. I do not favor this thing of keeping Jason away from his child. He's a nut case but he doesn't deserve that"

Yoli: "Pity you can't decide on that. Emi has made up her mind. Hopefully she will come around"

Me: "She better do it quick. No child should be kept away from it's parent for the other parent's personal agendas. Its not right"

Yoli: "True. Enough about that. Did my dad respond to the letters you sent?"

I found myself laughing.

Me: "Yes. He said LOL"

Yoli: "Huh?"

Me: "Yes. I'm a joke to him. Calvin sent him more letters, I don't know if he responded to any of them"

Yoli: "He's such a joker"

I looked at the rear view mirror. I realised the red tazz that was following us on our way to the hospital. Bloody immature.

Me: "Is your seat belt fastened?"

Yoli: "Yes"

I pressed hard on the accelerator. She looked at me. I could see her from the corner of my eye. I just kept my eyes on the road.

I braked hard as the car in front of me just took over.

Me: "Fucking moron. Are you okay?" She took a deep breath and took her hands off the dashboard breathing heavily.

Yoli: "Yeah."

Me: "I'm sorry"

I squeezed her hand and pulled over. I handed her a bottle of water.

Yoli: "Thanks"

Me: "You good?" She nodded.

My phone rang. I checked it. It was an unknown number. I put it back.

Yoli: "You can answer. I'm okay"

Me: "Whoever it is. I'll call them later."

Yoli: "Why are you speeding anyway?" I looked at coming cars. The tazz was nowhere to be seen.

Me: "I'm rushing to the mechanic."

Yoli: "You're speeding with a car that is not on good condition?"

Me: "It is. My other car is there so I wanna make sure I'm not late for the meeting at home. Need anything to eat?"

She shook her head and drank water again. I

drove on...

•••

[Jason]

She handed me a beer and put down a bowl of snacks.

Luvo: "We're out of wine gums."

Me: "Do you ever bring any or you just always clean me out?"

Luvo: "Visitors only bring themselves Jay. What movie is this?"

Me: "Silence"

Luvo: "Put on something less scarier please"

Me: "You wanna watch those too good to be true movies?" She chuckled.

Luvo: "What kind of movies are those?"

Me: "The romantic ones. They are crazy"

Luvo: "Aisuka."

She took the tab and went to Netflix.

Me: "Emi is pregnant"

Luvo: "Get out of here! Is that why you flew back?" She paused and frowned. "You don't look happy"

Me: "She doesn't want me to be part of their lives" Luvo:

"But why? Did you guys fight?"

Me: "No."

Luvo: "But why would she tell you she's pregnant if she doesn't want you to be involved?"

Me: "She didn't. I synced her phone with my computer. When she sent that Brad a message. I saw it"

Luvo: "Jason!"

Me: "What? I had to know if they still talk. I love herLuvo"

Luvo: "I know. But that doesn't mean invade her privacy. Maybe if you act less of a freak she would want you around her. But if you're still invading her privacy and showing all these crazy ass personas. She won't"

Me: "Maybe she doesn't love me anymore"

Luvo: "She does. Maybe. All you need to do is to be a normal human being. Stop stalking her. Send her flowers for starters. Tell her you're sorry about last night. Those flowers must be accompanied by snacks. Pregnant people love food"

Me: "Is it gonna work?" She sighed.

Luvo: "You're such a disappointment friend. If it doesn't work we'll buy her a baby stroller. If it doesn't"

work we'll buy her a whole fucking car."

Me: "Why should I beg to be in my child's life?" She hit me with a remote.

Luvo: "That's what made you lose her in the first place. When she found out about Bianca you shouldn't have gave her time to cool off."

Me: "I did beg her"

Luvo: "You know nothing about begging. You scared her instead. No going all crazy on the poor girl. You gonna be a gentleman. Send her love notes, make sure she knows you're thinking of her everyday. And please do not let out those crazy personalities okay?"

Me: "I have been able to control them again lately so worry not."

Luvo: "Good. Send her a sweet message" She passed me my phone.

Me: "What should I say?"

Luvo: "It should come from deep within. Now please

be quiet I want to watch this movie in peace"

"Roses are red. Violets are blue. I still remember our first ice cream date. I love you and the kid"

I gave it to Luvo.

Me: "Is it good?" She laughed.

Luvo: "What happened to you sweetheart. You used to be very romantic but this isn't too bad"

I smiled. She brought the phone back. I pressed send...

•••

[Khethelo]

A prefect Sunday to do shopping with the little ones. I could do this all day!

I'm being sarcastic. My babies are not by favourite at malls. I even cut my list short. Imagine singing your lungs out at church and then you have to shout at this 2. Definitely a work out.

"What a small world" Oh boy. Smile.

Me: "Hey. How have you been?"

Simphiwe: "Been good. Just never heard from you from that night"

Me: "Yeah. I tried calling but I was out of airtime"

Simphiwe: "Oh. And you got back with him. Married and have kids"

Me: "Yes I did. Where's your wife?"

Simphiwe: "We call it quits. It wasn't real. Cute kids" Me:

"Thank you. Are you back in SA or visiting?"

Simphiwe: "Permanently back. I have a restaurant in Randburg"

Me: "Congrats. We might pay a visit some day"

Simphiwe: "Give me your numbers. I will send you the location"

I hesitantly took the phone and punched my numbers. "Next customer please"

Me: "See you around" .

Simphiwe: "It was good to see you. Take care" Me:

"Thanks. You do too"

He walked away. Whew!

"You need to rush home" A

text from Katlego read.

•••

[Calvin]

Quinton still had not uttered a word. I myself honestly had nothing to say. This was absurd.

Khule: "So how long should we wait for that uncle?" Mkhize:

"He's on his way"

A very tall man wearing a very fancy suit made his grand entrance. His shoes and walking stick made that annoying sound.

Him: "Greetings. I believe you are all waiting for me" His people nodded. He sat down.

Him: "Which one of you is Lamu's father?" I

pointed at Q.

Him: "My name Muzikayise. Zanele's uncle. I am here to ask for my grandchild's remains. I believe

Mkhize has briefly told you" Khule:

"We've never heard of you"

Uncle: "That's because I was away. Now I'm back and I want Lamu's remains. The nerve of you to bury him in your home. He's rightfully ours!"

Me: "Whoa old man. Are you saying we should dig him up and give him to you?" He smirked.

Uncle: "You're a good listener. I mean exactly that. Take me to your elders. They will understand me better"

Quinton: "With all due respect. Nobody is going to dig up my son. Your sister or however you are related to Zanele's mother told me to feed him to the dogs if I want to when I called informing her that he passed on."

Uncle: "Well I was not there. I'm here now and I want him"

Me: "Both you and Zanele's husband? I'm sorry sir but we are willing to do all the necessities for him to be rightfully ours because we are not going to dig

him"

Mkhize: "Who are you?"

Me: "It will take somebody to die to introduce myself so let's keep it at being unknown"

Uncle: "I do not want you to do anything. Zanele had Lamu while she was still married to Ndlovu. He falls under Ndlovu people"

Q chuckled.

Khule: "So you are taking him to the Ndlovus?"

Mkhize: "Yes!"

Q: "I think its time for you people to leave"

Uncle: "We tried negotiating. Now we will involve the traditional court"

Q: "Why are you still here?"

He took out a gun.

Me: "Quinton"

Q: "I'm gonna kill you! You crawl out of that freakin hole you've been in and you come here demanding

my deceased son? You want to put him up for sacrifice? That what that Ndlovu does right? Listening here you fuck faces. Never step here. Takeme to that traditional court. I will kill you all, along with your chiefs and king. You don't know me"

Khule stood before the gun.

Khule: "Put it down"

The frozen chickens were still pinned to the ground.Me:

"Get lost!"

They followed each other out.

Quinton sobbed in Khule's arms. I saw Yoli and Katlego holding on to each other by the stairs.

I took out my phone.

"Get men to go to Estcourt and guard our grave yard.Shoot anything that gets closer"

I sent to Charles. I will kill Mr fancy pants myself ifhe keeps pursuing. Why is he denying us to pay damages and insists on digging the child?

[2/26, 06:40] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Forty-Nine

unedited

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[Katlego]

A lot has been going on in this home. 4 months has never felt like a year. They paid lobola to Yoli, we travelled to Estcourt for a proper introduction to the family. She outdid herself. We were all anxious she won't be able to handle all that breakfast making and all but she did.

She is taking this wife thing too serious. I tried many times to convince her there's no need to take the kids in but she insisted. Now we will be taking turns.

Everything is going pretty well beside the demon that I feel is now too involved in my marriage. Nongcebo, the girl Chris is mentoring. She even comes into our home and take all the time that my husband should be spending with me. It is only been a week but her presence in Chris's life is weighing on me.

I packed the scones on a container and put it in a bag. I have been taking my mamfundisi duties seriously lately. The board members are always holding meetings after church and they drink water all the way. I decided I will bake every Saturday evening.

The door bell rang. I went to get it. Not on a Sunday Maria ocwebileyo!

Nongcebo: "Hi. Is Chris in?" Oh? He's not Dr Dube anymore? Nice.

Me: "Yes and getting ready for church. How can he be of help?"

Nongcebo: "Oh. I'm sorry I didn't know" Me:

"Now you do. He'll see you tomorrow"

Nongcebo: "Can I please ask him a few things?"

Me: "No. Could you please do me a favour? Dress decently around my husband. If you keep coming to my house wearing these tights you might never get help from my husband"

Nongcebo: "They are the only clothes I own Katlego"

Okay that's it!

Me: "Then you might want to get new clothes to come to my house. Go well"

I closed the door and charged back to the counter. Chris came down all ready for church.

Me: "If you do not put that girl on her lane. I will" Chris:
"What are we talking about?"

Me: "Nongcebo. You've made her so comfortable she's crossing boundaries"

Chris: "Was that her at the door?"

Me: "Yes! Wearing tights. Every evening, its her. You mentor her at work and also here. When do I get my time Chris?"

Chris: "Is this about your time or you just do not like her?"

Me: "I do not like her because she crowds my house and takes my time. Not mentioning how she dresses like she's going to Cubana. Your mentoring should end at the hospital please"

Chris: "Yes ma'am. I'm sorry for bringing her into our home. You just didn't say you do not want her coming here"

Me: "That's because you didn't ask. You just came home with her."

Chris: "Okay I'm sorry my love. Can we go now?" Me:
"Yes. She calls you Chris now."

Chris: "But that's my name"

Me: "I know why she calls you by your name now. She wants you"

Chris: "You're overreacting"

Me: "No. A wife can tell when a hoe wants her husband. You should've seen the attitude while I spoke to her. She's up for a challenge"

Chris: "I will exchange her with Dr Zwane's intern. He's a guy"

Me: "Praise the Lord!"

We drove out. He kept stealing glances and smiling. Me:
"Keep your eyes on the road please"

Chris: "I like it when you're crazy. Wanna pass by McDonald's?"

Me: "I'm not crazy. I just do not want these little men snatchers close to my man. And yes I would appreciate a Mcfeast"

He took my hand and kissed it.

I want nothing with my man. He's mine and mine alone!...

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[Khethiwe]

The glow of being treated with care and love shows. I turn heads wherever I go. I get embarrassed when people ask what do I use for my skin at work. Like wouldn't it be weird if I said I use a man?

Husband is good to me and I wouldn't trade him for the world.

I have been receiving calls from an unknown number but the person doesn't talk. They just hang up.

Okay. I was glad Phila is coming over but now I want to cry. This duo has energy for days. They cancelled

church and said we going shopping. God knows what are they always buying. I only bought a hat and sunglasses but their bags are full.

Phila: "Mommy are you okay?"

Me: "No. I'm tired. Aren't you guys tired?"

Phila: "I am but daddy said we will have break at 11" Me: "I will be dead by then"

Tyler finally came out of the fitting room. Tyler:

"Do I look good?"

Me: "Yes. You're handsome"

He turned around in front of the mirror.

Tyler: "Thank you my lady"

Me: "Can we go get food after here?"

Tyler: "Yes. Are you okay?"

Me: "No. I'm hot, tired and hungry"

Tyler: "Ok. Let me pay up and we will go. Phila look after mommy"

He went to pay. I really felt hot and dizzy.

He came back and we went to a restaurant. I

ordered ice cold water first.

Tyler: "Should we go to the Dr?"

Me: "No I'll be fine. It must be the heat"

Tyler: "Take this off" he helped me take off the cardigan and unbuttoned my blouse for space of air.

My water arrived. I drank it up. I felt a bit better.

Me: "Don't be sad you guys I'm good now. What Are we gonna eat?"

Tyler: "Don't you think we should get takeaways?"

Me: "No. I'm fine now really." He sighed and took the menu.

My phone vibrated from my bag. I reached for it.

"Please meet me at crossing around 6pm. Please make sure you're not followed. I promise I will not harm you. This is a matter of life and death. Do not let Tyler know.

Jessica"

I quickly deleted it.

Tyler: "Is everything okay?" I took a sip of my water. Me:

"Yeah I'm good"

I gave him a convincing smile and called a waiter over...

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[Khethelo]

Trying to get Khulekani to go to church has become a mission. He's only easy when his brothers are here.

Katlego: "I can't help myself"

Me: "Are you trying to get us fat again?" We've been working out lately. We cheat on the diet there and there but I can spot the difference.

Kat: "Who cares. We can't miss out on good food"

I took my kota and took out the camp chair.

Me: "How long are they gonna be there today?"

Kat: "He said an hour"

Me: "I'm sure Khule wants to die" we laughed. Chris

asked him to join the board meeting today.

Kat: "Do you have data? I want to video call these women. I want you guys to be aware when I stab that hoe"

Me: "Whoa! Who are you stabbing now?"

Kat: "That Nongcebo. Can you believe she showed her ugly face in my door this morning. Wearing a tight and a sports bra. I swear she wants to work out my man"

Me: "Shut up! The nerve of her"

Kat: "Hey basadi. Lelo, have you been working out?"

Lelo: "Yes. Bedroom exercise" we laughed.

Me: "Weren't you guys at church?"

Lelo: "We were. We just came back."

Me: "You guys are wild."

Khethiwe: "I was napping you guys. Who's dying?" Kat:

"Nongcebo. Why isn't Yoli answering?" Khethelo:

"Who is Nongcebo?"

Yoli answered. I laughed. She was with her squad.

Kat: "Are we the only ones that went to church today?"

Yoli: "We just came back and taking a nap" Me:

"So they fell asleep all over you?"

Yoli: "Yes. And I'm scared to move they will wake up. What's the gossip?"

Kat: "There's a witch in my marriage"

They all gasped.

Lelo: "Are you and Chris fighting?"

Kat: "No but she's too comfortable. The new intern at the hospital. He's mentoring her. Monday noon he came with her; said there is a book they need in his study. Since from then they've been coming home after work and I've been playing the good wife serving them scones and juice. She came this morning, she said she's looking for Chris. Just Saturday night she was addressing him as Dr Dube.

What could that mean?"

Khethiwe: "That she's getting too comfortable"

Kat: "Hence I should stab that cleavage she's always exposing"

Lelo: "No stabbing please. Have you spoken to Chris?"

Kat: "I did. He thinks its cute that I don't want her inmy house"

Me: "Chris is not a cheater"

Kat: "I don't know that."

Lelo: "Talk to him again tonight okay. I don't think hesees her like that though"

Me: "He doesn't. He works in a female dominated place if he was a cheater you would've found out bynow"

"Mamfundisi can I have a a word with you?"

Kat: "Oh yes. Hold here please"

She walked away with the lady.

Me: "She wants to stab people. A whole mamfundisi"

Khethiwe: "I was thinking we should put the girl inher lane"

Lelo & Yoli: "No"

Lelo: "Let Chris do that please" I saw Chris and Khule coming out.

Me: "Here they come. Have a great day"

Them: "Thank you. You too"

I hung up. He took my kota and ate it.

Khule: "I thought you were in diet" Me:

"Its called cheating"

Chris: "You guys should just forget about dieting"

Me: "Yes pastor. The service was on fire today. I felt the holy spirit surround me"

Khule: "You say that every Sunday"

Me: "Yes. Every Sunday is good than the last one"

Chris: "Ameni mama Dube. I will take the kids. I'll bring them tomorrow morning"

Me: "Formula is at home"

Chris: "There's a sealed one at home too. I'm a responsible father you know"

We laughed. Katlego came back. When these kids sleep, they make sure they excel. We took them to Chris's car. I kissed them goodbye and we went into our car.

...

There is nothing irritating as coming home to a messy house. We were late and I just left everything all over the place.

Khule helped me clean up. We made food afterwards and settled in front of the TV.

Khule: "How would you like a holiday?" He said massaging me.

Me: "You wanna take me on holiday?"

Khule: "Yes. We have never done anything interesting since you gave birth. The kids can remain with mamkhulu now they are old enough"

Me: "Wow. I'd love to babe"

Khule: "Where do you want to go?"

Me: "Anywhere. As long as I will be with you there"

Khule: "We are still going to choose then" he went quiet.
"Uhm. I have something to tell you."

I hate that statement. I just conclude it is something bad.

Me: "Go on" he got off the couch and sat butt flat next to me.

Khule: "There's no easy way to say this" now my anxiety is going to kill me.

Me: "Just say it"

Khule: "Remember when we went out to celebrate after Yoli's lobola negotiations?"

Me: "Yes I do"

He took my hand into his.

Khule: "Something happened...I'm sorry" Me:

"What did you do?"

We were now staring each other in the eye. He kept shying away but something inside wouldn't let me because I felt whatever he's about to say will fuck me up.

Me: "Khulekani"

Khule: "I slept with Glade"

I snatched my hand off. My heart started beating faster. I got up and sat on the couch. He attempted touching me. I moved my feet.

Khule: "I wanted to be the one to tell you because she's been threatening to tell you. I'm so sorry"

Me: "No you aren't." He tried touching me again. "I said do not touch me! How could you do that Khulekani?"

Khule: "I was out of it. I wish I could-"

Me: "Did you use protection?"

Khule: "Babe I am sorry I really-"

Me: "Khulekani Dube. Did you use protection?" His eyed dropped.

I ran out of breath. Maybe I should let these tears out. "I trusted you. Glade? Why her? Couldn't you get a hooker? Why her Khulekani? Have you always wanted to sleep with her?" He shook his stupid big head. He's never disgusted me this much.

Khule: "Don't cry please. It was a mistake. I promise you it will never happen again"

Me: "Get out"

Khule: "Khethelo"

Me: "Out! Go to her. Tell her you left me home crying and regretting ever trusting you or her! You both deserve each other! I hate you Khulekani. I hate you!" I used the last strength in me to climb up the stairs.

I let that woman into my home when her boyfriend chased her out. I even suggested she goes and stay in our old house. And this is how she thank me.

I have never felt so stupid and used.

And his brothers know. They've all been looking at the stupid me.

I lied down. My whole body trembled...

•••

[Khethiwe]

I hate lying to Tyler. Curiosity got better of me and I went to the crossing.

Its has been an hour since I arrived but there was no sign of Jessica.

When it began getting dark. She sent me a text that she has arrived. I looked around. I jumped when I heard a knock on the window. I rolled down the window.

Jessica: "Open" she was whispering. I opened. Holy mother of God.

Me: "Wait what should I do with it?"

Jessica: "Raise it. You need it. You and Tyler need it. My mother and the man I am supposed to marry are gonna kill it. They are out there looking for me. Never tell him you aren't his real mother. I used your name and ID on his birth card." She put back the hat and went away. I got out and chased her. She got in the car like lightning and sped off. Leaving me with a child in the baby carrier.

I went back to my car. I called Khethelo. It rang unanswered.

It cried. I picked it up. I looked at it. Looks like a he. I shushed him. She didn't even leave a dummy.

I found myself crying with him. What am I going to feed him? How am I going to explain this riddle to Tyler?...

[2/26, 06:40] Zoaness: Chapter Fifty

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[Bonga]

As much as I love the fact that I'm gonna be a dad. I hate the abuse I'm going through. I get disappointed when I realise it's the morning and I received no call that she's in labour.

We are not best of friends. I am just the waiter of the womb. What can I say? I obey and run around around getting someone who will go to mall and buy whatever she needs and deliver it to her. Mtho comes in handy sometimes but he wants to be paid.

Nkazi knocked. I signaled her to come in. I was on a call with these crazy sand suppliers. I will soon look up on our budget and see if we can afford at least 3 trucks. I can't always be begging these people to learn to deliver on time.

I hung up a minute later.

Me: "Do you have good news for me?"

Nkazi: "Yes Sir. His PA squeezed us in for 10am" Me:
"Today?"

Nkazi: "Yes."

Me: "Don't I have a meeting here?"

Nkazi: "You did. It was a disciplinary hearing. I
cancelled it"

Me: "Who has done what now?"

Nkazi: "Simi. She's been constantly absent"

Me: "Ok. Set the meeting for tomorrow. With just her not
the board"

Nkazi: "Yes Sir"

My phone rang.

Me: "I have to take this" she nodded and walked out.
"Hello"

Happy: "My water just broke"

Me: "What? Where are you?"

Happy: "Where do I live?"

Me: "Where's your mom?"

Happy: "I wouldn't be calling if she was here Bonga!" Me:
"Okay I'm coming"

I got up and rushed out.

Me: "Nkazi cancel that meeting. Happy is in labour. Hold the lift please"

...

I was driving like a maniac. I was sweating even. I have never been nervous.

By the time I got to Fourways my heart was stuck right at my throat.

I called her. She told me the gate code. I punched it. I drove in. I rushed inside.

Happy: "What took you so long?"

Me: "How are the pains? Where's the baby bag?"

Happy: "What pains? Hunger pains? Well I'm dying of hunger. Can you please go get me my chips and

chocolate in my room?" Me:

"You aren't in labour?"

Happy: "No I'm on a couch"

Me: "You know it wouldn't hurt not being this rude to me"

Happy: "And how would you know that?"

Me: "Do you know I just cancelled an important meeting"

Happy: "You can leave"

Me: "Where are the chips and chocolate?"

Happy: "Under the bed. Please get me a new pair of shorts. Not jeans"

I went upstairs. I got her things and went back to her.

Me: "Where's your mom?"

"Bonga? Aren't you supposed to be at work?"

Her mother said coming in wearing garden clothes. Me: "Hi ma. I should but-"

Happy: "He missed us. Isn't he the sweetest father?"

Her mom: "That's lovely. Cover yourself. The neighbors are coming over"

Happy: "Its hot. They should cover their eyes whenthey get in"

I took a doek and covered her. She's always like this.No top nor bra. Just shorts. I feel sorry for her at times. The belly looked like its gonna explode.

Her mother disappeared to the kitchen.

Me: "You brought me all the way here while yourmother was just at the garden?"

Happy: "My mom didn't get me pregnant. You did.You can leave now. Thanks for your service"

Me: "I'll see you when my service is needed again"

I brushed her head. She slapped my hand off. Sheeven cut her hair. These fellas drive her crazy...

...

[Khethiwe]

Finally! He fell asleep. I did not sleep a wink last

night. Tyler took Phila to Jo'burg yesterday and slept there. I haven't told him yet.

I went to take a quick shower. I went to mall on pjs. I was there before they even opened. I bought milk, diapers, clothes and a car seat.

I kept trying Jessica's cell but to no avail. And Khethelo too.

There was no better option than to calm down and be in the moment.

The door opened as I wrapped the towel around me.

Tyler: "Have you made new friends?"

Me: "Hey. No. Why would you ask?"

Tyler: "The baby"

Me: "Oh. That's yours"

I said passing him back to the room. I checked on the baby. Still breathing.

I went to the dresser.

Tyler: "Khethiwe"

Me: "Yes?"

Tyler: "Who's baby is this?"

turned to his direction.

Me: "Jessica gave it to me. She said her mother and the man she's supposed to marry will kill it"

Tyler: "And you took it?"

Me: "I didn't take it. She gave it to me and fled"

Tyler: "When did all that happen?"

Me: "Right after you and Phila left. She sent me a text to meet her while we were at the restaurant"

Tyler: "And you didn't see the need to tell me?"

Me: "I did but the message warned that I shouldn't"

Tyler: "She could've harmed you dammit!"

Me: "She didn't babe. She gave me the baby. I had a long night I need to sleep and then take him to the Dr later. What kind of a father you anyway? Why you never checked up on her?"

Tyler: "I went to see her on Thursday. She was fine"

Me: "What about Friday?"

Tyler: "I called. She said she was okay. How do you even know this is mine?"

Me: "Can't you see that weird hairline? The birth mark on the hand? Please leave us in peace."

Tyler: "What about work?"

Me: "Nkokhelo is standing in for me"

Tyler: "Until when?"

Me: "Until further notice. Call your brothers and tell them about this"

Tyler: "I want DNA first"

Me: "There's the pacifier. Take it"

I climbed in bed. But why would they want to kill such a cute little thing?...

•••

[Katlego]

There's no decent child in this home. They are all little satans. These ones broke a vase. I am trying to

clean up. They are crying to play on the clay.

The coming kids must be last ones. We need a break of crazy little people.

I took the phone and rang Khethelo up. She didn't pick up. They better be not making more troublemakers.

Chris came down. He kissed me and picked his babies up.

Chris: "Did you hear from Khethelo today?"

Me: "No. I just called her but she didn't pick up"

Chris: "Please go check up on her. I will stay herewith the kids"

Khule came down. I looked at Chris.

Khule: "Morning" a message from Khethelo came through.

"He slept with Glade. I feel empty Katlego."

I felt my armpits each. They looked at each other. He bid us goodbye.

Me: "Explain"

Chris: "Explain what?"

Me: "You knew didn't you?"

Chris: "Knew what?"

Me: "Christian Dube. Please do not make me crazy. You knew your brother cheated on Khethelo"

Chris: "No"

Me: "Why did you take the kids then?"

Chris: "Because I missed them"

Me: "If you all knew about this just know you're rotten."

Chris: "Why are you mad?"

Me: "Because you're the birds of the same feather! He slept with a woman Khethelo let into her home. What's gonna happen next? You gonna fuck Nongcebo too?"

Chris: "What's this got to do with her?"

Me: "Because I let her into my home. I don't want Khule here. This is not a hiding spot for cheaters and if you oppose that you can go and be a street stupid"

man with him."

I took the car keys and walked out. I wanna pay that glade a visit.

...

I put on my index finger. Access granted. I drove in.

Deceiving bitch. She's still here.

I pushed the door open. She was someone.Me:

"You. Leave"

Glade: "Katlego?"

Me: "Yes. We need to talk. Little lady, I said leave, or you wanna be part of the discussion?"

I pulled out my sjambok. She took her bag and exited through the back door. Glade got up.

Me: "I brought you a knife. Since you are big enough to sleep with people's man I think you will be able to stab me"

I started putting my sjambok into good use. She ran upstairs. Good girl.

I block the door with my foot. I pushed it and got in. I locked and put the keys on my boobies.

Me: "We meet again. Tell me Gladys. My sister gave you shelter and you thought that wasn't enough you should sleep with her husband too?"

Glade: "No it was a mistake"

Me: "No no no. Its what you bitches always say after being caught."

I marinated her again. I have never felt so much pleasure from someone's cry. I hit her until I started crying too. I was fuming.

I stopped. I pulled her to the balcony.

Glade: "Katlego please no"

Me: "Why? Why did you sleep with him?"

Glade: "We were drunk. It was an honest mistake" Me:

"Honest? Honest? Are you fucking kidding me?"

"Katlego! Stop!" It was Chris. How did he know I'm here? Or he came to check up on this bitch.

Glade: "Help!"

Me: "I'm gonna kick this stupid vagina"
I kicked her butt.

Chris arrived. He picked me up.

Chris: "Do you know you could be jailed for months?"

Me: "Put me down!"

We arrived outside. He put me at the back and locked the car.

Me: "Chris don't leave me here. Chris!" He went back inside. I cried...

•••

[Khule]

I doubt she even noticed me there. Even if she did. She didn't care. She continued reading her book and eating snacks.

My phone rang. I put it on silent. I ended up drifting to sleep.

Khethelo: "If she did not threaten to tell me. Would

you have told me?"

I opened my eyes. She was staring straight at me.Me:

"No"

Khethelo: "Mmmh"

She went back to her book.

Me: "Don't be so calm please" she raised her eyes.

Khethelo: "So you fucked your former PA, the one I had to pull through for in time of need and you want me to be going up and down this house cursing the hell out of you?"

Me:....

Khethelo: "And what makes it better? You didn't tell me because you were being an honest husband. You told me because you were about to be exposed by your lover."

Me: "I didn't tell you because I do not remember much that happened that night. It is not that easy to come up to your wife and tell her you might have went outside your marriage and committed adultery"

Khethelo: "Might have? You committed adultery Khulekani. You spent the night with that woman and then came back to me! As filthy as you were. You looked me in the eye and lied that you slept at Quinton's house. How did you even end up with her?"

Me: "She was at the club too. She offered to drive me home"

Khethelo: "So you did it at your old house?" She started crying. "Was it on our bed?"

Me: "I don't know"

Khethelo: "You broke us Khulekani. You broke me. I don't know what to do with myself right now."

Me: "I'm sorry. I'm deeply sorry."

Khethelo: "That doesn't make it okay! Don't even dare touch me. Please Leave now"

Me: "I can't leave you alone while you're like this"

"She has company" Khethelo cried even more. They hugged.

Yoli: "You may leave now"

Me: "I'm sorry"

Quinton came in and pulled me out. I could hear her loud cry. I sat down on the stairs.

Me: "I fucked up"

Q: "Big time. You better fix this because I am now the bad guy to Yoli."

Me: "How? The examination showed there was penetration."

Q: "Just fix it man."

Me: "I don't know where to start"

He sat beside me and we listened to Khethelo's cry. Maybe I shouldn't have told her. Maybe I should've threatened Glade instead....

[2/26, 06:40] Zozaness: Chapter Fifty-One

•••

[Khethiwe]

I am so over these men and they always have to cheat and we always have to calm down. This is the least I expected from Khule.

One thing they all refuse to realize is that whenever there's tension between 2 people the whole family gets drained. And that is bad, especially with little kids around.

And then I have this cheater too, he did not sleep on the bed with us last night. I just told him straight to get the hell out if he's gonna bring his nasty self around Bumble Bee. Kids catch on bad moods and spirits and start crying non stop.

First thing in the morning we went to the Dr. We couldn't go yesterday, the rain just poured followed by thunder.

Everything is well. I couldn't be happier.

...

I drove in. His car was parked in front of the garage. I was hoping he's at work or somewhere cheating since it's the best thing that they can perform in this home.

Bumble Bee was fast asleep. He sure sleeps and eats a lot. You'd swear it is not the same baby that kept me up the whole night on Sunday.

I unbuckled him and picked him up. He stretched. Oh sweet Jesus I'm in love. My phone beeped.

"Forget I ever existed Khethiwe. Stop trying to contact me. Don't ever tell him you're not his mother please. I do not want him to live his life wondering what happened to his real mother. Forget about me. I trust you with his life"

I sighed. She's going through a lot than I had imagined.

I took the bag and headed inside. I found him playing video games.

Me: "Hello"

Tyler: "Hi" without even looking my way. I sat down on the couch and fed bumble the bottle. He kept his focus on the game.

Me: "Aren't you gonna ask how we went?" He looked at us finally.

Tyler: "How did you go?"

I chuckled and shook my head.

Me: "You're unbelievable you know that"

Tyler: "We're driving to Jo'burg in 40 minutes"

Me: "No thanks. I'm leaving in 20 minutes. I came to get our things"

Tyler: "I said in 40 minutes"

Me: "I can't have you around the baby while you're like this"

Tyler: "Why are you getting yourself attached to a baby you're not even sure is mine?"

Me: "Well I don't care. I am his mother and that's it" He came and squat before me.

Tyler: "Baby." He took my hand. Ever felt pre pissed? Where you can feel that someone is about to piss you off? That's how I felt. "I know you want a baby and you love kids. But you're getting too deep with loving this child. It could be not mine really. Its going to hurt so bad when it's parents come to get it or when the results come back negative, if he's not mine we gonna take him to an orphanage" is this man even okay mentally?

Me: "You know what is disturbing about this? You

are in denial that he's yours. Jessica might be a nutcase but I highly doubt he can give me a baby that isn't yours. If she wanted to flee with her child she would've, there wouldn't have been a need to waste her time to even give you the wrong child. You make me sick"

I snatched my hand away from his grip and headed upstairs. I am moving back to my place. I can't trust him around bumble. This sudden wickedness is scary...

•••

[Emi]

Me: "Can I have a peaceful sleep?"

Lihle: "Everyday? Aisuka Emi you're not even 6 months pregnant but you're sooo lazy"

Me: "Let me be please. Why aren't you at work?"

Lihle: "I'm off." She pulled off the sheet. "Wake up fatass. We're going out for breakfast"

Me: "No. Jason will be here with my breakfast"

Lihle: "Emihle. I said we're going out"

God I hate this girl. I got up. She pushed me all the way to the bathroom. She undressed me. I got in the tub.

Lihle: "I will be choosing an outfit for you" Me:

"Choose something cool please" Lihle: "Ok"

She walked out. In fear of me getting depressed and kill myself in this house. The brothers got Lihle a job transfer. She has always wanted to come live this side. I love Durban I don't know why she would choose Jo'burg over Durban and the beach.

My tiny bump is growing. Its so funny. This is our fifth month but you can't tell. Its very portable.

The door opened. Ah look who's here.

Me: "Hey daddy" he knelt beside the tub and kissed me.

Jason: "Hey mommy. Am I late?"

Me: "You're earlier than I expected actually" Jason:

"Why are you on the tub so early? Are you

outing?" I laughed.

Me: "What are you trying to say about me?"

Jason: "I am not convinced you can give your sleep up just to take a bath and lazy around the house" he's obsessed with my bumb. His hand were already under the water playing with it.

Me: "You know Lihle doesn't take no for an answer" I took the milkshake and drank up. "You bought a different flavor"

Jason: "Yes I did. Is it nice?" Me:

"Heavenly. Is Luvo back?"

Jason: "Nope. She has 5 more important meetings. She can't wait for you to give birth" we laughed.

Me: "Still. You will want to stick around the baby 24/7"

Jason: "She doesn't know that. So am I invited to your outing?"

Me: "No. Go to work and work like other kids"

Jason: "People get uncomfortable when I'm around. I

will go fetch Karl at his mom's and take him to the zoo"

Me: "Perfect. Send my love"

Jason: "Maybe we'll pass by and see you later on" Me: "I'll be glad. I love you and thanks for these"

Jason: "Yeah yeah. Next month we're cutting down all these, the Dr said they lead to jaundice"

Me: "Khethelo ate all these. Her babies didn't have that"

Jason: "We're still cutting them down"

Me: "Go before we fight"

He chuckled.

Jason: "I love you both. Send me nudes when you're done bathing"

Me: "You're such a jerk" he winked and closed the door.

He makes me so happy. Although I feel like hitting him with a frying pan sometimes but I love him and he's here for me everytime I need him.

Denying what I felt for him did not do me any good. Instead I was hurting myself more. And then from the day I got discharged at the hospital I kept receiving these crazy messages. They irritated me at first but one day I found myself waking up and checking if he sent any. Right there and then I realized I love this fool. Things have been pretty good. Brad forgave me and he checks up on me once in a while....

•••

[Katlego]

I have been waiting for the police since yesterday. I'm Chris's prisoner. He brought the trio and left yesterday. I have been in contact with Yoli since last night.

I need Amo. She's the only one that help me pull this off.

I sent her a text this morning I'm hoping she responds faster. Khule will not get away with this. Since I can't beat him up, some is gonna get paid to do it. It's about time all these men knew we mean

business, we are not toys.

I heard people talking downstairs.

I dressed up and headed down. It was them with their cheater brother. Did I not make myself clear to this man?

I greeted them and asked to talk to Chris. I walked on to the kitchen.

I poured myself a glass of juice and sat down.

Chris: "Do not start"

Me: "What? Are you there discussing more convenient ways to cheat?"

Chris: "Can you stop? Khethelo requested a meeting. Khule came to tell us that"

Me: "Couldn't you go meet up at his house where he's keeping that hoe?"

Chris: "Mama ka Hawu!"

Me: "Fine. I'll leave"

Chris: "You're overreacting"

Me: "Yes. You wanna know why? Khethelo wants to kill herself! But you wouldn't know that because you're too busy being there for your deceitful brother.

Just like you did when Tyler got that monkey ass hoe pregnant and said he wants to marry her. You guys do not care about us, you only care about yourselves! Just like your mother. She will visit Bonga now and tell him to tell Khethelo she should stay. You all make me sick.

Because tomorrow this will be us and I will have only my sisters in my corner while you're out there in one of your brother's houses playing the victim"

He tried to hold me I backed away. I wiped my tears and stormed outside. I got in the first car I laid my eyes on and drove away....

•••

[Bonga]

I bid Nkazi goodbye and drove to Happy's home.

Nkazi was a sweetheart today. She went and bought all that Happy asked for.

I arrived. She didn't let me in. She came outside

instead. Wearing a dress today for a change. She hooped on.

Me: "You look good"

Happy: "I feel good. There's makhulu inside. I didn't want her to make you uncomfortable with questions"

Me: "At least you still have a heart" she chuckled. Someone is in a good mood today.

Happy: "Did you bring ice cream?"

Me: "Yes I did. I had to buy a cooler box and ice to keep it frozen"

Happy: "Thank you. I think the day is slowly approaching. I have change of mind now"

Me: "You wanna deliver through c section?"

Happy: "Yes. I think natural birth will be too much. What if I get asthma attack while I have to push? What if my BP shoots high and I faint? I have manythings I've put into consideration"

Me: "Ok. Whatever you choose I will be with you every single step of the way"

Happy: "The papers now need your signature and they are good to go"

Me: "Ok. You can fetch them I'll sign" Happy:

"We can do it through your phone" I handed it

over to her.

Happy: "Oh no I don't wanna see your girlfriends.

Search for the hospital and then you'll use our account to login"

Me: "Are you trying to fish out if I'm seeing anyone?"

Happy: "Ofcourse you are" I chuckled and did as she told me.

Me: "There's no one"

Happy: "So you keep saying." She reached for the bag of goodies at the back. I read and signed the documents.

Me: "Let's go home. I'm pretty sure everyone would love to see you"

Happy: "I'll come tomorrow. Makhulu is too much" Me:

"Ok. I'll see you tomorrow then"

I got off and took the ice cream out of the cooler at the boot. She took her things and headed back inside. I drove off...

•••

[Khethelo]

Yoli was braiding my hair. A knock came on.

Katlego: "That better be not one of them"

Yoli: "Please check. If its any of them don't let them in"

Katlego got up and went to get the door.

She screamed. Ahh its mommy and bumble bee.

Khethiwe: "Hello mommies"

Us: "Hey babe"

Me: "Where were you held up? You said you were on your way 4 hours ago"

Khethiwe: "I passed by Emi's. How are you holding up?"

Me: "Better than yesterday. How are you?"

Khethiwe: "I'm good babe."

Katlego: "He's gonna look like Tyler"

Khethiwe: "Well try telling that to him. He's waiting on DNA test results as we speak"

Us: "What?"

Khethiwe: "Yes. He doesn't even look his direction."

Katlego: "So he cheated only to doubt his consequences?"

Khethiwe: "Seems like that"

Me: "Maybe Khule's is also on the way"

Khethiwe: "Have they ever heard of the thing called condom?"

Me: "I highly doubt."

Khethiwe: "What is the meeting about?" Me: "I

just need to make a few things clear"

Khethiwe: "You aren't divorcing him right?" I chuckled.

Me: "I would never do that"

Yoli: "I will get you guys refreshments"

She got up and left to the kitchen. I looked at the time. Close to 6pm. They must be on their way. I got up and went upstairs.

•••

[Narrated]

The Dube brothers got in following each other carrying Ngiphile, Ngithandile and Mpendulo. Lelowalked in last with the trio running before her.

Quinton: "Evening my people" he kissed Yoli's cheek. Kat:

"Can I get any of you something to drink?" Chris: "Since when do we get asked?"

Kat: "Since we aren't sure if Gla-" Khethiwe covered her mouth.

Khethiwe: "Beer, Juice or water?"

Calvin: "Anything will be fine MaDladla" Khethiwe smiled and pulled Katlego to the kitchen.

Everyone settled down next to their partner. Khethiwe and Katlego came back with something to

drink.

Calvin: "Did she brief you about what's this about?" He whispered to Lelo.

Lelo: "You are not asking me that. She wants to tell us all what your brother did. I wish they were here when you-"

Calvin: "Okay I get it"

Khethelo came down. All their eyes rushed to the brown envelope she had on her left hand. She greeted and sat down on a single couch.

Khethelo: "Thank you all for coming at such short notice. Khulekani confessed to have slept with his former PA 3 months ago. I take it I was the only one who did not know about it. I have made a decision. I am freeing my husband to go be with Glade legally"

Q: "What do you mean?"

She shoved the brown envelope towards Khule. He buried his face in his hands.

Q: "Khethelo please"

Khethelo: "With these papers I'm divorcing all of

you."

Q: "You're still angry. Don't jump into conclusions"Khethelo:

"Yeah right I am angry"

Tyler: "How on earth did you get divorce papers in a day?"

Khethelo: "You clearly have never met a pissed off woman. I am done. You know what makes me sick? You all knew. None of you had the decency to inform me."

Q: "It wasn't our place to tell you"

Khethelo: "Oh really? You mean these my wife my wife titles are just games? Especially you Quinton I know you are the first one he told. If you were my husband as you always say, you could've come to me and told me since your brother couldn't! But you didn't instead you all continued like everything was normal. God knows what diseases I am carrying in my system right now. If she didn't threaten to tell me Khule wouldn't have told me! I would've lived a lie thinking I have a husband who is faithful to me."

Khule: "Baby I'm sorry please do not do this"

Khethelo: "If you were really sorry you would've came home after that night and told me but you didn't Khulekani, you didn't"

She sobbed. Lelo pulled her up and they went outside. The room remained dead quiet...

[2/26, 06:41] Zozaness: Chapter Fifty-Two

•••

[Khethelo]

The intercom buzzed. Ai Ngiphile. I got him off the couch and went to get the gate.

Me: "Hello?"

Person: "Hi. It is Quan." I totally forgot about the meeting. There's a lot on plate I hate it. I rushed for my phone. There was a text from Kuhle, Amo's sister who is my lawyer.

Me: "Ok" I opened the gate and picked the toys up. This house is a mess. These kids have no mercy on me.

Me: "Nkosingithandile can you please act human foronce?
I'm gonna hit that big head with this truck" I heard
someone clear their throat.

They both giggled and ran to him.

Me: "I'm sorry with the mess. I am trying to discover new
recipes and these fellas have made the lounge their
playground"

I finally finished picking up the toys and offered them
seats. I rushed to the kitchen and made juice for Quan
and water for Khule.

I put it before them.

Quan: "Is your lawyer coming?"

Me: "Yes. She's running late"

Quan: "Ok"

I received a text that she's outside. Whew. I
took the tab and opened the gate for her. Me:

"She's here"

I went to get water for her.

I came back with her. She greeted and sat down.

Kuhle: "I'm sorry for keeping you gentlemen"

Quan: "No problem." He went through his paperwork. "My client has finally agreed to sign the papers as Mrs Dube wishes" I felt a relief.

Kuhle: "That is good. I was about to take legal actions."

Quan: "And he would like Mrs Dube to have everything he bought when they were together"

Kuhle: "She appreciates the kindness but my client would like to leave this union empty handed as she walked in" Khule looked at me and continued playing with his kids.

Quan: "Oh. The kids"

Kuhle: "My client is willing to share custody"

Quan: "I guess it's settled then. Are you gonna get the court date?"

Kuhle: "Yes."

They packed their things. Khule said to be remaining

behind. They left. I took the glasses to the kitchen.

I cleaned up the counter. I have to call Mam Dino and tell her he's finally agreed. It's been a hell of a month of him begging me.

Khule: "Where are you going to stay?" He was standing leaning on the wall separating the lounge and the kitchen.

Me: "I will find a place"

Khule: "Why?" I stopped and looked at him.

Me: "What do you mean why?"

Khule: "I mean why would you leave your house" Me:

"This isn't my house"

I continued tidying up.

Khule: "I understand you are still angry and probably hate me but there's no need for you to move out.

This is your home. This house is under your name so are the cars"

Me: "But we all know they are yours. I have never spent a cent on this house or those cars"

Khule: "I will not let you take my kids to a dodgy place"

Me: "I am going home"

Khule: "When?"

Me: "On Saturday"

He sighed heavily.

Khule: "Can I go with them?"

Me: "Yeah. I can do with some alone time"

Khule: "Is this what you really want?"

Me: "Yes"

Khule: "You do not love me anymore?"

Me: "I do but I love myself more." He bit his upper lip and nodded. "I'll go pack thier bag"

I ran up the stairs with tears heavy on my eyes.

I thought as time goes on I might change my mind but the demon showed up at my door and told me how good he was. They never did it once or twice but they did it while she still worked for him. He lied

to me. He looked me in the eye every single day and lied. He couldn't even deny it when I confronted him about the new information Glade told me.

I just knew that day I was done...

•••

[Bonga]

My children arrived in a very bad time. Everyone on my side is cooped up on their own little world.

Everybody is literally on their own now ever since things went bad between daddy K and mommy Khethelo. I haven't seen them in weeks. I only call to check up on them.

Yoli came to Jo'burg after Happy gave birth. She tagged mam Katlego along to go see the babies which I learned is part of the culture. They said they can only go home when they are 3 months. They are returning a month this Sunday we have 2 more to go. I would've loved to spend Christmas with them though.

I came back from my meeting. I found missed calls from Happy. I settled down and called her.

Happy: "Hey"

Me: "Hi mother. Are you guys okay?"

Happy: "Yeah we are good. I need pacifiers." Me:

"Why?"

Happy: "They are going to suck me dry if I do not get those. They can't stop sucking they end up throwing up"

Me: "Ok I'll get them after work. Anything to eat?"

Happy: "No I'm good I have uber eats"

Me: "Where was it 4 months ago?" She laughed.

Happy: "It was on iStore. Bye"

Me: "Bye"

Now would be a good time to ask her I love and miss her so much.

Nkazi walked in with a tray of food. We are not eating takeaways this December. Mrs Nkosi, our chef is spoiling us rotten.

Me: "Mmmh we are gonna gain weight I swear"

Nkazi: "Its worth it. Do not mess your shirt with beetroot today you have a very important meeting with Mr Khan senior." I chuckled.

Me: "I won't. I thought you would consider keeping a clean shirt for me just in case I mess myself up"

Nkazi: "Maybe I did. Eat. Your food is betting cold"

Me: "Thank you" she smiled walked out. I can't get my eyes to not follow her out whenever she turns away. I need Jesus.

I took my food and started eating...

•••

[Katlego]

I shook him. He mumbled something and turned over.

Me: "Chris"

Him: "No. Sleep"

Me: "You promised to take me and the kids to the mall"

Him: "Ok sleep"

Me: "Chris!" He startled and opened his eyes.

Him: "What's going on?"

Me: "Its a new day"

Him: "Yeah I see that. Why are you out of bed?"

Me: "It is half past 11 in the morning"

He stretched and brought me close.

Him: "I feel like shit. I won't be able to take you guys out. Plus it's raining we can't go and freeze at the mall."

Me: "I want to cry"

Him: "Come on. Get in bed. Has Sasa arrived?" I decided we get a nanny since I am hands on at the salon now at most times. Yoli did not love the idea that Sasa is in her late 30s. Well she was highly recommended. The family she worked for moved to Malawi so that's how she lost her job.

Me: "Yes she has" Him:

"Get in bed then"

He said and closed his eyes.

He's been helping his brother deal with his stress. They have been drinking like there's no tomorrow. I tried to talk to them but it's clear they didn't hear a word I said. They built a little bar at the back. You'd swear there is more than 2 people when they start making noise.

I find myself feeling sorry for Khule sometimes but then he made his bed now is the time for him to lie in it.

I did tell Khethelo she's going too fast by filing for divorce but when they giraffe came with all the evidence that it was not the first time they hooked up. My jaw dropped.

It just made me put my foot down about that little jezebel. She had to go and look for a new mentor.

I took my phone and walked out to the guest's room. I opened the window and got inside the covers and dialed Khethelo.

It rang for a while and she answered.

Khethelo: "Hey" she sounded down. She's been crying.

Me: "Hey love. Are you okay?"

Khethelo: "Yes. He's agreed to sign the papers" Me:

"That's good. Are you good?"

Khethelo: "I'm glad he did. You know I hate what I see whenever I see him. All see is him doing God knows what to Glade and that messes the hell out of me I have been on this bed crying since he left. I ama mess"

Me: "I'm so sorry baby. You're going to heal my lovedo not rush it. God will erase all that pain, he will renew your heart if need be. Where are the kids?"

Khethelo: "He left with them. And I think its best he keeps them for this while. I need more time with myself"

Me: "I can take them in. I don't think he's at the right state to be with children neither"

Khethelo: "Thank you"

Me: "Anytime my love, anytime. I will come see you later on" Chris walked in.

Khethelo: "Ok babe thanks"

Me: "Keep well"

Khethelo: "You do too. Send my love to the kids" Chris took off the gown and got in bed. He snuggled himself around me. He smelt fresh.

Me: "I will. Bye"

I hung up afterwards. "Did you shower?"

Chris: "Yes I did. I figured you ran away because I am smelly" I chuckled.

Me: "Not at all. I wanted to make a call" he kissed me and we drifted to sleep. The sound of the rain added comfort to the moment...

•••

[Emi]

I woke up and decided to be productive today. I worked out before my Drs appointment.

I drove to the Dr and we went through the check up procedure. My blood pressure was average. It's been giving me problems since I learned about all that is going on at home.

My brother isn't my favorite right now. Him and Khethelo are my parents. What am I going to do now that they are separating? I doubt Khethelo will even be here for me when I give birth. All thanks to Khule for failing to remain faithful.

I got a text from Lihle as I drove to Jason's work. "Hey. How did it go?" Isn't she the best sister?

I put the phone away. I was a few minutes away from Jason's work.

I arrived. I looked for a parking space. I saw a car reversing out. Perfect. It drove towards my direction. She horned.

Me: "Hey stranger"

Luvo: "Halo madam. How are you my people?"

Me: "We are good. Just here to check up on daddy"

Luvo: "He was in a meeting. I think he's done now though, I'm driving to Braam to get us lunch. What are you gonna have?"

Me: "Whatever you are having babe will be fine"

Luvo: "Ok sweets. See you just now" she drove away. I drove into her parking space.

"Hey aunty. We went well. We are at daddy's workplace now"

I took powder and applied it on my face and applied lipstick too. My phone beeped.

"Please visit me before Friday. I am permanently moving to Durban on Saturday" -Khethelo.

She just had to ruin my day. I locked my phone and got out of the car.

From the entrance to the lift I had to make sure I don't fall. I will never get used to being stared at. I panic!

I met his PA on the hallway. She told me to go and wait in his office he's still in the meeting.

I walked on to this office. I tossed my bag on the visitor's chair and toured around. He loves paintings. I thought he was actually joking when he said he will hang this belly painting in his office. How weird can this man be?

I felt his hands wrap around me. He kissed my neck.

Jason: "Do you like it?"

Me: "It is beautiful. I thought you were joking when you said you will put it here"

Jason: "Since when do I joke around?" I turned around and wrapped my arms around his neck. He looked over at my feet. We laughed.

Me: "I can still rock 6 inch" he kissed my forehead.

Jason: "I see. You look terribly sexy in this outfit. A whole baby mama"

Me: "Oh please" I took my hands down and wrapped them around his waist. "I missed you"

Jason: "I missed you more. Aren't you hungry? Luv went to buy us food"

Me: "I saw her on my way in. I placed my order too"

Jason: "Okay baby. How did it go?"

Me: "It went well. My bp is okay. The baby is good too. I made you a video"

We let go. I went to for my phone and gave him. He

took a seat and smiled. He patted his lap. I went to sit on it.

Jason: "I have never been this happy and been at such peace my whole entire life. Everything is going well. From my mental state, the business and you.

Thank you for this chance MaDube I am truly grateful"

Me: "I love you"

"You can't go in. Mr Nzima is with someone" The door flew open.

Bianca: "Its Christmas. Where is the money Jason?"

I got up and headed to the door. "No stay. I want you both to tell me you took my child's money and did your fake hair"

Jason: "What did I say about coming here uninvited? Don't you have my number anymore?"

Bianca: "I want money!"

Jason: "I sent money to your mother."

Me: "I'll be outside"

I walked out leaving them shouting at each other. She has a loose screw.

Luvo came.

Luvo: "Why are you seating here?" She frowned whenshe heard the noise coming from inside. "Bianca?"

Me: "Yep" I chuckled. She shook her head and sat beside me.

Bianca stormed out. We walked in.

Luvo: "You guys should just have your own show" llaughed.

Jason: "It is not funny babe. I'm sorry about that" he hugged me.

We sat down and started eating...

•••

[Khethiwe]

The results came back positive. I wish that helped inmaking Tyler try to get close to his son.

He is avoiding us at all costs. He comes home late and leave early in the morning. I even suggested that

I should move out but he opposed that. I guess he likes the idea of avoiding his child.

I have decided I will go back to work next year on January when Bumble Bee is 4 months. My life has changed for the better. I am genuinely happy until I remember there's Tyler and his shenanigans.

I finished bathing baby. I decided to name him Lubanzi Zukhanye. We have even made his birth certificate. Jessica longed planned this.

I had to beg Tyler for days before he reached 30 days. He finally agreed.

I heard a car engine turn off. I peeped through the window. It was him. It's a miracle.

I put Bumble in his cot and put a blanket over him and went downstairs.

We met on the stairs. He greeted and went up. Only God knows what is going on in that head.

I took out vegetables.

My phone rang as I chopped.

Me: "Hey sweetie"

Khethelo: "Are you home?"

Me: "Yes I am"

Khethelo: "I need your help. There's a restaurant for sale there at Centurion. I am the highest buyer so far please go and meet the seller and make payment before someone comes" I looked at the time.

Me: "Uhm okay. Send me details"

Khethelo: "Thank you so much sis. I will send it just now"

I hung up. I switched off the stove and rushed upstairs.

He was not at our bedroom. I went to his office.

Me: "Will you be going anywhere?" He took his glasses off.

Tyler: "No"

Me: "Please look after bumble for an hour. Khethelo just asked me to meet up with someone on her behalf"

Tyler: "I'm busy"

Me: "Tyler please. All you will have to do is feed him the bottle"

Tyler: "I am working on a very important case. I came home because I wanted to work in a calm environment"

Me: "It will only be for an hour Tyler"

Tyler: "I am busy Khethiwe"

Me: "I can't take a child to a meeting. Why should I beg you to actually look after your baby? You won't even touch him. I could really appreciate a little help"

Tyler: "Close the door on your way out"

I placed the monitor on his desk. "I will not be going up and down feeding a kid bottles Khethiwe"

Me: "I can't take him with me. Where do you want me to leave him!"

Tyler: "Take him to the orphanage or give him up for adoption I really do not care. Now if you don't mind..." he pointed at the door.

I froze for a couple of seconds. What disease is he

suffering from?...

[2/26, 06:41] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Fifty-Three

•••

[Katlego]

If a stranger could walk in here they'd swear I own a daycare. These children act like they are possessed by evil spirits. I wish they were still tiny. I regret wanting them to grow up honestly. Sasa is home for 2 weeks her child is not well. So I'm just here by myself with these 5 problematic little people.

I attempted combing my hair but it didn't go through. Chris came in.

Me: "Please help clip my hair"

Chris: "I suggest you go to the salon"

Me: "You know I can't take these kids to the salon"

Chris: "This has been a busy week for you. I will look after them. Go get your nails and hair done"

Me: "Are you serious?"

He put his hands around me and kissed my forehead.

Chris: "Yes I am. You can even go to the spa" Me:

"Its festive season those are fully booked"

Chris: "Not when you're married to Dr Chris Dube. Which one would you like to go to?"

Me: "Red petals in waterfall would do. Those guys can-"

Chris: "Guys?" I laughed.

Me: "Yes. They are professional"

Chris: "We'll go to Clark's beauty spa and I will take you there myself to make sure no guys touch you"

Me: "Stop being dramatic they will only massage me, they will not steal me away from you" he smirked.

Chris: "I'm still coming with you. No man gets to touch my wife"

Me: "But I wouldn't mind if women at spa massage you"

Chris: "That will never happen. Dress up" He
kissed my lips and went out.

I peed and went to dress up....

So Chris came up with the lollipop trick to keep them quiet
while we drive and it works.

We arrived at the spa.

The stares and greetings. Seems like they are familiar with
this man. He doesn't go to Spas how on earth do they
know him?

We got to the reception desk. He greeted.

Chris: "This is my wife Katlego, baby this is Nosipho. Is Clark
in?"

Nosipho: "Yes she is. Do you have an appointment?"

Chris: "No. Please call her and tell her Chris is here to see
her"

Nosipho: "Miss Stephan do not meet people without
appointments Sir. You can make an appointment now"

Me: "Do you perhaps have available spaces for-"

Nosipho: "No" bathong! Chris held my hand and pulled me to the couch.

Chris: "She was your husband's side chick" Me:

"And you know that how?"

Chris: "Someway. But don't mind her she's a bitter soul...look at you!" They shook hands and hugged. Isis Annaring me right now? This girl better be not hisex.

Clark: "You're more beautiful in person. I'm Clark, I know this man never told you my name or ever mentioned me at all" she said extending her hand. I took it.

Me: "You know him very well"

Clark: "Forgive me I couldn't come to your wedding I was out of the country but I'm pretty sure you got your gift, hopefully you like it"

Me: "My sisters were the ones who opened them"

Clark: "The coffee set"

Me: "Thank you so much I love it. I wouldn't know what to do with it. I really love it"

Chris: "I'm still here and hoping to have my wife squeezed in"

Clark: "We're fully booked"

Me: "I told you"

Clark: "But...you're here now and this is your second wedding gift. My treat."

Chris: "And she shall be massaged by only females"

Clark: "I prefer men but okay. Let me get a lady to prepare a room for you. You may help yourself with refreshments while you wait"

Me: "Thank you" she smiled and walked away. "How do you know each other?"

Chris: "We grew up together. Our moms were friends."

Me: "And now y'all are distant?"

Chris: "Yeah. Long story. Let me love you and leave you. Call me when you're done." He kissed me and walked away. I poured myself juice and sat on the couch. The black cat kept stealing glances. Who would actually wanna be Pitso's sidechick? Ugh

some females though....

•••

[Khethelo]

To hell with whoever made these rules. Where is one expected to run to after their failed marriage if its unlawful to go back home? Our customs have a hand in killings of women by their husbands. How is it unlawful to go back to your parent's house?

Aunty Nomsa was more than thrilled to come and break the big news that I can't stay at home. I wouldn't be so angry if someone else said but thenher...God knows how much I will forever be upset with that woman.

I sat on the kitchen counter. I was lucky I still had Linda's contacts and she made a few calls and gotme this place. If it wasn't for her I'd be stuck in a hotel miserable more than I already am.

The only furniture I should get for now is beds and everything for the kitchen. I will see about couches on Monday. I need rest.

I took my phone and called Yoli. Maybe she might be up to come see me. It rang unattended. I texted Nhlelo she can come and help me. I turned her down when she suggested to. I felt like I need to be alone but that would just be me taking myself straight to the dark place, I can feel my soul slowly getting closer to it.

My phone rang. She's been very supportive, my whole family actually. Sam calls everytime but hasn't called since yesterday. He called me and told me everything is gonna be alright before I went to court. I truly needed that.

Me: "Hey"

Nhlelo: "I'm here. What's your room number?"

Me: "2nd floor room 23. Did you fly?" She laughed.

Nhlelo: "I never left. I just went to the coffee shop 2 streets away."

Me: "Ok bring me coffee"

Nhlelo: "Ok"

I heard a knock. It better not be not neighbors

coming to introduce themselves. I am not in the mood.

Me: "There's someone at the door. Double cream okay?"

Nhlelo: "Ofcourse"

I opened the door. We laughed.

Me: "Tsotsi"

Nhlelo: "No. I thought it might cheer you up?" I chuckled.

Me: "It did" I closed the door and took my coffee. Nhlelo: "So; where do we start?"

Me: "I've cleaned up. You just gonna help me set up the bedrooms when the furniture arrives and then with groceries later. You're still going to be my cheaffur until I get a car"

Nhlelo: "You can take it. I will take the bus to campus and uber if I go out"

Me: "Nhlelo...."

Nhlelo: "How kind of a little sis would I be if I kept my

car while my big sis needs it the most? And besides I don't like driving"

Me: "We'll talk to mah first" She nodded. My phone beeped.

"I am cooking. I would love to have you home for dinner"

I smiled.

Me: "It's Mam Dino. She says she's cooking and she would love to have me home"

Nhlelo: "Not while Lucifer is still there" she rolled her eyes. I laughed.

Me: "That's your aunt!"

Nhlelo: "Aisuka. She's just a lady that is always meddling in people's business"

Me: "Stop it mtaka bhuti" we laughed.

She took my hand and squeezed it.

Nhlelo: "You gonna be okay." My eyes dropped. "You know last night I asked mama why are you sad because you initiated the divorce. I didn't understand"

really but she cleared everything out for me. I thought maybe just because you filed for divorce you didn't love him anymore"

Me: "No. I still do. A lot."

Nhlelo: "Then please let me be here for you. I can move in with you if you want. I did research about divorce side effects, they include depression, anxiety, substance abuse and many more bad things. I would hate it if I stayed back and watched without any attempt to be there for you"

Me: "Aren't you the sweetest. Thank you"

Nhlelo: "Pleasure sis. I can't begin to imagine what you're going through"

Me: "I'll be fine. There's nothing time doesn't fix. If I could get the passing of my parents, this is nothing. And with the support system I have, it's better."

She smiled. We heard a knock, she went to get the door.

It was the furniture people. They were early. I was expecting them later on....

•••

[Bonga]

I hate meet and greets. I'm not so much of an amicable being. The 5 working days cost me so much friendliness. Saturdays are my days to be me.

Baba should've been the one to attend this but he decided to fly to Durban.

Nkazi came back with our drinks.

Me: "Thanks. I wish they can just call it a day" she laughed.

Nkazi: "It has only been 10 minutes. You haven't even met and greet anyone"

Me: "And I'm not looking forward to it"

Nkazi: "Just 2 people. Your dad will want to know who did you meet" she said looking around. "Try that lady out. She seems approachable"

Me: "She's busy on her tab"

Nkazi: "She might be our potential client"

Me: "She seems like a make-up guru" she sighed.

Nkazi: "Everyone who's here might be someone's potential client. If she's a make up guru then go to her and see if you can invest in her make up world"

Me: "And what do I know about make up?"

Nkazi: "There's research. If she's interested in working with you then we will find someone to teach you about make up"

Me: "I hate you for this" she chuckled and I got up.

I greeted the lady. She looked like a doll. I don't see the necessity of so much face paint but what can I say? The female species love the beat.

Me: "Is this seat taken?"

Her: "No not at all." I took a seat.

Me: "Bonga Dube" I said extending my hand.

Her: "Priscilla Ngwenya"

Me: "CEO of the Dube construction"

Priscilla: "Nice to meet you. I'm a co-owner of Milla cosmetics"

Me: "You don't say. You know I am so keen about

make up recently. I just want to explore other departments, focusing on bricks, sites, cement and soil is getting to ordinary for me" she laughed.

Priscilla: "Are you straight?"

Me: "Straight?"

Priscilla: "Sexuality" I laughed.

Me: "Yes I am. I just love the magic you women perform on your faces. Look at you, you're a true Barbie. I honestly wish I had the privilege" she laughed. A man out of nowhere stood before us.

Him: "Sorry to disturb. Babe, we got to go"

Priscilla: "Let's discuss this over lunch" she handed me her business card and they left.

Nkazi sat next to me.

Nkazi: "You did well. Now let's get that someone to brief you about make up"

Me: "I also need a wireless earpiece so you can tell me what to say during that lunch"

Nkazi: "Do not forget about Happy's meds" I looked

at the time. I totally forgot about it.

Me: "I don't know what I'd be without you"

Nkazi: "I need a raise"

Me: "You definitely gonna get it" I

headed to the parking lot...

Happy: "If it wasn't for Emi I would be long dead"

Me: "I'm sorry. I forgot to tell Nkazi to buy it and have it delivered"

Happy: "I would really appreciate it if you talked to me and never mention that name" she thinks we're dating because they had an argument when Happy called while I was in a meeting. She says the way Nkazi spoke to her sounded like we're dating.

Women!

Me: "What? Should I rename her?"

Happy: "I don't know. Just don't mention it"

Me: "Mama Ka Sbahle tell me something. If you don't love me anymore as you say, why would you have a problem with Nkazi?"

Happy: "How I feel about Nkazi has nothing to do with us. She disrespected me. As a mother of your children I can not tolerate your girlfriend being disrespectful to me"

Me: "She's not my girlfriend. She is my PA"

Happy: "Yeah right"

Me: "Don't fight it. If you still love me, of which I know you do just say it and we live happily ever after with our 4 babies that we made in my office" she rolled her eyes.

Happy: "Don't flatter yourself" she took her meds and went out.

The quads were fast asleep. They always are. I watched them sleep. Sbahle and Olwethu look exactly like Unathi, my late sister. I cried when I realized it. The other two; Ntando and Oluhle they are a combination of Happy and I. We were expecting 3, the fourth one was a surprise. Balanced equation, 2 boys and 2 girls.

To think I wanted them terminated. I shall regret that for as long as I shall live. Even though we aren't

together I am just glad she forgave me and letting me into our children's lives.

Sbahle tossed over his hand to Oluhle's face. She opened her mouth. She's such a foodie.

Happy: "You gonna go crazy."

Me: "This is too adorable"

Happy: "You're cuffed"

Me: "Would your mom allow me to stay over?"

Happy: "What? No"

Me: "I just wanna spend another night with them"

Happy: "My dad won't allow you to stay over"

Me: "Then he should allow you guys to come with me"

Happy: "I'll speak to mom"

Me: "Thank you"

She handed me a bottle. I fed Oluhle. I can't wait for them to grow up...

...

[Khethiwe]

My baby's smile is priceless. He's literally the most beautiful thing I've ever laid my eyes on.

I took him out of the water and put him in his bathing blanket.

I put him in his crib and got in the bathroom to take a quick shower.

This is what I've been doing. Bath with a door open and spend less than 10 minutes showering.

I heard a door creak open. I quickly washed off the soap on my head and grabbed a towel and rushed to the door. I stopped when I saw him. He had him in his arms.

He turned my direction. He's here to soften up with this red face. He slid back his hoodie hat. We stared at each other for quite some time.

Tyler: "Hi"

Me: "Hi"

Tyler: "You can go on and bath. Where's his bottle?"

Me: "In his warmer bag"

Tyler: "Oh. We'll be at the lounge"

Me: "No!...I mean no. Stay here. The heater is broken,he's not dressed"

Tyler: "I will dress him up if that's okay"

Me: "His lotions are on the second drawer. There'shis diaper and clothes" I said. I don't even want to ask what changed.

Since I left last Saturday he never made any means to contact me. I told myself we are done. I was so pissed at what he said on Friday when I had to go meet the seller of the restaurant. I still am but not asmuch as I have been for the past 4 days.

I bathed. I know its silly but I faster, scared that hemight harm him.

He was dressed and fast asleep on Tyler's shoulder.I applied lotion and dressed up. He put him back to his crib.

Me: "Beef or mutton?"

Tyler: "I'm sorry" he walked towards me. "I'm sorry

for being a jerk. I do not deserve to be loved by you this much. I'm sorry about all the mean things I said concerning Banzi. I was angry you're taking care of my bad decisions. But you leaving me really showed me you truly love him and you'd give up anything for him. Thank you MaDladla. I owe you my life"

Me: "Don't cry"

Tyler: "Please forgive me"

Me: "Its okay" we hugged.

Tyler: "Please come back home"

Me: "We will. Don't cry"

I hate this side of him. It breaks my heart to see him cry. As much as he's a jerk I still love him like he's perfect....

•••

[Khule]

I took a final look at myself on the mirror. These shoes aren't so nice.

Me: "Are you sure I'm good?"

Q: "You are hot"

Me: "Hair makes me look weird"Q:

"Do I look weird to you?"

Me: "You know what I mean"

Q: "Actually I don't. Be respectful and remember you're using my identity to see your wife"

Me: "This mustache doesn't look like yours"

Q: "Just be thankful you even got a mustache and Khethelo will not notice"

Yes. This what I've turned to. I am doing everything just to see her. She's a huge part of my world and her absence is driving me bananas.

She wouldn't even hear me out after Glade told her it wasn't the first time.

I granted her the divorce because I know she's angry and denying to sign would've made her even more angrier. I flew down to Durban this morning. I need to make sure she's okay. I have my people tracking down her every move but that isn't enough. I need to see her. So right I'm pretending to be Quinton.

We saw Nhlelo's car drive in.

Q: "Be patient. You'll go in after 30 minutes"

Me: "I told you not to roll a second blunt? Khethelo is gonna go take a bath for 40 minutes soon as she walks in"

Q: "Do not forget what I taught you. Don't disappoint me"

I got out and headed inside the complex. I

wrote down all my details and went in.

I took out my piece of mirror to check if I'm still okay before knocking.

Nhlelo opened up. She frowned. I smiled.

Me: "Hi"

Nhlelo: "Hello"

Me: "I'm here to see your sister"

Nhlelo: "Come in"

I went in. I stood next to the door while Nhlelo disappeared to the corridor.

The place looks decent. She bought a wall clock, she really mean business. She knows I hate this shit.

It was close to 10pm. We promised Yoli we'd be back by now.

I took out my phone and texted Quinton he can go home. Nhlelo came back.

Nhlelo: "She's coming she was about to bath"

Me: "Do you mind taking this clock with you to the bathroom?" Its more irritating because I'm high.

Nhlelo: "Its permanent. The previous owner glued it there" fuck him or her. "You may take a seat"

She appeared from the passage.

Khethelo: "Hi" I cleared my throat.

Me: "Hi."

Khethelo: "Uhm Nhlelo can you give us a moment please?" Nhlelo walked away.

Khethelo headed to the door and opened it. "Out"

Me: "I came here in peace"

Khethelo: "Out Khulekani. I don't want to see your face or even hear your voice." No way!

Me: "You can see me?"

Khethelo: "Yes. Quinton pats the left thigh and I know your voice. How did you even know where I was? Get out. Try this joke on your hoe maybe she might not see you and fuck you again thinking you're your brother"

Me: "I came to check up on you"

Khethelo: "Well I am still broken and wishing I never met you. If you ever show your face here uninvited I will get a restraining order"

Me: "I'm Sorry. No need to do that I will keep my distance"

I walked out. I felt relieved that I saw her but sad she still hates me.

I found Quinton waiting for me outside the gate smoking.

Me: "I pat the wrong thigh"

Quinton: "You're a disappointment to the Dube clan"

Me: "Thanks"

We got in the car and drove off....

[2/26, 06:41] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Chapter Fifty-Four

•••

[Khethiwe]

Lelo: "Bambino"

Me: "Hey. I was just taking my chances I thought you were asleep"

Lelo: "No I'm not just finished taking a bath. Why are you whispering?"

Me: "He's here. I'm in the bathroom I don't want him to hear me"

Lelo: "He's come around?"

Me: "Yeah I think so. He's been taking care of Banz since morning."

Lelo: "I'm glad babe."

Me: "Yeah me too." I heard Cal speaking on the background. "Let me sleep. Let's hope you haven't forgot about our lunch tomorrow" she Laughed.

Lelo: "Let me set up a reminder. Goodnight"

Me: "Goodnight"

I hung up and walked out. I sighed. They were all over the bed, no more space for me. I took a fleece and climbed on the couch. They look so cute.

I smiled alone. God do answer prayers. This is a very priceless moment. It is a huge beautiful gift, having these 2 men in my life is what will always push me to do better and be better.

Could this be the light at the end of a tunnel MaNgcobo was talking about? Because ever since he came into my life everything lightened up. I was only effected by Tyler but it also wasn't that deep. I'm in a different positive head space I am happy, genuinely happy.

I got up and took a picture of them. I will definitely frame this one...

•••

[Emi]

I woke up to my phone ringing. I looked for it under a pillow I couldn't find it. I spotted it on the floor. I got off the bed to take it.

It had stopped ringing. It was Khethelo. I went to the bathroom to pee. We haven't spoke for a month or so. I also got punished for Khule's sins. I haven't spoken to him in ages either. He disappointed me.

He is selfish, he did whatever he did with that Glade and forgot what could that cost him. Ever since their divorce it's been a man for himself. We haven't had any gathering its just phone calls. Katlego suggested we go out for lunch today. The first ever lunch since Khethelo left and I know its gonna be awkward without her.

I finished and called her. She didn't pick up.

Maybe she called by mistake. I filled the tub while texting Jason. I do not like his habit of leaving me in bed and go to work without goodbye.

The door opened. He smiled.

Jason: "She's mad at me. I'm working from home today sweetheart"

Me: "Then why didn't you say?"

Jason: "And face your grumpy self for the whole day? I'd rather swallow a demon than to disturb your sleep. What would you like to eat?"

Me: "Food. Get out I'm about to bath"

Jason: "I will be making you breakfast"

Me: "I'd like something not prepared by you"

Jason: "What have I done now?"

Me: "Whatever it is it should be chilli and greasy" Jason:

"Coming right up"

He reversed out. He irritates me today. Why are his lips never dry? And the earring on his left ear makes me sick.

I undressed and got in the tub. The warmth of the water does something to me. I get relieved.

Jason: "Babe should I add wings?" He shouted from the other side.

Me: "Yes"

Jason: "I love you"

Me: "Of course you do"

Jason: "Please be nice" what does he mean? I am at my nicest today.

Ignored him and answered my ringing phone. Me:

"Hey"

Khethelo: "Hey baby. I'm so glad to hear your voice" Me:

"I'm glad you remembered I exist" she sighed.

Khethelo: "Things have been rough babe I'm sorry. And the last time we spoke you were mad at me so I was giving you time to cool off"

Me: "I wish you understood how much I need you in my life recently. You came into my life and resumed a mother role to me and now you're gone and you haven't checked up on me for weeks"

Khethelo: "I'm sorry. I've been caught up in this divorce thing and forgot about important people in my life. I'm sorry for being so distant. Is the baby

growing?"

Me: "Yes it is." I brushed my tummy. "I really wish you were still here"

Khethelo: "You can visit me anytime. Separating with Khule doesn't mean we've stopped being family. I still love you"

Me: "I still love you too. Are you gonna be home when Jason comes to pay damages?"

Khethelo: "Unfortunately I can't my baby."

Me: "Can you at least be in contact with Khethiwe to make sure they do everything accordingly?"

Khethelo: "Definitely sthandwa sam. Definitely"

Me: "Please call me everyday and I will do too. I miss you so much"

Khethelo: "I will. And I miss you more. I'll get you a ticket to come here after I've settled in"

Me: "You moved out?" Khethelo:

"Yeah. I'm in Durban" Me:

"Permanently?"

Khethelo: "Yes."

Me: "Wow this is serious" I had hope they will reconcile soon but if she moved out the chances are very slim.

Khethelo: "Pretty much. Let me get back into setting up this place. We'll talk later"

Me: "Bye mommy"

Khethelo: "Bye my Angel"

I hung up and put the phone away. Jason got in.

Jason: "The Dr said less crying marshmallow, what's wrong?"

Me: "I know but I can't help it. It hurts. Khethelo even left the province."

Jason: "But your other sister in-laws are still here" Me:

"She's the one that I need here the most"

Jason: "Then we'll go to Durban. Don't cry" he wiped my tears and brushed my tummy. "Turn around, let me scrub your back"

I smiled and turned around. He doesn't get tired of

me and my moods...

•••

[Calvin]

I collapsed on a chair in my office. Its about time I retired. This moving up and down attending meeting after meeting business is getting too much for an old man like me.

Mbali came in like lightning.

Me: "Are you being chased by a ghost?"

Mbali: "Journalists. They are all over the building. The securities are preventing them to come up. I'm here to get you out of here" I got up and took my phone.

Me: "What do they want? Let's go"

Mbali: "Its about Yezwe"

Me: "What has that boy done now? Please get my tab" she ran to my desk while I went out to get on the lift heading down.

They were buzzing around as flies.

"We wanna speak to your boss""Is

he really a Dube?"

"How is he taking the news of his son coming out of the closet?"

They were all speaking at the same time until two of the many spotted me. They ran my direction. The security team stopped them.

"Have you never noticed your son was gay?"

"Are you going to disown him?"

"What's your take about the LGBTQ community?"

"He mentioned in the interview that you just discovered you're the late Mphangiseni's son. Is it true?"

Mbali got off the lift.

Me: "Hold it" I went back in I took my tab. "Please Google that magazine for me"

Mbali: "On it"

I took out my phone and texted everyone that we have a meeting.

What the hell possessed this boy?...

•••

[Katlego]

I have never. I mean ever received a text from Calvin.

Me: "Brother Cal is requesting a meeting" Lelo rolled her eyes.

Lelo: "I knew it"

Khethiwe: "Any idea what is it about?"

She went through her bag and took out a magazine. Lelo:

"He probably found out about this"

Oh my! I knew it. And everyone who's observant knew it too. He's a fashion designer for God's sake!

My boy made it to a whole cover page of an international mag. He's been very busy while we snored and fart at night.

Khethiwe: "I have never been so proud"

Emi: "He is the gem. Could this be the reason why

he's been distant?" Lelo:

"Yes"

Me: "You knew he's gay?"

Lelo: "Not until the Kim the lawyer saga. Apparently he slept with her too, when I told him he should find a decent girlfriend not Kim. He told me he doesn't do girls, Kim was just an experiment."

Emi: "I'm just glad he finally stopped living for people. I'm so ready for whatever bhuti is going to say"

Lelo: "He's probably going to disown him. Calvin hates gay people"

Me: "This is our time to show Yezwe our full support"

Lelo: "I have prepared to leave too if he disowns him"

Emi: "Bit by bit. My brothers will be left with no wives"

Khethiwe: "If they aren't watching that's gonna be the case"

Me: "Your mother's kids are really tiring"

Emi: "As long as y'all won't change on me"

Khethiwe: "Ever. Let me call him and check if they're still okay"

Lelo chuckled.

Lelo: "I'm even surprised you left him with Tyler"

Khethiwe: "It took me a lot to finally give in." She said and excused herself.

Me: "She loves him"

Lelo: "A lot. The fact that she was willing to leave Tyler for not accepting him means a lot really"

Emi: "She's happy and it shows. This motherly thing is truly natural"

Me: "It is. You don't have to go to school for it. She's treating him with care and love, have you seen how fresh he is?"

Lelo: "I could just eat those chubby yellow thighs." Me:

"And all he consumes is milk"

Emi: "What? Why?"

Me: "Khethiwe has not threw away culture. Babies start eating solids at 6 months and she's going thatroute and its perfectly working for Banzi. He's healthy and beautiful"

Emi: "So I have to breastfeed for 6 months?"

Me: "You can breastfeed and also give him/her the bottle"

Emi: "Yoh so much work"

We laughed. Khethiwe came back.

Khethiwe: "They are still in one piece and they are driving to Heidelberg"

Lelo: "We should also get going"

Emi: "Let get takeaways."

Lelo: "You just read my mind. Plus there's no beer in that house"

Khethiwe: "Kat and I will go get them"

I put my cell in my bag and off we went to the liquorshop...

•••

[Khule]

I am left to own this house today. The owners are at work. I have been eating since I woke up. Why do women make everything so nice?

Even this juice tastes better than the one I usually make for myself. I paused the game. Durban weather is sick, when we slept last night we were sweating but today it is raining and I'm freezing.

I went to the kitchen to dish up. Yoli cooked last night after we ate. Specially for me cause I am the depressed twin and food is "therapy" she said.

I put it in the warmer while I had a very intimate conversation with the ice cream. I heard footsteps approaching.

Me: "Go back!"

Quinton: "I couldn't focus knowing you're eating all this food by yourself"

Me: "I have no problem really. I am doing really great you may go back to work"

Quinton: "I'm starving. This weed isn't healthy"

Me: "Ohhh. Now I get it. You know this is my 6th meal since you left"

Quinton: "How many blunts have you rolled?" Me: "4 or 5"

Quinton: "Are you trying to die? Are you high right now?"

Me: "I don't know. Do I look high?" Quinton: "I don't know. Do you feel high?" Me: "I don't know. Do I sound high?"

Quinton: "You are high" we laughed. "Let's warm this food up and eat"

Me: "Say please"

Quinton: "Please"

Me: "You don't sound like you mean it" Quinton: "Let me call Yolz to bring us chillies" Me: "The green ones"

He stared at his phone for quite some time. Quinton: "There's a meeting at home. Just read a

text from Calvin" Me:

"What meeting?"

Quinton: "He didn't explain. He just said we have a meeting. Did you also receive a text?"

Me: "I don't even know where that phone is. Call him"

Quinton: "Turn on the stew stove"

Me: "Call Calvin" he over to my side.

Quinton: "Kush"

Calvin: "Yes boys. Did you get my message?"

Quinton: " Yes I did. What's up?"

Calvin: "Haven't you seen it? Yezwe is trending for being a proud gay"

Us: "What?"

Calvin: "Yes. I will have you guys on Skype"

Me: "Don't make any permanent decisions yet. This is pretty shocking but-"

Calvin: "But nothing. I'll see you all later"

He hung up. I was still stuck at Yezwe being a proudgay.

Me: "He sleeps with men?"

Quinton: "I don't know if he does but yes that's whatgay people do"

Me: "That's so fucking creepy" Quinton:

"Should we go to Jo'burg?"

Me: "No I'm not going there. You can go if you wantbut I will stay here and for once be unavailable likeother kids"

Quinton: "Do not use my Wi-Fi for facetime"

Me: "I brought my router with me. And for that youwill not touch my food"

I took the pot and went to the lounge.

Quinton: "I'm your partner in crime. Remember?" Me:

"Go change that suit. You look like your father"Quinton:

"Don't eat. I'll be back just now"

He ran up the stairs. This is the first gay person in

our family. How come we never seen it?....

•••

[Tyler]

Calvin's house is as big as a castle. I wonder how many people clean it. This is my second time coming here. I did not finish my tour last time and since everyone hasn't arrived I might as well continue where I left off.

The helping lady took Banzi to Mpendulo's nursery. He's such a peaceful child. Haven't heard him cry since Khethiwe left. You just got to feed him his bottle and change his nappy then y'all are good.

I found myself in a theatre room. I turned the lightson and looked for the remote. I found it and sat down.

I turned on the gigantic screen. I never understood such big screens. They get me crazy, I lose my mindwhen watching one.

My phone rang. I took it out. It was the babe.

Me: "Wifey?"

Khethiwe: "Have you seen the news?"

Me: "No. Why?"

Khethiwe: "Get on the News24 website right now" she said and hung up.

I did as per instruction. I played their 4pm news.

I kept fast forwarding until I heard the Glade name mentioned. I rewind.

"On another stop stories a body a woman who found this morning has been identified as Glade Nombulelo Ngubane. The 26 year old had been lost for the past 24 hours the family member mentioned. The forensics haven't discovered yet what could've led to the death of the deceased. The police are still investigating.

The people who were left terrified by the rain in Durban are being....."

I locked my phone. This is petrol to the Dube fire. Khethelo is gonna be the prime suspect.

I called Khule. He didn't pick up. I called Q, he also didn't pick up.

I got up and rushed downstairs.

Calvin: "Where are you rushing to?"

Me: "Durban"

Calvin: "What? Why?"

Me: "Glade was found dead"

Calvin: "So?"

Me: "So? That will lead right to Khethelo"

Calvin: "We have a meeting"

Me: "We have a bigger problem than having a meeting over our son who's attracted to the same gender. Its the 21st century. It is completely normalCal."

Calvin: "Are you listening to yourself? I'm not gonna have a son who suck dicks!"

Me: "Well he does. Even if you could disown him he will still be your son. Your blood flows in his veins. Stop living in 1800s. This meeting is over Dube don'tput our child through that. A gay son is better than a dead one."

My phone rang. I left him standing there.

Me: "Good evening"

Caller: "Tyler. Its me. I didn't who else to call" shewas sobbing.

Me: "Khethelo?"

Khethelo: "Glade was found dead. And I was taken infor questioning but now I'm arrested because they found threatening messages in her phone and the police believe it was me because they are saying sheshould stay away from Khule. And the letter that wasfound in her apartment mentions that if she is ever found dead I should be the first person to be questioned"

"Time is up"

Me: "I will be there first thing tomorrow okay"The line went dead. Fuck...

[2/26, 06:41] Zozaness: The Dube Legacy reloaded

Due to the dragging of the storyline please note

that The Dube Legacy reloaded characters will now permanently appear on the Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder.

[2/26, 06:52] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

Prologue

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I handed the newspaper over to her. She briefly ran her eyes on it, she looked at me. I get the hint, I have to explain.

Me: "I passed! 4 distinctions!" I said jumping up and down in excitement.

Mama: "Mmmmmh" she put it aside and poured herself another glass of Hansa.

I stood there for a moment. What is that supposed to mean? Isn't this what she wanted? She always preach to me about her friend's daughter who outdid herself in matric, went to study overseas and turned around the situation at home. She's supposed to be

happy, she's supposed to be all over the yard ululating like any other mother whose child has passed matric. But no. She's so concerned about her beer, that was probably bought with the last centwe had in this house. I tried to remain calm but my emotions got better of me.

Me: "Is that all you're going to say? Mmmh?" I hate it when I get like this. Only my mother has the ability to drive me to the edge.

She sent her eyes up to me.

Mama: "You passed. Now what must I do? Scream? Am hungry Yolanda. Maybe if you hustled like any other child your age I would be full and be able to jump up and down for you. Go and check if we still have enough electricity, if not. Go fetch the woods"

I took the newspaper back to Nkosazana, our neighbor who had borrowed me since I couldn't afford one.

Everyone found out early in the morning and I Yolanda Zikalala just saw mine in the middle of the day.

Luckily enough she was outside hanging the clothes.

I didn't have to scream my lungs out for her to watch the dog for me. I gave her the newspaper.

Me: "Thank you."

Her: "Did you pass?"

Me: "Yes. 4 distinctions"

Her: "Congratulations ntombi. We're proud of you" She hugged me. She's like my second best sister. Me:

"Thank you"

Her: "So, where to from here?"

Me: "I have no idea" she led me to sit down under the mango tree.

Her: "Hhaibo. Didn't you apply?"

Me: "I did. But I wouldn't know if they took me or not. I do not have money to go to the library"

Her: "Don't worry I'll borrow you my phone when I buy airtime"

Me: "I'd appreciate that."

Her: "Better yet, just jot your email details down I'll

log on soon as I get it"

Me: "Thank you so much sis Nkosazana" Her:

"You're welcome nana"

My mother called out my name. I bid her goodbye and ran home.

Mama: "Are we gonna Cook with urine today?"

Me: "There's an unused bucket in the kitchen"

Mama: "Oh dear Lord she's talking back. Get the bloody bucket and go fetch water child!"

I hurried inside to get the bucket and went to the river.

It is 30 minutes away. I cried all the way there.

Sometimes it feels like she's punishing me for my father's sins. I grew to believe that if I had not been there uninvited he would've stayed, that everything would've been fine if I had not been conceived. She made it all my fault. He was someone's husband for Christ's sake!

Well that's what I've heard, married men vanish after

impregnating you. That's how they role. She should've known better than getting pregnant.

My mother has issues. And she's succeeded in passing that on to us. She lives to make her children's lives miserable. My sister fled home with her boyfriend at 16 after she sold her to the highest bidder in return for 2 Hansa crates and Smirnoff 1818. She visits occasionally, only because there's me. She told me. She never forgave that but she learnt to tolerate mother. She has a not so wow life but it's better than the one we live at home. She has 2 children. Her husband is one of the good ones left, very supportive and loving.

I started cooking soon as I got back home. She was not there, good for my peace of mind. I sang all the time peeling and chopping the potatoes. I finished cooking then took a bath, getting ready for church.

My happy place.

I went to the flat that we sleep in and changed into a floral knee length dress. She hummed her usual drunk song, calling out my name in between. I always pray for her, as much as she always hurt me

with her harsh words I still loved and cared for her.

She pushed the door open and stood at the entrance. She looked at me from head to toe then shook her head. She walked in and threw herself on top of the bed.

Me: "Am going to church"

Mama: "One day church will be born" what?

I took my bible and left before she ruined my spiritual mood. That is her hidden talent, ruining my jolly moods.

The service was a bliss. The pastor focused on us, those who had just got their matric results. He told us to go out there and show the world what we are made of. He stated how much our backgrounds do not define us. It felt as though he was directly talking to me.

When I walked back home the sun had just set but it wasn't that dark. Summer vibes.

I startled when my eyes landed on her sitting on a chair beside the bed where my drunk mother snored.

She smiled.

Me: "You gave me such a fright"

Nkosazana: "Am sorry but this couldn't wait" Me:

"What is it?" I sat on a bench.

She took out her cellphone and handed it over to me.

I read through. My heart pumped faster. I looked at her, she nodded repeatedly. I looked back at the email. I had a firm offer from University of Johannesburg!

-

5 days later I took a massive decision inspired by my big sister. I had to do what is right for me and my future. She held my hand and said: "You have put the Zikalala name on the good books. You did well and I'd be evil to let you stay here instead of working something out so you'll go to Jo'burg and work on that degree. You have no idea how lucky you are to have been given this chance, I do not want you to end up like me. With only grade 11 to your name, well I was lucky to have found someone as Sbusiso

but you baby sis, you have options to make it out of here. Take this. Go home. Pack your bags. And get on the first bus tomorrow. When you get there life isn't going to be fruitful. You do not know that woman you're going to stay with, I expect you to respect her. You going to meet boys, cute boys. Do not lose focus"

She jotted down the numbers of a woman (her friend) whom I was going to stay with while I get everything together.

I had a quarrel with my mother trying to talk her into allowing me to go. She's really never been good at allowing me to go for anything I've ever liked. Netball, Drama classes, church, friends and everything that I desire.

So without my mother's approval about my journey to Jo'burg. Without blessings to carry along from the woman who birthed me. I packed my bags and left for the city of Gold...

-

2 years later...

[2/26, 06:52] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

One

-

I casted off the sneakers. My feet were burning. I have never imagined Jo'burg to be this hot. Its literally hell. I stripped off my clothes and walked outto get under the shower.

I heard a knock as I dried myself up. Yeah right!Me:

"Am showering"

Person: "Please put on a towel I wanna take a piss"he begged.

Me: "Who the hell are you? And how did you get in?" I said, trying to remain as calm as possible. Our landlord always warn about leaving the door unlocked. I said a little prayer.

Him: "I'll explain later please let me in"

He must be thinking am crazy or naïve enough to

open for a total stranger while am naked in the bathroom.

He kept on knocking, making me paranoid than I already am.

"Yolanda he's my friend please open up" she said. I exhaled in relief. That has to be my roommate, Neliswa. We aren't close nor distant. We just live together, see each other maybe twice or once a week. She's a woman that is attracted to other women. She has a squad, male squad. Males who do not understand the concept "privacy" that is why one of them is outside asking me to wrap a towel around so he can come in and take a piss.

I opened the door and greeted them. He flew in, forgetting to even close the door. He groaned as his tap poured out. Weird.

I swayed my ass to my room.

No applying of lotion. Just briefs and a tank top. I took my laptop and continued with my assignment that is due in 4 weeks That's how boring my life is. I am terrible at making friends. Even on weekends all I

do is drown on my school work.

Discovery happened to be my bursary sponsor, sis Lilly(my sister's friend) knocked at every door when I came here. We'd wake up at 4, travel around a whole of Jo'burg until we run out of money to take a taxi back home but she pushed, she held my hand in everything until Discovery was generous enough to help me since NSFAS wasn't going to. And that was 2 years ago, it feels like it was just yesterday. Time moves quick when you're having fun indeed. So having this bursary meant, like it or not, my books had to be my friends.

Another knock. What now? I stood up and went to open. And yes I keep my door locked at all times.

Arriving here taught me something:

Some people do not knock. Neliswa is the same as her friends, she does not respect someone's privacy. Some days she'd budge in while am undressed and only the Lord knows how much I find that unsettling.

She had a bottle of Heineken in her hand and there I knew that tonight its either I do not sleep or I sleep

with headphones on.

Neli: "We're ordering pizza, would you like some?" Me:

"Yeah."

Neli: "Flavour?"

Me: "Chicken and mushrooms with extra cheese" Neli:

"Okay"

She walked away then I closed the door. Well as complicated as our relationship is, we still look out for each other. I've never went to bed on a hungry stomach. Even on the struggling days we are always there for each other.

I saved my work and put away the laptop. I went to my bag and took out my phone. Yes I now had a phone. My first ever phone that I bought a year ago. At 20 I had my first phone!

My mother! Sigh. She got over the fact that I left without her go ahead after a year. Who spends a whole year without talking to their own child? She's one weird creature I swear. My first year at varsity was that stressful, even afraid to go home.

So one of the days in after a year her brothers tried to speak some sense into her, since from there things were getting a little better with time, but she was still herself.

Reminding me of how much I look like the man that broke her heart. One of the days I wish to just erase her memory about this man that is absent on both our lives, not that I am bothered by his absence though. I don't give a single care about him and he does not exist in my world, for obvious reasons.

I punched her numbers and pressed OK. As mental unstable as she is, I still loved her, she's my mother and will always be. Hansa addict or not, she's my everything. I share my pocket money with her everything month. I know it's not much but it's something. She gets to buy herself a crate and maybe a braai pack and rice if she happens to think food is important than alcohol.

Mama: "It has not even been 3 years you've already forgotten about home" that's the first thing she says after a month. Am not caller excuse me.

Me: "Hello. How are you mama?"

Mama: "Penelope! Other varsity kids are home. Why aren't you? Are you married there? I'll get your uncle to drag you out of that place and punch that man to death do you hear me?" Jesus please have mercy on your child. Holidays are only beginning next week Friday.

Me: "We haven't closed yet mama."

Mama: "But you said Friday"

Me: "The following Friday. I called to check up on you"

Mama: "Whatever marn. Your mfundisi was here, please tell him to stop being so forward. Hansa is my best friend and only death shall do us apart not these fake Jesu's sons"

I chuckled. This woman needs God himself I swear. Me:

"I'll tell him. Do you still have food?"

Mama: "Don't worry about me. Just be here next Friday"

Me: "You better be not trying to marry me off"

Mama: "No man would ever want you as a wife. You talk back"

Me: "Yeah whatever. Am going to good Friday anyway"

Mama: "Whatever."

She hung up. Yes. Its complicated like that. I logged on WhatsApp and spoke to my sister. Well as a baby machine that she is, she was expecting and excited about it because it was a boy. The older 2 are girls.

Hyperactive girls. Chatterboxes. But I wouldn't trade them for anything.

"Pizza has arrived" she shouted from the passage. I climbed off the bed and pushed in my slides and headed out.

All this noise by 4 people? I thought they were like 10 or 15. I greeted them and sat down. 5 boxes of large pizzas and 1.5L of cranberry juice. I fetched the plates and glasses.

Neli: "This is Yoli, my roommate" she said after we all dished up. I looked at her. That was weird as hell.

Oh did I mention that it's always new ones every weekend. I've learned to not bother entertaining them cause the chances of seeing them again are next to never.

Guy: "Nice to meet you Yoli. Am Mvuselelo" I smiled and nodded.

The other 2 introduced themselves as Beast and Fox. Beast is the one that disturbed my shower.

They kept on talking about whatever it is that they were making noise about. Dead Pool was playing on the screen so I focussed on him since none of these people seemed to be interested in him.

I wish life was as easy as they portray it on movies. Grow up poor, find a rich man who'll love you like you're the only available woman on earth and elevate you, marry you, be a trophy wife that does shopping, hair and nails for a living. Have beautiful children.

Not forgetting travelling all over the world.

Neli threw a remote controller at me I jumped. They laughed.

Me: "Its not funny"

Beast: "I've been talking to you for the past 5 minutes. Did you even notice the screen has been turned off?" I looked at it. Indeed it was.

I sighed.

Neli: "Wanna talk about it?"

Me: "Its nothing serious. What were you saying?"

They all looked at me with inquoeinh eyes. I pickedthe dishes up to the sink and washed them.

I packed them on the cupboard and went to my room. I locked, turned off the light, tried to reach formy phone and earphones through the dark and found them. I plugged them in and got lost in BabyFace's world.

-

Weekends aren't really my favourite, especially Saturday. They're dull. I used to love sleep until I came to live here. I sleep a lot on weekends. Study and sleep. Then it gets better on a Sunday because Iget to go to church. Neli is never around on weekends, which makes it all worse.

Yesterday's church service was shortened. The results of having born free pastors. Just when I felt the holy spirit take over. He said a closing prayer.

....

When I woke up this morning I found breakfast already made but no sign of her. She has this shady habit of leaving traces she was around. I could be in a bathroom she'd come back wash dishes or make cereal then leave.

I packed it into my portable Tupperware. My 20th birthday gift my sister bought for me last year. I also have a water bottle, that has everyone walking like fitness bunnies.

I grabbed my keys, walked out and locked. From the apartment to campus is a walkable distance. About 10 minutes.

There's a middle aged woman down the road who sells coffee. Whatever it is she puts in that coffee, she must never stop. There's always a long ass line.

I joined in. It wasn't so long today and I wasn't so late.

The scent hit my nostrils. I dared to turn. The line kept on moving. I have a thing for nice smelling people. This one was even making me dizzy... Well that's a little extra but it was just too good marn.

"Its good isn't it?" Said a voice behind me, a voice that is from a nice smelling person. Is he talking about his perfume? Maybe he's psychic.

"The coffee." He said. Proven! He's psychic.

Me: "No matter how late I am I'd rather get in trouble with my lecturers than to not begin my day with it" he chuckled.

Him: "And I've made peace with it. You're never early" I turned. Holy shit!

I swiftly looked ahead and regretted ever looking back. I just done tell my lecture who is my crush why am I never early for his classes. "But am glad you're doing very well"

I turned again.

Me: "Please forget I said anything." He smiled. He's actually even cuter close by. I've never ever been this

close to him or else I would've recognised his scent. Him:

"Kabelo"

Me: "Yolanda"

Him: "Adams?"

I chuckled.

Me: "I wish. But Zikalala"

Him: "Oh. Zulu?"

Me: "100%"

He nodded with a grin on his face, sending all kinds of feels to my body.

"Yoli" I did not even notice it was my turn. I said sorry and paid. The powder milk sachets were mixed with sugar. I put the sugar to its rightful holder as I waited for my large cup of coffee.

Lecture: "Interior designer tendencies already kicking in?"

I found myself laughing. And yes that was my dream career since grade 10 when we were taken on a career expo: Interior Designing. I like invading

people's homes and turn everything around into my way I see fit. 15 years from now there'll be a company under my name.

Me: "Imagine trying to have sugar then you end up with milk" I took my coffee and added sugar.

Lecture: "Let me give you a ride" I thought for a moment.

Me: "Am meeting a friend at res. Thanks"

Lecture: "No problem. As long as you will make it to campus on time"

I smiled and walked away.

He's been the only one since arrived in this place I've ever found amusing.

'You going to meet boys, cute boys. Do not lose focus' echoed in my head. My fascination immediately vanished I kept on walking.

[2/26, 06:52] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

Two

I always enjoy my days at the campus. Going to the library on the hours in between my classes and buying a smoothie. But today all I wanted was to go home. I checked my timetable hoping it's not his class that is next but the universe hated on me.

The present lecture took her books and walked out. We followed her out for the 5 minutes break.

"Am I teaching furniture today?" We all turned. I bet no one saw him coming. He smiled at me when our eyes met. Give Me strength!

We all went back in. Well I think he's every girl's fantasy, cause every female he smiles at just melts. He went on and on with his lesson. All I wanted was to get out of the place and be naked in my room.

Him: "This is your last year. I expect to see you guys driving Ferraris and living at high places in a few years to come.

There are few internships I have.

They will be given to our top students. There's a company of a friend of mine. He's opening another branch in Mossel Bay, so I urge you to study, no

pressure but study a bit extra to get this"

Well that freakin internship belongs to my mother's second daughter. Guess who that is...Me!

We wrote the 30 marks test then the class got dismissed. Joy!

I packed my laptop and walked out. Before anyone else. I climbed down the stairs like crazy.

I spotted Neli and her girlfriend, such a lovely individual. Am a hard nut to crack but she was able to go through me. I went to greet them, and no we aren't friends we just get along.

Me: "Love birds" they both looked my direction.

Them: "Hey"

Me: "Banzi. I came to greet you not this junkie"

Banzi: "I know" she hugged me. "Did you submit your assignment?" Her dad is one of my lectures so one day I happened to have not submitted on time. She took my script to her home and slid it into the many others.

Me: "Yes and no we are never doing that again"

Banzi: "Why? It was cool"

Me: "Your idea of cool is weird. Bye"

Them: "Bye"

I walked away.

-

When I got to the apartment I ate and listened to music, naked in my room. Happiness of being naked can never be compared to anything. I took a brief nap.

Around 5pm I woke up and got ready for church.

I arrived at church. It wasn't so packed, it never is on Mondays. The Jnr pastor was taking over the altar.

He was even sweating. Preaching about how much of a sin adultery is. Who cares. Half of us aren't married here if not all.

He went on and on, taking advantage of being a pastor.

He summoned us to close our eyes and said a closing prayer.

"Amen"

We all said and opened our eyes. I went to collect my bible from Thabi. I think she wanna be friends but her and I are totally different. Am afraid It wouldn't work out.

Thabi: "Going already?" She said as I approached her. I smiled and nodded. "Good because I am heading your direction. To meet with my boyfriend"

Me: "Great let's go before it gets even darker"

Thabi: "Ugh autumn. "

She took her bag then we left. Jo'burg is very beautiful at night. We were having a silly conversation about not coming to church the following day. I don't usually talk so I never know what to talk about.

Thabi: "Oh and my mother is not well so I will be standing in for her at work"

Me: "Thats bad. Are you gonna manage?"

Thabi: "Yeah. I'll attend evening classes"

Me: "The streets are dangerous at night Thabi"

Thabi: "I know. But a girl gotta do what she has to do in order to survive"

Me: "Neli, my roommate has a bunch of lifeless friends so am sure they wouldn't mind taking you home every night"

Thabi: "Aibo I'll be fine."

Me: "I insist"

She looked at me and smiled.

Thabi: "No one has ever done that for me. Thank you"

Me: "Is that a tear?" She quickly wiped it off and smiled.

Thabi: "Its just... I've never had someone caring about my safety" now how do we deal with this. Hug.Hugs comfort people. I pulled her in for a hug.

Me: "Its okay boo"

A green sports car parked next to us. I backed away from her. The window rolled down. He greeted us.

Him: "Am looking for Pearl. Do you know her?"

Me: "I'd be lying if I said I did"

Thabi: "Me neither"

He nodded and drove off. I exhaled in relief, Thabi chuckled.

Thabi: "You'd never survive evening classes" Me:

"True"

She laughed. We've never talked this long. We reached our destination. She got into the café while I took the elevator.

So quick question, do all lesbian people have sex anywhere in the house or its just Neli and Banzi.

Me: "Really? You guys are gross"

Neli gestured for me to pass. Ugh man.

I finally made it to my room by the grace of God. I took off the dress and wore pyjamas. No bathing or eating, I had a sandwich earlier and I wouldn't want to be anywhere near the sex scene.

I took out my laptop and finished off my assignment. My phone rang soon as I was about to turn it off.

Security.

Me: "Hello"

Sec: "Miss Zikalala. There's someone here for you please come down"

Me: "What? What do they want?"

Sec: "Please come. The visitors hours are almost over"

I grabbed my robe and went out. The pornstars weren't at the lounge. I went to the security.

Me: "Hi. You called"

Sec: "Oh yes I did. He went to the loo" He?

Me: "What does he look like?" I felt heavy presence behind me before his Cologne messed with my morals. I turned. He flashed a smile.

Kabelo: "I brought your student card. You left it where you were seated" did I? He handed it out. I did.

Me: "Thank you so much" I said taking it. Kabelo:

"No problem. I went in so much trouble

trying to get your address" Me:

"Am sorry." I said smiling.

So he'd go this far to see me. I mean he could've just left it here with the security.

Kabelo: "Let me not keep you. Just give me your numbers just in case you leave something else another day I'll be able to call you" I giggled. He's such a chancer.

Me: "That's a good one. Just give me yours I'll WhatsApp you"

Kabelo: "I'll take it from the security guy if you give me a go ahead"

Me: "Its okay then"

I bid him goodbye and got in the lift. Maybe having a baee won't hurt.

There were people knocking at our door when I got off. Scary looking people. I had never seen them before. I slowly walked towards them.

"Here is her roommate" said one of them.

I stopped. They all ran towards me. No questions asked. I ran for my life.

"You bitch! Where's my gun?" He shouted. I never thought I'd die this way...

[2/26, 06:52] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

Three

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I managed to hide in some dodgy corner down the road. I almost peed on myself. I saw them going back. They passed our entrance. Oh Lord!

I finally breathed. I walked to the police station. I am not about to sleep on a house that had man who chased me wanting a gun I have no idea about.

Sleeping on duty. These people we call officers! The phone was even ringing. I greeted the ladies on a bench and Walked to the counter.

Me: "Hi"

He lifted up the cap he had closing his eyes.PO:

"Howzit?"

Me: "Am here to report a case"

PO: "Did your boyfriend beat you up?"

Me: "Some creepy guys were chasing me"PO:

"What did you steal?"

Is this usual or he's just testing my patience?

Me: "No, Mr. When I got off the lift they were knocking at my door, I assume they were looking for my roommate cause one of them said " there's her roommate" when he saw me then they started chasing me"

PO: "Is your roommate a thief?" Temper lost!

Me: "Are you even listening to me? My life is in danger and everything you do is ask me stupid questions?! Don't drive me nuts! Are you gonna help me or not?"

Three

-

I managed to hide in some dodgy corner down the road. I almost peed on myself. I saw them going back. They passed our entrance. Oh Lord!

I finally breathed. I walked to the police station. I am not about to sleep on a house that had a man who chased me wanting a gun I have no idea about.

Sleeping on duty. These people we call officers! The phone was even ringing. I greeted the ladies on a bench and walked to the counter.

Me: "Hi"

He lifted up the cap he had closing his eyes. PO:

"Howzit?"

Me: "Am here to report a case"

PO: "Did your boyfriend beat you up?"

Me: "Some creepy guys were chasing me" PO:

"What did you steal?"

Is this usual or he's just testing my patience?

Me: "No, Mr. When I got off the lift they were knocking at my door, I assume they were looking for

my roommate cause one of them said " there's her roommate" when he saw me then they started chasing me"

PO: "Is your roommate a thief?" Temper lost!

Me: "Are you even listening to me? My life is in danger and everything you do is ask me stupid questions?! Don't drive me nuts! Are you gonna help me or not?"

"Do not push me you fool"

I turned. The useless cop sat up straight.

Cop coming in: "Detective. Don't touch this one. He's mine"
He walked down the hallway pushing his thief.

Me: "Are you gonna help me or not?"

PO: "Why are you so loud? Where do you stay?"

I told him everything, he told me to get sit on the bench. I did. It was getting colder.

I was in my PJs the worst part. The cop from earlier came back. He chatted with the useless cop. He then came to me.

Him: "Hi Miss Zikalala."

Me: "Hi"

Him: "Let me take you home"

I stood up and followed him out. We got in the car and drove off.

-

The following day I was woken up by a hard knock on the door. I put on a robe and went to unlock.

Me: "Detective Sizwe" He introduced himself as Sizwe when he brought me here.

Him: "Miss Zikalala. I bought you breakfast" I didn't know we bought each other breakfast now. I just smiled and invited him in.

He made himself comfortable on the couch. I stood there not knowing what to do with this man. He opened the donuts container and started devouring. Great!

Sizwe: "Am I gonna eat this alone?"

Me: "No. I was just..." He gestured for me to come. I

obeyed and sat next to him. He handed me the coffee and shifted the donuts to be in front of me, making me feel like a visitor in my own apartment.

I had not seen the thug roommate. She has a lot of explanation to do.

He talked throughout the whole visit. Talking about his job. Only God knows how much I find that boring. He glanced at his watch and bid me goodbye. Thank heavens!

I walked him out. He promised to come check up on me later. I don't know if this is part of his job or what.

I got ready for my first class and left for this campus. I did not buy coffee I was already late. The class had already started when I arrived at the campus. I sat at the like the rest of the junkies.

I attended all my classes stressed by yesterday's incident. I walked to the gate faster hoping to bump to Neli and her boo but dololo. I dragged my feet away. Right now I wished for Thabi to come and ask me to attend evening classes with her.

I kept on walking. Trying to act as strong as possible.

"How could a beautiful Lady like you walk in the sun"

I shot him the look. These old creepy men. I increased my pace. He drove ahead. I exhaled.

I always thought my apartment is just around the corner I have no idea why am I not there already.

"Miss Coffee" only him could ever know that. I stopped. He smiled, making my knees weak. I smiled back.

KB: "Get in" he opened the door from inside. Why not? I hop on and put my bag on my lap he drove off.

Me: "Where do you live?"

KB: "Eastgate. Why?" Me:

"Am just asking"

KB: "Wanna visit me?" He said biting his lower lip. Lord help me! I blushed and shook my head. "I cantake you there I'll bring you back later on"

No!

Me: "I'd love to but I have plans with my friends" KB:

"Some other day then"

We reached my stop. I thanked him and got off.

The door was not locked. She must be back. I got angry in an instant. She was laughing with her bunch of fools. I stood there looking at her. She did not even notice me until one of her idiots showed her with eyes.

Neli: "Babes. Hi"

Me: "Can we talk?"

Neli: "Not now sweetie"

She took a sip of her drink. I kept my eyes on her. She cleared her throat and stood up leading the way to her bedroom.

I closed the door behind me.

Me: "Care to explain?"

Neli: "Explain what?"

Me: "Why I was chased like a piece of meat by creepy people who wanted you?"

Neli: "What did they say they want?" Why is she so stupid!

Me: "Are you even hearing yourself?"

Neli: "Okay am sorry. We were playing cards then they said whoever wins will get the gun so I won and took it"

Me: "What? What would you do with that thing?"

Neli: "To massage people"

Me: "You're not funny. Take it back"

Neli: "Not happening"

Me: "I'll tell the detective that you have a gun"

Neli: "Be my guest. Look, am truly sorry about lastnight"

Me: "Whatever Neliswa" I tried to open the door but she grabbed me back and pulled me close to her...too close. I was literally breathing her blueberry breath.

The warmth and softness of her lips crowded mine. She did it slowly. I found myself responding to this moment of weakness kiss. Her hands were tightly gripping on my fat butt. I thought only men were good at this.

Her hand moved around my hip and down to my underwear. Earth to Yolanda!

I backed away and ran out. What the hell!

[2/26, 06:52] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

Four

-

I woke up at 4am to bath and eat. I checked our time tables pasted on the fridge. We both had no classes. How amazing!

I washed the dishes I used and went back to my room. I locked and buried myself in covers. Lord knows am not lesbian. She tricked me.

Why does time go slow when you want the opposite?

It wasn't even 6am yet. I wanted the ground to just swallow me once. How do you face your lesbian roommate after you gave in to the kiss the previous night. I need all the strength in the world to face her.

I plugged in my earphones and explored Luther's world.

Haven't heard from my mother in a while. I checked my airtime balance. Sigh.

I checked Neli's last seen on WhatsApp. She was still in bed because the first thing she does in the morning is log in. I got off the bed and changed into decent clothes, took my bag and left.

I took a taxi to Mandela Square. I needed not to bump to Neli at all costs. She never goes to Sandton. I firstly window shopped. Nothing is of average price in these fancy shops. I went to Mr Price. You'd never go wrong in that one. I bought 4 Sumner dresses and a few jeans. I paid and walked to checkers to get a few things and airtime.

I spotted the thief from the other day at the police station that Detective Sizwe came with pushing a trolley. He looked decent. How did he make it out of jail so fast. He cleared his throat. I did not even realize I was staring. I mumbled 'sorry' he smiled and chuckled.

I went the opposite direction to fall the line. I saw him again, 2 lines away. With a very beautiful woman.

I paid and went out. I recharged on my way to Nandos.

I ordered then went to sit down with my plastics. I took out my phone and called Mama. She picked up after 10 years.

Mama: "Imali yabelungu imnandi syadakwa Monday to Friday" (Whites money is fantastic. We get drunk Monday to Friday)

Its one of those days.

Me: "How are you?"

Mama: " How do you think I am?"

Me: "Good I guess"

Mama: "Be brief the bottle is running out...Thembi!Yey wena sfebe! Bye bye"

Me: "But we-"

She hung up. My order arrived. I devoured in. I didnt even notice I was this hungry.

"Am not stalking you I swear"

I resisted raising my eyes up. This is getting creepy. Him showing up wherever I am. If I didn't know better I'd really think he's stalking me.

Kabelo: "Can I?"

Me: "Yeah sure" I said smiling. The crushing was wearing down. He was too available, much to my irritation at this point.

KB: "I came to pay my accounts before going home." Me:

"Nice. And its much empty in such days"

KB: "Yeah pretty much. Can I eat here with you?" That's much like telling me he will eat here with me.

Me: "I don't own this place. You're a customer. You can eat wherever you want"

KB: "That's a bit harsh"

Me: "Really? Am sorry"

I couldn't even eat in peace now. He had his eyes locked on me smiling.

KB: "Your boyfriend let you do shopping alone?" Me:

"Am sure he wouldn't if I had one"

KB: "You're single?"

No am not single. I just don't have a boyfriend. Me:

"No. Nor in a relationship"

KB: "That's a weird one"

His food came. He started eating without a worry in the world. I asked the lady for a takeaway container.

Me: "Saying am single sounds like I should be with someone. Like its compulsory to have a partner"

KB: "Understandable. I could give you a ride back home if you don't mind"

Me: "No am meeting a friend in Alex. Thank you though"

I packed my remaining food in one of the plastics. "I am leaving now. It was nice seeing you"

KB: "Likewise Miss" he smiled. Okay his smile still did things to me.

I took my things and walked out. I took taxis to my place. Ask no questions hear ko lies. I did not care if I'd find Neli all over the place. Its about time I faced my demons.

-

Indeed I faced them. I found her with Banzi. I was just glad we weren't gonna address last night's issue.

Me: "Love birds" Banzi:

"Hey babe."

Neli: "I missed you this morning"

Me: "I went out. I needed fresh air"

Neli: "Is my presence suffocating that much?" Me:

"Of course not. Would you like some meat?"

Banzi: "Yes please" she came to take the paper bag while I packed the groceries. I finished and started cooking while they cuddled up in a couch like everytime.

I went to attend the knock at the door. This

apartment has been getting a lot of visitors lately itsnot sexy.

Me: "Detective"

Sizwe: "Miss Zikalala I came to check if everything is fine"

Me: "Yes everything is fine thank you"

Sizwe: "Is your roommate in?" I turned to look at Neli.Me:

"Yes she is"

Sizwe: "I'd like to have a word with her"

I made a for him to get in and closed the door.I

went back into stirring my pap.

Neli: "She can't do that!"

Sizwe: "She has. And you have 2 weeks to pack yourshit and leave. Who the fuck do you think you are putting this young lady's life in danger?"

Banzi: "Don't talk to her like that!"

Sizwe: "Shut the hell up. Does Constable Manyathiknow you hang out with drug dealers now?"

Her eyes wandered around the room. I stood there not sure if I am surprised that Neli is getting kicked out or the fact that Sizwe just said something about drug dealing.

Neli: "Fine. I'll leave tonight" Sizwe:

"You better"

He took his car and headed for the door. "Keep well Miss Zikalala. Call me if someone happens to give you problems"

Me: "I will." He closed the door behind him. I

went to the lounge and stared at Neli.

Neli: "Not now okay"

Me: "Really Neliswa? Wow. Am not judging but why would you want to live that life?"

Her parents are filthy rich. They love her so much. She has a home in Midrand, owns a BMW I don't know what model but it's beautiful. Her mother is a psychologist, her father is a dentist with his own practise. Why do these privileged people always go the dark road.

Neli: "You're judging right now"

Me: "Am not! You're smart. You got a bright future ahead of you. Drug dealing is going to cut your life short."

Banzi: "Why do you fucking care?"

Me: "You shut up. This is between me and my roommate. Am disappointed in you Neli"

If I had her opportunity I'd grab it with both hands. I grew up longing for my mother's love, not to mention a good life of knowing where your next meal will come from.

I went back to my pots. They both disappeared to her bedroom.

I sat there going through my phone. Reading my WhatsApp text messages but my mind wasn't into it. It was far away.

They finally came out after an hour or so. Carrying her big luggage.

Neli: "So...this is it. Am leaving. Am sorry to have put you in this position of being in danger"

I felt like crying. As much as we weren't close. I still cared for her. She's the first person I was introduced to after sis Lilly gave me my own wings to fly. I dished up for her and gave her the lunch box.

Neli: "Am gonna miss your cooking too"

I smiled and hugged her. She held on for a little bit longer.

Me: "I'll still see you in campus right?"

Neli: "Of course"

She pulled her luggage out and closed the door. What am gonna do with this apartment all to myself. Hello Loneliness.

-

Friday came quicker than expected. I had submitted all my assignments. I woke up at the cracks of a dawn. The bus to Ulundi leaves at 8am so by 7:30 I had to be at park station. I made sure my bag is packed with everything am going to need. By quarter to seven I left my place.

I scored myself a single seat at the front. Eagle liner

is always full on seasons like this. It filled up within 30 minutes. 5 past 8 we departed. Long arse 6 hours. I plugged in my earphones and leaned my head back on the seat. I dozed off.

I woke up when the bus stopped at Standerton. I got off and went to the toilet then went to buy food at KFC.

The bus carried on. I ate and slept again.

-

If felt like a dream finally lying down on the bed. My sister built a 3 roomed house. So it was much of a home now. 2 bedrooms and a dining room. The flat we used to sleep in was now a kitchen, then the rondavel was used to keep things we no longer use.

Mama wasn't home. Fridays are her happy days. She's never home.

I dragged my fat ass up when I felt like I've rested enough. I needed food. The new fridge stayed here in the new house. It was loaded. Unlike my mother. I took my cosmetics and went to the kitchen. I plugged the kettle. Everything was spotless. Nothing

like the woman who birthed me. I bathed with cold water. And cooked. I was glued to my phone chatting to Thabi and Sizwe.

It was getting darker, and my pots almost ready.

I saw the car lights reflecting on the window. I stood up to look. It pulled up in front of the new house. I opened the door. My sister's radios stepped out and ran to my direction. I picked the little one first.

Me: "Baby"

Mahle: "I missed you"

Lelo: "Get off its my turn"

I put Mahle down and picked Lelo.

Lelo: "I passed"

Me: "Good girl. We'll go buy you ice cream"

Mahle: "Where's the sweets you promised?" I

put Lelo down.

Me: "They're in my bag"

Ayanda: "Go take your bags inside" they ran off.

Me: "Thank you for saving me" I looked at her belly.
"He's growing so fast" she brushed it.

Ayanda: "I'll be popping him out soon"

Me: "I'd hug you but-"

She pulled me in and hugged me.

Ayanda: "Not so weird right"

Me: "Well yeah."

I went to greet the husband who was already leaving. He still respects my mother's home. We watched him drive off then went to the kitchen.

Ayanda: "How's Jo'burg?"

Me: "Jo'burg is cool. Are you gonna ask me that every time I come home?"

Ayanda: "Yes. Till you die. Anything can happen in a period of 3 months and whatever that is might change your feelings about Jo'burg"

Me: "OK well. Jo'burg is fine"

Ayanda: "Boys?"

Me: "What about them?"

Ayanda: "Is there any you like?"

Me: "Hhai Ayanda. No. You warned me about boysso I obeyed. I kissed my roommate though"

Ayanda: "What!"

Me: "Yes. But she was kicked out on Monday"

Ayanda: "Are you lesbian?"

Me: "What? Never!"

We heard my mother talking outside. The door pushed open. She had plastics on both her hands, Not drunk. My mother sober on a Friday. God is onhis way.

Mama: "I was in town. Hhey the easter sales"

She put them down. "Where's this boy. He really helped me. There was no cars coming here. He brought me here"

Ayanda: "Who is that?"

Mama: "Hello Miss Jo'burg. Come help me with the plastics."

I froze when he made his way in with rice and flour. He smiled. Creepy!

Me: "Kabelo?"

Mama: "You know him?"

KB: "Yes she's one of my students. What a small world"

I wanted to faint right there at the spot

[2/26, 06:52] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

Five

-

He's suffering from mental illness I swear. This is no coincidence. He's following me.

I kept shifting uncomfortably on the couch. My mother made it worse, asked him to stay for supper. As psychotic as he is he agreed. He was eating our food like he contributed to buy it. He was sharing his lousy stories that everyone found amusing except

me.

I was just playing with my food. My crush was completely over. He's pathetic.

Mama: "Did you make that sweet thing of yours?" Me:

"No. But I bought cake"

Mama: "Do you eat cake?" She said to the psycho.KB:

"I love it"

I stood up and carried the dishes out to the kitchen leaving them laughing.

I put them on the basin used to wash them then took out desert plates and a knife.

The door opened. I startled.

Ayanda: "Are you okay?" Me:

"Yes am okay"

Ayanda: "You've been very jumpy. Is it about him?" Me:

"What? No, am fine really. Just tired"

Ayanda: "You can go sleep after desert"

Me: "I will"

We walked out, locked and went back to mom and her new best friend. I served everyone the cake.

Me: "I'll go rest. Am so tired"

Mama: "Who'll take your friend out now?"

He's my friend now? She brought him here. She should see him out.

KB: "Am also leaving now. Thank you for the lovely time ma"

Mama: "No problem my boy. You really helped me. I'd be stranded out there if you had not showed up"

KB: "It was only a pleasure. Sisi, keep well"

Ayanda: "Thank you. "

He got off the sofa, I opened the door and led him to his car, silently.

KB: "You don't look so happy about seeing me" he said when we reached his car.

Me: "Are you following me?"

KB: "Why?"

Me: "You tell me"

KB: "Am not. I had no idea she's your mother. I was just helping an elder out"

Me: "What are you even doing here? Am 100% sure you have no relatives around"

KB: "There's a career expo at James Nxumalo high school so am one of the speakers"

Me: "Goodnight"

He tried grabbing my arm. I gave him the look, the 3D light outside made everything vividly so he saw it and quickly let go. I walked away. I passed my mother in the dining room like she wasn't there.

I found Ayanda fixing her bed. Our room is the master one. 2 double beds, each one of us sleep with one of the children. I'll be sleeping with the 2 of them soon. Amahle was already sleeping on ours.

Ayanda: "Is he your boyfriend?"

Me: "No. I feel like he's stalking me"

Ayanda: "Why?"

Me: "He's been everywhere am at. Trust me it is no coincidence that he showed up here"

Ayanda: "How did he know mother is your mother"

Me: "I don't know but still that doesn't make him innocent"

Ayanda: "You should report him then"

Me: "If he goes beyond this. I am definitely reporting him"

My phone rang. Sizwe. I don't need this kind of negativity in my life. I switched off and got under the blankets.

-

I curse the my sister was introduced to Papa Penny music. Am not saying she should listen to it, but for it to be on such volume is unnecessary. I was alone in the room, her kids are early birds like her.

I could smell peanut butter right after I opened the door. My dearest mother was sipping on her daily dose.

Me: "Morning"

Mama: "Your hips grow each day like Ntombi's" my paternal aunt.

Me: "Its too early for that. Please let's have a peaceful morning"

Mama: "He used to say that" not this Lord please. Not today.

My eyes landed on the 4 empty bottles beside her single sofa. Ayanda gave me my bowl of porridge.

Me: "Thank you. It smells nice"

Amahle: "I suggested the peanut butter"

Me: "You're smart"

My mother was just looking at us, rather disgusted. Lelo:

"Mommy I have homework"

Me: "You still have 2 weeks to do that"

Lelo: "No, ma'am said we should do it before we open"

Ayanda: "Aunty will help you baby"

We ate in silence. My mind was wandering around, I

was worried about my roommate and this lecture who showed up at my home. I put the bowl on the coffee table and went back to the bedroom. I switched on my cellphone and called her. She did not pick up. There were a couple of messages from Sizwe.

'I hope you're okay. I went to your place and you weren't there'

'Oh I just saw the email. Have a great time. I was hoping I'll see you maybe have lunch and go watch a movie "
What's wrong with these men.

My mother got in. She sat on Ayanda's bed. She stared at me, I wasn't looking at her but I could feel her eyes heavy on me.

Mama: "He's alive"

I knew who she was talking about and not sure if I really give a damn about that man.

Me: "I don't care"

Mama: "He's your father"

Me: "Of course. But that doesn't mean I wanna know

who he is"

Mama: "You're grown now sisi"

Me: "No mama. You're my father and that's it. Howdid you know he's still alive?"

Mama: "A friend of mine told me she saw him"Me:

"Okay."

Mama: "Why wouldn't you want to meet your father?"

Me: "The sperm donor you mean? I don't want to meet him because he did not acknowledge me. Yes he was married but he could've made means to be a father to me too. And I don't want to meet him because he doesn't exist in my world. I don't want to meet him because all my life I've been punished for his sins, went to bed hungry, beaten up, slept outside on the cold, wore rags, had no shoes, no uniform. I had a worst childhood, there's nothing sweet about my childhood because you lived to torture me for what he did to you. He's no father to me. He's the reason why I have all this anger within me. If you want to meet, please go ahead but don't include me

in your reunion"

I did not even realize I was crying. How dare she? I have no father, never had and never will. I changed the pajamas and stormed out. There's a carved rock on a hill above home. It has always been my place of relaxation.

I lied on my back facing the sky and cried as I revisited the events of my childhood. My mother was terrible to me. Had I been another child I'd have taken my own life.

"Gege la gege ntombi ziyang'gegela. Dudlu!" I laughed.

Me: "You're still alive?"

Skhalo: "Yes my beautiful flower" he sat next to me. We had a thing in grade 11 but it didn't work out so we crawled our pathetic selves to friendzone. "You still come here to cry?" I smiled.

Me: "Yes"

Skhalo: "Is it Mommy?"

Me: "Only her ever makes me cry" he hugged me

briefly.

Skhalo: "You'll be fine. You never call these days" Me:

"Your phone is always off. I gave up"

Skhalo: "I lost my phone"

Me: "So where am I supposed to call you?"

Skhalo: "I was just checking if you ever call. How's school?"

Me: "I can't wait for next year"

Skhalo: "I still have 4 to go"

Me: "I'd die. Just hang in there. You'll be the first Drin the area"

Skhalo: "Yeah."

We sat in silence for a while. "Have you found someone?"

Me: "No. Someone I thought I liked is a mental case" he laughed. "Its not funny bra"

Skhalo: "Am sorry. How would you know that?" Me:

"He's wherever I am. He's stalking me to be

precise"

Skhalo: "Okay that's weird"

Me: "He's from Free State but yesterday he coincidentally gave my mother lift."

Skhalo: "Maybe he's a pi"

Me: "He should show off his skills somewhere thenot here on me. I don't need that in my life"

Skhalo: "Well I found someone. Its still new and promising"

Me: "Really? Am so happy for you. Is she cute?"

Skhalo: "I'd like to think so" he chuckled.

Me: "Don't break her heart like Zinhle's"

Skhalo: "I wouldn't dare"

My phone rang.

Me: "Mama"

Mama: "Your teacher is here."

Me: "He obviously came for you because him and I aren't friends" I said heatedly and hung up. "He's

here again" Skhalo:

"Let's go"

Me: "No Skhalo I'll be-"

He pulled me off the rock and dragged me home. How did I miss his car. He was laughing with Mamaand Ayanda outside in the house shadow.

His smile vanished when he saw us. In fact his mood went from happy to angry.

KB: "Is this your boyfriend?" Really now?

Mama: "No they're friends" he sighed.

KB: "Am just looking out for her and I was about thorough his face up thinking he's disrespecting you, walking hand in hand with your daughter" Ayandaand mama laughed. God!

Ayanda: "Let me go attend my pots"

KB: "Can I steal her for a few hours? I am going to James Nxumalo high school to give out a speech and I think she has a good speech of couragementto share"

Me: "I can't. I have somewhere else to go to"

Mama: "Which is?"

Me: "Church"

KB: "We won't be long"

Me: "I said no!"

Mama: "Yolanda!"

Me: "What?! I thought I made it clear that you should never step your needle legs here. What do you want from me?"

Mama: "Am so sorry about that...come" she grabbed me away from Skhalo. We went inside. "Why are you so rude?"

Me: "Because he's fucking stalking me! Wait... You're doing it again aren't you? You're selling me too to the highest bidder? Am I gonna be given to him in exchange of beer and vodka or you gonna get a car this time? Huh mama, is that why you're forcing this man down my throat?"

I felt my cheek burning.

Mama: "I dare you Yolanda Zikalala I dare you repeat those words!"

[2/26, 06:52] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

Six

(Very very short please don't bite my head off)

-

My 2 weeks went in a flash. I haven't seen my mother since that day. I threatened to report the psycho to the police if he ever bothers me again I was hurt by going back. Ayanda and hubby were dropping me off at the taxi rank. They helped me carry the luggage to the taxi. It was 2 people short.

Ayanda: "June is too far" Me:

"Stop being a cry baby."

Ayanda: "I would've loved you to be on the delivery room"

Me: "No thank you for the suggestion of trauma I'll

pass"

The other person climbed on. We shared a hug.

Ayanda: "Safe journey love"

Me: "Thank you. I'll call you when I get to Jo'burg"

Ayanda: "Okay baby"

I got on too and wrote on the passenger booklet. We drove off.

-

I like fast cars but that driver was taking it a bit far. I got to Jo'burg 2 hours earlier. Had to endure a conversation with the boring day shift security.

My apartment was so cold. I went to put my bags in the bedroom and befriended the fridge. I took out the beef and filled the sink with water and put it in. I cleaned in the mean time. My phone rang. I totally forgot to call her.

Me: "Sisi"

Ayanda: "Don't sisi me"

Me: "I just got carried away with cleaning am sorry."

You okay?"

Ayanda: "Yes. Your mother is back"

Me: "I am the enemy. I just don't know what that woman wants from me anymore"

Ayanda: "She'll be fine. Don't let her get under your skin, focus on your studies okay"

Me: " I will"

Ayanda: "I mean it Yolanda. You've worked so hard to get here. You're left with only 7 months to finish."

Me: "I don't think I willing be coming home in winter"

Ayanda: "Don't even think about it"

Me: "I'll come see you for a couple of days then return"

Ayanda: "Not happening. Look call me before you go to bed"

Me: "I will"

I hung up and connected the cellphone on the charger then continued with tidying up.

I don't know how long I could keep up with this new living arrangement. I plugged in the kettle and took out my cooking ingredients, not to scratch my own back but am a really good cook. Seasoning is what I am always out of in this house. I'd like to think there's a tokoloshe somewhere in this house that steals it.

I took money and went to Spar across the road. What is it with people staring at you like you owe them or took their husband. It was so packed, I hate retail when people just got paid. Imagine standing along queue just for Aromat. But do I have a choice.

Cashiers are something else on days like this, they're as slow as tortoises, or am just always in a hurry.

I felt a poke on my shoulder. I turned. I need to stop falling in love with people's eyes. This tall bold eyed stranger smiled. "Tillpoint number 3 is helping people with minor items"

I was looking deep into his soul right now. Eyes are my odd obsession.

Me: "Thank you"

Him: "No problem" he walked away. Damn!

I went to number 3 there were less than 8 people. Inno time I paid and walked to my place. I cooked while watching TV. I invited Thabi over. Maybe I should ask her to move in with me.

I lowered the heat and collapsed on the couch. The security called to confirm Thabi's visit. I went to unlock. In a couple of minutes she knocked and pushed the door in.

Thabi: "Hello potato couch"

Me: "Couch potato"

Thabi: "Of course. Who'd say their name wrong. I didn't know what to drink so I bought this" she tookout lemon twist.

Me: "Thanks" she sat on the far end of the couch."And thank you for coming" I went to get us the glasses. I poured and handed her.

Thabi: "My place is boring girl. I'd do anything to getout of it. Where's your roommate?"

Me: "She left" she looked at me to explain further.

"She had bad guys coming over here. Those ones I told you about"

Thabi: "She knew them?"

Me: "Yes, so the landlord kicked her out"

Thabi: "Wow. So you staying alone?" Me:

"Yes and its traumatic"

Thabi: "You wouldn't mind sharing it with me?" Look at God. I didn't have to raise it.

Me: "Why would I?" I said trying not sound excited.

Thabi: "I don't know. Our friendship is still new so I thought maybe it'd be awkward"

Me: "Not at all. Actually it'll give us a chance to know each other better. I'll speak to the landlord"

Thabi: "Cool then. We should go visit my mom someday"

Me: "Speaking of her, how is she?"

Thabi: "She's perfect babe."

Me: "That's good. Should I dish up?"

Thabi: "Yes please. Can I use the bathroom?" Me:

"First door on your left"

She stood up and walked there. She has a body todie for. Those hour glass body shapes and then there's me. Jojo tank, but confident as they come.

I need a door bell cause one of these days this doorwill be broken down all these knocks.

I went to open. I froze. He smiled, creepy smiled. Hehad cigarette on his hand.

KB: "You did not think I'll leave you alone for real, didyou?"

Me: "What are you doing here?"

KB: "I came to check up on my woman" he leaned over for a kiss, I took a step back. He chuckled. "Areyou gonna invite me in or?"

Me: "Please leave?"

KB: "My love I-"

Me: "Kabelo if you know what is good for you, youwill turn around and leave!" I said heatedly. He put

both his hands up in surrender and walked away. I took a deep breath. Jesus!

I took my phone. My hands were shaking. How am I gonna be able to concentrate at school having this man around. I finally found Sizwe's numbers. He picked up in an instant.

Me: "Please help me" I said before he could greet.

Sizwe: "What's wrong? Where are you?" He said in panic mode.

Me: "He's following me. I thought he'll stop but he was here just now"

Sizwe: "Calm down. Are you at your place?" I nodded. "Yoli?" Ugh

Me: "Yes, yes I am"

Sizwe: Lock the door am coming there right now" I put the phone down.

Thabi: "What's going on?" I did not even see her coming back.

Me: "He's following me"

Thabi: "Who?"

Me: "Kabelo. The art lecture" her eyes widened.
"What?"

Thabi: "He's mentally ill. Oh my God, we have to report to the authorities"

Me: "Could my life be in danger?"

Thabi: "Your life is in danger. He's sick. How come you do not know that?"

Me: "Why would they let him teach us?"

Thabi: "Because He's recovered... Or not. Jesus Christ am so worried right now"

This is what happens when your own mother hates you. You walk around with a dark cloud hanging over your head, attracting psychos.

[2/26, 06:52] Zozaness: Seven

-

I was trying by all means to remain calm but my mind was wilding. Thabi kept on making the whole situation worse by telling me about all his past

incidents with women. He went as far as killing his fiancée.

Sizwe was taking too long. In times like these I wish I had a supportive mother. Someone who'd be the first to call in desperate times.

I heard a knock. I rushed to the door and paused, thinking it might be the psychotic lecturer.

"It's me. Open up"

Sigh. I unlocked and opened.

Sizwe: "I came as quickly as I could" he calls this quick? I called him 30 minutes ago. Anything could have happened during that time. I could've been killed and buried.

I made a way for him to come in and closed the door. "Hi" he said to Thabi.

Thabi: "Hey" he turned back to me.

Sizwe: "I had to get the arrest warrant and contact the mental institutions."

Me: "You know he has a condition?"

Sizwe: "Yes"

Me: "Wow. Seems like everybody knows except me"

Sizwe: "Am sorry. He gets like that when he likes someone a lot"

Me: "I get all that. What I don't understand is why is he lecturing us!"

Sizwe: " It was long ago. He went through the recovery process. For 10 years, 6 Drs confirmed he's well enough to interact with the society. 4 years back he had a relapse but it was taken care of in time."

Me: "Then they brought him back?" I was failing to understand this.

Sizwe: "Yes. His father is well connected. You know people with money everything is possible"

Me: "So there are chances that he might come back after this?" He took a deep breath. "Jesus. I am moving out of this place"

Sizwe: "But you'll still be attending his module"

Me: "They'll have to think of my needs. My rights as a

student will be violated if he comes back"

Sizwe: "How far are you from finishing?" Me:

"7 months"

Sizwe: "It'll take him about a year or two to be fine again." I nodded. "Look, just pass by the station tomorrow to sign the restraining order"

Me: "I will. Thank you"

Sizwe: "Am doing my job nkosazana no need to thank me." He's right. "Let me go and take him before he even realise" I nodded. He made his way out. I groaned in frustration.

Thabi: "This is fucked up"

Me: "Way too fucked up"

-

My alarm went off at 5am. Thabi was fast asleep with her fat butt out. I slid off the bed and took my toiletry bag and walked out to the bathroom. I took a brief shower, she came in and peed.

Thabi: "Morning"

Me: "Morning. I'll bring you fresh towels"

Thabi: "OK."

I walked out and took out towels then took them to her. I dressed up and went to make breakfast. Is it necessary to wear bras? Like isn't there another way to keep the boobs intact except for a bra?

You see when the straps get in your rolls, that pain can never be compared to anything. Thabi joined me after a couple of minutes.

Thabi: "That tub is to die for"

Me: "I know right. I never use it in the morning I'd always be late"

Thabi: "True that I was drifting back to sleep. So the sooner you speak to the landlord the sooner I'll move in"

Me: "I'll first speak to him then go to the Police Station"

Thabi: "Okay. I'll be telling mine am leaving with immediate effect"

Me: "Thank you for this"

Thabi: "Any time. There's practice later"

Me: "I saw the announcement in the group chat. I honestly do not feel like being in a crowd"

Thabi: "You'll feel better. Music does that. Don't let this come between you and your Lord" She's right.

Me: "Amen sister!" She chuckled.

We ate and left. She went to her place while I went to speak to the Landlord, he agreed then I made my way to the station. I greeted the officer and told him my reason to be there. He gave me papers to sign then I left.

Arriving at the campus, everyone was looking at me like I am the meat or something. Their eyes were full of pity though. It's like they knew something I didn't. I tried by all means to hurry to my first lecture room.

The lesson had already started, everybody turned to look at me. I sat at the back. Mr Mseleku proceeded. I jotted down the notes.

"And that was it for today" he said. My favorite part of coming to this place. I packed my things and

walked out. The stares!

I was now uncomfortable. I went to my following class. It was the longest but I didn't mind. Those stares made me wish for the earth to just swallow me.

She took her things and exited the room. Nonhle came to me as I packed mine.

Nonhle: "How are you holding up?"

Me: "Am okay how are you?"

Nonhle: "If you need someone to talk to. I am here" I looked at her puzzled. "We heard about what happened to you?"

Me: "What happened to me?"

Nonhle: "Kabelo. Am so sorry"

Me: "Oh that. It was nothing. Am fine"

Nonhle: "Rape is-"

Me: "What? He didn't rape me, who said he raped me!?" Everyone looked at us. "Jesus Christ you people and assumptions!" I took my bag and

stormed out. I did not give a single care about the stares anymore. I needed a miracle to get to the main gate without snapping at anyone for staring at me.

I made to the gate. I spotted Sizwe talking to Thabi. He waved at me then came my direction.

Sizwe: "Hey, am sorry for all of this but your dean" he took a deep breath. "He took it overboard. He's taken to where he belongs so you have nothing to worry about"

Me: "Thanks to him my life is about to become a living hell with these stares I've been receiving"

Thabi: "People are insane"

Sizwe: "I'll fix it. I'll publish a statement tomorrow morning"

Me: "Thank you"

Sizwe: "Can I take you guys out?" Thabi: "I

don't think that is a good idea" Me: "I

agree"

Sizwe: "Of course. What am I thinking? I'll drive you to your place then"

Me: "Thank you" I was drained.

We hooped on and drove off. Bloody dean!

We asked him to drop us off at Thabi's place. We packed all her things and walked to my place. I was pulling the luggage.

"Ladies"

The guy from Spar.

Us: "Hi"

Him: "Need a hand?"

Me: "No we're good thanks"

Him: "Am Zamo"

Thabi: "Thabi"

Me: "Yoli"

Zamo: "I don't know what's wrong with my phone could I please use yours to send myself a callback?"

Me: "That's a good one"

He chuckled.

Zamo: "Okay you got me there. Please on a serious note. Can I please have your tens?"

Me: "Rather give me yours"

He called them out.

Zamo: "I'll fast till you call me"

Me: "I will"

Zamo: "Or text. Let me dash, I have a class" he jogged back.

Thabi: "His eyes"

Me: "Pure heaven but at this moment I trust no man he could be worse than KB. I thought he was a sane person"

Thabi: "Come on"

Me: "For real. Am not letting my guard down anymore. And want no boyfriend till I graduate"

Thabi: "Date, have experience. Even if it's just playing. You could have a serious boyfriend after you graduate then"

Me: "Boys are a distraction"

Thabi: "Only if you don't know how to prioritize. My boyfriend and I have a schedule of when we meet. During exams we call each other once a day and meet only on Saturdays. We've been together for 3years now"

Me: "Really? People date for that long?" She laughed.

Thabi: "Yes. You just don't have to drown into the idea of being with the person. Dating isn't a bad idea, you just have to date smart"

We unpacked and layed her bed then chilled on the couch snacking.

Me: "Am actually thinking of texting him"

Thabi: "Who?"

Me: "Zamo"

Thabi: "Is it because of what I said?"

Me: "No. Because I've been unable to get him out of my mind since from yesterday"

Thabi: "Yesterday?" She sat up straight. "Out with it"Me:

"We met yesterday at Spar."

Thabi: "Then text him. Imagine staring deep into those eyes" I chuckled.

Me: "Stop it"

I sent him a "Hi" on WhatsApp and I put the phone on the free space on the couch then we stared at it.

I was counting in my head. It rang. I looked at Thabi.

Me: "Its him" she took it, answered and gave it to me. I blankly stared at her.

Thabi: "Talk" she whispered. I shook my head. "Don't be stupid talk" she said. I dropped the call.

Me: "Why would you do that!"

Thabi: "Butterflies already?"

Me: "No I-" it rang again.

Thabi: "If you don't answer I will answer and agree to be his girlfriend"

I answered. I cleared my throat.

Me: "Hi"

Zamo: "Hey, thank you for texting me."

Me: "Pleasure"

Silence.

Zamo: "Uhm...do you like movies?"

Me: "Yes I do"

Zamo: "Can I please take you out?"

I put him on hold.

Me: "He wants to take me to the movies"

She stood up in excitement.

Thabi: "Good shot. Agree" does this girl remember that I almost got myself into trouble with a psycho. I can't just agree on anything right now.

I went back to him.

Me: "When?"

Zamo: "Friday. Am pretty sure you're also drowning in school work"

Me: "I am"

Zamo: "We'll go relieve stress on Friday, if that's okay with you of course"

Me: "Its perfect."

Zamo: "Please bear with me, I'll be calling you everyday, can I?" I giggled.

Me: "Yes you can"

Zamo: "Thank you. Have a lovely evening miss" Me:

"Thank you" I hung up.

Thabi: "So?"

Me: "We're going out on Friday."

Thabi: "What a gentleman"

Me: "Its just a movie. Thabi"

Thabi: "No varsity guys has time to take someone out for movies while there's sphaltlo and a laptop. Give him some credit"

I stood up and walked to the kitchen area.

Me: "You should start giving me kissing lessons" She looked at me surprised. I need them. 2 days left

for a girl to finally have a boyfriend. Congratulate me![2/26, 06:52] Zozaness: Eight

-

I spent my Wednesday going back and forth with my school work, so was Thabi. Sizwe stopped by 3 times to check if we good. He made a public statement at the campus correcting the rape issue. The stupid dean was standing there looking like an idiot that he is.

I was hoping they would stop with the staring but who was I kidding. They got worse. But this is life if you don't keep your head held high you'd be the society's toy. Due to never ending school work I slept around 3am.

Thabi and Neli have one thing in common. Playing music in the morning, with the volume enough to wake the whole building if the walls weren't sound proofed. I had no classes today so a decent sleep could do. I texted her to turn down the volume.

I heard a knock. Ugh I didn't tell her to come here. I ignored her. She kept on knocking. I slid off the bed

and headed for the door. I unlocked and opened. His eyes got locked on my thighs. I quickly closed the door and ran to my wardrobe. I found my church dress and put it on. What is he even doing here so early in the morning. I took a deep breath and opened again. He wasn't there. I walked up the corridor. I found him seated on the couch.

Me: "Good morning"

Sizwe: "Hi am sorry about that"

Me: "Its okay. I thought it was Thabi"

Sizwe: "I see. I was in the neighborhood so I thought I could come say Hi"

Me: "Thank you" Sizwe:

"How are you?"

Me: "Am okay, how about you?"

Sizwe: "Am good." He glanced at his watch. "let me go."

Me: "Let me make you something to drink first" Sizwe:

"Thank you but right now all I need is my bed.

I was working nightshift."

Me: "Oh okay"

He got up. I walked him to the door. I closed the door after him. Where's this girl.

I went to take a shower. I found my phone flashing from the bathroom.

'Morning gorgeous' I smiled like a retard.

'Morning' I responded then looked for something to wear. I don't know how is it possible to have a wardrobe full of clothes but never have something to wear. My phone notified again. I attended it.

'I have no classes today. I will text you the whole day. Have you gone to campus?'

'No I have no classes either'- Me 'Have you eaten breakfast then?' -him'No, but

I'll go make something' -Me

'Don't. I would like to take you out' -him.

I looked at my chosen outfit. Its not for going out. I looked for something else. Something sexy. OK

maybe not sexy but cute. My phone beeped.

'Maybe I crossed a line there am sorry' -him 'No I was dressing up' -me

'We'll meet at Spar' -him

I sent him okay and messed up my wardrobe. I finally found a dress. I looked for shoes.

I found Thabi making whatever is on that pan.Me:

"How do I look?"

Thabi: "You look...beautiful and sexy" really?Me:

"Should I let them loose or tie them?"

Thabi: "They're good like that. Where are you going?"Me:

"He's taking me out for breakfast"

Thabi: "Zamo?" I nodded. She did the victory dance."See? I told you he's a gentleman"

Me: "We're yet to find out"

I went to take my tiny handbag and came back ready to leave.

Me: "I'll see you later"

Thabi: "Don't let him kiss you"

Me: "I won't" I mastered the kissing on the third hour so all was good.

-

I found him already waiting. He hugged me and took my hand that was now all sweaty.

Zamo: "Relax" I nervously chuckled.

Me: "I am relaxed"

Zamo: "Your palms are sweating" couldn't he pretend like he don't feel them.

I took a deep breath..

Me: "Okay I am now"

Zamo: "Good. I requested an uber."

Me: "Where are we going kanti?"

Zamo: "Melrose arch. If that's okay with you." I chuckled.

Me: "Why do you like saying that?"

Zamo: "Saying what?" He smiled. His lips. Am not

sure about not kissing these.

Me: "If that's okay with you"

Zamo: "Everyone has their own distinct preferences. I might suggest KFC kanti you prefer Chicken Licken"

Me: "That's thoughtful. But I am not the choosy type" Zamo:
"Am glad then"

Our ride arrived we hooped on and left.

He held on to my hand like I was ought to run away from him, not that I mind. He pulled a chair for me, I thanked him and took a seat. He did too.

The waiter handed us the menus. We ordered lemonade so long.

Me: "This is full of all the yummy foods in the world"

Zamo: "That's why I love this place. Cheap yet highclass"

Me: "I'll have full English breakfast. I won't be ordering things I've never tasted before" he laughed.

Zamo: "How will you know them if you don't try

them"

Me: "I'll try them some other time"

Zamo: "I'll have that too then"

We placed our order. My phone rang. Sizwe. I dropped it and put it on flight mode.

Zamo: "Boyfriend?" Me:

"What?"

Zamo: "You can answer I don't mind"

Me: "No its not important."

Zamo: "If you say so. How old are you?" I looked at him frowning, he smiled. "No offense but I want to make sure am not committing a crime"

Oh well I get it. Its really hard to read a big person's face. The chubby cheeks always make us look 16 if not 12 but the body screams 28.

Me: "Am 23"

Zamo: "You look 21"

Me: "That's because I am 21"

Zamo: "You wish to be 23?"

Me: "Yes. Its a rare age"

Zamo: "How?"

Me: "You hardly hear people saying they're 23 but 21. Everyone is 21 years old" he laughed and shook his head.

Zamo: "That is a first. So did I miss out on the 21st birthday bash?"

Me: "Not at all. There would be but I don't celebrate birthdays"

Zamo: "Why? Birthdays are the best part of every year"

Me: "I just never got used to it" Zamo:

"That is not good" I shrugged.

I was being honest. I don't care about my birthday, never did and never will.

Our food arrived. He extended his hand. I hesitantly placed mine. He closed his eyes. He started praying. I just kept mine open and admired every feature in

his face. The old lady sitting on the opposite gave me a warning look. I quickly closed my eyes.

Zamo: "Amen"

Me: "Amen"

Zamo: "It became a habit. Am sorry if it goes against your beliefs"

Me: "It doesn't. Am a firm believer myself"

Zamo: "You go to church?"

Me: "Yes. It has been my place of sanity since I was 7 years old"

Zamo: "Am sorry" I smiled. "How did you get that scar?"

I laughed. I have a tiny scar above my right brow. Me:

"I fell. Running away from my mother" Zamo: "Was she trying to whoop you?"

Me: "Yes. I should come to this place more often. This food tastes heavenly" I said trying to change the topic.

Zamo: "Next time we're going to a restaurant of your choice"

Me: "Am not familiar with such places."

Zamo: "We'll go to wherever you're familiar with"

Me: "Okay"

After eating we went to buy ice cream and strolled around the mall. Laughing and chasing each other around. He's so full of energy. We went window shopping, he bought me a bracelet. He went to pay for his sister's rage account. Until we got hungry again. We bought box masters at KFC I insisted on paying. He said he'll pay for beverages and it wasn't up for discussion. I let him be.

The running around resumed. He chased me for my drink.

He caught up with me and tickled me till I gave it to him. We sat on the benches trying to catch our breaths.

Me: "Yoh I'll lose weight If I ever agree on going anywhere with you"

Zamo: "Okay we're never running then" he tickled me. Yes we upgraded to touchy feely. My inner hoe let me be comfortable with it.

Me: "If you tickle me one more time I'll scream " robbery "

Zamo: "I didn't know you hated me this much." Me: "Don't test me then"

My phone vibrated. It was the 3pm alarm. Wow. I programmed back to normal.

Me: "It's 3pm"

Zamo: "You have somewhere else to go?"

Me: "No. I just did not notice we've been here for so long"

Zamo: "Why don't we watch movies"

Me: "That is for tomorrow"

Zamo: "We'll watch them again tomorrow." Silence "Please. I promise I won't tickle you" I laughed

Me: "Okay just one"

He stood up excitedly and pulled me up.

Zamo: "We're going yo Newtown"

Me: "We'll catch a taxi."

Zamo: "As long as you're okay with it"

-

Male people and action movies we ended up watching cartoons cause we couldn't agree on movies any of us wanted. Imagine paying attention to grown old shooting each other. I love my moviesromantic.

We took a taxi again and got off at my complex. Heled me to the entrance.

Me: "Thank you for today" he let go of my hand.

Zamo: "Thank you too. Is it safe to say I've made myself a best friend?" Is he friend zoning me?

Me: "If a best friend is what you want, a best friend is what you'll get"

He took my hand again. He was now standing beforeme.

Zamo: "And if I wish for more than that?" We had an eye lock moment. The damn security decided to ruin it.

Security: "There's Mr Bartman in the common lounge. He's been waiting for you"

Me: "Who's that?"

Security: "The Sports minister" my heart started racing.

Me: "Okay am coming" he walked away.

Zamo: "Is everything okay?"

Me: "I don't know."

Zamo: "I'll camp here until you get back to me and tell me everything is okay. Go"

I nodded and rushed inside.

The common lounge is on the second floor. I got off the lift. There were men in black suits. Standing like every bodyguard does. One of them came to me.

Him: "This way" he led me to the private section. Indeed it was him. I have seen him so many times in

TV and newspapers. I just didn't know his surname.

Minister: "Sit down"

My palms were doing what they does the most. I satdown.
He lit his cigarette. I coughed after his first exhale.

Minister: "Imagine being in a room full of smoking people"
he squashed it. What does he mean by that."its easy
though. Just do the right thing and none ofthat will happen"
I swallowed the saliva that just crowded my mouth.

Me: "I have no idea what Sir is about" I said trying tocontrol
my shaking voice.

Minister: "My bad. My son Kabelo miss. You've madethe
biggest mistake of your life. See he's worked so hard to
get out of that place. All his life all he wants is to live like
a normal human being. Why would youtake that away
from him?" He said calmly. So he's the daddy.

The bodyguard handed me a tablet. There was apicture of
my mother at home. He slid to ghr next

one, it was Ayanda's kids at school then it was Ayanda's at her home. He then took it away. I felt numb.

Minister: "You have a very lovely family Miss Vilakazi. Am sure you wouldn't want to lose them"

Me: "My family has nothing to do with this. You son is sick. He needs help. He's danger to the female species." I don't even know where this brave Yoli came from.

He chuckled and then composed himself.

Minister: "If you do not publish a statement apologizing for falsely accusing my son you'll be burying every week, I will make sure your academic records get erased. Look me in the lips and mark my words little girl. I will make your life a living hell" he said staring deep into my eyes. It lasted for a minutelonger. He stood, adjusted his coat and walked out with his lapdogs.

I finally breathe. I was an inch away from a heart attack. Tears heat their way down.

[2/26, 06:52] Zozaness: Nine

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Devastated is an understatement. I was... I don't know. Shattered maybe? How did I get here? On the third year, my last year I go through such things?

Why has God forsaken me. I mean I've only been absent twice at church I don't deserve such great punishment.

"Sisi am locking" I turned to him.

Him: "Are you okay?"

I nodded and wiped my tears. I made my way out. I got on the lift and I took out my phone.

My hands were shaking. I pressed on Sizwe. It went straight to voicemail. I got off on my floor.

I found Thabi watching TV.

Thabi: "Breakfast date turned into-" her face dropped when she saw my face. "What is going on?"

Me: "His father was here. He's threatening to wipe out all my academic records"

Thabi: "Come here"

I sat next to her, she brought me close to her."Whose father wants to do that?"

Me: "KB's. He said that I should make a public statement that I falsely accused his son"

Thabi: "That is not going to happen. He's crazy"Me:

"He's powerful Thabi"

Thabi: "So? We're also powerful. Right now you gonna go take a long soothing bath while I prepare you something to eat. Don't worry yourself about that motherfucking minister. He's just trash like the rest of them dick having people" I laughed. She stood up and took my hand. "I bought bath salts. It's like I knew you were gonna need them today"

Me: "You're a genius "

I went to take my cosmetics while I filled the tub. There were texts from Zamo. I took my phone with to the bathroom. I soaked myself while playing farm heroes. I decided to call him.

Zamo: "My love"

Me: "Hey you. How did you go?"

Zamo: "Very well thanks. Thanks for today"

Me: "No thank you. Uhm, can ones academic records be erased?"

Zamo: "How?"

Me: "Like, all my academic records from the first year up to now"

Zamo: "Well it depends. You want to erase them?" Me: "No! No no no. I was just asking"

Zamo: "O-kay."

Me: "Let me finish bathing I'll text you"

Zamo: "OK Nana"

I dropped and put the phone away. I couldn't even call my mother or Ayanda. I didn't want to stress her and send her to premature labor.

I finally got out of the tub. I wrapped a towel and rolled on.

The smell hit my nostrils as soon as I opened the door. I opened my door and threw in the cosmetic bag.

Me: "Whatever that is smells like heaven" Thabi:

"Really? It's steak, wings, gravy and pap" Me:

"Should I sit down or?"

Thabi: "Sit down and relax. You look so freakishly sexy in that towel"

Me: "So is it something I should do at Zamo's place?"

Thabi: "Fuck no! Never get that comfortable around a man unless you're trying to lose your virginity"

Me: "Well am not"

Thabi: "Well don't walk around in a towel in his place" She handed me my plate.

Me: "This looks appetizing"

Thabi: "Have you forgotten about it?"

Me: "What?"

Thabi: "KB's dad" oh. I love this nature of me but this is not something I should've forgotten about already.

Me: "I need to talk to Sizwe"

Thabi: "No we need to go to the union buildings" Me:

"Isn't that a bit extreme?"

Thabi: "The only thing extreme here is a man abusing a child just because he's powerful. He will regret the day he was born"

Me: "He is a minister Thabi"

Thabi: "I thought you were gonna say he's God. Eat" Yeah right.

-

The following day I woke earlier to prepare breakfast. By the time Thabi woke up I was done.

Me: "Poached or hard boiled?"

Thabi: "Am not trying to get pregnant I'll go with hard boiled"

Me: "So you want to fart the whole day?"

Thabi: "Than to increase my fertility yes I'd rather fart"
I laughed.

I handed her the plate. "This tastes good thank you. Is this pepper?"

Me: "Yes. I've been trying to reach Sizwe but his phone is off"

Thabi: "We're going to the police station"

Me: "And say what?"

Thabi: "We'll go speak to Ramaphosa if need be. That man is too big for his boots. He's not God"

Me: "He said he'll go after my family if I do not cooperate"

Just the thought of it made me want to cry. We're not a very perfect family but I still love them regardless.

Thabi: "More reasons to have him behind bars. We must teach him a lesson. He's as crazy as his son"

Me: "I have a class at 8 so I can't go to the police station"

Thabi: "We'll go after the lessons then"

Me: "Thank you Thabi"

Thabi: "For what?"

Me: "This support you're showing me"

Thabi: "That's what friends are for babe"

Me: "Really? I've never had a friend. If I knew they're this supportive I'd have made one a very long time ago"

We laughed.

Thabi: "You should smile more. You'll have more friends"

Me: "I don't want more friends. I have you and you're enough"

She held her chest dramatically.

Thabi: "That is so sweet"

Me: "Let me go take a shower"

Thabi: "Can I drink your coffee?"

Me: "Yeah sure"

Thabi: "You're the best"

-

Am sorry to say this but our justice system is very whack. Those bloody police men legit laughed at me. Talking about how I could be arrested for accusing their so called minister of such thing. I almost screamed when I learned that Sizwe is on 3 months leave.

Zamo and I were meeting for an ice cream date plus I had to tell him this. People have this very odd tendency of staring at you like they can see right through, see whatever the hell is troubling you. I put the cap on and walked as though I was alone in this earth.

I found him sitting on the chairs next to the ice cream truck. He smiled and stood up to hug me. He sure feels like home. Skinny but his hug is still a breath taker.

Zamo: "I wasn't sure I'd see you when I actually asked to see you"

Me: "And why is that?"

Zamo: "I don't know." He smiled. "You're beautiful" Pink cheeks!

If only I was light but now all I could do was lose eyecontact and smile like retard. "Uhm Yoli" he said touching my arm.

Me: "Yes?"

Zamo: "Which flavor?" I didn't even see him gettingup.

Me: "Vanilla please" Zamo:

"2 vanillas please"

He took my hand. We took our ice creams

Me: "Thank you" and walked off.

Zamo: "I was thinking since you're writing tomorrowwe might do movies in the evening"

Me: "You spoil me too much"

Zamo: "Am warming my way into your heart here canyou blame me" I smiled.

Me: 'Not at all. You're doing very good"

Zamo: "So just a few more days" I laughed. "Weeks maybe"

Me: "Uh-uh"

Zamo: "Months?"

Me: "No"

Zamo: "Years?" I nodded trying to hold back laughter. "As long as you will be mine"

I stopped, he did too. He looked me straight in the eye.

Me: "What if it was just few seconds"

He narrowed his eyes. Don't tell me he did not get that!

Its like something just clicked on his mind. He smiled, more like blushing I don't know. All I know is that he looked cute. He took a step closer. He slowly leaned over. Its happening!

I closed my eyes and waited for the big moment. I could feel his breath caress my face. And guess what? He kissed me on my forehead. Seriously?

I opened my eyes. He smiled and cupped my face. He planted his ice cold soft lips on mine. I did it exactly the way Thabi taught me. I had to excellently

do it, I was representing my girl here.

The way he held my full figure. I felt tingles all over my body. Someone cleared their throat. We broke it off.

Her: "If you may have not noticed there are kids here"

Zamo: "We're so sorry"

Her: "I understand"

She walked away. We laughed.

Zamo: "This is all your fault"

Me: "You kissed me first" he pinched my cheek and ran off, his ice cream fell off. I laughed. "That's what happens when you pinch an Angel" he laughed and came back to snatch mine.

My phone rang as I was still chasing his childish ass.

Me: "Hey"

Thabi: "Could you please come home?" she sounded irritated.

Me: "What's going on?"

Thabi: "Someone is here. Just come before I-"She hung up.

Zamo: "Is everything okay?"

Me: "Yeah I gotta rush to my place"

Zamo: "Am coming with you"

-

Had I entered alone I'd have ran off. It was the sportscar guy with the thief I once saw the other day at the police station and the other one who had a a very disturbing scar on his forehead. Scary does not begin to describe them. I slowly closed the door.

Zamo stayed down with the nosey security.Me:

"Greetings"

Them: "Hello"

Thabi: "Can I go now?"

Thief: "No." He then turned to me. "My lady we were wondering if by any chance you know where did Pearl Manyathi lived"

Me: "I know no person of such a name"

Sports car: "I told you the person who knows Pearl is this one"

Thabi: "Know what. Fuck you and your stupid Pearl. I know no Pearl!"

Me: "Did Pearl take something away from you?"

Thief: "No. We need her relatives"

Thabi: "Why?"

Sports car: "Because she's dead!" Thabi gasped.

They all stood up.

Scar: "Thank you."

They walked out. I closed the door. She held on to the counter breathing heavily.

Thabi: "They killed her"

Me: "Who?"

She sobbed.

Thabi: "Pearl. They killed her"

Me: "You know... I mean you knew her?"

Thabi: "Yes! She's my mother's friend's daughter! We grew up together"

Me: "Why did you say you don't know her then?"

Thabi: "You don't understand. You clearly don't know who these men are. They would've shot us, threw us in a dam, get eaten by the crocodiles and got away with it. I couldn't risk my life like that"

Me: "Who are they?"

Thabi: "It's better you don't know them"

She stormed to the corridor.

Me: "Thabi!"

She slammed her door. What the hell is going on here?

[2/26, 06:53] Zoaness: Ten

-

I attempted opening the bathroom it was locked. I went on to the kitchen. I took out eggs and turned on the stove.

I fried them while toasting. She walked in losing all kinds of ugly. I took out a water bottle and gave her.

Me: "Morning" she sat down.

Thabi: "Thanks. Morning"

I handed her the plate and sat down too.

Me: "Ready to explain?"

Thabi: "Explain?"

Me: "Those men and their story"

Thabi: "The light one was dating her. They broke up then got back together after some business tycoon that is enemies with the Guy's family told her to. She owed him so he told her to get back with Tyler and fish out information so she did"

Me: "Why would she even owe business tycoons?"

Thabi: "Some people don't have it easy out there Yoli. They have to make a living. Not all of us are privileged" she said defensively.

Me: "Okay am sorry. So how are they dangerous?"

Thabi: "Why are you interested anyway"

Me: "Because I saw the dark one weeks ago at the police station"

Thabi: "Really? You see? They killed her. Jesus" I passed her water. She drank. "Those Dube men are dangerous Yoli. Just know from now on we'll be tailed"

Me: "What? Why?"

Thabi: "Because they think we're hiding something" Me: "We?"

She got off the stool.

Thabi: "Why are you so slow. You remember on our way from church? That green sports car?"

Me: "Yeah. The guy who asked if we have seen... Wait, how could they kill their brother's girlfriend?"

Thabi: "Because she betrayed them. Just be careful okay. And if they capture you just don't mention that I told you I know her"

Me: "Why would they capture me?"

He scoffed and walked away. Why on earth do I

always attract these troublesome people?!

went to take a shower.

-

My phone rang as I entered the campus. Ayanda. I answered quickly.

Me: "Sisi"

Ayanda: "Its a boy"!

screamed.

Without giving a single fuck. I screamed till I almost fell.

Me: "Thank you good Lord. Am coming home tomorrow" she laughed.

Ayanda: "No. I need that degree"

Me: "Am not writing until Thursday so am coming. Am so happy. Thank you sisi"

Ayanda: "Let me call mama"

Me: "Okay. I'll call you after class"

She chuckled.

Ayanda: "Okay babe"

The day always goes faster when you're happy. In notime it was 12pm. All my classes were interesting.

Even Sakhile the ruler borrower wasn't as annoying.

I was also meeting up with "boyfriend". Cherry on top.

I found him already waiting for me outside. He hugged me.

Zamo: "Hey. Do you want to kill me?"

Me: "Hi. What did I do?"

Zamo: "Your phone was off since 4am and you're usually up by that time"

Me: "Am sorry. I had no idea where my charger was."

Zamo: "Never do that again. Especially not after you had to run to your house just because there are people"

I smiled.

Me: "Its so sweet to know you care" he raised his left brow. I laughed.

Zamo: "You're weird you know that?"

Me: "Is that a compliment or?" Zamo:

"It's a compliment babe"

Me: "Thank you. Thank you so much" He
smiled and took my hand.

Zamo: "Are we still going to the movies or we'll stay in
doors, order in and watch Netflix?"

Me: "That sounds perfect. Can I ask you
something?"

Zamo: "Yes"

Me: "Where do you get money?"

He chuckled and squeezed my hand.

Zamo: "My bursary pays 2 times a month when you do
well on your academics" I nodded. "Don't you trust
me?"

Me: "No. I was just wondering that's all" He
kissed my hand.

Zamo: "Okay. What are we gonna eat?"

Me: "I want wings"

Zamo: "Okay. There's chicken licken opposite wherel live so lucky you. Is pizza okay?"

Me: "Yes" he took out his phone and ordered.

We arrived at his place. I made myself comfortable on his couch. He lives alone. He came back with juice.

Me: "Thank you." He sat beside me.

Zamo: "What are we watching?" Me:

"What is there to watch?"

Zamo: "Comedy, rom-com, SciFi, horror and action" Me:

"Rom-com will do"

Zamo: "Okay"

He selected a movie. "Let me fetch the popcorn" Me:

"You made popcorn?"

Zamo: "Yes. What is a movie without popcornsweetie?" I laughed.

Me: "You're one weird creature I swear"

I texted Thabi checking if she's okay. She told meshe's going to Soweto.

He came back with a bowl full of popcorn.Me:

"Am going home tomorrow"

He frowned. "Don't make that face"

Zamo: "I was hoping we'd go somewhere tomorrow"

Me: "Am sorry. But we've been going out since Wednesday."

Zamo: "Now should I stop?"

Me: "That's not what am saying. Am saying you don't have to take me out everyday"

Zamo: "Okay"

He looked ahead at the TV.

Me: "Zamo?"

He turned to me. "You won't even notice am gone"

He smiled and kissed my forehead then lied on mylap.

The movie began.

...

My phone's vibration woke me up. I looked around. It was dark, I have a fleece over me. I pulled my phone out of my pocket. I looked at the time first before answering. It was 19:40.

Me: "Hello"

Caller: "Miss Zikalala" I know this phone. Though I can not remember where but I-. "I thought I'd be reading your statement by now. I thought I'd be sitting with my son right now eating dinner but no. Are you testing me little girl?"

My whole body shivered.

Me: "I-"

Bartman: "I hear your sister just gave birth to a cute little baby boy. Congratulations."

I hung up and turned on the touch. The lights went on.

Zamo: "Hey, I went to take a shower, should I dish up for you?" Our eyes met "Are you okay?"

Me: "Yeah am good I just need to go."

Zamo: "You don't look good. What's up?"

Me: "Where's my bag?" I saw it under the table. I took it. I put on my shoes.

Zamo: "Yoli"

Me: "What? Just leave me alone"

I headed for the door. He ran and blocked my way.

Zamo: "Babe please don't do this. What is going on?"

Me: "Why do you care? Just move out of my way please"

My tears betrayed me.

Zamo: "Did I do something wrong?"

I shook my head. "Please stay here. I will not let you go to be alone in that house"

Me: "I need time to think Zamokuhle"

Zamo: "My bedroom is perfect for thinking. I'll sleep here on the couch. Come here"

I sobbed. I need to call Sizwe.

He pulled me to his bedroom.

Zamo: "I'll bring you food and coffee"

Me: "Thank you"

He closed the door behind him. I took my phone and called Sizwe. It went through.

Me: "Thank you Lord"

He finally answered.

Sizwe: "Nubian Princess" Me:

"Hi. How are you?"

Sizwe: "Am good. Just tired of being farm Julia. How are you?"

Me: "Bartman is threatening me. He's threatening to kill my family. He's threatening to have my academic records erased" I was already crying.

Sizwe: "That son of a bitch! Where are you right now?"

Me: "Louis street, visiting a friend"

Sizwe: "Good. Don't leave that place. I'll be there in

the morning" Me:

"Thank you"

Sizwe: "Don't cry. I'll fix it okay" Me:

"Okay"

Sizwe: "Bye for now"

I hung up. Zamo came in with food and coffee. Me:

"Thank you"

We ate and slept. Maybe I should look for these Dube men and ask them to kill that bastard for me.

...

I heard a knock and I scrubbed the carpet. I turned down the volume and went to open. I jumped on him.

Me: "Thank you so much for coming"

Sizwe: "Yeah now I'd like to breathe" I

laughed and let go.

Me: "Shall I make you something to eat or drink?"

Sizwe: "Yes and a shower please"

Me: "Come"

I led him to the passage and showed him the bathroom then fetched him fresh towels.

Me: "Coffee or tea?"

Sizwe: "Whatever you'll be having"

chuckled and walked away.

I texted Ayanda for the 20th time asking if they're okay. There was a message from a boyfriend sulking about why didn't I say goodbye.

'You were fast asleep. I didn't want to disturb you'

I tidied up and made breakfast while listening to music. Now that Sizwe was here I felt a whole lot better. He has that aura of "everything will be alright".

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He just stood there. I turned. Sizwe!

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He walked away.

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Sizwe: "I came to borrow an iron. My trouser accidentally fell into the tub"

Me: "Look for it in the cupboard"

I said and ran out chasing after the boyfriend. My life![2/26, 07:04] Zozaness: Ten

-

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Sizwe: "I came to borrow an iron. My trouser accidentally fell into the tub"

Me: "Look for it in the cupboard"

I said and ran out chasing after the boyfriend. My life![2/26, 07:04] Zoaness: 11

-

Nobody told me anything about life after university. Why wasn't I told? I am angry.

Mom: "The sun has come out already but you're still sleeping." Of course the sun is out, it's summer. "Who are you going to marry Yoli?" Who cares about marriage? My only main concern right now is finding a job.

Me: "Am awake"

Mom: "You should've. A long time ago, you need to find a job"

Me: "I will not find job in a blink of an eye mama"

Yes am back at home with my has not changed mother. Luxurious life gone. I am still on hold for the next vacancy to come out.

Mom: "That's because you aren't looking. Am not going to look after you like you're 10, your fa-"

Me: "I will look for a job" I said cutting her off. How much of this can I take?

She walked out. I made the bed with the tears on the edge of my eyes.

After all I gave up for her, she still thinks I care about that man I don't even know. I should've just let that crazy ass minister kill her.

I don't mean that but I wish I did. And yes Kabelo's father captured her, he sent his men all the way to Ulundi to buy her Hansa and that was it, I had to publish that statement, I trended for being a liar, falsely accusing the minister's son because I wanted

to chow his money but he turned me down. I couldn't even go out without being captured and bashed.

"This fat bitch should get a life"

"A whole motherfucking hot Kabelo loving this?
Please"

"This pig thinks she's all that. We know KB's type sis"

"KB has his history but that was not a way to fight him back for turning you down"

All these were the comments about me. Everyone thought they were entitled and knew what they were talking about. All I could do was cry and lock myself up. I excluded myself from the society. The comments about my body have never gotten to me, but theirs. There was something about the way they called me fat. I am still haven't recovered from it.

My deepest gratitude goes to those 4 strong ladies. Who believed in their story, they didn't care about the whole country being against them. They came out with the #Iamhisvictim2. The first week it wasn't trending, but the second one. The social media streets went crazy. 35 girls participated, justice took

it's course. He got locked up, no bail no nothing. His father got removed as a minister, only arrested for 6 months cause I saw on the news in November that he had been released. Captain Kore called me assuring me he's not a threat in my life anymore. He put my heart at ease.

Sizwe? That's a story for another day.

I walked out to the kitchen. This place has to be one of the hottest places on earth. 7am its already boiling like nobody's business.

I found my mother stirring porridge on her tiny pot. I checked for bread, I found it. Good. I took it out.

Mom: "I will make that bread for Sinakho and her child"

They always visiting and sing how hungry they are like we're some sort of rich people, leave me to babysit and come back drunk.

I plugged my phone into the charger and took the dishes out to wash them under the tree.

There's no way out of this place. If only I could go

back to Jo'burg but my savings would only last me for 6 months and in that 6 months I am not guaranteed to find a job. Interior designing isn't in demand like any other careers.

I finished washing the dishes and took them back in. I found mom eating, she had dished some for me too. Thanks to the Angel that told her to.

Mom: "There's a lady who lives in Zondela. She wants a nanny" Zondela is a formal settlement near town.

Me: "Are you thinking of taking it?"

I took my bowl and down butt flat next to the door. Mom: "No but you are"

Me: "What?"

Mom: "Do you have a better job in mind?"

Me: "No, but what do I know about kids?"

Mom: "You will learn! Kids younger than you are doing worse things out there to get money. Stop being a senseless snob Yolanda" she's right.

Me: "I'll take it"

Mom: "Good. First thing on Monday go there. Cookfish today"

I nodded.

She walked out. I took a deep breath. How does one even change a nappy. Ayanda has never let me.

Speaking of Ayanda. Her and mother are back to square one. My mother being herself she pampered herself with all the money Ayanda had given her to buy Christmas groceries. Their fight got as far as my mother telling her she wanted to abort her. Ayanda took her kids and never looked back.

My phone rang. I got up and reached for it.

Me: "Hi"

Zamo: "How are you?"

Me: "Am okay how's yourself?" Zamo:

"Sharp. Was just greeting you" Me:

"Thanks"

Zamo: "Bye" he hung up.

This is what we had turned to since we both went our separate ways. He got lucky and found a job, permanent. I can't say this is all because of money, its only been 3 weeks and he hasn't got paid. I am failing to accept our situation. I still love him, a lot. And I am willing to fight for us till we're back to what we were. Soon as I get out of this place maybe I'll be able to even visit him.

I put the phone back to the charger and poured water into a bathing basin and bathed.

"Knock knock"

Sinakho. Sigh.

Me: "Come in"

She got in pulling her child's arm.

Sinakho: "Sanibonani"

Me: "Hey. Mom's not here" she sat down.

Sinakho: "You could just make me tea yourself there's no problem. Staying in Jo'burg loves you neh? Look how beautiful your body is"

FYI my body has always been beautiful.

Me: "Thank you"

Sinakho: "You're a true definition of fat and fabulous"

She giggled. God forgive me but I am still holding on to the day she strangled me when I was 10 while my mother had her way with a broomstick.

I dried myself out and put on my clothes.

I took the water out and came back to her on the cupboard looking for whatever.

Sinakho: "I thought I should just make this team myself since you're busy"

Me: "I guess you know where everything is then" She nodded. "I'll go change ke"

Sinakho: "Wait..." I looked at her with the "yes go on" eyes. "Your mother told me that you found a job. You're qualified nono, why would you want to be a nanny?"

Me: "Life is full of surprises. Yes I am qualified but I do not have a job"

She cleared her throat.

Sinakho: "Do you know that your father own companies?"

Me: "I don't care about that man. I don't care if he owns the whole of South Africa"

Sinakho: "Aren't you curious who he is?"

Me: "Why? He doesn't want me why should I bother about him?"

Sinakho: "Who told you he doesn't want you?"

Me: "My mother"

Sinakho: "Your father was absent in your life and still is because he has no idea you're alive. Your mother never told him about you"

Me: "She did"

Sinakho: "She did not. That was a very responsible man. She never told him trust me"

Me: "She told me he denied me"

Sinakho: "Your parents broke up before you were discovered, but he kept coming to check up on her. One of the days she packed up all her things and left

Jo'burg. That is when she started drinking."

I took a seat. This doesn't make sense. She got in, with 2 Hansa bottles on a plastic.

Mom: "Haw I thought you had left"

Sinakho: "No am still here"

She turned to me. Mom:

"And then wena?" Me: "Is it true?"

Mom: "What?"

Me: "All that Sinakho just told me" Mom: "I wasn't here how would I know?"

Me: "Why? Why you never told him about me?"

Mom: "Because I wanted to protect you" she took a sip from her ice cold beer. I used to wish she could just love and care for me as he does for this brown bottle.

Me: "From what?"

Mom: "Yoh why don't you ask Sinakho here since

she knows it all. And you, stop coming to my home if you no longer know what's right for you to say.

Where on earth are you gonna get Nzuzi? Do you know how ruthless his wife is? Why are you even telling my child all this? You want her to go out there and look for that man?" She turned to me. "Try sisi.

Just know that bitch will hire the hitmen to take you out the moment you walk out of their million dollar gate. You don't need that man. If you could get this far without him, trust me you can still go further.

Don't let low lives like this one plant ideas into your head"

Me: "I-"

Mom: "Shut up!" I startled. "And you Sinakho when you're done eating. Get the hell out of my home and never return. You're a very ungrateful bastard"

She took her beers and walked out crying. She tends to do a lot of that these days.

What if he'll welcome me with warm hands. Sinakho said he owns companies. That means he's rich and has connection. When mother said Nzuzi, did he

mean him?

There's nothing Internet doesn't have. Its about time I
knew the man who made me...

You guys remember that this dairy was a year behind
The Dube Legacy? Now they're on the same year, which
is why I said 1 year later.

[2/26, 07:04] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A
Beholder

12

-

Coming here feels like the worst mistake of my life. I've
never seen such a beautiful house yet this messy inside.
No wonder this kid has flu, its these gems all over this
place.

The mother's outfit, you'd swear she's going to s red
carpet. How do you feel looking this beautiful knowing
you left a pigsty behind at home? Some women are
strong I tell you.

Mrs Mazibuko: "Am so sorry about this mess. I haven't found time to clean" I smiled. I honestly havenothing to say. "I need to rush to town and buy a fewthings. I'll take Dali with me. Please make yourself feel at home"

Not in a house like this. I couldn't even sit down.Me:

"Thanks. I will"

She picked her baby up and walked out. I heard the engine rev. I went to peep on the window. I saw it drive out the gate. I looked for the bathroom. I peedand filled the 20L bucket with water and carried it tothe kitchen. I opened the cupboards. Oh God this woman!

She doesn't live here. No human being in their right state of mind could ever live in such a messy house.By the grace of God I found bleach and liquid soap.

I grew up in a home with only two mud rondavels butnot even once they were ever this dirty. My mother isa drunkard and has been my whole life but she's neat. I find this sight very disturbing.

I started scrubbing everything that is there to scrub.

The dishes. Cupboards. The floor. The couches. The carpet. The bathroom. Bedrooms.

As the sun set. It set with all my strength. 8 room cleaned in 4 hours. She even has a vacuum and house fragrance sprays but never use any of it. I sprayed the whole house and went to take a shower. The sweating I had gone through wasn't healthy for my sensitive body parts. I changed into clean clothes.

Yes I was gonna be a stay in nanny. My mother told me this morning. The whole weekend she was quiet. She's something else.

I sat on the sofa and switched on the TV. The fresh air hit every corner of the house. Not to suck my own titties but it had gone from 2-100.

I heard a car pulling up. I turned down the volume, I heard the door close then short after I heard a knock at the door.

Me: "Come in"

A man. A very scary tall man. I gulped. I don't do well with men's presence. I always think of the worst.

Him: "Afternoon miss" he said with his eyes wandering all over the place.

Me: "Afternoon Sir"

Him: "Is Akhona home?" I looked at him with questioning eyes. "Dali's mother" ohh.

Me: "No. She said she's going to town, she should be back any minute from now"

He nodded and walked on to the couch.

Him: "Am Langa. Dali's father."

Me: "Yolanda. His nanny"

Langa: "I was expecting someone older, at least that's how his mother described you"

Me: "Oh she mis-described me then" he smiled and nodded.

His eyes weren't still and I found that very uncomfortable.

We sat there in silence. Not that I mind it at all. I'd stay in my own world and not get bothered.

Another car pulled up. Thank you Jesus. I got up and

walked out.

Mrs Mazibuko: "Am so sorry to leave you alone. I had to get something we'll cook"

Me: "I don't mind really. You have a visitor"

Mrs Mazibuko: "He's Dali's father"

Me: "He told me"

We carried the groceries inside. She couldn't hide her surprised face when we stepped in.

We fetched the second load. Langa carried Dali in. Mrs

Mazibuko: "Let me go talk to him. I'll be back" Me: "OK"

I packed the food on the cupboards and fridge.

I sat down and remembered I have a phone. I went to the dining room where my bag was. They stopped talking when I came in. Whatever they were talking about. It did not look like a pleasant conversation. I carried the whole bag to the kitchen with me.

I took my phone out. I had missed calls. From mother and Ayanda.

I sent them call backs and checked my emails. Everyday I check, hoping I'd find one that is inviting me to an interview but no luck.

I emailed Thabi telling her about my new job. She moved to Mozambique with her boyfriend. Some people makes this love thing seem so easy.

Wherever they find these boyfriend who always take them out of poverty, I need to go. I deserve my big break.

I applied for more jobs. Even the cleaning jobs.

I sent Zamo a text on WhatsApp. He hardly responds but I still try to reach out.

Mrs Mazibuko walked in.

Her: "Dali is leaving with his father. It'll be just us for 2 weeks"

Great.

Me: "That's bad but OK. Should I start cooking?"

Her: "No, I will cook you should rest, you did well with the cleaning. Thank you"

Me: "It was nothing. I insist to cook"

Her: "OK. I'll be back shortly"

She walked on to the passage. I put the rice on the pot and went back to the phone. It rang.

Me: "Hey sis"

Ayanda: "Yoli. You had me worried. Are you okay? Did you arrive safely?" So many questions.

Me: "Yes I am fine. How are you?" Ayanda:

"Am good. Are they nice people?"

Me: "Yeah pretty much. But its the first day I could judge wrong"

Ayanda: "If they ever make you sad please come home"

Me: "I will. You need to stop worrying about me, I got this. How are my kids?"

Ayanda: "Very well and unnecessary active" I chuckled.

Me: "Send my love"

Ayanda: "I will baby. Call me before you sleep" eh this woman.

Me: "I don't have airtime"

Ayanda: "I'll send you. Just don't blow it all on data" Me: "I have enough data for a week"

Ayanda: "Good. Bye"

Me: "Bye"

I hung up and started being productive around the kitchen.

...

Dali left with his father. This is a woman troubled. From 6pm to 8pm she had finished a whole bottle of one.

Watching me Cook. Not saying a single thing.

Just gulping down her wine. I

dished up for us.

Mrs Mazibuko: "We gonna eat in the dining room. There's Juice in the fridge"

I took it out. She carried it with the glasses while I followed with the plates.

We sat down and ate while watching TV. I am not even a fan of TV.

Mrs Mazibuko: "How old are you?"

Me: "22"

Mrs Mazibuko: "And this is where you wanna be?
Being someone's help?"

Me: "No. But life is full of surprise and it's very rare for it to go the way we planned"

Mrs Mazibuko: "True. Did you finish school?"

Me: "Yes. I am a qualified interior design. I studied at university of Johannesburg."

Mrs Mazibuko: "You don't say"

Me: "Yep. So beggars can't be choosers right? I need money to survive"

Mrs Mazibuko: "A friend of mine just moved into a new house, she's really not good with the decorating so you might get yourself a piece job"

Me: "I'd love that. Thank you"

Mrs Mazibuko: "You're welcome." She glanced at her watch. "I have scripts to mark. Let me go and bath and start working. Goodnight"

Me: "Goodnight"

She took her food with her.

I took my phone and logged on WhatsApp. He read the message but did not respond.

'If you no longer want me just say it Zamo. It is not a crime to lose interest on someone'

I sent. He irritates me at times. I am trying here. He doesn't appreciate my efforts. It rang. I answered and kept quiet.

Zamo: "Yolanda"

Me: "Yes Zamokuhle"

Zamo: "What's up?"

Me: "Nothing"

Zamo: "What do you mean in that message?"

Me: "I mean exactly that Zamo. Its like am the only one working on relationship"

Zamo: "You know that is not true"

Me: "What is true then?"

Zamo: "That I love you"

Me: "Goodnight Zamokuhle"

Zamo: "Goodnight babe. I love you"

Me: "Am not sure any more"

I hung up and took the plate to the sink. Turned the lights off and went to my bedroom. I got in bed and drifted to sleep...

-

I woke up to my phone ringing. I checked the time. 5:30am, seriously mom.

Me: "Hello"

Mom: "Are you still in bed? Yolanda yoh should be in the kitchen making tea for madam"

Me: "She doesn't drink tea mama"

Mom: "Then make her whatever that she drinks." She hung up. I dragged my lazy ass out of the bed.

I found already used cups. She appeared already dressed up.

Mrs Mazibuko: "Why are you awake this early?"

Me: "I came to make you tea"

Mrs Mazibuko: "I make my own tea sisi. You're Dali'snanny not a maid"

Me: "Oh my bad"

Mrs Mazibuko: "Bread money is on the right shelf on the TV stand. Am off"

Me: "Thanks. Bye"

She clicked her stilettos away. I heard the car drive away. Ah home sweet home. I went to switch on the TV and put on the music channel then went back to the kitchen to warm my food up.

A beautiful day is began with prayer. I went back to my room and prayed. I took my toiletry bag and went to the bathroom.

I opened. Holy mother of God!

I screamed and then after a while looked the other direction. Oh God why a penis this early. And what is he doing here. I ran out back to my room. I sat on the bed, got up and walked to the window.

The door opened I startled.

Me: "What are you doing here?" He smiled. My Lord I need strength.

Sizwe: "Surprised to see me?"

Me: "No."

Sizwe: "I live here"

Me: "Are you Mrs Mazibuko's husband?"

My phone rang. I took a deep breath and answered. "Yes ma'am"

Mrs Mazibuko: "Aisuka just call me Akhona. I forgot to tell you, my older brother is there. Don't freak out" Yes I've seen him as naked as they come.

Me: "Oh. Thanks for letting me know"

Mrs Mazibuko: "OK love. Bye"

I hung up.

Sizwe: "So. You're a nanny now?"

Me: "How is that any of your concern?"

Sizwe: "Do you make breakfast?"

Me: "As you have said that I am a nanny not a maid. Are you done bathing?"

Sizwe: "No. I came to ask if you'd like to join me"

He's not being serious right now. He laughed. "Am messing with you. Am done"

I left him standing there topless.

I don't get how I could be this innocent and dirty the same time. Our last encounter wasn't innocent. We almost... Almost hit it off.

From there on I never saw him again....

[2/26, 07:04] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

13

-

What time do teachers knock off? I mean its close to 4pm and there's no sign of Mrs Mazibuko. Sizwe disappeared right after our penis encounter. When I came out of the bathroom he was nowhere in sight

and that was joy for me. I cleaned and ate in peace. I spent my day applying for different jobs as always. I put all the dirty laundry in the washing machine, that I had to scrub first.

I began cooking. Sitting around doing nothing does not help with this anxiety. She made her way in from the kitchen back door. Looking drained.

Mrs Mazibuko: "All I need right now is a glass of wine"

Me: "What happened?"

She dropped her bags and took a seat. I took out her wine from the fridge and placed it in front of her with a glass. She poured a full glass. I don't understand it but it works for them. Thabi turned into an addict after the Pearl saga. She downed it in one go.

Mrs Mazibuko: "Thank you" she then took a deep breath. "Be careful who you marry. One day you'll live in fear because you finally took a decision that is best for you. My car broke down. A brand new car broke down, right after my ex husband was here."

Me: "He did something to it?"

She nodded. "Am sorry"

Mrs Mazibuko: "I almost died. Left my children behind" she took a sip of her wine. "I have 3 children. Twin girls, they live with his mother. Now he's trying to take Dali away from me"

Me: "That's bad"

Mrs Mazibuko: "Never marry in a rush. I will help you look for a job so that no man could ever say 'I made you'. I see the young me in you, but I only had matric when I started working for his parents. Young and very clueless. I was 18, he had all the charms. I fell for him, hard. He earned his way into my pants. Two clueless minors having sex, no protection. The twins were conceived."

She drank her remaining wine. Things are very tough out there. At this age of 23 I'd commit suicide if I were to fall pregnant. I stirred the pap and came to sit down.

Me: "How old are they now?"

Mrs Mazibuko: "They're 11. They don't connect with me, they were raised by their grandparents. Right after they were born, they sent me to varsity. At 24 we got married. He was already working, a very wellpaying job. The year before last, he started being abusive, had another woman, telling me how much he made me. I left him. So we're here today, him trying to take my children and my life away. That is why I drink this much"

She got up and picked her bags up and left. Why are men so selfish!

I am so mad right now. I attended to my pots. Men deserve a punch.

Mrs Mazibuko: "Uhm Yoli. My friend said you can come tomorrow morning and start working your magic" she said peeping her head in.

Me: "Thank you thank you" she smiled and disappeared again. I did the Madiba dance. This could be my start to big things.

...

I do not set alarms. I just tell Ayanda I have somewhere to go to in the morning and then she calls at 5.

I answered.

Ayanda: "Wake up. Do you even have taxi fare?"

Me: "No it's a walkable distance"

Ayanda: "Pack yourself a lunch box don't expect them to make you food"

Me: "I will"

Ayanda: "Get up!"

Me: "I am. Bye"

I tossed the phone under the pillow" I slid off the bed. I took my toiletry bag and headed out.

Warm running water. I missed this. My varsity years went by very fast. I never went to a single party.

Mrs Mazibuko: "Aisuka Sizwe she's a child"

Sizwe: "Love has no age. Remember that woman I told you about?" I know his voice so it was easy to tell.

Mrs Mazibuko: "You tell me about women everyday"

Sizwe: "The one that I constantly told you about" Mrs

Mazibuko: "The church girl?"

Sizwe: "Yes. Its her"

Mrs Mazibuko: "I want you nowhere near that child. She has a very bright future I don't want you ruining it"

Sizwe: "I would've done that a very long time ago if I wanted to"

The door knob moved.

Me: "There's me. But am coming"

I got out of the tub and emptied it. I dried myself up and wore my robe. I unlocked. She flashed me a smile.

Me: "I'll brush my teeth outside"

Mrs Mazibuko: "There's no need. Brush them here"

I smiled and took out my toothbrush.

Mrs Mazibuko: "So you and Sizwe know each other

from Jo'burg?"Me:

"Yes"

Mrs Mazibuko: "Don't let him have his way with you.He's bad news" I chuckled. "Am serious. He's my twin and I know how bad he can get"

Me: "Nothing will happen"

Mrs Mazibuko: "He's quite a charmer. If he gives you problems tell me I'll kick him out"

I laughed.

Me: "Doesn't he have a house?"

Mrs Mazibuko: "He does but its under renovations" I nodded. And rinsed my mouth.

Me: "You have nothing to stress yourself about"Mrs

Mazibuko: "Better be"

I walked out.

I dressed up and then went to the kitchen. I foundhim drinking whatever that was on his cup.

Me: "Morning"

Sizwe: "Morning. Akhona tells me you're going to Celiwe's house"

Me: "Who's that?"

Sizwe: "Where are you going?"

Me: "A section"

Sizwe: "Yes that's Celiwe's house. Are you gonnaneed a lift?"

Me: "No I'll walk"

Sizwe: "Its far"

Me: "I'll catch a taxi then"

Sizwe: "Okay then"

I dished up and made juice. I washed the dirty dishes in the sink and fetched my bag.

I went to say goodbye to Mrs Mazibuko.

Sizwe: "I can still give you a lift"

Me: "Thank you for your generosity but I'll be fine" He shrugged. I took my food and left.

...

The walk to the Celiwe's house made me regret turning Sizwe down. Had it not been for that generous Lady I'd have arrived very late.

She welcomed me with very warm hands and gave me her husband's bank card. I had to jot down all that I am going to need. Unlimited budget. Exactly the life I wanna live.

Celiwe: "Are you gonna need people to help you paint?"

Me: "No ma'am"

Celiwe: "Okay. Food is on that bag, sandwiches and snacks. There is pap and chicken in the big container. I cooked it last night. If you'd like to eat it please feel free."

These are the most generous people I've ever seen. Me:

"Thank you"

Celiwe: "Okay am out"

She grabbed her phone and left. I dusted off the chair and sat down. Whoever lived in this house had a very weird taste. It was someone old. I could tell

with the tiles and green walls.

I wrote everything that I will need and cleaned up. This job is energy consuming. The lifting of things isn't fun.

I washed my hands and went to sit under the avocado tree outside with my 3 bags of food. I took an apple from the bag of snacks and ate my food.

I felt my willpower leave my body when I saw his car driving in. He parked next to the tree. He rolled down his window and smiled. Where does one apply for a peaceful life?

Me: "You know. You're just like Kabelo."

Sizwe: "I know and I don't blame him for stalking you. You're very hard to take off one's mind" I smiled. "Look she's blushing"

Me: "Aisuka. What are you doing here?"

Sizwe: "I came to help you"

Me: "Don't you work anymore?" He got out of the car and lied on his stomach next to me and grabbed an Apple.

Sizwe: "Am on leave sweetheart."

Me: "And you stay here now?"

Sizwe: "Yes. I am from here. I transferred last year after-"

Me: "Okay I get it"

Sizwe: "Do you know what was I going to say?" Me:

"Yes."

He chuckled.

Sizwe: "I heard you went to the station looking forme"

Me: "I went for certifying and I asked if you were in"

I am lying. I went to look for him. The certifying was an excuse of hoping I'll bump into him.

Sizwe: "Mmmmmh. Where's your boyfriend?" My boyfriend huh?

Me: "He's in Jo'burg working"

Sizwe: "Is he still jealous?" Me:

"He's never been jealous"

Sizwe: "He is. You always attract freaks. Myself included" I laughed. "I missed you"

Me: "I didn't"

Sizwe: "Is it?" I nodded and grinded my bone like there's no tomorrow. "I can buy you more meat If you want. There's no need to abuse the poor bone"

People who don't eat bones don't understand. Bones are nicer than the actual meat!

Me: "Why are you here again?"

Sizwe: "Aren't you scared to be alone at a place you aren't familiar with?"

Me: "No. There's no place as safe as Ulundi. Why would I be scared of anything"

Sizwe: "There are junkies now. Things have changed"

Me: "I know a police man so am safe" he smiled and shook his head. "I actually can't reach the ceiling please come help me take off the chandeliers"

Sizwe: "I thought you-"

Me: "Do you ever shut up?"

Sizwe: "Where's your respect woman?"

I laughed. We got up and followed each other in.

Sizwe: "Wow. It looks better now"

Me: "I only swept and scrubbed"

Sizwe: "That is exactly why it looks better. Where's the ladder?"

Me: "It must be at the garage. I'll go get it"

Sizwe: "No need to. Get busy with something else" Me:

"You're a keeper"

He smiled.

He's not your ideal hot guys. But there's something about him. He's tall, not too tall but taller than I am and brown skinned. He has a beautiful smile. His lips aren't decoration, so are his hands...uhm why am I saying all this?

I took my phone and went to the main bedroom. Their favourite color is gray and red. I'll paint it white and add touch ups of gray and red in lights and

couches. Even the bed.

I unveiled the covered mirror in the corner. I need meone of these. I turned around admiring myself. Am a very obsessed individual when it comes to my body.

I startled and smiled.

Me: "What are you doing here?"

Sizwe: "I came to tell you I can't untangle that thing." He said and then wrapped his hands around my waist. I gasped. He got closer, too close on my butt I could feel him. He kissed my shoulder. Without losing eye contact on the mirror.

He slowly moved his hand up. I grabbed it before he could reach the boob.

Me: "What are you doing?" I said as he kissed on my neck. Only God knows how much it is hard to fight this man. There's something between us, its not lovebut its something and its strong. "Si..."

Sizwe: "Shhhh"

His hands had slipped under my dress. They weren't anywhere far, just on my belly but the kinds of things

I felt....

He turned me around and cupped my chubby face. Our lips touched, his breath caressed my face.

Sizwe: "What are you doing to me woman" he kissed me before I could breathe.

"Yolanda? Where are you on this big house?" I moved off him quickly. He pulled me back and continued kissing me. I pushed him off.

Me: "Are you crazy?" I whispered

Sizwe: "Yes" he smirked.

I walked out.

Mrs Mazibuko: "There you are. Is that Sizwe's car?" Me:

"Yes"

Mrs Mazibuko: "Yoli"

Me: "He just showed up. I did not invite him"

Mrs Mazibuko: "Where's he?"

He came out. Looking like dust. "What are you doing here?"

Sizwe: "Whatever that you are doing here"

Mrs Mazibuko: "What game are you playing Sizwe? I don't want you following her around. If that's too hard for you I will tell ma"

Sizwe: "But I came to help her"

Mrs Mazibuko: "Help her my foot. Celiwe can afford having people who'll help you Yoli"

Me: "I'll tell her"

Mrs Mazibuko: "I came to tell you am going to a workshop. I'll come back on Friday. Sizwe, go stay at your parent's house until I get back"

Sizwe: "Yes ma'am"

Me: "Go well" she got closer to me

Mrs Mazibuko: "Every week we will be testing virginity." She whispered. I laughed. She gave me a warning eye. I kept quiet. She hugged me and pinched Sizwe and left.

We stood there at the corridor like statues. I heard her car drive off. I sighed in relief.

Me: "That was clo-"

He pushed me against the wall and started kissing me. His hand doing a tour under my dress. He slid one hand on my underwear, I broke the kiss off.

Me: "She said she will check my virginity every weekend" he chuckled.

Sizwe: "That means we get to kiss and touch a lot" he gave me a mischievous smile.

What is wrong with this guy???

[2/26, 07:04] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

14

-

We arrived at the newly found home. I turned on the lights. Sizwe was doing whatever in his car.

I went to put my bag in my bedroom and rushed to the bathroom. I took a brief shower and walked out.

I stopped when I saw him.

Me: "Why are You here?"

Sizwe: "To visit you"

Me: "I don't need a visitor"

I left the door open and walked on to the wardrobe. I felt his presence heavy on my shoulders. I took a deep breath and turned.

Me: "I don't know what game you're trying to play but what I do know is that I don't wanna be a part of it"

Sizwe: "Am not trying to play any game"

Me: "What do you call this? That kiss? And now you're here standing behind my half naked self. What do we call that"

Sizwe: "I don't know what it is but its a not game. I feel something for you Yoli. Its deep and I-"

Me: "That's the thing. This is no time to feel things. I am at a stage where am trying to get my life together not a man between my thighs. I'd appreciate it if you keep your distance. Don't touch nor try to kiss me ever again or else I'll tell sis Akhona"

He nodded.

Sizwe: "Am sorry. It won't happen again and I Will doas you say."

Me: "Thank you"

Sizwe: "You're welcome. What are cooking?"

Me: "How about pap and wors?"

Sizwe: "Some people Will suffocate of wors"

I laughed. Almost every time he came over to my place he'd find me eating it.

Me: "Come on. Let me dress up then"

He nodded and headed out. I locked and dressed up. I felt lighter. I needed to get that off my chest. The drive from Celiwe's place to here was long enough for me to decide I don't wanna play this freaking kissing game. Am worth more than a kiss buddy.

I dressed up and walked out to the kitchen. I found him stirring the pap.

Me: "Don't tell me I spent 20 minutes dressing up" Sizwe:

"No not at all. I already had the water boiling

when I came there"

Me: "Ohh. Let me start the chopping"

I took out the necessities for gravy and a choppingboard.

My phone beeped.

"Hey beautiful. I decided to come to Ulundi this weekend. I can't take it anymore. I miss you and LOVE you so much"

If I was lighter my cheeks would've turned red.

Sizwe: "Share the good news"

Me: "What?"

Sizwe: "You're smiling like a little child seeing candy. Is it boyfriend?"

Me: "Why do you wanna know" I responded with heart emojis to the boyfriend. "I won't be here on Friday"

Sizwe: "Going to Jo'burg?"

Me: "Maybe. What shape do you prefer onion?"

Sizwe: "Rings"Me:

"Great"

I could feel his eyes on me as I chopped.

...

Ugh this thing of being a sleeper. I slept on the couch. I had a fleece over me. Sweet. I got up and dragged my ass to the kitchen. It was spotless. Themess we left after cooking. He tried making a smoothie but unfortunately there was failure in themachine so it exploded.

I plugged on the kettle. He came in sweaty and surely smelly.

Sizwe: "Morning"

Me: "Hey. I didn't know you jog"

Sizwe: "I do. Wanna join me tomorrow?"

Me: "Maybe next week" I have no intentions of running in my life. Unless am being chased by a Dogor killers.

Sizwe: "Ok. Get ready. You told the delivery guys to

arrive at 9"

Me: "What time is it?"

Sizwe: "Half past 7. Enough to bath and eat" Me:

"I'll bath first"

Sizwe: "No drink your tea. I need a quick shower I don't like how I smell"

I chuckled as he ran to the passage.

I made tea and buttered my bread, took a seat and ate.

I chatted with Ayanda and Sis Akhona.

I received the text from Celiwe telling me the food is on the master bedroom and how happy she is with the progress.

Sizwe peeped his head in.

Sizwe: "Am done"

Me: "Am coming"

I rinsed the dishes and went to shower.

.

After getting ready I found him seated in the kitchen drinking water with lemon. Slay king.

Me: "Am leaving"

Sizwe: "Okay let's go." I frowned. "Don't frown am driving you there"

Me: "Oh okay thanks"

We locked and left.

.

Arriving at Celiwe's house I put my bag under the tree. And headed inside. He got in.

Sizwe: "I brought us overalls" Me:

"Us?"

Sizwe: "Yes. Am gonna help you around. You can't paint this huge house on your own"

Me: "I meant what I said last night"

Sizwe: "Consider this as an apology for my perverted ways" he smiled.

Me: "Let's wear these overalls and wait for the

hardware guys"

Sizwe: "Is there anything I could do so far?" Me:

"Yes. Get this chandelier off"

Sizwe: "Oh yes. Let me look for a ladder"

He disappeared to anywhere in this house. I went to the bedroom to check for the food.

Indeed there was a bag. I carried it out to the tree and returned back to the house. I changed into an overall.

Sizwe: "There's no ladder in this home"

Me: "I'll rent it."

Sizwe: "Money maker"

Me: "Of course" we laughed.

The hardware truck arrived. We offloaded everything and they left. We got down into painting.

Close to 3pm I had already painted 2 bedrooms. I put down the tools and went to check up on Sizwe. He was in the kitchen, almost done.

Me: "Hey"

Sizwe: "Hey. That is one messy overall"

Me: "Am not good at this. I've only professionally painted once."

Sizwe: "This is your second job?"

Me: "Yes. But that was only a nursery. This is my first big job"

Sizwe: "You should show me."

Me: "I will. You're also good at this."

Sizwe: "Thank you. Are you done?"

Me: "Yep. Finish up. We're going to eat"

Sizwe: "Thank you Joseph we're finally going to lunch. What time is it?"

Me: "I'll go prepare up warm water to wash this off"

I walked to the bathroom. I filled the hand sink with hot water and put on the paint remover. I washed my hands. He got in.

Sizwe: "There's absolutely no need for these

expensive chemicals. Paraffin removes the paint better" I moved for him and wiped my hands.

Me: "The smell of it makes me sick" he smelled his hands.

Sizwe: "This one isn't pleasant either" Me:

"But better. You'll find me outside"

I walked out. I sat down and took out the food. My phone rang.

I always say a little prayer when I see 035...I

cleared my throat and answered.

Me: "Hello"

Caller: "Good afternoon. Can I speak to Miss Vilakazi?"

Me: "Speaking" she sighed in relief.

Caller: "Thank God. I've been trying to get hold of you.

You're speaking to Kylie Khoza. I am desperately in need of you. Your work was recommended by a friend whom you designed a nursery for. How quick can you get to Durban?"

Me: "Uhm...right now am busy with an eight roomedhouse. I will be sure done by next week Friday"

Kylie: "As long as you will be able to work your magicon this one too. Please email me your banking details and we'll discuss the deposit amount there.

I'll send my email just now" banking details? Gettingpaid already?

Me: " Ok I will do"

Kylie: "Bye"

Me: "Bye"

I hung up and hugged Sizwe.

Sizwe: "No touching remember"

Me: "Aisuka" I moved off. "I just a call. Seems likeyour girl is going places. My second job is in Durban."

Sizwe: "What!"

Me: "Yes" he hugged me. I felt my eyes burning up.

Sizwe: "Am so proud of you"

Me: "Let me text my sister"

Sizwe: "Let me order champagne"l

chuckled and texted Ayanda.

When God shows up...he shows off

[2/26, 07:04] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A
Beholder

15

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Thursday and Friday were the worst days of my life. Sizwe suggested we camp at Celiwe's so we can finish up quickly and so we did. I am really gonna need someone who'll help me.

The only thing left to do is install tiles and furniture. I hired some guys to tile the floor. On Monday everything shall be good and get Celiwe's review. If she says we're good to go then we'll be installing furniture. Sis Akhona lengthened her workshop.

Today is leisure day. I am first meeting up with Ayanda and then later on the boyfriend.

...

She placed the tray on the table and slid on a chair. Ayanda:

"Those people are slow"

Me: "Its the 25th sisi"

Ayanda: "We should've just went to Chicken Licken"

Me: "Can we eat now?" She chuckled and nodded. I brought my streetwise 2 box close to me. Nothing could beat the smell of KFC.

Ayanda: "Do you need new clothes for Durban?"

Me: "No. There's a lot of clothes I've only worn oncesome not at all"

Ayanda: "That's good. You did in that house" Me:

"Thank you mtase."

Ayanda: "Did you tell your mother?"

Me: "She's not taking my calls but I texted her"

Ayanda: "I've ran out of praying spirits for that woman"

Me: "She's not someone to put at heart. You just go

with the flow"

Ayanda: "I can't. Let me call her"

Me: "You guys talk now?" Ayanda:

"I can't stay mad at her" She put it

on loud speaker.

Mama: "Madam"

Ayanda: "How are you?"

Mama: "Breathing. Where are the kids?"

Ayanda: "They are at home. Am with Yoli"

Mama: "What is wrong with her phone? Magogo passed away on Thursday"

Me: "Oh my. Is Nkosazana okay?"

Mama: "Her mother died"

Me: "Of course. Please pass my condolences"

Ayanda: "I feel for her....oh you should see what she did on that house"

Mama: "Send me pictures on Thembi's phone. When are you leaving for Durban?"

Me: "Next week Friday"

Mama: "You should come home before that"

Me: "Okay"

I excused myself and went to the bathroom. I checked for my WhatsApp messages.

Zamo: "Almost there" I felt my boobs do a madibadance. I rinsed my hands and walked back.

Ayanda: "That went smooth"

Me: "I told you. She's something else. Am meeting Zamo later"

Ayanda: "Where?"

Me: "Here. He'll be staying at Holiday inn"

Ayanda: "Wow that's...amazing I guess. Just don't get pregnant"

Me: "Come on. I still have 8 years ahead for me to get pregnant"

Ayanda: "Good"

I laughed. We finished eating then accompanied her

to do groceries. She's such a typical woman, she literally bought a whole store. We finally paid and left to the vans that transport us home. Zamo had already arrived, I just wanted to leave Ayanda there with her plastics and run to my babe.

Luckily there were 2 people short. She got on.

Ayanda: "Remember what I said" she gave me a R100 note.

Me: "Thank you. I love you"

Ayanda: "I love you more"

I walked off before the nosey neighbors start asking me where am I staying now. I texted Zamo. He said I will find him outside.

I powdered my face and walked to the hotel. What a small town we have. The Holiday Inn is just right here in town, the chances of bumping into relatives holding hands with boyfriend are very high.

I texted him again. I stood there like a lost chicken. There are stares that human beings always give fat people. That weird look, its not mean nor nice but its

uncomfortable.

I felt pokes on either sides of my waist. I jumped. Hisscent still makes my hair stand.

He hugged me for dear life. I got so emotional.

Zamo: "You'll cry inside let's go" I chuckled. He perked my lips and took my hand. He had a PnP plastic on his free hand. He kept glancing at me and smile. God knows how much I missed him.

We did not check in, or he already did?

I sat down on the bed. He put the necessary things on the fridge.

Zamo: "You can change the channel. I wanted to check the weather"

Me: "Its cool"

He came and took my bag.

Zamo: "Let's put her where the rest of her friends are" he came back to stand before me with his hands tucked on his pockets. I was facing his penis. I could see it. When did he become this tall.

Zamo: "Hello my Queen"

Me: "Hey" I never wanna see myself blushing.

Zamo: "I can't believe am here"

Me: "Me neither"

He crouched. His mint breath. He tilted my head.

He slowly pushed me down. He likes laying on top of me. Maybe I'll find courage to tell him he's heavy this weekend.

He's who I could spread my legs apart for without being worried he will stick his penis into my nunuberry. Or maybe now he's changed. I mean he can't come all this way just for kissing.

I felt a tingle sensation down there. Its his hand. Iknew it!

But this is normal right? I mean we've done it once and its nice. He pulled off and stared at me. I still had my eyes closed. He chuckled.

Zamo: "You're such a baby." He got off. "What are we eating first? Pizza or the food that I spent yesterday cooking?" I sat up straight.

Me: "I just had KFC with my sister. I'd like something to drink though"

Zamo: "Ok. There's water and Krush"

Me: "Water will do. How's work?"

Zamo: "Work is time consuming. Almost lost you because of it. It sucks"

Me: "Let's hope you not thinking of quitting"

Zamo: "I did and found a new one on Thursday. Less working hours, still the same paycheque" I laughed. "Next year we might be married or expecting a bundle of joy" I gulped. There's nowhere in my life that I foresee marriage or a child for that matter. He handed me a bottled water.

Me: "Thank you daddy ka bundle of joy"

Zamo: "Yoh imagine being pregnant. The hormones" Me:

"I'd never let those control me"

He took off his t-shirt and lied on his stomach and that only mean one thing: scratch his back. I hate being w slave.

Zamo: "I can't wait to see that" he moaned. "You should open a spa specially for me" I chuckled.

Me: "I will. So to share the good news, I got a project in Durban. I will do the nursery first then the outcome with determine if I continue working on the whole house or not"

Zamo: "You and I know very well that already scored it"

Me: "I doubt. That woman sounded very professional"

Zamo: "You're professional. Tomorrow we should go see the one you've been working on"

Oh shit. "Why did you stop?"

Me: "Promise me you won't get mad" He turned to lie on his back.

Zamo: "Am not promising anything but talk" I took a deep breath and drank my water.

Me: "So I went there to be a nanny" he nodded. "Then it turned out the woman I am working for is Sizwe's twin sister"

Zamo: "The cop?" I nodded. "He's like everywhere you are" well I did not expect this. "I trust you Yoli. I am grown now, I know that no one is ever forced to do anything they don't want. So whatever might happen between you two I will know you wanted it to happen" He's really grown.

Me: "I thought you were gonna kick me out" he chuckled.

Zamo: "Not a chance. Come here" I laid my head on his chest.

Me: "What have you been up to there?"

Zamo: "Where do I begin?"

...

Shall anyone ask you if are there still boyfriends who are willing to abstain please tell them yes.

Thabi's call woke me. He was still deep in his sleep. I carefully slid off the bed and tip toed to the bathroom.

Me: "Why so early in the morning?"

Thabi: "Well good morning too friend. Why did you ignore my texts last night?"

Me: "My phone was in my bag. Was it a matter of life and death?"

Thabi: "Yes. But it's sorted now" Me:

"That's good" the door opened.

Zamo: "You terrified me. I thought you escaped" I laughed. "I'll order breakfast"

Me: "Ok love. Am coming" he nodded and closed the door.

Thabi: "Who's that?"

Me: "Zamo"

Thabi: "You're Jo'burg?"

Me: "No. He's here"

Thabi: "Oh my that's sweet. Why didn't you tell me?" Me:

"Check your emails moghel. Bye" she chuckled. Thabi:

"Bye"

I just took a shower. He got in.

Zamo: "The food is here."

Me: "Am almost done"

Zamo: "You shaved" I laughed.

Me: "Yes I did" he chuckled and closed the door.

What kind of guy is this? He's definitely playing games with me.

I wrapped a towel and walked out. I joined him. We ate over a light conversation about Thabi and her bae.

My phone beeped.

...Payment from Q.S Dube has been deposited into your account...

Whoa! Who the hell is that. It rang, it was the numbers that Kylie lady called me with. I answered.

Me: "Hello"

Kylie: "Babes. I just deposited money into your account. Did you get it?" What?

Me: "Yeah I did. Thank you" Those initials sound like a man's.

Kylie: "Good. When you get to Durban please contact me I will come get you"

Me: "I will."

Kylie: "Okay bye love"

She's so hyper. She hung up.

Me: "That was the lady I am going to work for. She deposited me some money"

Zamo: "That's good babe. Am happy for you" Me:

"Thank you."

Zamo: "Have you ever been to Durban?"

Me: "No. But I'll cross that bridge when I get to it. She offered to fetch me when I get there"

Zamo: "That's nice."

He got up and kissed my cheek. My

cellphone notified. "Breakfast with

the babe"

Me: "You should've asked for a pose"

Zamo: "You're beautiful"

Me: "Next time please akss" we laughed.

He came back with juice. He pulled his chair close to mine.

Zamo: "The thought of losing you scares me. I tried to leave on the past weeks, I felt like it wasn't going to work but my love for you wouldn't let me. I truly love you Yolanda and all I see when I look at you is my future. Exactly the one I dreamt of." He said all that digging on his eggs. He then gulped down his juice like he did not just give me the speech that left tsunami between my legs. He's tempting me. God don't let me get tempted.

Whatever demon that took over me. I found myself sucking on his lips like my life depends on them. He squeezed me in. I lost my willpower...

[2/26, 07:05] Zoaness: 16

-

I finished dressing up. He hugged me from behind and kissed my neck.

Me: "You awake."

Zamo: "Yeah. Why didn't you wake me?"

Me: "You were sleeping. Are we still going to see the house?"

Zamo: "You're dressed up so I guess we are" Me:

"Go wash your face"

He chuckled and walked off to the bathroom. As a the gyel you must always have a plan. I got down on my knees and did what mama trained me with a lollipop for. I don't know what I'd be without internet. After he shot his load he fell asleep. Is this what they do? Sleep like they were participating in world war?

I checked the time. We still had time, plenty of it.

He came out. I helped him choose an outfit then we left.

Me: "What time are you driving back?"

Zamo: "6pm"

I nodded. My happiness is always short lived.

...

He parked outside. Sizwe's car was parked on it's

usual spot.

Not to blow my own horn but it looked beautiful.

Nothing compared to what it was just a week ago. When you're truly destined for something you always make the best out of it.

He took my hand and we went in. The tiling guys were eating under the tree. I couldn't see them from the gate, the car blocked them.

Me: "Hey guys"

Them: "Sure sester"

Me: "I came to check up on you. How's it going?"

Sbo: "Very well. Only the master bedroom and the bathroom left"

Me: "Music to my ears. Where are my manners. This is babe, Zamokuhle. Zamo these are my colleagues"

They exchanged greetings.

Sbo: "Enter from the back door. Its still wet thisside"

Me: "Okay"

We walked around to the backdoor.

Zamo: "I just can't help to think how beautiful our home will be" I chuckled.

Me: "Are you done with life?"

Zamo: "When you realize the gold you have you're most likely to leave the stones"

Me: "Whatever that means"

Zamo: "It means exactly that. Wow they are very good" They were born for this. It looked so beautiful. They even installed the wall cupboards.

Me: "They're going places with me"

Zamo: "You should consider opening a business" Me:

"In 6 years"

Zamo: "We're in the 21st century babe. Investors are there for a reason"

Me: "You have a point. But where would I begin?"

Zamo: "From the beginning" he looked around. "This is amazing. You should advertise your work on social media"

Me: "I will. I just need to finish up first"

turned when I heard footsteps.

Sizwe: "Hello. I didn't know you were gonna pop by" Me:

"Zamo wanted to see my work"

Sizwe: "Okay. I came to to take the tub measurements." He vanished to the passage.

Zamo: "Its almost 3. Let's go have lunch and then I'll bring you back"

Me: "You don't have to. I'll catch a taxi"

Zamo: "I insist."

We left...

...

We had our lunch. I wasn't enjoying it at all. The fact that he was leaving hurt me.

You know how time is always an enemy. In a blink it was already close to 6 pm. I accompanied him to his car.

Zamo: "Don't be sad baby. I will try to come to

Durban next weekend"

Me: "You promise?" He brought me close and kissed me.

Zamo: "I promise. Get in. I'll drop you off at the garage" I chuckled and got in. He did too.

Me: "When my bag is right I'll move to Jo'burg"

Zamo: "I can't wait. I transferred some money into your account. Its not much though"

Me: "Thank you baby. You didn't have to"

Zamo: "I wanted to."

We reached the garage. He took out a R200 note. Me:

"You said you transferred money"

Zamo: "This one is for transport"

Me: "Don't spoil me too much I might get used to it" he laughed.

Zamo: "I'd be glad love."

Me: "Safe journey. I love you" we briefly kissed. Zamo: "I love you more"

I got out of the car. He honked. I waved till he took a turn. I walked down to Chicken Licken. I needed wings to numb the pain.

I paid and waited for my order.

4 very beautiful women made their way in. People must forgive me but I also stare at beautiful people without a shame. I had no idea my hometown has such hotties.

One of them noticed I was staring. She poked the next one.

I looked away. I could feel their eyes heavy on me. My number got called out. I flew to the counter.

I bumped into someone as I turned. I panicked a little when I saw her face. She smiled.

Her: "Can we talk?" Why?

Me: "Uhm am in a bit of a rush but yeah"

Her: "Great."

She led the way outside. The 3 of her friends were waiting inside.

Light one: "Oh my God it's really you. Am Selu, this is Pam and Nelwa"

Me: "Nice to know you"

"And I am Lethu" said the one I came with.

Selu: "Am sure you're wondering what is up with us. We went to UJ too. I am the girl who created the #me2 after that scandal"

Me: "Oh my God what a small world"

Lethu: "You're also from here?"

Me: "Yeah I am. And you guys?"

Nelwa: "Am from Durban. I came to visit these babes"

Pam: "Do you drink?" They all looked at her. I chuckled.

Me: "No I don't"

Lethu: "Can we do lunch sometimes? If you don't mind"

Me: "Yeah we can."

Pam: "Leave your numbers then babes" I

called them out.

Selu: "You're my hero just know that. Let us not hold you up"
I smiled.

Me: "Keep well"

Them: "Bye"

They're such a bunch of beautiful people. I

walked to Spar to get a few things.

I then went to the taxi rank.

...

Akhona: "What are cellphones for Yolanda" she said as I
made my way in.

Me: "Hello to you too sis Akhona. Do you have
visitors?"

Akhona: "Yes. Your mother. Where were you
anyway?"

Me: "Town to buy these"

I couldn't concentrate clearly. The aroma from the

pots was messing with my mind. I put my bag and plastic on the counter and followed sis Akhona to the lounge. Is she even supposed to be here?

I frowned a little. She looked pissed so did the man next to her. Hill

I sat down and greeted them. His stare was too much.

Me: "Is everything okay?"

Mama: "This man came looking for you" What? Me:

"Do I know you from somewhere Sir?" Him: "Tell her who am I"

Mama: "Why don't you tell her? Hhai don't test me devil"

Him: "You're still childish like the last day I saw you."

Mama: "And you're still stupid. Yoli this is your sperm donor. Samson Nzuzza. He came to my home and pointed a gun at me saying she saw your post on facebook about not knowing who your father is. You're such a betrayer like he is. You always said tonot-"

Every part of me stopped functioning

[2/26, 07:05] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

17

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"Had I found you on the same position we left you yesterday I would have panicked"

I covered my face with a spread. The light was too sharp for my eyes. And what is she talking about. She came to stand next to the bed.

Akhona: "How are you feeling?"

Me: "I feel fine." I felt a bit drowsy to be honest. It must be the terrible dream that I had last night.

Akhona: "Come. Breakfast is ready" Am I still even her child's nanny or I've escalated to her little sister?

Me: "Let me go brush my teeth and wash my face"

Akhona: "Okay"

She walked out. I closed my eyes for a while and then climbed out of bed. I took my toothpaste and brush.

I heard laughter as I came up the passage. Visitors so early in the morning.

I froze when I saw them. It wasn't a dream!

finally found the strength to run back.

Akhona: "Yoli!" Leave me alone!

She found me sitting down on the passage.

Akhona: "Come. They need to talk to you" Me:

"I don't"

Akhona: "Stop acting childish. Your father has to return home this evening" who's she again? What if this man is here to kill me? "Just come"

She took my hand and pulled me up. I slowly followed behind her.

Me: "Good morning"

Them: "Hello" why is he looking at me like that? I sat on a single couch and took the plate that I assumed

is mine cause it had peri peri I bought yesterday.

Mama: "You look sick" ofcourse I am. Both of youmake me sick.

Me: "Am fine"

Akhona: "Juice anyone? Am leaving for work now.Yoli behave" Yes mother.

I smiled and nodded. She left with her plate. Therewas absolutely no need to wake me up at 6. Did these people even sleep at all?

Akhona said her goodbye. Man:

"She's very warm hearted"

My mother just focused on her food. "How are youYoli?"

Me: "Am good thank you"

Mama: "Can you now give me money to return back home?"

Man: "Not until you explain everything to our child"

Mama: "I don't have anything to explain. She's here you're here. You're both elders am pretty sure you

both know how to communicate"

Man: "Why did you hide her away from me?"

Mama: "I didn't. You just didn't know she was there."

Man: "You left without a word Ntombenhle"

Mama: "I needed to think"

Man: "You're unbelievable."

Mama: "Yoli, is there a shop that sells beer aroundhere?"

Seriously?

Man: "You drink now?"

Mama: "Phuma kim ndoda ndini" (Leave me alone)Me:

"There's a tavern but I doubt they are open" The man
shook his head.

Me: "Am going to go get ready for work."

Man: "Can I take you?"

Me: "No Sir I'll be fine" my mother laughed.

Mama: "Sir. She doesn't know you and you can see she
doesn't need you."

Man: "I will take you back home and come to have a word with Yoli"

Mama: "There's no need. Just give me the taxi fare and stay here begging your stubborn daughter"

I collected the plates and took them to the kitchen leaving them scratch each other's face. They are too childish for being parents.

My mother is such a Vuvuzela. She's so unapologetic. I wonder if she's always been like this or it's the alcohol.

I got to my room and searched for my phone. There were missed calls from Zamo. I'll call him later.

I texted Ayanda about the terrifying news. It rang as soon as I put it down.

Me: "Hey sis"

Ayanda: "What did I just read?"

Me: "That." I wanna cry.

Ayanda: "Should I come?"

Me: "No there's no need. Am leaving anyway."

Ayanda: "Where are they right now?"

Me: "Lounge. That's if they haven't killed each other."

Ayanda: "Ok let me finish up here I'll call you"

Me: "Ok."

I hung up and texted Zamo explaining why I couldn't take his calls then took my cosmetic bag to the bathroom.

I finished up. Sizwe was crowding my phone making me lose my mind even more.

Me: "Am running late but am coming now"

Sizwe: "Am signing this. The power guys have been waiting for you here"

Me: "Please do."

I hung up and picked my bag up and exited the room. It was quiet now. How I love peace.

I locked the back door. I found the man still in the dining room. He stood up as I entered.

Me: "Where's mom?"

Man: "She left" is this woman mentally okay? How does one leave her daughter with a stranger?

What if this man came to harvest my vital organs?

Me: "Am leaving. I don't know if you gonna stay here or"

Man: "You're not acknowledging my presence here"

Me: "Maybe that's because I don't know you Mr Nzuza"

Man: "Am your father Yolanda"

Me: "The one that I just met yesterday"

Man: "I don't know what ideas your mother planted in your head about me but know if I knew you were there, I would've been present in your life. There's nothing in this world I have longed for more than having children. When I received that text being informed by you...I lied about seeing it on Facebook. I received a text. If you could just give me a chance to make up for the lost time. I promise I will be the best father"

He looked sincere and broken at the same time. I resented him. Not because he was absent but of how my mother made me pay for his sins.

Me: "I just need time. I need time to digest all this." I was getting emotional I hated it.

Man: "Take all the time you need." He took out what seems like a business card. "I will make a return on Friday."

Me: "Uhm...am going to Durban on Thursday"

Man: "Even better. I have business meetings there next week. What time is your lunch?" I thought he told me to take all the time I need.

Me: "I doubt I'll have one today. I have a lot to do" Man: "What do you do?"

Me: "Interior Designing."

He smiled. I hate how I keep seeing myself in him. Man:

"Well done. Let me not hold you up"

He took his car keys.

I locked. Maybe he should give me a lift. This car is

to die for.

Me: "What kind of car is this?" He turned and smiled. Man:

"Porsche. Do you like it?"

Me: "Yes. It's beautiful"

Man: "Can you drive?"

Me: "No but I get my driving license soon" okay am over sharing now.

Man: "The seats are very comfortable."

Me: "Can you please drive me to work?"

Man: "With pleasure" he opened the door for me. I prayed he doesn't steal me.

Our drive was short and silent. He stopped at Celiwe's gate.

Me: "Thank you"

Man: "Can I come inside with you?"

Am not sure about that. But I agreed anyway.

Sizwe had confusion written all over her face.

Man: "Wow this is good Mshazi....I mean Yoli."

Me: "Thank you" he gave me his phone. iPhone. He must really have money.

Man: "Please take pictures for me"

Me: "Of the house?" He nodded. He followed me into every room. He finally got over it and walked out.

Man: "Not to impress you to welcome me with open arms but I'd like to give you something small to buy yourself something nice"

Me: "I could never say no to money" he laughed.

Man: "Write your numbers I'll have my PA send it to you" he has a PA? Who is this man?

Me: "Thank you. Safe journey" why am I not mad at him anymore. Does it really work? The bond thing? I mean I wanted to shout at him and hit him with plates like the kids do in movies but now, I wish I could tell him all about my childhood. Let him hug me.

Me: "Okay safe journey" he chuckled.

Man: "You've already said it" did I?

Me: "Oh my bad"

He got in the car and waved goodbye. He drove off. I walked back to the house.

Sizwe: "Tell me he wants you to work for him" Me:

"Who?"

Sizwe: "Nzuza"

Me: "You know him?"

Sizwe: "Who doesn't? He's the big dog in the corporate world" is he?

Me: "Wow. I could tell with his car"

Sizwe: "How do you know him?"

Me: "Apparently He's my dad" he laughed. Mxm.

"Can we please fix this house?" I wanna rest tomorrow.

Sizwe: "Are you serious he's your father?" He said following me outside where the furniture was.

Celiwe will have to review it fully furnished cause I can't wait for Wednesday.

Me: "Yes Sizwe"

Sizwe: "How come you didn't know what he does?"

Me: "Because I didn't know he existed. Where's Sboard his crew though"

Sizwe: "Let's finish this and tell me all about your father" Is he for real?

...

I love my job but I don't like how tiring it is. If Celiwe says she's not impressed by all this then she has another thing coming.

Sbo: "We can see your lace purple panty"

Me: "Leave me alone"

He covered me with whatever.

Sbo: "It looks like a white person's house now" Me:

"All thanks to you guys"

Sbo: "Anytime sisi" I chuckled. Me:

"Do you know how old am I?" Sbo:

"26?"

Me: "What?" I sat upright. I laughed. "Am 22"

Sbo: "You're lying"

Me: "Am 22 for real. What is taking Sizwe this long?" I checked my phone. It had been 2 hours already.

The other 3 guys came out. They were washing off the paint on tiles in the bathroom.

I don't really know their names and am even ashamed to ask. I saw Sizwe's car drive in.

Sizwe: "Its month end. Before any of you bite my head off"

Me: "We're just glad you're here."

Sbo: "I can't remember the last time I had KFC" his friends seconded.

Me: "Then stuff yourselves up"

Friend: "How much is this bucket?"

Sizwe: "R200."

Sbo: "i want to buy it for my siblings when I get paid" I heard he's the eldest of 4. Their parents passed on when they were very young. He had to step up and

be a parent to his siblings.

Me: "Its on me. I'll buy you guys the buckets as a thank you for working with me" they whistled and thanked me. Its so nice eating in a group. My phonenotified.

I checked the email. It was from Kylie. I was hoping it is the boyfriend. She mentioned that she called theprevious day but I didn't answer.

I smiled as I finished reading.

Me: "And now it'll also be a request to come with meto Durban on Thursday. Am nolonger doing only a nursery but a whole house"

You should've seen them rejoice.

Sizwe: "Am also going"

Me: "You're going to work on Monday"

Sizwe: "Yes. Not on Thursday"

Sbo: "I need to wash my All star"

They started talking about the beach and naked women. I do not wish to be this gender.

My phone beeped again. I

viewed the message.

"Tomorrow I will you bring you your clothes that you will take to Durban Judas. Few hours knowing him you've already forgotten about me. Did he give you money? If he did please borrow me R15"

Yep from my one and only mother. That R15 is for a Hansa bottle. Am Judas now?

Pity we can't choose parents...

[2/26, 07:05] Zozaness: 18

-

Thank heavens she chose my favourite bag. She practically knows everyone around here. One thing I know is that soon as we turn our backs leaving that company she's laughing with, she'll start labelling their flaws. That's just how this mother of mine is.

She denied to bring my clothes to A section, reason being I could set her up with Lucifer's son: Mr Nzuzain simpler words.

Speaking of that one. He deposited a R1000 into my

account. I texted him. He's been calling me non stop. He's too thrilled I feel awkward.

Mama: "I was about to return back home" she says before I could greet.

Me: "Hello mother and am sorry for being late. I had to meet with Celiwe. Greetings elders" they greeted back.

Mama: "Remind me who's that again?"

Me: "The owner of the house I was working on"

Mama: "The one with a wobbly ass?"

Me: "I've never noticed. So I don't know. She loved it. My work is done"

Mama: "Has she paid you?"

Me: "Let's discuss that over a meal at Nandos"

Mama: "Let's go. Almost had you spill out good news in front of these witches" she says without a single care.

I just picked the bag up and bid the ladies goodbye. She followed, mumbling something I couldn't make

out. She probably had 2 bottles of Hansa in the morning.

We made it to Nandos with me walking ahead. I ordered.

Mama: "I want the hot one"

Me: "I ordered the hot one"

Mama: "With coke?"

Me: "Yes and Greek salad"

Mama: "Mmmh. How long are we gonna stand here?"

Me: "Until the occupied tables get free"

Mama: "That one is sitting alone. Why doesn't he just join that 3?"

Me: "Maybe he wants to sit alo-" She was already half way to the poor guy. No loudness. Better. I saw him get up and sit with the 3 guys.

She came back to me feeling like a boss I guess. Mama: "Its not so hard isn't?"

Me: "For you. I wouldn't have"

Mama: "You're like the other side of your family" we mention that now.

Me: "Am glad"

She chuckled. She's on a good spirit today.

She carried the bag. I had this number on my hand. Our food arrived the minute we sat down. I thanked the lady.

Mama: "I will eat the wing and keep the rest for later"

Me: "Eat. We'll buy you another one when we leave"

Mama: "I can't believe you're this grown"

Me: "You better believe it" she smiled. She's such a clean and beautiful drunkard. We devoured in.

Gossiping about her friends. She calls them witches. She's a bad friend.

Me: "So your boyfriend gave me R1000" she doesn't look surprised at all.

Mama: "You know there's no pressure to let him into

your life right?" I love this spirit she's swimming into today.

Me: "I know. I still need to know what happened" her face changed into many emotions.

Mama: "I am not ready to talk about that"

Me: "Will you ever be? Its been 22 years already"

Mama: "Trust me I know Yolanda."

Me: "You hate me ma. I need to know why you hate me so much, what did he do to you. He doesn't sound like someone who acknowledged hurting you"

Our conversations last night. He sounds like he loved her. He kept bringing it up. Saying he never understood why she left without a word. "He says upto this day he still hoped to bump into you or see you on t.v." she had stopped eating. I assumed wrong, she did not drink today. This woman never shows emotions unless she's sober. Wait...

Me: "You don't want to feel? Is that why you drink?"

Mama: "Now is not the time Yolanda"

Me: "I deserve to know"

Mama: "This chicken is to die for. Promise me you will take me here every time we come to town" amen. I flash a weak smile.

Me: "I will"

Mama: "What time are you leaving tomorrow?"

Me: "I'll leave early. I still need to book a hotel for us"

Mama: "ok"

I checked the time.

Me: "Let's go buy you groceries"

Mama: "I still have food"

Me: "We will buy you more"

Mama: "Only soups are running out. Nomkhosi doesn't buy them anymore by the look of things"

Me: "Mama! We used to do that too, we did not ask for soup but maize so please be civil"

Mama: "The things I've given her since you went to varsity amount the maize she used to give us" I laughed.

Me: "I don't know what to do with you anymore. Let me go order more chicken for You"

Mama: "I have to hide it"

My grandma is probably turning on her grave.

...

After 4 hours going from shop to shop finally we finished. She literally tried to bankrupt me. I reminded her that she said she still has food, she just "Hhaisuka" me.

To tickle her inner Goddess. I bought her 2 crates of Hansa.

I kept ignoring Nzuzza's calls. I didn't want to ruin Ntombenhle's mood.

Mama: "There is your ugly pastor and his questionable creature."

Me: "She's not that ugly"

Mama: "I don't know what's your idea of ugly but the God they serve isn't so loyal if he thinks it's okay to make someone like that"

I couldn't laugh now. They were too close.Me:

"Please behave"

Mama: "Of course. Who misbehave around that scary thing?"

Me: "Baba" he flashes me a very weird smile and extends his arm. We shake hands. I do with mamfundisi too.

Pastor: "Look at you. We miss you at church"Me:

"I will come when I am free" Mamfundisi: "You working now?"

Me: "Yes. Its all your prayers"

Pastor: "Am glad. Are you going home? We can giveyou a lift"

Me: "No am not but my mother is. Thank you"

Pastor: "Then lets go"

She nudged me with an elbow. I blatantly ignored her.

We got pastor's car. We loaded the groceries.Mamfundisi: "Is this alcohol for you?"

Mama: "No am born again now"

Pastor: "Really?"

Mama: "Yes. I'll tell you both about it on the way" They gave us space.

Me: "So you gonna lie all the way home?"

Mama: "Yes. Thank you for all this. Have a safe journey tomorrow"

Me: "Thank you. I'll call you"

Well we should be hugging but that's forbidden in this relationship. I can't really recall being that close to her. I walked over to pastor and thanked him.

I walked off as they also drove away.

...

I heard a little voice screaming. He's back. I thank God for this child. If it wasn't for him I'd still be there at home not knowing what to do with my life. I thank my mother too for being a pain in the ass.

Akhona: "Look who's here"

Me: "It smells nice"

Akhona: "Am preparing a goodbye feast. I will even pack some for you"

Me: "While I on the other side bought this pizza and wings"

Akhona: "We will eat that first. Its still early"

Me: "Dali is back?"

Akhona: "Yes and playing with his dog" I chuckled.

Me: "I have only a few hours to babysit him" she laughed.

Akhona: "I found a new one. She'll arrive tomorrow morning"

Me: "Aww. Am so sad we never got to know each other"

Akhona: "Don't tell me you'll never come back here"

Me: "I will sisi. You're practically my second family" she smiled.

I put the grocery I had come with into where everything stays. And took out plates.

Dali did not even acknowledge my presence here. He popped up asking for juice and ran out with his dog. I hate dogs.

Akhona: "Are you trying to get me fat?"

Me: "Maybe" we laughed. She looks better than the first time we met and I haven't seen her consume alcohol. Or maybe she now does it secretly.

Me: "Are you expecting someone?" I said as she peeped through to see the car that's driving in.

Akhona: "Yes. Sizwe. He said he'll bring his daughter" Me:

"He has a daughter?"

My phone beeped.

Akhona: "Yes. A bit older than Dali"

Oh finally decided to stop being a whiny. He has baby girl tendencies sometimes. I responded with 'I love you too'

The door opened. A cute little chubby came in

running to Akhona.

Sizwe got in followed by a woman.

Akhona: "Nonka, haven't seen you in ages" that must be her name. She smiled.

Nonka: "Same here. That is why I insisted we start off here before going home"

Sizwe: "I was gonna come anyway"

Nonka: "Sthandwa sam you came up with all the lousy reasons there has to be in the world"

Sizwe: "I was gonna come later"

Akhona was lost in her little world with the cutie. Me:

"Would you like some pizza?"

Nonka: "Am trying to lose all this fat thanks. I'll have water instead" she's not even that fat. Maybe a size 34. Sizwe took the whole box and started helping himself out.

Akhona: "Let's go to the lounge"

Me: "I'll join y'all shortly"

I picked my bag and vanished to the passage.

I took off the damn bra and tights. Why can't we just normalize hanging boobs. Bras are torture.

I heard a soft knock. I quickly put back the dress and went to open. What now?

Sizwe: "Can we talk?"

Me: "Why are whispering?"

Sizwe: "Am sorry. She insisted on coming here" Me:

"Who?"

Sizwe: "Lulu's mother"

Me: "Are you apologizing?"

Sizwe: "Because-"

Me: "Don't tell me it's what I think it is. Listen Sizwe, you can take the mother of your child anywhere in this world. Seriously, what happened between us meant nothing."

Sizwe: "Oh"

Me: "Yes. Now if you don't mind..."

Sizwe: "Am glad there's no problem"

Me: "Stress free"

He walked off. Men!

My phone rang. I've been ignoring him the whole day. The truth is I don't know what to say to him.

Me: "Hello"

Nzuza: "I almost sent the searching squad. How are you?"

Me: "Am okay. how are you?"

Nzuza: "Now that I am talking to you. I feel a whole lot better"

Me: "That is good. Am sorry I couldn't take your call earlier. I was with my mother"

Nzuza: "Oh. Is she okay?" All these times he's called me he always asks that.

Me: "She's good. She wouldn't open up about what happened" I hear a loud sigh from his end.

Nzuza: "You should give her some time"

Me: "I don't have time" that came out as a snap. But honestly I don't have it. "She hates me. Not a single moment in my upbringing have I ever felt loved by that woman"

Nzuza: "My deepest apologies. I wish I looked further for her"

Me: "Its not your fault. you're here now and that's all that matters."

Nzuza: "Aren't you angry?"

Me: "I am. But not because you weren't there. Am angry you were the reason I suffered. Am angry at my mother for letting whatever happened to her make her hard on me."

Nzuza: "What time are you going to make it to Durban?" Is he changing the topic? I wiped off my tears that had escaped my owl eyes.

Me: "Around 8am"

Nzuza: "I will see you tomorrow ntombam."

Me: "Ok. There's an incoming call. Can you hang up?"

Nzuza: "Yes. Don't forget to send me a goodnight

text"

Me: "I will"

I guess I take after him. I love being acknowledged.Me:

"Mama"

Mama: "Stay the hell away from Nzuza Yolanda"Me:

"What's going on?"

Mama: "Just listen to what I say!"

Me: "Am done pleasing your selfishness mama."

Mama: " You don't understand Yoli."

Me: "Then make me understand MaVilakazi"

Mama: "That man's wife gets rid of everything that threatens her marriage. She had mercy on you at first trust me she won't this time"

Me: "What do you mean?"

The line went dead. I tried calling her it went straight to voicemail...

[2/26, 07:05] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

19

-

Its been two days here at the Banana city. All I cansay is Dankie mpilo!

Rich people and their craziness. The house I have to decorate is literally a 5-day project only because I will spend the last 3 on the nursery. We're done with painting the 3 remaining rooms. I wasn't surprised when Kylie told me it's a man's house. I could tell with the simplicity he suggested.

Sizwe decided to stay behind. I couldn't be happier.

Sbo and his crew are my guys now. I can't deal with their weird obsession with KFC though. Its too much.

Kylie offered me a hotel room, her boss's she says. I couldn't share this luxurious room. I booked the guys another one. People are truly living out there.

I met with Nzuza dearest yesterday for lunch, he's really trying.

I couldn't beg the explanation out of my mother. She

decided to ignore my calls instead. She's been a blockage of my happiness so many times, this could've been one of her stunts. So I let her be. Amstill yet to question Nzuza about his wife though.

He's like a little child in my presence. He said he's taking me out for a movie today then later we gonnago to a spw and talk about my anger over a bottle ofwine and snacks. He's really good at this daddying thing or maybe he's buying my eyes. Who cares eitherway.

Saturdays are cancelled as working days. Sbo nicelyasked me so, talking about they would love to spendthe weekend going to the beach to see beautiful naked women. This gender is born perverts.

Oh I forgot to mention. This boss smells like heaven.Call me a pervert too for sniffing at his tees every morning. This smell gives me life, so masculine.

The door bell beeped. It must be Kylie. She checkson me every morning. Maybe she thinks I might escape.

I got off the couch to open. Durban is full of hotties I

tell you. She frowned a bit.

Her: "Is Q in?" No greetings whatsoever. Cool.Me:

"Sorry?"

Her: "Is Quinton here?"

Me: "I don't know who that is but am the one occupying this room until next week"

Her: "Oh" I nodded. She didn't move. This is awkward.

"Hey Nkuls. I saw your car at the parking lot" oh she's such a life saver and very loud. She reminds me of Thabi. And Where did she even come from?

The Nkuls brushed her tiny bump. I didn't even notice she's pregnant. Wow. People are really having sex out there.

Nkuls: "Oh. I lost my phone"

Kylie: "He asked about you yesterday. This is Yoli. The interior decorator. She's working on Q's house" They did the fancy hug. Its moments like these that I hate. Not knowing whether to go or stay.

Nkuls: "Oh. I should've known. He told me last week"

Kylie: "Have you eaten breakfast?"

Me: "I have thank You"

Kylie: "And you Mrs Linda?"

Nkuls: "I haven't. I was hoping I'll find Q then we'll go grab some in Sun coast" just like that? I really wannabe rich.

Kylie: "Now you're going with me and Yoli there" nono no!

Me: "I haven't even bathed yet"

Nkuls: "We can wait" what if I kill pregnant women?

Kylie: "Take this as a tour" I don't wanna seem bitter.Me:

"Ok. I'll be quick."

They got in. Kylie flew the fridge and pulled out a bottle of wine while Nkuls settled on a couch and took the remote. Both of these women seem comfortable in here.

...

Kylie must just stop consuming energy drinks. She's too hyper to hang around me. The drive to Sun Coast

featured her so romantic love story with her was teaboy of her husband.

We arrived in this restaurant. Full of Indian people. Kylie: "I just want extra hot Russians"

Nkuls: "I don't wish to see you when passing stool"

Kylie: "All you have to do is drink a lot of water" I chuckled. Why is she lying?

Nkuls: "Yoli. Just order mid. This one is crazy" Kylie: 'You're missing out"

Nkuls: "I will order" I chuckled.

We left her to order on the counter and went to occupy a table before it gets snatched away.

Kylie: "You're doing an amazing job sweetie. I sent pictures to my boss. He's sold"

Me: "What did you show him exactly because all we've done is painting"

Kylie: "He's very obsessed with colors. He loves grey, and the bit of white there and there. I can't wait to see you turn it into a home." I just chuckled. Am not

really a chatbox.

Nkuls joined us.

Nkuls: "I ordered juice to keep us company as we wait"

Kylie: "I could do with some dry red though"

Nkuls: "You've had 3 glasses already"

Kylie: "Now I want the 4th one" I laughed. She's a very IDC human being.

They served us juice. Freshly squeezed Orange. My favorite.

Nkuls: "So Yoli. How expensive is your service?"

Me: "It is fair. The more the job, the more it costs" she nodded.

Kylie's phone rang. She searched for it in her tiny bag.

Kylie: "Its Q"

Me: "Excuse me" I got up and went to the loo. The food had already arrived when I got back. It

looked all sorts of yummy and junky. Me:

"Do you guys cheat on your diets?"Kylie:

"What diet honey?"

Me: "Isn't what you fancy people do?" They both cracked in laughter.

Nkuls: "fancy people? Where are you from?"

Me: "Am from Ulundi"

Kylie: "But studied in Jo'burg. You're a fancy personyourself if you refer to someone like me as fancy"

Me: "Have you seen the type of cars you drive?"

Kylie: "Its all earned from hard work. In a period of 3-4 years you will be driving your own fancy car"

Me: "I hope so"

We talked about fashion to boyfriends. I remembered I haven't spoken to mine since the daybegan. Both of these ladies are head over heels about their men.

And then sex came up. A call from Nzuzarescuedme. I had not even noticed it was 12pm already.

I bid them goodbye after asking direction to the nearest rank that has taxis to Galleria.

...

I found him exactly where he said I would. He's old yet so fine. His hair with a bit of grey hair and his beard are neat as of a youngster.

Nzuza: "I thought you were not coming" he said getting up to open a chair for me.

Me: "Thank you. You know how taxis can be. Am sorry for being late"

Nzuza: "You're not. I was just pulling your leg" I chuckled. "Movie or foot massage?"

Me: "Definitely foot massage. I've never done it before"

Nzuza: "Really?"

Me: "Yes"

Nzuza: "Let's go then" he settled the bill. "Oh I ordered a milkshake for you" he called on the waiter. They brought it. We walked out.

...

I am mad at my mother for this. This girl legit hid me away from this filthy rich human being just to make me wear rugs and walk barefoot to school. I would have never had hungry days, not to mention sleeping on a traditional mat with only a blanket over.

I searched for the glass on the tiny table beside me. I sipped on my Mojito. I've never tasted it before but it looked tasty on the menu. It doesn't taste bad. I could get used to it.

Me: "Am so tempted to remove this cucumber off my eyes" he laughed.

Nzuza: "Be a good girl. Does your drink taste nice?"
Me: "Kind of."

Nzuza: "What did you say this is?"

Me: "Sea breeze"

Nzuza: "It tastes like pee. My buds are used to Remy Martin"

Me: "What is that?" I heard him chuckle on the low. "I can hear you. Is it vodka?" he chuckled loudly.

Nzuza: "What? Its whiskey my princess" Me:

"I heard those are expensive"

Nzuza: "Not really. The 18th year old that I drink costs 24K." I sat upright. The cucumbers fell off.

Me: "You drink alcohol worth that much?"

The lady had take my feet out of the machine and massaging me with her hands.

Nzuza: "You sound surprised"

Me: "Of course I am. I bet your killer costs a R100 000" he laughed and stuffed with mouth with snacks. I didn't even see those.

Nzuza: "Dunhill is very cheap. Why do you sould like you're on your butt now?"

Me: "That's because I am. I still can't believe you drink so much money" he sat up straight too.

Nzuza: "It's worth it."

Me: "You look funny in that musk" he touched his face.

Nzuza: "I could still score you a mother in this very

same musk" I laughed.

Me: "Please go ahead"

Nzuza: "On our second date. My lady, can I have something strong?" She said to the lady who brought the second round of our drinks.

He booked a private section. Good for me to vent. The ladies took their towels and departed the room. Good.

Me: "My mother called me on Wednesday. She told me to stay away from you" he frowned. "She said that...your wife gets rid of anything that threatens her marriage. And mentioned that she only had mercy on me once, she won't be merciful this time around"

He just stared blankly at me. "Are you okay?" He kept on staring. I leaned over and poked him. He shifted his gaze to me.

Nzuza: "I found you a therapist. I gave her all your contacts. Your sessions will start on Tuesday. You will choose the time." He got up and disappeared to the changing room.

He's acting weird. I took more sips on my drink. He came back fully dressed.

Me: "What is going on?" He handed me a bank card.

Nzuza: "The pin is 3475. You can book a full body massage. I have to fly to EC" his eyes were bloodshot red.

Me: "Now?" He nodded and leaned over and kissed my forehead.

Nzuza: "You might have not seen it but you're the only thing I have left in this planet and believe me when I say I will go any lengths to protect You from anything and anyone." I couldn't understand the hurt his face reflected. He squeezed my shoulder and walked off. I felt a bit emotional. This mood we were on ten minutes away just vanished right before my eyes...

...

I walked out of there feeling as fresh as a baby butt. I was a bit tipsy from all the cocktails I took in right after the dad left. His phone was off.

The spa ladies suggested I take an uber so I did. I prayed all the way I don't become one of their victims. You're never too safe in this world if you have a vagina.

I thanked the Lord as it pulled up in front of the hotel. I paid and walked on inside.

I started off at Sbo and crew's room. They weren't there. Just as I took my phone out to call them. A message came through telling me they are staying out until late.

Durban is driving them crazy.

My phone beeped as I reached my door. It was Pam and her squad asking me out for drinks. This is gonna be the second time turning them down. I can't help but feel bad.

I unlocked and got in. I rushed to the bathroom to pee. The towels were hanging around untidy. Someone was definitely here.

I peed and cleaned up. I went back to the room and changed into my comfy shorts and a sports bra. I adjusted the air conditioner. Better. Now I can go

and see what I will have for supper.

Okay I've heard of haunted houses but I've never actually been in one. The t.v. was now on. I swear to God it wasn't when I came in.

The outside bathroom door opened as I battled in my head. Oh My God!

I screamed on top of my lungs and ran for my life. Me:

"Help! HELP! HELP"

Him: "Hey. Stop"

The corridor was dead quiet. Nobody came out to rescue me. God am too young to die and definitely not ready to lose my virginity through rape.

I felt him closer. My knees got wobbly. He grabbed my arm. Tears gushed down. He closed my mouth with his hand that smelt of onion. I will not give up without a fight. I put my elbow into good use.

Him: "Will you stop?"

He pulled me all the way back to the room. I screamed again as soon as he moved his filthy hand off my mouth and ran to the kitchen area. He locked

the door and sighed.

he totally found out we lied about not knowing Pearl. Oh Thabi.

Me: "Please don't kill me" He frowned.

Him: "Do I look like a killer? My name is Quinton. It's my house you're working on. Jesus Christ" Oh can the universe stop right now and let me get off? He slowly got closer to the counter. His cologne hit my nostrils. It's really him. "Put that knife down"

I didn't even notice I had it. I slowly put it down next to the chopped onion. This is rather embarrassing.

Me: "Uhm. Am sorry sir" Him:

"Quinton. Just Quinton"

He attended the knock at the door. I ran to the master bedroom. I legit ran out in a bum short and a sports bra. I am so ashamed. But it's not my fault.

First impression lasts. He's written thug all over. I

reached for my phone.

"Why didn't you tell me your boss is coming back today?"

I impatiently waited for a response.

Kylie: "Our boss you mean? I called you over a thousand times but your phone was off. He'll be out of your hair tomorrow don't worry"

Ugh man. I heard a soft knock.

"It's the security ma'am" I found a nearest dress and put it on and walked out.

Sec: "Are you alright?"

Me: "Yes. Am good. Thanks. Sorry for the inconvenience. It was just a minor misunderstanding"

Sec: "Am glad. Keep your panic watch on your wrist at all times. Keep well"

Me: "I will thank you. You do too"

They followed each other towards the door.

Quinton: "You're a great runner by the way." He chuckled. I glanced at him once and ran back to the bedroom that I will not leave until tomorrow after he's left. I will tell Kylie to keep me updated...

[2/26, 07:05] Zozaness: 20

-

[At Vilakazi home]

Yoli's mother saw the lights reflecting on the window. She got up and peeped through the window. The car engine died.

Her: "Not this Satan again"

She closed the curtain and sat back down on the couch. Moments later she heard a knock.

Ntombehle: "You didn't knock at the gate" she called. The door widely opened. "Samuel Nzuza...oh Samson. I tend to forget your name"

Sam: "Am not here for your tantrums Ntombi. I had a very long drive to be listening to your madness"

Me: "You've got a nerve to drive this far just to stand at my door like Jehovah witnesses and insult me"

Sam: "We need to talk"

He closed the door behind him and walked on to sit on the sofa.

Sam: "I need to know what happened. Why did you leave?"

Ntombenhle: "Because I was done with that life" she said dismissively.

Sam tightened his jaw and started stomping his foot on the floor.

Sam: "Am not playing with you. Am going to ask you one more time and I swear to you if you keep giving me that stinking attitude you're going to regret it"

She got up to take her beer out of the fridge and an opener on top of it then sat down. She opened the beer and drank from the bottle. She burped and wiped her lips.

Ntombenhle: "You see wena Sam. You have no reason to threaten me or be that angry. What did you lose in the past 23 years?"

Sam: "A child and you" she chuckled and drank down her cold beer.

Ntombenhle: "Only 2 things. Wanna know what I lost? I lost my job, my degree, my mother, my dignity, and

most of all. I lost myself. That wicked witch you calla wife made sure of it."

Sam: "That's what I want to know. What did she do?"

Ntombenhle: "She found the letter I wrote for you on our secret mail. In that letter I informed you about my 3 months pregnancy. She came to where I lived, she gave me money to disappear. I refused it. I tried calling you but you were out of the country I couldn't get hold of you. She came back 2 days later with scary men. She blatantly told me that if I don't disappear and crawl back to where I came from.

She'll make my life a living hell. She made me pack all my things at midnight and had her men drive me here. For 8 years I lived under their surveillance. She watched my every move, made sure that I didn't leave this town. She threatened to kill me and my child shall I attempt to contact you. I dropped out of varsity. After 7 years it started to sink in. I had lost my life. I was never getting it back. I found this friend" she smiled and kissed the hansa bottle. "Your loyalty cost me my life Samson. I was never able to love my child fully. I've always resented her. I've

always blamed her for all of that. Sometimes I think to myself how much I don't deserve them."

Sam: "Am sorry. I looked for you. Lord knows I tried"

Ntombenhle: "It doesn't matter anymore. All I want you to do is make sure my baby is safe from that hard buttocks cheeks wife."

Sam: "You both have nothing to worry about"

Ntombenhle: "Of course."

Sam: "You need to stop drinking. I am willing to fix everything that is ruined in your life"

Ntombenhle: "This is where I find peace of mind. I could quit everything but not this." He looked at her with so much remorse, his phone rang.

He picked up. He briefly spoke to whomever then hung up.

Sam: "Are there other BnBs around here? Garden court is fully booked"

Ntombenhle: "Yes but its very far from here"

Sam: "No problem. I just want you to know am

deeply sorry for how everything turned out. You know very well I wouldn't have let you go through that alone."

Ntombenhle: "I know. Its in the past now." He picked his car keys from the table and got up.

Sam: "What is the name of the lodge?"

Ntombenhle: "Isn't too late for you to drive? You can hide your head here if you don't mind" He looked ather surprised.

Sam: "Thank you. You won't even notice am here"

Ntombenhle: "R50 an hour though"

Sam chuckled.

Sam: "Is supper included?"

Ntombenhle: "Don't get comfortable. Supper will be free only because it's beans. Breakfast will be free if you going to eat porridge. Viennas and cheese will cost you R150"

Sam: "No problem. Thank you"

She got up and walked out to the kitchen...

ooo

I get very jumpy when am not comfortable. I kept waking up until now, 5am. I've never shared a house with a male stranger. I created some scary scenarios in my head. They're most probably the reason why I kept tossing and turning.

I reached for my cellphone under the pillow. There were missed calls from my mother. She never calls more than once, this must've been an emergency.

I called her back. It rang unanswered. I tossed the phone on the other side of the bed and went to the bathroom. I took a quick shower and cleaned up.

I came back to find another missed calls from Zamo. I haven't been fussing over him lately. He likes being followed around and constantly begged. That is a total turn off for me.

I applied lotion and dressed up. I made the bed afterwards. A whole 5 star hotel controlled by this man. Kylie told me the room service doesn't come on weekends.

I tidied up the whole room. I walked out to the

balcony. The view of the sea is what I love most about this room. When I have money I will always ask for rooms with sea view.

"Babes we deco!" I heard her shout banging the door. I walked back in and headed to the door.

She flew in just right after I unlocked.

She placed two cups of coffee on the table.

Kylie: "Morning Miss V. Its a beautiful day isn't? It smells fresh in here"

Me: "Morning Kylie. You should share the secret to this energetic persona" she smiled. I sat down on the bed and helped myself with the hot cup of black coffee. Very perfect to begin my Sunday.

Kylie: "Its easy." She sat on the couch opposite. "I meditate. I do yoga. What are your plans for the day?"

Me: "I wanna go to church."

Kylie: "I knew you were an Angel. When you get back call or text me. Am taking you out"

Me: "Haven't we done enough outing already?"

Kylie: "You want us to have an inside date?"

Me: "Sounds perfect. Where's your...I mean our boss?"

Kylie: "He's at work. Don't worry about him you won't even notice he's here" she got up and picked her designer bag.

Me: "What do you mean I won't even notice he's here?"

Kylie: "I mean exactly that. Bye babes" She clicked her heels away.

I heard laughter coming from the lounge. I took my phone and the cup and headed out.

Sbo: "Haw sis Yoli. I hope you don't mind we cleaned your mess here"

Me: "What mess?"

Sbo: "Your kitchen was a bit messy"

Me: "Oh thank you. Have you guys eaten breakfast?"

Sbo: "Yes we have. Nkanyiso here wants us all to go to church" he pointed at his only calm and collected

friend out of the 3.

Me: "That's great because we are now going to church"

Nkanyiso: "I will borrow you my coats" the other 3 mumbled something I couldn't make out as they followed each other out. I chuckled alone and went to get ready.

My phone rang as I locked the door.

Me: "Mama"

Mama: "Do you realize the mess you're creating in my life at this very present?"

Me: "If only I had any idea on what you're Talking about"

Mama: "That mad thing you call a father arrived here yesterday guns blazing. Can you believe him?"

Me: "He said he's going to EC. Am so sorry"

Mama: "Yoli if I die you will be held accountable I swear to you"

Me: "Calm down. You know he wouldn't hurt you"

Mama: "But he will hurt that magogo of his"

Me: "So you told him what she did?"

Mama: "I had no choice! And that freakin moron had the audacity to still blame me."

Me: "So you gonna tell me too?"

Mama: "No. Am done with this conversation. Ask your friend."

Me: "Ok"

Mama: "Shall I die-"

Me: "I will be held accountable. I heard. Bye mother I will call you later"

Mama: "That's if he hasn't killed me"

"Is that Yoli?" Said a voice in the background. A male voice.

Me: "Who's that?"

Mama: "Bye" .

The line went dead. She has a boyfriend? No I would die.

...

After church we took an uber to Gateway. I felt the need to take advantage of having rich daddy's card with me. Today I finally learned the other 2 friends name. Lwandle and Nkosi.

The service was held at Musgrave. It was good. Where there's God it's always vibrant. I came out feeling fresh and I could feel the holy spirit running through my bones.

Me: "So, McDonalds, Spur, Nandos, Steers, Rocco Mamas or Wimpy?"

Lwandle: "I've never been to Spur"

Sbo: "Me neither"

Nkosi: "I wish to taste it"

Me: "We're going to Spur then"

Nkanyiso: "My girlfriend won't believe this"

Sbo: "Sisi is gonna take pictures of us. Right sisi?"

Me: "Of course I will." I can't wait for us to get paid honestly. They literally have no idea about almost

everything.

We arrived at Spur. The curse has been broken. We spotted an empty table to accommodate the 5 of us.

Sbo: "Where are the menus?"

Me: "Will arrive shortly"

Indeed a waiter came out of nowhere.

Him: "Goodday gentlemen and you my lady." He handed each one of the menus. "Can I get you anything to drink while you decide on what to eat?" That smell. I looked around, he wasn't in sight. The guys ordered drinks. I ordered just water. He walked away.

There was a message from Zamo, not a friendly one but it ended with ILY. I responded 'I love you more'. If I keep entertaining his sulking we might never find peace.

Sbo and the crew were going crazy not knowing what to order.

Nkosi: "Sisi have you figured what to order yet?"

Me: "Yes. You guys should stop calling me sisi"

Lwandle: "What is our budget? I would love this meal"

They all stared at me.

Me: "Our budget is unlimited. You can order anything" they excitedly went back to their menus.

That cologne again. It is this waiter. Men should stop smelling this nice. I raised my eyes to say thankyou. I frowned a bit. He smirked and wiggled the weird bushy eyebrows. Is he in disguise? I swear to God he had no mustache yesterday nor this beard and these weird brows. My goodness I hope its not afro under the cap. I chuckled.

Him: "Hello Oscar Pistorious"

Me: "Hello Mr Dube" And please tell me why earth ishe a waiter.

Him: "Shhh. Are you guys ready to order?"

Sbo: "Yes. I would like this meal" he pointed at a picture. Mr Dube jotted all our orders down and walked off.

I took out my phone.

"Your boss is a waiter? Why?" I sent to Kylie.

"Because he's weird as fuck. Were you able to recognize him? I should change those features"

She responded in an instant. She's my fav

"I wouldn't have. He said something that made me realize its him. Those features are perfect" I wasn't about to tell it was his cologne.

"Perfect. What time should I expect a text inviting me to our indoor date?" Totally forgot about that.

"Around 4pm. Bring a movie"

I downed my water. My phone beeped. It wasn't Kylie but an unknown number.

"This is the beginning of your end. Who the hell do you think you are coming here and take what belongs to me? When I am done with you. You won't even know what hit you. WHORE" my mind went wild. It can't be her.

Lwandle: "Are you okay?" I give him a faint smile.

Me: "Am good"

I forwarded the message to Nzuzi. I should've listened to my mother...

[2/26, 07:14] Zoaness: 21

-

I got up and prepared for the day ahead. I woke up earlier than usual. Yesterday was quite draining. Our little pyjama party worked wonders on my troubled mind. I did not stress about the ghost message.

I finished bathing and went to the kitchen. I made coffee and toast. I packed it and said goodbye to Kylie.

...

My phone rang as we got off the uber.

Sbo: "Let me carry this for you"

Me: "Thank you"

Driver: "Your flask lady"

Me: "Oh thank you"

I generously asked to eat in his car. I took it. He drove off.

Sbo took my bag and they headed inside the gate. I answered.

Me: "Good morning"

Nzuza: "Mshazi. How did you sleep? Did you receive another message?"

Me: "I slept very well thanks. And no I haven't"

Nzuza: "Excellent. My IT specialist traced that number it led him to Durban."

Me: "Durban? I can't possibly have someone to threaten me here"

Nzuza: "Its probably your work competition. Your work is trending on every social media and your number is out there. Don't stress much about it"

Me: "I'll try. Thanks for doing this. Mom told me you were at Ulundi"

Nzuza: "Oh yes I was but am back at EC now"

Me: "Ok. How can I send your card?" He chuckled.

Nzuza: "I thought you'd[have bought a car by now.You can keep it for your personal use" 3

Me: "Be careful. I might milk you dry"

Nzuza: "I'd like to see you try. Bye my baby I will call you later"

Me: "Bye"

I hung up. How much is on this baby? I need a new phone.

'Will I not get arrested if I buy myself an iPhone?' I sent to him.

Me: "Greetings baba"

Bab Nkomo: "Greetings my sunflower. You look even beautiful today" I blushed. He's such a spirit lifter. He's a security guard of this huge butt home.Me:

"Thank you baba"

He smiled.

I found the boys already on their work suits. Nkosi:

"We're setting the furniture on the guest

rooms right?"

Me: "Yes with the two of you. Sbo and Nkanyiso will continue painting the remaining rooms. The ones here on the basement"

Sbo: "Let's go Nka"

They walked away. Lwandle and Nkosi climbed up the stairs while I wrote down today's activities.

I followed shortly and changed into working suits then we got to work. I found them already have peeled off the plastics that were covering the the bed and a dressing table. You can just tell with the furniture that there's no woman included in this home. No woman could ever allow her main bedroom to have only a bed, a single chair, vanity and a walk in closet. No flower vase, no couch, no carpet no anything fancy.

I really had to make changes around here. Only the lounge I was happy with.

Me: "This room looks awful"

Lwandle: "How should it look like?"

Me: "It should look homely"

Nkosi: "Wena sisi you like fancy things. This room is perfect"

Me: "Lets move on to the next one then I'll show you how should a room look like on my decor magazine"

Lwandle: "I can't wait"

We went to the following one. Same thing applied, why did Kylie agree to this madness?

...

Me: "I honestly thought we had something to do around here. I feel defeated." I said as we all gathered around the kitchen counter drinking juice.

Nkosi: "Do you guys find those rooms ugly?" Sbo:

"They are beautiful"

I then remembered to show them the magazine. I pulled it out of my bag. I paged through.

Me: "Here, this is how a beautiful room looks like. Compared to Celiwe's rooms. Are these rooms still beautiful?"

Nkanyiso: "You did well on that house. I hate to agree with you but these ones are honestly dull and shady"

Me: "Thank you Nkah. Can we now go and invade sheet street, Mr Price home, Makro, Pep home and any possible shop with beautiful house utensils"

Sbo: "Makro is expensive"

Me: "Stop worrying about that"

requested an uber.

My phone rang. I sighed and moved away to answer.

Me: "Hey"

Zamo: "How are you?"

Me: "Am good thanks. How are you?"

Zamo: "Sharp. I've done some thinking. I think we're both very busy to be in a relationship" no he's not. "So I concluded that maybe we need a break"

Me: "You concluded on your own?"

Zamo: "Don't make this hard Yolanda. You can see

very well that our relationship is taking a strain rightnow"

Me: "No, what I can see very well is that you're selfish Zamokuhle."

I hung up. I blinked rapidly fighting the tears back. How could he?

I composed myself and went back to the guys wearing my bold smile.

Me: "The uber has arrived. Where are we eating today"

Lwandle: "Wimpy. I saw an advert on t.v."

Nkah: "As we go back home we will be fat"

Me: "Well there's nothing wrong with that"

Sbo: "Hhai sisi. We want six packs to show off at the beach"
I laughed. Them and the beach.

...

We shopped till we dropped.

My phone rang just as we sat down at Wimpy with 4 trolleys.

Me: "Hey. Did you find the image?"

Kylie: "Yes babe. Its so beautiful"

Me: "Kylie don't tell me you find that style normal"Kylie:
"Isn't?"

Me: "Am so done with you"

Kylie: "You went to shop for more?"

Me: "Yes. I sent you an email on the Dube constructions account you told me to email if I havea request and I got a response of I should go ahead"

Kylie: "Ohh great. Am leaving for Jo'burg later on"

Me: "You can't do that to me Kylie not today. I couldreally use a friend"

Kylie: "Am so sorry babe but my dad isn't well I haveto see him. I'll be in touch though"

Me: "Ok love. I'll call you later"

Kylie: "Bye boo"

I really wanted to cry. I told them to order and excused myself. I got to the loo and called Ayanda. I

vent it all out. I hung up and finished off crying, washed my face and then went back to the guys.

Their orders had already arrived. I sat down and called on the waiter and ordered too.

Nkah: "You're one of the people I'll never forget"

Me: "Were you planning on forgetting me?" Nkah:
"Hell no."

Sbo: "You've introduced us into beautiful things in life"

Lwandle: "True. Never in my wildest dream have I ever thought I'd eat with fork and knife"

Nkosi: "Not to mention staying at a hotel. We had a really tough upbringing sisi and we never thought our tiling and painting job will take us this far in life"

Me: "That's what happens when you're destined for greatness in life."

Nkah: "To sis Yoli" they all raised their forks. They are so dramatic but I love them.

Us: "Cheers"

...

Mama: "Ayanda tells me your boyfriend dumped you" that's the first thing she says. What happened to sister-sister confidentiality Ayanda!

Me: "Hello mother"

Mama: "Just buy a bottle of wine and some snacks and drink the pain away"

Me: "Am not in pain" just saying that makes it even more painful.

Mama: "I know you are. How's the progress on the house?" Wow. Even at school she's never asked any concern questions. This is a first.

Me: "I just finished making 3 rooms. Am left 4 including the master bedroom and then a nursery"

Mama: "I wish I could see it" Me:

"I need to buy you a phone"

Mama: "I have a phone"

Me: "Not that one. A phone that I can send you pictures on"

Mama: "I do have it. I just have no idea how to use it"

Me: "Where did you get it?"

Mama: "From a friend. Have you made new friends there?"

Me: "No. I haven't found time to"

Mama: "Friends are important Yoli"

Me: "Yeah right"

I then remembered the ladies I met back at home. Maybe they'd want to go out and have a couple of drinks. But its Monday, people don't go out on Mondays. Am doomed.

Mama: "Akhona is coming over this weekend"

Me: "That is good. I have to call her. Do you want airtime?"

Mama: "I have enough to call the whole village" Me:

"You're weird"

Mama: "Bye my pots are calling me"

Me: "Bye"

I got off the kitchen counter. After working my magic on the rooms I ended up coming here at the kitchen and worked on it.

I need a real camera to take pictures.

I received a text from Kylie informing me that she's leaving. My heart broke even more. The guys were up stairs bathing.

I tried calling Zamo but it went straight to voicemail. They finally came down.

Lwandle: "We shook cook on this kitchen before we leave"

Sbo: "I couldn't agree more. And those rooms. You outdone yourself sisi" he raised his hand for a highfive. I chuckled and hit our palms together. We took our bags and left.

I asked the driver to pass by the liquor store nearby.

I bought 2 bottles of wine and snacks then we continued with the drive.

...

Nkah: "Are you okay?" He asked soon as lift closed.Me:

"Yeah am good. Its just that time of the month"

Sbo: "Why didn't you tell us. We would've bought you chocolate"

Me: "That's sweet. You can buy me tomorrow" we reached their floor.

Lwandle: " We'll see you tomorrow"

Me: "Sleep well"

They got off. I checked the time. It was close to 8pm.

I ran the tub full. I poured in the bath salts and bathfoam.

My wine waited on the fridge. I've only drank it once, today is going to be the second time.

I played my sad music on the phone and cried my eyeballs out. I really don't know what hurt me mostbetween being dumped and the fact that I am insanely inlove with him but can't be with him anymore.

After an hour or so I finally took myself out of the tub and my misery. Everything seemed fresh, room service stopped by.

I put on the robe and slippers then went to get my new friend and snacks.

Life is so nice sometimes. Look at me doing what they do in movies. I hope it works.

I went back to the room to get the tissue then came back. I folded my legs on the couch and looked for interesting t.v. shows. I found one. I poured a glass and started sipping on it. It didn't taste as bad, I got used to the taste each time I took a sip.

I cried and cried and cried. I kept checking my phone hoping I'd find his text or anything but nothing.

I heard the door unlock. I totally forgot about a boss roommate. I quickly grabbed my bottle and my snacks and ran to my bedroom.

I can't believe I haven't offered to sleep on the other and let him back here. I also can't believe that I won't do it. This room is everything.

I forgot the glass. I looked for the one I use for drinking water. I rinsed it and sat on the bed comfortably and continued drinking. It was doing the work. I wasn't crying anymore. The music was getting more nicer now.

I heard a knock. I stopped breathing."I

know you're in there. Open up"

I breathe again.

"Yolanda"

Hhai hhai hhai. He must leave me alone."I

have a special thing for you"

He smiled.

Quinton: "Hey Oscar" I laughed. "I wanna get in"

I hesitantly moved for him. "I almost missed the pity party"

He placed the tray on the table next to the door leading to the balcony. What pity party? "You can close the door or leave it open like that if you're not comfortable"

I left it open. I climbed on the bed. He peeled off the cloth covering the tray. He handed me the bowl full of ice cream then a glass.

He poured my wine on the one he had and took his bowl then went to sit on the couch below the bed.

Quinton: "Boy problems?"

Me: "No"

Quinton: "Okay. I found tissues on the lounge and I figured you might be having one of those days so this is my treat to your broken heart" am I that transparent?

Me: "Thank you. This is so sweet of you" I dug on the ice cream.

Quinton: "Since its not boy problems, is it menstruation?" God no. I chuckled.

Me: "No Mr Dube. My boyfriend actually dumped me"

Quinton: "Oh no. Am sorry to hear that but to hell with his lousy ass"

Me: "I love him" it must be the wine.

Quinton: "You'll get over him. You have a whole beautiful life ahead. Pick your head up before your tiara falls, he was never yours in the first place."

Me: "Are you a motivational speaker?"

Quinton: "It depends on who's asking. Is this your first heartbreak?" I nodded. "This should make you not the other way around. Try to get over it as soon as possible, there's no heartbreak you'll never be able to handle in future. I got over my first heartbreak in a week"

Me: "I am a woman"

Quinton: "So?"

Me: "I have a fragile heart"

Quinton: "Nonsense. These boys aren't looking for anything solid these days kid. Your fragile heart won't survive the dating world. Toughen up that heart, turn it into steel"

Me: "Better said than done"

Quinton: "You'll become an alcoholic then because boys break hearts almost everyday"

I chuckled. He's right but this is my first love. I have to mourn the death of it.

Me: "How old are your children?" Am done talking about my broken heart. He smiled.

Quinton: "7 months. 2 beautiful baby girls that I love with whole of my life" his face literally lit up. "Wanna see them?"

Me: "Yes please"

He handed me his phone.

Quinton: "Sikelela on the left and Sisekelo on the right" it doesn't matter. They look the same.

Me: "You can tell them apart?" He chuckled.

Quinton: "Yes. I guess its easy when you're their parent" I nodded. "Do you have a child?" That's funny.

Me: "Nope. I don't even have a cat" I handed back the phone. "You seem very fond of your kids"

Quinton: "They are my life."

Me: "They will grow to be the happiest children in the

world. I wish I had the luxury of feeling daddy's love at the young age"

This wine was really getting to me. I felt like crying again that my father wasn't there.

Quinton: "Am sorry, did he pass away?"

Me: "No. It's a long story but he found me now and he's doing the best he could to make up for the lost time"

Quinton: "As long as he had a valid reason why he wasn't there"

Me: "He does"

Quinton: "So you're using your mother's surname?"

Me: "Yes I've always been a Vilakazi. I've always wished I used my real surname but now it would be weird if I had to be Yolanda Penelope Nzuza"

He chuckled.

Quinton: "Why? It's a beautiful surname. Do you know Nzuza the famous business tycoon?"

Me: "Yes, he's my father"

Quinton: "Really?"

Me: "Yep"

Quinton: "And you really look like him"

Me: "That's the reason why mother would pinch my ears"

He laughed. He told me about his expanding family. He's really fond of them I could tell. He kept mentioning his twin brother. Not even once did he mention a wife, girlfriend or the baby mama.

Before we knew it, it was 2am. I was already drunk and talking non stop.

He got up and collected the things he came with.

Quinton: "Goodnight we MaNzuzza, remember to toughen up. Don't cry yourself to death" I laughed.

Me: "Never. Soon as you close that door, am shutting my eyes. Goodnight and thanks for coming to my pity party" he smiled.

Quinton: "Pleasure kid"

He did mention that I'm age mates with his little

sister, sister inlaw and son justifying that "kid" tittle. I couldn't even tell he's that old.

He closed the door. I tried to fall asleep but failed I got up and took my laptop and started searching for baby decor around here...

[2/26, 07:15] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

22

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I finished getting ready and took only my phone. This thing of always carrying a bag is unnecessary in my life. My boobs are enough to take in my phone and my black card. I sent daddy a morning text. He loves being loved. I remembered I have a mother who have enough airtime to call the whole village. I sent her a callback.

I walked out of the room. There was a note, car keys and a card next to my flask.

'Kid I have left. On your left is a petrol card. Make

sure you have your license with you and fasten your seatbelt at all Times.

Q'

I forgot to tell him I can't drive. I picked the card up. Dube logistiscs, nice. The door swung open. Where do they get all this energy every morning.

Nkah: "Hello sisi"

Sbo: "Ready to go?"

Me: "Is there any of you who has a license?" They just looked at me kind of puzzled. "Drivers license"

They went "ohhh"

Sbo: "We do. All of us" that is nice.

Me: "Really? I must work on getting mine soon." Nkah:

"Why do you ask?"

Me: "Oh Mr Dube borrowed us his car"

Lwandle: "Am driving!"

Sbo: "Where are the keys sisi?"

Nkosi: "Sisi give the keys to the quiet one"

Lwandle: "By God's grace lets hope you're not referring to yourself"

Nkosi: "Duh!"

Me: "Ok guys listen. You'll take turns, 2 of you will drive us today and then the other two tomorrow"

Sbo: "Yes! Nkosi and I are driving today"

Me: "I guess its settled then. Let's go we're late"

...

It felt like a dream. Kylie called earlier on checking up on me and asking about progress. I promised to call her when we're done.

We installed all the necessary furniture. It now looked like a home. The guests rooms were exactly how I wanted them to be. The master bedroom, I tried to keep it as simple yet elegant as possible.

I was sitting alone at the lounge. These morons went to swim at the beach. Its 10 minutes away from here.

I received an email that I should fetch my iPhone or send them the address. Yes insomnia led me into buying a phone online.

I asked Kylie the address of this house and relaxed on the couch. All this furniture screams "wealth" I should search these Dubes. I haven't even told Thabiam working for the Dube man that she's so scared of, he's not even that bad.

What bugs me is that he never mentioned knowing me from somewhere. Maybe he's planning on killing me.

She sent the address. I forwarded it to the phone people.

And then I video called Kylie.

Kylie: "Learn to make an appointment before facetimeing people" I laughed.

Me: "Aisuka. I've seen you uglier"

Kylie: "Look at you lying on that couch like you own it"

Me: "That's jealousy speaking. Wanna see the transformation?"

Kylie: "Please ma'am"

I switched the camera to rear view.

Me: "Am not sure if I should leave the tv here or have it up there. I mean he has double trouble and you know how kids abuse the tv"

Kylie: "Where ever you put it its okay babe. Wow its so beautiful. Quinton should raise my salary"

Me: "Shouldn't I be the one saying that?"

Kylie: "Did you find him the best designer in town?" I chuckled. "I thought as much"

Me: "Let's go to the kitchen"

Kylie: "Didn't you forget his bar fridge?"

Me: "That one is a surprise don't worry"

Kylie: "You're something else." I opened the fridge "Oh my God! Is that a fridge?"

Me: "Yes" I closed it. I covered the doors with the same material as of the cupboards.

Kylie: "Girl are you trying to milk Dube dry? He won't have to pay you less than a million here" I laughed. She's always exaggerating.

Me: "I love this stove"

Kylie: "You must stay a week there with him to teach him how to use it. All his houses have gas stoves"

Me: "Oh my, really? Why didn't you tell me to install one?"

Kylie: "He needs to feel a different vibe."

Me: "The pantry is my favorite. You can't tell it is it. I'm just worried the twins will hide in there" she laughed.

Kylie: "He must keep it locked at all times"

Me: "He's a man. He'll forget to. Tomorrow am starting with the nursery"

Kylie: "All the best my love"

Me: "How's daddy?"

Kylie: "He's getting there. Thanks for asking" Me:

"That is good." A message popped up.

'Hey girl. What are you doing this evening? I figured that since Kylie and Q are out of town. You might be bored. I was hoping we could go out for supper.

Nkule' I didn't even know she had my numbers.

Me: "Nkule wants us to go out for supper"

Kylie: "I wonder if she cooks at All. Are you down?"

Me: "I guess so. I could do with some company. MrDube threw me a pity party last night" we laughed. I texted Nkule back telling her I'm game.

Kylie: "He can be sweet at times. You told him you got dumped?"

Me: "Yes. I needed to vent. I feel a bit better today but it keeps crossing my mind and my heart aches"

Kylie: "Shame poor thing. You'll be ok" Me:

"I guess so. Let me not hold you up."Kylie:

"Ok baby. I'll call you later"

Me: "Ok bye"

I hung up and texted the guys to come back. I needed to go to the hotel and rest a little and then prepare for the outing.

I got an alert that I've been added on the group.

Whoever taught her WhatsApp will not make it to heaven.

Me: "And those you are removing?"

Mom: "I added them nge mistake. It only should beyou, Ayanda and Akhona"

I sent the laughing emojis.

Mom: "Why are you crying?"

Me: "Thats a laughing emoji"

Mom: "It looks sad though. Where do I find them?"

Me: "On your left. Click on the smiling head"

Mom: "I want an angry one"

Me: "Its red. Not the one that has blue drops"

My phone rang. Mr Nzuz. I'm surprised this is hisfirst call today.

Me: "I thought you forgot about me"

Nzuz: "I had back to back meetings. How are youmy princess?"

Me: "Am fine. And you my king?" He chuckled.

Nzuz: "Am even better now. Haven't you forgottenabout your appointment with the therapist" ugh hell!

Me: "I don't need it"

Nzuza: "Yolanda"

Me: "Am serious baba. You're all the therapy I needed. I am fine really"

Nzuza: "Did you just say baba?" Did I?

Me: "Maybe"

Nzuza: "You have no idea how much that means to me my love. Shall you feel like you need someone to talk to, hit her up, okay?"

Me: "Okay."

Nzuza: "When are you getting your drivers license?"

Me: "Soon as I finish this house. You planning on buying me a car?"

Nzuza: "Aren't you going to buy it yourself kanti na ntombam?"

Me: "I will but in 5 years. I still wanna build my mother a decent home"

Nzuza: "I'm proud of You"

Me: "Thank you." The wall phone rang. "I will call you later madala"

Nzuza: "Yey am still fresh"

Me: "In your dreams my king. Bye" he laughed.

Nzuza: "Bye putsununu"

I hung up and rushed to the phone.

Me: "Uhm...hello" how does one even answer these?

"MaVilakazi please open the gate for the guys from the security company . Bab Nkomo is not at the gate"

Me: "Mr Dube. Hi. I will. They didn't ring the house. Did you travel well?"

Q: "Yes I did thank you. Tell them not to install cameras in the master bedroom"

Me: "I will Sir"

Q: "How's the heartache?" I laughed.

Me: "Its getting better. The pity party did the trick"Q:

"Do you need more wine?"

Me: "No thanks. I just need a good read"

Q: "I'll buy you a whole library if you make my house what I want it to be"

Me: "I will be waiting for my library" he chuckled.Q:

"Take care."

Me: "Thanks. You do too"

I hung up. I forgot to ask how his brother is. I remembered I have to let the security people in. He installs cameras? I won't be able to dance anymore.

I waited by the main door. If only this was my house. I'd be standing here wearing only leggings, tank top and flops holding a glass of expensive cold wine in my hand not to mention having my free hand running through my 36 inch Brazilian weave.

The door bell rang. I opened. Wow! Breathe Yoli Breathe.

Act cool. Move off the door and let them in. He smiled. Oh My God! Focus!

Me: "Afternoon gentlemen. I'm deeply sorry for keeping you waiting. I had no idea you had arrived"

Him: "No problem Mrs Dube. Mr Dube told us" I chuckled.

Me: "I am Yolanda Vilakazi. Not Mrs Dube"

Him: "Ohh my bad. I am Tyson. This is Aubrey and Senzo, my co workers" eye candies. Dark and very handsome. Dressed on fuck boy uniform. They are the type to admire from afar. They are the guys Mr Dube warned me about.

Me: 'Nice to meet you gentlemen. You may begin with your magic. Mr Dube requested that you do not install any cameras in the master bedroom"

Senzo: "And how are we going to tell that this is a master bedroom. Am sorry but I'm not a sangoma"he has a stinking ass attitude.

Me: "Master bedrooms are usually big aren't they? Or you've never seen one? The one of this house hold has two doors. So you do not open that room"

I left them standing there going back to the lounge. I hate people like him. He thinks this is his parent's world.

I sat down on the couch and switched on the tv. Tyson appeared.

Tyson: "I'm sorry about that. He tends to be like that at times"

Me: "Well its not attractive but its okay"

Tyson: "Can you please charge for me?" Me:

"Yeah sure"

I took it and connected it to the charger. He vanished.

I took mine. There were 80 messages from the group mommy created. They were all from her. God I need strength.

Bab Nkomo: "Nkosazane"

Me: "Baba. How are you?"

Bab Nkomo: "I'm fine my child. This came for you" I jumped up. It is here.

Me: "Thank you. You weren't at the gate few minutes ago"

Bab Nkomo: "I was at the house opposite. That boy

beats that poor child. I had to stay there until the police arrive. Carefully choose your men Nkosazanaor stay single" he seemed disturbed by this. "This world has no man anymore but just ruthless animals"

Me: "I am not even looking forward into marriage"

Bab Nkomo: "They don't only beat those they are married to but even the girlfriends"

Me: "Nothing beats being open to red flags."

Bab Nkomo: "I guess so. When did the security company arrive? I saw their car outside"

Me: "A few minutes ago"

Bab Nkomo: "Ok. It looks beautiful here"

Me: "Thank you"

Bab Nkomo: "I hope you expand this into a huge business. Those boys are your ride or die"

Me: "I will baba. In due time. I'm very grateful for them"

Bab Nkomo: "Let me leave you to open your gift."

Maybe its a bomb"

I laughed. He headed out. I went to the kitchen to the get a knife.

I opened it. This is a dream coming true. I took a picture of it and sent to the group then to my king.

Mom: "It looks like mine" what?

Me: "you have an iphone?"

Mom: "Yes. Uswabile child of black cards?" Me:

"Oh my God. He's the one that gave you?"

Mom: "Yes. He owes me. He had no money to pay for breakfast so he gave me his phone"

Me: "What? You have a restaurant now?"

Mom: "Bye Felicia"

I called her. She did not pick up. Aibo this woman...

I did a little shopping earlier. There was this make up brand being promoted so I got myself a facebeat. I bought their foundation, lipstick and mascara. Those

are the only things I can use in make up.

I wanted to take an uber but Lwandle insisted on driving me to EMhlanga. It was more about the car than wanting to make sure I'm safe.

Nkule said I'll find her at Tasha's. They dropped me off there and drove off to only Lord knows where. I kept praying they don't crash it.

I've never been to a place this classy. White people scare the shit out of me.

I have my habit of rocking a dress with sneakers. I always appear to be very hot though. I looked like goals today.

I spotted her sitting alone drinking whatever.Me:

"Hi"

She raised her eyes. She looked rather surprised.

Nkule: "You...you look stunning. I didn't know you wore make up" she had hers nicely done.

Me: "Am not much on it. I did this one at the mall"Nkule:

"Wow its beautiful. You may take a seat"

I pulled a chair and sat down. A waiter came around. I ordered water with lemon. I've read about it on books and seen it on tv. They always order it first.

Me: "Your belly looks bigger today"

Nkule: "Yesterday I was hungry. Do you have a child?"

Me: "No"

Nkule: "Mmmh. I was thinking we will be going out until Kylie comes back but I got a call from Quinton that I need to rush to Jo'burg"

Me: "Your husband let's you travel?" I got served my water. "Thank you"

Nkule: "When it involves family you can never say no. The Dubes are like my second family"

Me: "That is good"

Her focus shifted to my hands.

Nkule: "Is that his watch?"

Me: "Oh yeah. He probably forgot it on top of the coffee table."

Nkule: "Does he know you're wearing it? He's very territorial if you ask me"

Me: "No he doesn't know but I will tell him when he gets back. What is your profession?" I'm not here to talk about my boss.

Nkule: "I have an Education degree but never really practised. You know growing up having everything and then finding a man who provides for you"

Me: "Nice. You should get yourself a job before you start baking scones and making supper for a living" she laughed.

Nkule: "Quinton would go crazy. Can you believe that he moved this side because of me, left his family and company just to be close to me" there's no dodging this topic.

Me: "Why?"

Nkule: "I think he can't get over us"

Me: "You used to date?" She nodded. "Oh my. Why did you break up?"

Nkule: "We were doing a no strings attached kinda

thingie, I was engaged at the time but he had no idea about that. He caught feelings and the day he came to confess is the day my husband was to arrive. The 2 last weeks of our arrangement we both could feel that it was now more than a no strings attached. We were in love. You should've seen how he cried and begged me to break off the engagement." She cheated on her fiance? Women cheat too?

Me: "Shame poor thing." I could imagine him crying. I'd laugh till I fart.

Nkule: "It was really hard. But then he found his baby mama who later on died. He came to confess again that he's never loved and never will love someone more than he loves me."

Me: "The twins mother passed on?"

Nkule: "Yes. She was gunned down end of December. It was all over the news" for some odd reasons my heart ached.

Me: "He's going through a lot"

Nkule: "Oh please. He never loved her anyway, he made it clear that it was all about sex and that, that's

what it'll always be about with every woman he meets"

Me: "All because he loves you?"

Nkule: "I guess so"

Me: "He hasn't found that one woman." I called for the waiter.

Nkule: "He's dated models, actresses and many more hot and successful women"

Me: "The woman that will break his walls will come from nowhere"

She seemed unsettled by that. I hate people like her. She's happy he's holding on to her while she's married. He also couldn't love the woman who bears him children because of her? Men are crazy.

Nkule: "Let's order"

I picked my new phone up to check up on my idiots. She looked closer at it. "Is that his petrol card?"

I turned my phone.

Me: "Oh. yes it is"

Nkule: "Don't tell me you took it without his permission too"

Me: "No. He borrowed me his car"

Nkule: "The new X7?"

Me: "Yes"

Nkule: "He's so generous with his employees" Me:

"A lot. He's sweet"

She faintly smiled.

Nkule: "Your boyfriend doesn't mind?" Me:

"I don't have a boyfriend"

The waiter finally came. We placed our orders and continued chatting. Me trying to avoid Quinton's name to pop. This felt nothing like a normal supperdate. It felt like a "Discuss Quinton Dube" session. Inow need wine...

[2/26, 07:16] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

23

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[Unedited]

It's been a very busy 3 days. I am happy I'm done but sad that we're leaving in a few days. My only friends abandoned me. I will die of boredom today.

I got off the couch. Tv is the worst on Mondays. I placed the cereal bowl on the sink and poured juice.

The door flew open. I screamed and flew to her. I hugged the living day lights out of her.

Kylie: "Let's thank God I have strong bones" I let go of her.

Me: "Aisuka. I was sulking here thinking of how bored I will be"

Kylie: "Trust me I wasn't coming back today but I am an employee and I have my duties which include going to Emhlanga to check if I should deposit this payment or not"

Me: "Why don't you invite someone different. I don't

trust your judgement"

Kylie: "I am a very good judge if you ask me." I
chuckled.

Me: "So what time are you going there?"

Kylie: "After we grab breakfast"

Me: "Are you taking me out?"

Kylie: "Yes babes. Go change"

Me: "More like. Go bath?" Kylie:

"Its 9am Yoli"

Me: "Yes and I just woke up"

I said walking away to the bathroom.

Kylie is the worst. She had me running around like a
headless chicken. The final results were me wearing a
skirt and a crop top. Me...having my stomach outfor the
world to see. I don't like Kylie. At all.

Kylie: "When did my card slip out?"

Me: "Nope! This is mine."

Kylie: "Yours?"

Me: "Yes. Mr Dube left his car with me"

Kylie: "God is good because we were going to catch an uber but now you moghel is taking us to Westville"

Me: "And I, moghel doesn't have a license" Her

whole face turned into shock.

Kylie: "And how old is you moghel?" Me:

"Turning 22 in June thank you" Kylie: "I

need a psychologist. Let's go"

I took my bag. I had to be a lady today. I even applied my new foundation and mascara then zambuk on my lips. Do not look at me like that, it treats my lips good. If only I had a boyfriend to kiss them.

I adjusted the crop. She slapped my hand.

I locked then off we went to the underground parking to occupy Mr Dube's car.

We drove about close to an hour. We finally arrived at this restaurant.

We scored ourselves a table and sat down. This

wasn't breakfast anymore but lunch. It was close to 12pm.

Her phone rang. I read through the Menu, no meal cost less than a R50. Day light robbery.

Kylie: "That was my boyfriend. He's such a big baby. He's catching flu"

Me: "So he's crying to you?"

Kylie: "Yes. He wouldn't dare cry to his gqwirhi mother" I laughed. I've noticed how much she doesn't her mother in law.

Me: "Hhaibo that's your mother in law"

Kylie: "Oh please. This menu is superb." We called on the waiter.

Kylie: "Uhm. Can we have full chicken, marinated with spicy herbs and mild chilli sauce, ribs, greek salad and rolls"

Me: "That is for both of us right?"

Kylie: "No"

Me: "A full chicken?"

Kylie: "Order. Don't keep the other child waiting" I

ordered. What is wrong with her?

Our beverages came first.

...

Did she even eat that chicken? Nope!

We arrived at the Dube household. I had a little chitchat with Bab Nkomo as always.

I found Kylie talking on the phone.

Kylie: "Oh here she is." She lowered the phone to my face.

Me: "Mr Dube"

Q: "I was expecting paint on your face"

Me: "Well you expected wrong. Do you like the house?"

Q: "You deserve that library kid. I'm just sad I can't see the nursery"

Me: "We don't wanna spoil the surprise. Do we?"

Q: "I guess not. Uhm wait...Kylie tells me the stove is

electronic"

Me: "Yes Sir it is and I could change it if you want"

Q: "Its beautiful but I've never used one before. I have no clue how to use it"

Kylie: "I told her she'll have to stay here and teach you"

Me: "Don't worry. Kylie will teach you"

Q: "I'd rather burn that house down. She's not patient. You're a bad teacher Kylie"

Kylie: "Well. Thanks Zebra. We're going upstairs now"

Me: "Bye bye. I'm gonna stay here and make myself coffee"

Q: "There's coffee?"

Kylie snatched away the cellphone. I laughed.

Kylie: "Yes. Her coffee. The one that she's leaving with today"

She said going away. I chuckled and walked to kitchen. I boiled water and took out my phone that I

had not touched today.

I found a please call me from Lwandle and the rest of them.

I called Nkosi.

Nkosi: "Sisi. You should come join us" Me:

"Where are you?"

Nkosi: "I don't know but all I could tell you is that. It's fun"

Me: "Are you drinking?"

Nkosi: "Yes we were but we've stopped now. Are you coming?"

Me: "Maybe. Don't lose your phones. Bye"

I gave them my card. They can afford booze but not airtime?. These humans.

I made coffee and put ice cubes on it. Its too hot to burn myself up. I scrolled down my feed. More friend requests and more followers. Each day I got to answer how much is my service, it really depends.

The 3 people I have worked for they gave me their

cards to buy whatever is needed. So if I have to use my own money I'd probably cost them an arm and a leg. At Celiwe's house I used almost R30 000 and here, I used approximately R80 000. Imagine if that was my own money, I'd have expected a R500 000 thousand payment, keeping it in mind that I still have to split it with the guys.

Kylie: "Girl. The Dube accounts can't be accessed" Me: "How?"

Kylie: "Apparently Quinton withdrew a large sum of money 3 days in a row and the accounts are frozen but he's on it don't worry. He said I must transfer at least half of your payment and then we'll transfer the rest when the accounts are okay" her phone beeped. "Oh it's actually a cheque. I'll forward it to you just now"

Me: "Thank you. In that way we can be out of here tomorrow"

Kylie: "Why so soon?"

Me: "I miss home"

Kylie: "So this is how it ends?"

Me: "Don't do that."

Kylie: "I thought you and I are friends"

Me: "We are and I said I'm going home I did not say I am cutting off our friendship" she smiled. "You're a fool but I love you anyway"

Kylie: "I know. What are we going to do with our lives now?"

Me: "The guys are somewhere having fun. We could join them"

Kylie: "Let's go then." She paused "Or we should just go to the salon and do something about our afros"

Me: "Our hair looks gorgeous"

Kylie: "Yes but we are going anyway. What are you gonna do? I want some weave"

Me: "Corn rows will do"

Kylie: "Let's go. Do you get the cheque?"

Me: "Let me check" I smiled. "Not only my thighs and ass are fat. So is my bank account. But this is more

than the amount I charged"

Kylie: "Being a Dube employee is like that. I think they don't know what to do with it. Let him send another 100k."

I laughed.

Me: "That would be day light robbery. The 20k I'll take as the bonus."

Kylie: "Just pay the guys. Let them get the taste of having real money"

Me: "I will, later today"

She winked at me. Sometimes I think she's attracted to me.

I hate Kylie and my crew. Our salon date led us into that event that none of us had no idea what it is. We drank like there's no tomorrow, I'm just a little Ntombenhle. I must admit. Daddy dearest called and said something about seeing me today. God knows I am not up for that. I can't even get out of this bed!

"Is it safe to come in?" Fuck no!

I tried getting out of bed but I fell off. I am crippled.Q:

"Yoli?"

Me: "Don't come in I'm on my undies"

The door opened. I always knew he's a rapist. I quickly pulled the duvet. "Are you kidding me?"

Q: "No. I need to get dressed. I want to go to the mall. I can't go in my bvd"

Me: "Here?"

Q: "Haven't you noticed this isn't your room?" I looked around. Shit. "Yes." Why is he confidently standing over me in his boxers? Why is he even calling boxers bvds? God I wanna die. I shut myeyes.

Q: "I will get you meds okay. You look like you just survived tornado in Egypt"

Me: "Thanks. Whatever that means"

He chuckled. I tried to get up soon as I heard the door close.

I'm not even in my undies. I picked my jacket up and

took a walk of shame to my room.

Kylie: "Hey!!!" She waved from a couch. Why is she looking fresh?

Me: "Please talk to the hand"

Kylie: "I warned but you said YOLO."

Me: "I was drunk already. You should've tried harder"

Kylie: "I'm sorry. I will next time"

Me: "No need. This was the last time"

A message came through. Thank God I didn't lose it. Mmmh money in is enough to bring a smile into myface. I left the crazy Kylie and went to my room. I stripped naked and headed for the shower. He slept there. The pillows are all over. Men need Jesus.

I transferred the money to the guys and soaked myself.

I should be going home today but nope. I can't showup looking like this, my mother would scream her lungs out.

I got out of the tub feeling fresh. My head had toned

down a bit. I applied lotion and dressed up. I

took my phone and went out.

Me: "Kylie?" Her bag wasn't in sight. I hate this habit.

'No goodbye?' I sent to her and checked for breakfast ingredients.

'I went to change. What should I bring for breakfast?' Me:

'Everything'

The fridge had nothing appetizing. I fixed myself coffee and sat down.

Facebook notification. A friend request from Tyson Sibanda. I accepted. How did he find me? Who cares!

An inbox came through.

Him: 'Hey beautiful. This is Tyson I hope you still remember me. I have been looking for you then finally today God remembered I am in search of my future Mrs Sibanda then boom you appeared. Can I have your numbers?'

I gave out the numbers. I need some fun. Second boyfriend won't hurt....uhm third actually.

He invited me on WhatsApp. What a player! But it doesn't matter cause we both playing.

"Tell me you're not dating this fool or even dating at all. Are you trying to have your heart broken?" I jumped. What on earth!

Me: "Mr Dube I am very fat and might have a heart disease so sneaking up on me isn't good"

Q: "Well in that case stop talking or dating boys like this Sibanda boy"

Me: "Uhm with all due respect-"

Q: "Block him" I laughed. "I'm not kidding. He's shit like the rest of them. He has 6 different baby mamas and a very shitty job. He doesn't take care of at least one child and you're here smiling at his texts like a retard. Yoli you're too good for someone like him"

Me: "Well love-"

Q: "You're 22. You know nothing about love. There's no love with these pants dropping boys. All they want is sex"

Me: "We're not dating"

Q: "Good. Tell him to never text you again or I'll killhim"
why is he sounding like my parent?

I laughed.

Me: "I will."

Q: "Now"

Me: "Yes I'm on it."

He gave me my meds and water. "Thank you"

He served me food and sat on the couch opposite.Q:

"Yolanda"

Me: "Sir?" He chuckled but then quickly switched tohis
serious scary face.

Q: "Do you see where you're heading?"

Me: "Yes"

Q: "Your only distraction to your destination will be a boy.
These low lives boys don't want women with great jobs
like you. They always want women to fallunder them. If
you feel the need to date, date someone who will not feel
threatened by your bank account. I hope you do not take
this the wrong way. I

care about you kid"

Me: "Thank you. I wasn't even gonna date him, we were just going to have fun" he frowned. I chuckled "No not that fun. The texting fun"

He smiled.

Q: "Eat. We're going to the house. I can't wait for my surprise"

Me: "Oh there's that. I almost left today" Q:

"Why?"

Me: "My job here is done"

Q: "That doesn't mean leave. You can stay here I will continue to pay"

Me: "You're very generous Mr Dube but thank you. I wanna go home and then Jo'burg for my graduation"

Q: "Jo'burg? Are you going to come back after graduation?"

Me: "Chances are slim. I wanna settle there"

Q: "Not so fast. 4 of my friends would like you to do

their houses too, I shouldn't be telling you this but yeah"

Me: "Oh. I will stay home till they need my service then"

Q: "That's not necessary. You can stay with me at my house"

Me: "You've done enough already. You let me stay here, I eat your food, borrowed me your car. Its a lot"

Q: "When are you doing your driver's license?"

I don't remember telling him that.

Me: "When I get home"

Q: "When you get it. You can come and take the X7" Me:

"To practice with it?"

Q: "No kid. It's a gift and I'll borrow you the Dubai petrol card for a year. Oh Jesus don't do it. Yoli..."

I couldn't stop them from falling. "What do I do Now? Hug you?"

My voice wouldn't come out. He got up and came to hug me.

I moved off.

Me: "I don't know what to say"

Q: "Don't say anything. I love what you did at my girlsroom and the master bedroom. I'm sorry I went there but I couldn't help it. Thank you"

Me: "I was doing my job"

Q: "Your job is incredibly amazing"

There's something about his eyes. They're full of mixed emotions. I don't why he was staring deep into my eyes but for some odd reasons I was staringback.

The door swung open.

Nkule: "I thought you said she's a child. Quinton what are you playing at?"

Q: "Go to your room. I'll call you when we're leaving"

Nkule: "No sit down. Is this why you were wearing his watch? I can't believe this. Why don't date men your age and your league?"

Me: "What? Why on earth would I date a man that

loves only you? Don't do this. You're embarrassing yourself"

Nkule: "Bitch please"

Me: "Is that why you invited me to that date? You thought we're dating?"

Nkule: "Quinton. Don't just sit there, if you aren't dating why are you holding each other?"

He still had his one arm around me. I got up and left them there. I could hear her shouting. Isn't this woman married?

[2/26, 07:17] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

24

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Its been 4 weeks and by the grace of God I have managed to do a lot in that period. The house is finished, its only left for me to to furniture it. The advantage of hiring a construction company, they are very fast.

My mother! She no longer speaks to our neighbors because she now has a better house and a fenced home and her daughter has a car. I've tried to tell her she's being unreasonable but she brought up all the times they mistreated her and laughed at how poor she is. I don't understand her heart.

She no longer even goes to drink Kwa Mbatha she drinks from home now. Nzuza bought her a huge tv and DSTV so I guess it's one of the reasons she no longer leaves home.

Oh and I finally got my license. I fetched it yesterday. My daddy did not like that whoever I was working for gave me a car. My mom played along on my lie saying it's a woman but I know if I ever upset her she'll tell him it's a man.

And for some odd reasons I've caught a very weird vibe about Q lately. He calls me throughout the day, preaching about how much he misses me. He even sends me cute selfies at work. And constantly asks if I have a boyfriend now and tells me that I should remain single until I have opened my business because boys will make me lose focus.

My phone notified.

Kylie: "I can't wait to see you" I chuckled. Her and her boss are the only Durban friends I have.

Me: "Are we going out?"

Kylie: "Nope! But we're having an indoor picnic. Quinton is in Jo'burg"

Me: "At his house?"

Kylie: "Yes baby. Its spacious. Just what we need for a perfect Sunday night. Did you find an apartment?"

Me: "Yes. My dad did the things. Its in Westville"

Kylie: "Mine is in Pine Town, isn't that amazing!" Me:

"It is if you not going to corrupt me"

It rang. I laughed.

Me: "Hey babe"

Kylie: "What do you mean corrupt you?"

Me: "Yes with wines" we laughed.

Kylie: "I cut down drinking. Just come I will tell you about it all"

Me: "Okay. Let me cook for mommy first then I will hit the road"

Kylie: "Okay bye"

I hung up. There was a please call me from Sbo. I really can't with him and please call me. I called him.

Sbo: "Sisi"

Me: "Do you ever buy airtime?"

Sbo: "Yes. We might have another solid job eNanda. My cousin is opening a shop"

Me: "That is great. I'm going to Durban today anyway"

Sbo: "Ok. I will give him your numbers"

Me: "Ok sweets. Bye"

I finally began with my chopping. I once had a friend called Thabi, whatever happened to her.

The Queen of the house entered looking as beautiful as ever. She's no longer the mother I knew. She's vibrant and always happy, her phone has password, she always uploads some fresh selfies on her status.

She's glowing.

Mama: "What are you making?"

Me: "Mutton"

Mama: "Make beef, Sam doesn't eat mutton" and yes. I don't know what happened but apparently she's friends with Nzuza now. He comes by almost every weekend.

Me: "I better not have a little brother or sister"

Mama: "Don't worry he has diabetes"

Me: "Meaning?" She rolled her eyes and took out a glass and her brown bottle.

Mama: "His sperm is weak"

Me: "What? You guys are having...oh God"

She laughed.

Mama: "You can say it. You're 22"

Me: "Dear Lord please make me unhear this"

Mama: "Aren't you having sex?"

Me: "Are you really asking me that?"

Mama: "Of course I am. Are you?"

Me: "Ntombenhle Vilakazi I am not going to answer that question"

Mama: "Your father and I were talking of making umhlonyane and umemulo for you" I never thought I'd see the day she refers to him as "Your father" not "that man or dog"

Me: "That is nice. So if I'm having sex you won't do it?"

Mama: "We will but only if you aren't pregnant"

Me: "Well I'm not pregnant"

Mama: "That is good."

Me: "Ayanda is also coming over"

Mama: "What time are you going to leave kanti?"

Me: "5 pm. I still have time to cook and have lunch with you guys"

Mama: "Wouldn't that be too late?"

Me: "Nope. That car is safe"

Mama: "Hhaisuka. Let's cook, tell Ayanda to come early. By 3pm you should be leaving I don't want you to drive alone at night"

Me: "Yes ma'am"

I passed on the veggies to her.

Mama: "Do you know that I am proud of you?"

Me: "No. You've never told me"

Mama: "I am proud of you. You're strong. You're nothing like me. And to be honest, I'm jealous. Despite of all the hell I put you through you went out there and fought for the bright future you've always envisioned. Here we are today sitting on our beautiful kitchen, a beautiful kitchen I've only seen on magazines, you built a house. To be honest I expected you to never look back when you finally have your life together but you proved me wrong"

Me: "There's no need to make me cry"

Mama: "I am proud of both you. You're the best things that has ever happened to me. I am sorry I made you pay for your daddy's sins. I should've been

a better mother" I wiped her tears.

Me: "I'm just glad you didn't abort me moghel. And I am grateful you put me through that hell maybe I wouldn't have looked forward to such future. I forgive you, now may we please continue cooking?" She chuckled through tears.

Mama: "Yes." I smiled and went to the stove to stir the pap. "Your dad called me bae yesterday, he did again this morning" are they really cheating on his wife again?

Me: "It's sort of like babe"

Mama: "Hha he's crazy. I'm not his bae. Can you believe that he's hitting on me?"

Me: "Who?"

Mama: "Sam. He's gonna have to work hard if he really wants me to be his woman again."

Me: "I thought you said y'all are doing adult things" she laughed.

Mama: "Aisuka. I respect myself enough to sleep with a married man now."

Me: "That's good then. So Mama Zuma borrowed the big pot"

Mama: "She's crazy with cracked feet. She was chasing me away with a basin to ask for maize meal just 6 months ago. Nx let me go tell her" I held her down.

Me: "I'm kidding chill"

Mama: "Yazi Yoli my only neighbor here is Nkosazana."

Me: "They'll bewitch you"

Mama: "Prayer defeats anything"

Me: "You pray?"

Mama: "Yes. Just because I do not go to church does not mean I do not talk to my God. And I would go to church but having your mama mfundisi as face of the church messes with my head. How do you letholy spirit in while looking at that?" I laughed.

Me: "She's a nice person" Mama:

"Well her face isn't nice"

Me: "Mara mama"

Mama: "Maybe she isn't ugly but her face is just a bithard to get used to"

Me: "I'm done with you lady." My phone beeped. "Did you lock the gate?"

Mama: "Yes"

Me: "Sam is here. Where are the keys?"

Mama: "On top of the coffee table"

I walked out....

...

Ayanda arrived with her creche. The baby boy is grown and very handy. Nzuzi is doing the most about the father role. Ayanda scored herself another card. This man has no idea what to do with his money. Some material that built the house was bought with his black card. I feel like he is living a double life now. I pray each night his wife doesn't do what she's famous of.

The family lunch went by too fast. I hated the fact that I had to leave. I wanted to postpone but I

couldn't. Kylie was expecting me with red eyes.Me:

"I wish I didn't have to leave"

Nzuza: "You can leave tomorrow"

Me: "I can't. I already have plans with my friend"

Mama: "As long not as you won't be drinking" Me:

"Nope. We just gonna gossip"

Ayanda: "When are visitors allowed?"

Me: "Anytime. Let me go get my bags"

Nzuza: "I'll put them in a car for you" Me:

"Thank you sir"

I fetched them.

Mama: "Yolanda. Did you just pack everything?"Me:

"No. I left some clothes"

Ayanda: "That luggage is too big its like you're nevercoming back" this luggage isn't too big.

Me: "You guys are being dramatic"

They walked me out.

Mama: "Don't speed okay?"

Me: "Of course"

Ayanda: "Yoli. Speed kills"

Me: "I know"

Nzuza: "Put that teddy on the back" nope! This is the first teddy ever in my life. Mr Dube bought it for me on Valentine's day. I fetched it at the post office with a box of chocolates. He said they were for my broken heart.

Me: "No I prefer for it to be here"

Mama: "You're possessed"

Me: "Thank you and goodbye"

Nzuza: "Fasten the seatbelt" I totally forgot about it. Me:

"Thank you. Bye guys"

Mama: "Bye"

I drove away. They waved until I couldn't see them no more. They are one dramatic family but I love them. All the imperfections our family were fixed in less than a month. I couldn't be more grateful, God

has shown me everything is possible with him if you truly believe.

...

The smile he put on when our eyes met, PRICELESS. Bab

Nkomo: "Ndodakazi. Is this you?"

Me: "Yebo baba"

Bab Nkomo: "Let me open up for you so you can give me a hug"

The gate slid open. I drove in and parked a few feet away. I got out and headed back to him. We hugged.

Bab Nkomo: "Kylie kept saying I will see you soon but I didn't believe her"

Me: "Here I am then. Is she here? My phone died and I don't have a charger."

Bab Nkomo: "She left 3 hours ago but I will open for you"

Me: "Thank you"

We walked to the front door. They planted flowers, it looks presentable. He unlocked.

Bab Nkomo: "You will call if you need anything" Me:

"Thank you"

He walked away. I closed the door and rushed to the bathroom. I peed and went back downstairs to charge my phone. Then I went to my favorite place, kitchen. It smelt nice, she loves cooking.

I opened the pots. Mutton, only God knows how much I am obsessed with it. I took a spoon and stolesome pieces.

"That is rude. Dish up" I jumped I almost poured the whole stew on my feet.

He took a napkin and wiped the stains off my chest. Me:

"What are you doing here?"

Quinton: "This is my house"

Me: "I know. You aren't supposed to be here though" he still had his hand on my breasts. "Your hand is on my boobs"

Quinton: "Oh I'm sorry. Kylie went to a meeting in East London"

Me: "What?"

I passed him and headed to the lounge. I switched on my phone.

Quinton: "You were wearing this dress all the way from Ulundi?"

Me: "Yes"

Quinton: "Its too short don't you think?"

Me: "It is Mr Dube and I find it very comfortable"

He has that controlling side I don't like. He opened the door.

Quinton: "Oh you came in your car?" he said with a smile.

Me: "Yes"

'Girl Quinton is a boss sent from hell. Can you believe I'm on my way to EL? I'm sorry. Can we do our picnic on Tuesday? I love you okay'

I took a deep sigh. I should've just stayed home.

Me: "Yes I came in my car. Can I have a takeaway of the food? I am too tired to cook"

Quinton: "What's in it for me?" My heart beat faster. He had this naughty smile.

Me: "Nothing" I said and rushed to the kitchen. I dished up and turned to find him staring at me. This isn't the Quinton I know. "I'm leaving now. Sorry to crowd your space"

Quinton: "Its good. Go rest"

Me: "Bye"

I walked out and finally breathe. God this isn't happening. He's old and not my type.

I got in my car and drove out. I said goodbye to BabNkomo and drove away...

[2/26, 07:18] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

25

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Oh my good Lord! I have never really been to such a place. Being here scares me, everyone is in their

houses minding their own business.

Its really beautiful. The pictures weren't so nice. It was almost sunset when my phone rang. I've been meaning to call him but I've been stressed by being alone here and overwhelmed by how beautiful this place is and not forgetting Quinton's creepy behavior earlier.

Me: "Daddy"

Nzuza: "You have money enough to buy airtime but you did not bother to call"

Me: "I arrived an hour ago"

Nzuza: "An hour ago? And you still couldn't call" Mama: "Its car. It is driving her crazy."

Me: "Why are you guys mad? I'm okay"

Nzuza: "We were worried about you. It was your first time driving such a long distance"

Me: "I'm sorry. I was gonna call I was still settling in" he took a deep breath.

Nzuza: "Do you love it?"

Me: "Unconditionally. Its so beautiful"

Nzuza: "I'm glad my love. Call us before you go to bed"

Me: "Are you sleeping over?"

Nzuza: "Yes. In your room as always" I didn't ask where he's gonna sleep.

Me: "Tell mama to not forget about our little conversation earlier"

Mama: "Futsek rotten child"

laughed.

Nzuza: "Bye" Me:

"Bye"

I hung up and went to hang my clothes on the wardrobe. I dusted off and then bathed. There wasn't much to do really. I had no maize for pap and I saw no shop coming in here. I put the stew in the oven. I even forgot to dish the rice up because that creepy Quinton was making me uncomfortable.

Well I like his cologne but not him. Please don't

judge me.

Or I could be imagining things. There is no way in hell he could be looking at me that way. He takes me as his little sister nothing more.

I took my phone and ordered pizza. I lied on my back with my legs spread apart. Advantages of being on your own.

I am not a tv fan but I should try being best friends with it since it will be the next audible thing.

The pizza store is a few minutes away they should deliver fast.

My phone rang as that thought crossed my mind. I

took it. Oh God!

I cleared my throat.

Me: "Helo"

Q: "Hey girl. You didn't dish up the rice" All that in a girly voice. What substance is he abusing?

Me: "Yeah. I was hoping I'll cook but I ordered pizza" Q: "I can bring it if you want"

Me: "Oh no don't worry. I will do groceries tomorrow morning"

Q: "Why are you so jumpy?"

Me: "Because you asked what's in it for you if you give me food" that escaped my mouth I swear I didn't want to say that. I exhaled.

Q: "I'm sorry. I wanted you to stay a little and play games in exchange, I meant no harm" wheew!

Me: "Why didn't you just say so? You scared me" he chuckled.

Q: "I'm sorry kid. What are you doing tomorrow?"

Me: "Church and grocery shopping"

Q: "Oh I might join you for shopping"

Me: "Why not church?"

Q: "I'm working tonight. I will knock off at 6am then go home to sleep"

Me: "Oh ok. I will let you know when I go to the stores"

Q: "Goodnight. I'm sorry about earlier"

Me: "Its cool. Goodnight"

He hung up. I felt lighter. I honestly thought he was lusting me. You could never be too sure with these rich people.

I received a notification that my pizza is 5 minutes away. I waited for a knock.

It arrived. I ate and went to bed. I was actually exhausted.

Amen hallelujah to the almighty. Sundays are my favorite. Out of all days, this is my good day. If someone tries to get me mad on Sunday I attend to them on Tuesday.

I checked the time. 6am, perfect. I made the bed and went to take a shower accompanied by church hummings.

I dressed up in my suitable for church dress and sandals. I took my tiny bag that only contain my lip balm, car keys and cards. I always have my phone on my hand. iPhone people tendencies.

I have a lot to buy. Imagine beginning your day without coffee or any beverage. I locked and took the lift down to the underground parking.

I got in my car and drove off. The security guys are the nicest.

We should give credit to technology. You can even search for nearest churches via internet. I found this one at Kloof.

The GPS took me straight there although I arrived a bit late.

I sat at the back. The white race dominated. At 22 I'm still very scared to be around people of a different race. My English bundles just run out.

I even forgot my bible. A gentleman dressed very nice and also smelling very heavenly sat next to me. I said a little prayer he doesn't try to talk to me.

Him: "Hi. Where do new comers sit?" Amen.

Me: "I don't know. I am also new"

Him: "Me too. Ben"

Me: "Yoli"

"Shhh" said a man sitting in front of us. He giggled. I held mine in. I don't wanna seem odd.

The service ended just as the holy spirit kicked in. That's what I like, service ending while we're still interested.

I unlocked my car. I spotted Ben. He sings very beautifully. I waved at him. He waved back and we started walking towards each other.

Ben: "Nice baby you have"

Me: "Oh thank you. I was hoping to ask for scriptures we read today"

Ben: "My phone is flat I'm sorry"

Me: "Oh ok thanks"

Ben: "Take my numbers. Text me and I'll forward them to you"

Me: "Thank you" he called them out.

Ashley: "You're beautiful" I chuckled.

Me: "Thank you. I will text you then" hoping that I wasn't blushing.

Ben: "Ok. It was nice to meet you"

Me: "Likewise babes" he smiled and we parted. He got in an Audi. I don't know which model but those small beautiful ones.

I drove away too. I reached for my phone out to text Quinton. I found a text from Kylie letting me know she's coming. I did a little booty dance.

I'm no longer going with Quinton to the shops. I will just buy the basics and then we will do some serious shopping tomorrow with the babes.

...

9 hours later

Kylie: "This is depressing" Me:

"What?"

Kylie: "Sitting here eating chips like 18 year olds" Me:

"What you wanna do then?"

Kylie: "Is there a bar nearby?"

Me: "No no no. We're not going to a bar on a Sunday"

Kylie: "Damn right we are. You won't drink though cause you will be driving"

Me: "What makes you think I wanna take my car to a bar?" She rolled her eyes and got and vanished to my room.

She's also possessed. She came out looking like a model.

Kylie: "You have 15 minutes to get ready"

Me: "I don't feel like going Kylie"

Kylie: "I took out that maroon dress. You should buy heels"

Me: "Ai I can't walk in those"

Kylie: "Practice makes perfect. Go dress up we should return before 10pm. Come on don't be a bore"

Me: "As long as we're taking uber"

Kylie: "Ofcourse"

I went to freshen up with her rushing me up. She has devil tendencies.

Our transport arrived. Surprisingly there is a bar 4 blocks away. We can walk back to my place if uber ditches us.

It wasn't packed. People were not drinking any hardcore stuff just normal ciders.

Kylie: "We gonna sit there" Me:

"Why away from people?"

Kylie: "Because I am Ken Houston's ex wife, Raymond Lukhuni's girlfriend and Quinton Dube's personal assistant"

Me: "Huh?"

Kylie: "I shouldn't be spotted in such places"

We sat down at a dark corner. She ordered gin and tonic for the both of us.

Just one glass won't hurt.

She ordered shots. I think she has a drinking problem but won't admit. She kept them coming until she started laughing in that way only her could when she's drunk.

The barman got me uncomfortable. Kylie found it funny. His stares did not sit well with my soul.

This is my time to ask my question. Me:

"You were married?"

She giggled and nodded.

"You have secrets"

Kylie: "Some of us don't talk about things that are a shame, I'm not proud of it. Actually, I hate that part of my life"

Me: "I see. You have kids with him?"

Kylie: "By God's grace, no"

Me: "Oh ok."

Kylie: "I think I've had enough now let's go"

Me: "Let me get us uber"

Kylie: "They're always outside in such places. Let's go" she placed the bill, the barman tried making small talk but I ran for my life. We indeed found a carto take us home.

She threw herself on the couch. I fetched w fleece and covered her then went to my room.

...

First thing in the morning she suggested we go and crowd Qs house. I was dying of headache.

We got there and found him bored as always. He didn't look like someone who worked night shift. We made food, just as I went to serve him I found the demon in his arms sobbing. I placed the tray and left them to comfort each other.

She irritates me. I hate her in fact.

After we all ate I cleaned the dishes we used.

Kylie came in with her long face.

Kylie: "Can I use your car?"

Me: "Where to?"

Kylie: "Quinton is in trouble with SARS"

Me: "Oh yeah sure. I'll take a taxi" Kylie:

"We don't have cash"

Me: "Bab Nkomo has it I'm sure."

She blew me a kiss and walked out. What is she gonna say to people with all that hangover though.

He came in.

Q: "You stayed behind?"

Me: "Yeah I'll catch a taxi" Q:

"Ok. I'll be upstairs" Me:

"Ok"

I finished cleaning up and went to relax a bit on a couch. I chatted with the fam on WhatsApp.

Sbo confirmed with a client at eNanda. We are meeting on Wednesday. We gonna share that apartment until they have enough money to moveout.

I felt someone smoothly caressing my face. It felt like a dream until mother earth called me. He smiled. I've never had my heart pound so fast. I quickly sat up straight.

Q: "Its 4pm. I ran the tub full for you. The bath salts

you left at the hotel I packed them too." Me:

"No need. I should be leaving anyway" Q:

"Kylie will fetch you"

Me: "I want to bath and sleep on a bed"

Q: "We have 10 beds in this house. You will choose any you like"

He pulled me up and led me upstairs. My salts were lining next to the tub.

Q: "Drinking isn't good for you. If you wanna drink please drink at home"

Me: "It was just one glass of gin and tonic"

Q: "Still. Bath, you can use the master bedroom the bed is much comfy"

He closed the door. I stared at that direction for awhile. I am not seeing things. He's too generous.

I soaked myself on the tub for a good 30 minutes. I could get used to this.

I got out and wrapped a towel and took my clothes.

I knocked before pushing the doors opened. Not to blow my own horn but I am good at this decorating thing. I searched for cosmetics. I laughed when I found them. Just perfume, body spray, vaseline and hand cream.

I am gonna smell like a man today. I took them and went to sit on the bed, I am not about to rob myself of this opportunity.

I applied the vaseline. I saw him on the mirror. I turned to the door. He was leaning against it. This is hell, uncomfortable.

I got off the bed. He looked different I wanted to run to the closet.

Me: "Do you need something" I said trying to act as strong as possible.

I sprayed my body as I waited for the answer.

Q: "Yes. I need this view every morning when I wake up and every night when I go to bed" Oh no.

Me: "What view?" I was already shaking. I was crossing fingers he's not talking about what I think

he is talking about.

Q: "You in my room in a towel." He took steps closer. "I tried to fight this. I can't anymore. To avoid me killing every man that looks at you or even breathe the same air as you, I decided I should just die once and tell you I am dying to have you-"

Me: "Stop! Oh my God Quinton. I'm a child for Christ's sake"

Q: "I know. You think I planned this? I didn't want to fall for you trust me but I am failing, dismally"

I spotted keys on the bed.

Me: "Which car are these keys?" Q:

"VW"

Me: "The one outside?" He nodded. He has a nerve of looking like a cute little puppy. "Move from there" he stepped aside. I held the towel tighter and ran to the door. I ran down the steps like a springbok.

I got in the car and failed to start it. My hands were trembling.

I saw him up on the balcony. He looked down at me.

I closed my eyes, I think I'm gonna suffer a heart attack...

[2/26, 07:19] Zoaness: 26

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After minutes of trying to start the damn car I finally drove out and sped off to wherever the road led me. I realized just as I passed the shopping center that I am half naked.

I looked for a parking space and parked. I looked for cents. I found none. I leaned on the steering wheel, the whole scene replayed, I felt my heart beating right out of my rib cage.

What am I gonna do with myself now? I started the car and drove straight to my place. I played music as high as possible to disturb my thoughts from that trauma.

I finally arrived. I prayed I don't find anyone on the lift and they get to witness me in a towel and smelling like a man at 6pm.

I shyly greeted the security guys and kept my head

down until I reached the lift.

It parted. Two ladies came out, none of them looked concerned about me being in a towel. Just what I need: people to mind their own business.

I got in and pressed my floor number.

I got off. The corridor was empty. God works in mysterious ways.

I forgot my keys in my purse at his house. I hit my forehead a couple of times. I literally left all my belongings there. I wanted to cry so bad but I had no tears.

"I was hoping I'll find you here" I froze. I could feel him closer, his scent crowded my nose. I wanted to turn but my body wouldn't let me. I kept my head leaned on the door.

Quinton: "I brought these and I need my car"

This is no time for me to be a cry baby. I turned. I took my bag and looked for keys. I unlocked and got in quickly and closed the door. He knocked.

Me: "I'm gonna call security"

Quinton: "I need the car keys"

didn't even take them out.

Me: "Get on the lift, press ground floor, its parked on section 5"

Quinton: "Let me in I want to say something"

Me: "You've already said enough" at last the tears came out.

I moved away from the door. I took the phone out of the bag and tossed it on the couch. I walked on to the bedroom. There were missed calls from the parents.

I will call them later. Right now I'm still digesting the shocking news.

...

I might have fell asleep. I woke up around 7am in the morning by my phone going crazy.

When did I grow this habit of dying when I sleep?Me:

"Babes"

Kylie: "Aren't you mad at me?"

Me: "No Kylie. But I am now because you woke me up"

Kylie: " Please open up for me"

Me: "Does your bed have bugs?"

Kylie: "Yes. Open up the coffee is getting cold"

I dragged my ass up. I pulled the towel of Lucifer's son and walked out. I smelt like him, I need a shower.

I unlocked and opened the curtains.

Kylie: "You look terrible"

Me: "I feel that way too." Kylie:

"You don't have plates?"

Me: "Yes. I was hoping we will go shopping yesterday."

Kylie: "We should go later."

We sat down on the couch.

Me: "How did you know these were my favourite?"

Kylie: "Oh no Quinton bought them for us."

I choked on my coffee. "I'm sorry. Are you okay?" I

gave her a fake smile.

Me: "Yeah I'm good. I'm just surprised he knows donuts"

She chuckled.

Kylie: "He loves sweet things. He's a donut junkie" Me:

"Aw he doesn't appeal to be that type"

Kylie: "He really doesn't."

I ate, hoping there is no korobela.

Me: "Does he have a girlfriend?"

Kylie: "No. He's a loner. That's why he doesn't mind us coming over anytime"

Me: "We must find him one"

Kylie: "He just lost the love of his life I don't think he is looking"

Me: "Mmmh"

My phone rang.

Kylie: "I'm leaving. Call me when we are going to them all"

Me: "Ok bye love. Thanks for the breakfast"

Kylie: "I love you"

Me: "Love you more"

She closed the door. Mom had dropped the call. She's so impatient.

I called her again.

Mama: "Queen Yoli"

Me: "Hello my love."

Mama: "Can you believe your tycoon father"

Me: "Why do you always address him with his status?"

Mama: "Because he thinks this home is a hotel." Me:
"What did he do?"

Mama: "He bought a coffee machine. How do you even turn it on? Won't it waste my electricity?"

Me: "Is he there?"

Mama: "No he left."

Me: "Search tutorials"

Mama: "Hhey I won't turn it on. I don't want to be on the front page of Ilanga tomorrow"

Me: "Don't be dramatic. Put water enough water and coffee on the the jug and plug it on, there's a visible on button there, press it. Wait until the coffee is completely brewed, you can tell by the smell"

Mama: "I will put it away and wait for you English people to come and use so we can die together if it explodes" did she hear any word I said. Sometimes I doubt she went to school.

Me: "I didn't know you were such a coward"

Mama: "Hhaisuka. Quick question, when can I come to visit? I need bikini pictures"

Me: "What?"

Mama: "Yes. There's so much pressure here on Instagram. I need to do my nails and buy make up, I have been watching eyebrow tutorials ku busy" I laughed.

Me: "I didn't know old people suffer from peer pressure"

Mama: "You're still too young to understand. So

when can I come?"

Me: "When do you wanna come? Dad's money is always ready to be spent, I will book you a hotel"

Mama: "Ugh I'm so glad I didn't use a condom. I will come on Friday"

Me: "You're very weird. Goodbye"

Mama: "You should thank me for not being on the pill."

Me: "Bye Ntombi"

Mama: "You're the most beautiful accident" I laughed. Once she starts being stupid she never stops.

Me: "I wish you used that condom"

I hung up before she starts preaching how big my head was, it ruined her vagina.

I cleaned up and went to shower. I washed away all the yesterday's trauma.

I made my face up and dressed up in a comfortable dress and flops. I texted daddy before he calls and

complain.

I drove to Kylie's place. I found her in a pool. I had to wait for an hour for her to get ready.

We shopped and shopped and shopped. I bought even things I don't eat or use. We did not forget wine.

We bought takeaways and drove back to my place. It was already in the noon. The heat was dying down.

Kylie: "Oh what a day." She said sitting down with a glass of wine in her hand.

Me: "Who eats oats mara Kylie?"

Kylie: "Me. I don't eat bacon but there is some on my fridge because you eat it"

Me: "Ncoa that's sweet"

Kylie: "I should go and prepare for presentation tomorrow. You know I'm enjoying this thing of being a PA. I travel, just what my inner goddess needs after all these years"

Me: "You deserve all the happiness in the world"

Kylie: "Yes I do. Let me love and leave you. Don't

forget about your meeting tomorrow"

Me: "I won't. Bye" we hugged. I took her out to the lift.

I found a message from sis Akhona celebrating her ex husband's divorce. My life is surrounded by mentally ill people. Ayanda suggested she comes over for drinks. Mom invited them at home, the neighbors aren't sleeping today.

Sizwe is paying lobola for his boo anyway. They are happy.

I came across Ben's contacts. I forgot to text him. I sent him a Hello and resumed packing food on their respective places.

My phone rang. It's him.

Me: "Hey"

Ben: "Hi. I've been waiting for your text"

Me: "I'm sorry. I have been very busy"

Ben: "I understand. There's youth practice at 7" Me:

"Oh. I'm so tired to drive though"

Ben: "Me too. I'll use uber, where do you stay?"

Me: "Westville"

Ben: "Which side?"

Me: "Blue heights"

Ben: "God's work. I stay there too"

Me: "Really? What a coincidence."

Ben: "Please send me a text when you're ready to leave"

Me: "I will. Bye"

I continued packing and then boiled spaghetti. I still had an hour to cook.

A couple of minutes to 7 I was already done. I texted Ben. He suggested to come.

In less than 5 minutes he arrived. We hugged. He looked like he's been crying.

Me: "Are you okay? Please take a seat" he sat on the bar chair. He bit his upper lip and shook his head. I poured water for him.

Ben: "Have you ever loved someone so much in a way that there's nothing you wouldn't do for them?"

Me: "I've never really loved to that point"

Ben: "One day you will and it sucks. It had been 8 years, only today he tells me he has a 3 year old daughter" he?

Me: "He?" He chuckled through his river of tears.

Ben: "Yes. I'm gay. My husband's baby mama just showed up at my place with that damn child, he had no shame in admitting it"

Me: "Ow I'm so sorry"

I walked over to him and gave him a warm hug. The door opened.

I startled and let go of Ben. Me:

"What are you doing here?"

He wasn't standing stable. "Are you drunk?"

Quinton: "Who's this?"

Me: "Please excuse me"

Ben nodded. I went to pull him all the way to the bedroom.

Quinton: "I asked a question"

Me: "That is my friend Ben."

Quinton: "You befriend white people now, even hug them?"

Me: "Yes. What are you doing here?"

Quinton: "I came to visit. You also show up at my house like you own it"

Me: "Are you drunk?"

Quinton: "A little"

Me: "You can even stand"

Quinton: "Why were you hugging him?"

Me: "Quinton Dube. You're not my dad, you can not dectate my life"

Quinton: "Exactly. I'm your future husband. Now whywere you hugging him?"

Me: "Do you know I can get you arrested for this?"

Quinton: "Okay" is he stupid.

Me: "Or tell my dad"

Quinton: "Alright" I closed my eyes and took a deep breath.

Me: "You can take your car"

Quinton: "Okay" he smirked

Me: "Quinton I'm serious"

Quinton: "What did I do now? You will call the police, your dad and I should take my car. I got it"

Me: "Ok. Now leave, I was in the middle of something"

Quinton: "Is it?" He stepped closer. I stepped back until I was against the bed. "Tell me something child. What are you gonna say to the police?"

He was too close I failed to breathe. He was also staring deep into my eyes. I gulped. "Can I use your bed to sleep?"

Me: "No." I rolled to the other side of the bed. Quinton: "I can't drive like this"

Me: "I will make you coffee then you will be good to go"

I walked out. I found Ben watching tv.

Ben: "Boyfriend?"

Me: "Oh hell no"

Ben: "Which one is this one, Khule or Quinton?"

Me: "You know him?"

Ben: "Yes. I am the Dube construction's financial guru.
But I guess this is Q, Khule would've recognized me"

Me: "Oh. Yeah its him"

Quinton: "Yoli! My coffee please"

Ben laughed.

Ben: "Is he drunk?"

Me: "Yes"

I waited for the water to boil and made and took it to him.

I found him inside covers. He mustn't test me. I put the cup down and took his phone.

'If you're reading this I've already passed out and I

don't wake up when I'm drunk. Goodnight"

I shook him. I pinched him. I pressed the cup on his arm, no response.

I looked at him. He was dead.

I took off his shoes and socks and then walked out. Me: "I don't think I will make it to the practice"

Ben: "Me too. I will just go to a hotel and drown myself in vodka"

Me: "Do you mind drowning in vodka here? I don't trust that man"

Ben: "I talk none stop when I'm drunk"

Me: "I will be listening"

Ben: "I am staying then. Is he hitting on you?"

Me: "Yes. Its creepy. I'm 12 years younger than him"

Ben: "Girl. Your vagina is old enough to accommodate his 12 years older manhood. Don't miss out on good things because of silly things asage"

Me: "I don't need someone like you in my life Ben"

Ben: "Too bad cause I'm here to stay. And besides, they're good men. They know how to take care of their baby boos"

Me: "From the bottom of my heart. I don't give a fuck"

I really don't. He's scaring me, he's cute and also smells nice but no he's not my type of coffee.

My phone beeped.

'Your white friend is right. We treat our women good. I mistakenly peed on your bed'

See? Nobody wants to date a lunatic. I got up and went to the bedroom. I found him checking himself out on the mirror in his boxers with his stick legs exposed. I couldn't hold it in I laughed.

Quinton: "I'm sexy? Aren't I? Where's your body lotions? I want the gleamy one you always have on"

Me: "Are you gonna leave afterwards?"

Quinton: "No. I wanna be escorted out by the police"

Me: "Mr Dube"

Quinton: "Yes Mrs Dube." I looked at him.

Me: "You need Jesus"

Quinton: "No I need you." He paused and sat on the bed.

"Yazi Yoli this isn't me. I don't chase after anyone, its always the other way around. You're a child yes but you're over 21, you're woman enough for me to be attracted to you. You can't really blame me for it. And no its not the curves and your round butt, its more than that. Its how I feel around you. I lost the mother of my children two months ago, I have a problem falling inlove because whenever I do, something goes wrong and I thought I will not be able to love again but that changed that night you ran off " he chuckled. "I don't know what happened but something inside me never wanted you out of my sight. I started missing you when you're at work. That car was a gift but to be honest, I gave it to you to know where you are every time. This is no longer love. I'm obsessed with you Yolanda Vilakazi."

Me: "You're spying on me?"

Quinton: "Is that all you heard?"

Me: "Yes. Because it's scary. I thought I was your little sister"

Quinton: "I didn't want to scare you"

Me: "Well right now you are"

He got up and got dressed.

Quinton: "Maybe it will die down now that I've confessed"

Me: "Are you gonna be able to drive?" That's my inner bitch talking.

Quinton: "Yeah"

He came and stood before me. I kept my head down. Does he perhaps know I have a weakness for his scent?

"I'm sorry I disappointed you. I wish things weren't like this."

He brought me in for a hug. I have never been this close to him. Common sense left my body, I found my arms wrapping around him. I think I am the

weakest woman in history.

He let go and made me face him. His eyes. This is wrong.

I cleared my throat and moved out of his way.

Me: "I cooked mince and spaghetti, would you like some?"

Quinton: "Yes"

I quickly walked out and dished up for him in his container I brought the other day. I put it in a bag. He walked out of the room. I gave him his parcel. He bidus goodbye.

I finally breathe.

Ben: "What happened in there?"

Me: "He said all the nice things every woman always wants to hear and hugged me. All I can say is I'm doomed" he laughed

I really am. I don't feel the same way I did 20 minutes ago about him. Its probably lust. So all this time he's been protective of me for his own benefit. Men!

[2/26, 07:20] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

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Next time I allow to spend a night with the drinking Ben please remind me of this day. We literally slept after 3am.

He's quite a chatterbox. He vented. I hope the broken heart will be better today. And yes we slept on the couch.

I went to bath first then made breakfast for us. I woke him up soon as I finished.

Ben: "Oh My God. What time is it?"

Me: "7 am. Come let's eat. I have a meeting at 10"

Ben: "Do you have an unused toothbrush, I can't deal with this sewage" I laughed.

Me: "Yes. And fresh towels"

Ben: "I'll be quick"

Me: "You better be"

He got up and left. I cleaned up the lounge area. By the time I finished he came out.

Ben: "I feel so fresh"

Me: "You look fresh. Tea, coffee or juice?"

Ben: "Coffee. What is a day without a cup of coffee" We sat down on the chairs and had our breakie.

Ben: "Thank you. You're truly an Angel" Me:

"You haven't even finished your food"

Ben: "I'm talking about last night. I really needed a friend."

Me: "Anytime. We just bonded, you should thank your free spirit. I don't really get along with anyone"

Ben: "Me too. In that case, cheers"

Me: "Cheers" we laughed.

Ben: "So. Has Mr 12 years older Dube called?" Me:

"No and I'm glad he didn't"

Ben: "Y'all would make a real cute couple. You're chubby and light and short. He's tall, muscular and dark. Your babies would be hella cute"

Me: "It will never happen"

Ben: "It will. Those men get everything they want" Me:

"Well I'm gonna break that"

Ben: "I will be here and watching"

He took a sip of his coffee giving me that look. I hate that look.

He left after we ate. I called Sbo. They are always together. Their friendship is so solid. I told them about my meeting and that they should cross fingers she likes ours work.

After rinsing the dishes I fetched my bag and my car keys.

My phone rang as I drove out.

Me: "Mrs Ray"

Kylie: "Hey love. How are you?"

Me: "Apart from being anxious I'm great, how's

yourself?"

Kylie: "I think I'm coming down with flu. I need a favor, where's your meeting?"

Me: "Emhlanga boo"

Kylie: "Oh thank God. I was hoping it is somewhere in that route. Yesterday I forgot a very important file on the backseat. Could you please drop it off at Q's?" Hhai hhai hhai!

Me: "Now? Can't I bring it to your place?"

Kylie: "No. He has to sign it and send it back by halfpast 9. Please"

Me: "Fine. I'll drop it off at the gate. Bab Nkomo will take it in"

Kylie: "Okay thanks boo. I love you"

Me: "I love you more"

I hung up.

Arriving at Q's place there was no sign of Bab Nkomo at his house. I hooted until Jesus told me to stop. I rang the buzzer, no response.

I tried my chances with the finger scanner. It could recognize my finger when we worked here. I put it on. Access granted!

I wish it didn't. Now I have to see his face.

I drove in. I took the damn file and headed in.

I knocked. My palms were sweating. This is how scared I am now of this man.

The door opened.

Me: "I brought this" he looked rather surprised to see me.

Q: "Uhm. Hi"

Me: "Hi. Kylie asked me to bring this to you."

Q: "Thanks." He stepped out and closed the door. Me:

"Are you gonna take it"

Q: "Oh yes. Thanks, I'm sorry" he took it.

"Where's seasoning?" I looked at the door.

Nkule: "Oh. Hey Yolz" I looked at him then back ather.

Me: "Hi." She had only a towel. I should wash and bring that one I left with.

Nkule: "I am making breakfast. Would you like to join us?"

Me: "No thanks I already ate"

Nkule: "Ok. Where's seasoning Quinton?" He was just standing there staring at me.

Me: "She's talking to you" he blinked rapidly.Q:

"I don't know. Search for it"

Me: "Third door on your left. Keep well"

I turned and walked to my car. I heard the door close and then footsteps behind me. I paced up.

He blocked me from opening the door.Q:

"Its not what you thinking"

Me: "Move your hand off"

Q: "She came here last night but I swear to God I did not touch her"

Me: "Is that why she's in your towel and your

morning shoes?" Why am I mad?

Q: "She had a gown on. I don't know why she took it off"

I finally turned to look at him. He was too close. I could smell the nicotine. I don't usually smell it. It also smells nice on him.

Me: "Look. You don't have to explain anything, I don't care who you sleep with. And we all know she holds a special place in your heart. You don't have to be ashamed of it. Now please move your arm I'm gonna be late for my meeting"

Q: "You should get that madness out of your head. Nkule and I are nothing" He snapped. I frowned.

Me: "That's why she spends a night and walking around in towels, right? Nice. Now may you please move. Or what? You want your car? Let me get my bag then"

He moved. I opened the door and reached for my bag.

Q: "Just get in the car and go to your meeting. I'm

not that kind of person. This is not my car and Nkuleis just a friend. Good luck on your meeting"

He walked back. I got in the car. My eyes were burning up. I wanted to cry so bad.

I drove out. Men have never been good. It hasn't even been a day since he confessed his false feelings but already he has that demon in his housewearing a towel that could reveal her ass if she bends down to get bacon on the freezer.

And again. Isn't she married?

My phone beeped.

'I am a lot of things but not a cheater.'

Nobody cares you moron.

I threw the phone on the other seat. I need to be very fresh for my interview. I don't need this negativity.

I am an hour early. That gives me enough time to clean my eyes with eye gene.

I chatted with daddy. He's in Durban. Sweet!

He promised to see me after my meeting. And I

know what means; games and food. And listening to him vent about his lazy employees. I wouldn't have it any other way.

He said mommy told him she's coming here tomorrow. I totally forgot to make reservations for her.

I booked her into a 5 star in the city center. I hope she doesn't complain.

5 minutes to ten I took my things and headed inside the cafe.

I ordered black coffee. It helps dealing with the nerves.

Two gentlemen greeted me and sat down. They had prior told me the table number to avoid "what are you wearing" questions.

One of them: "My name is Zweli and this is Khaya" Me:

"Yolanda"

Zweli: "Adams?" We laughed.

Me: "Vilakazi"

Khaya: "We're the Ncubes. I didn't expect you to be this young"

Zweli: "Me too. So we gonna have to make this quick because by Monday we'd like you to start if you promise us good service"

Me: "Its a shop right?"

Khaya: "Yes. That will have to portray how the kitchen will look, bathroom, bedroom and etc"

Me: "Furniture shop. That will be easy."

Zweli: "Can we see the samples?"

I took out my portfolio and gave it to them.

Me: "I've only had 3 gigs so far"

Khaya: "Is this a nursery?"

Me: "Yes"

Zweli: "I love the flooring. Wow you outdone yourself on these houses. The store is already painted and tiled. I love what I am seeing here"

Khaya: "We just need our father's input and then we'll call you"

Me: "Thank you"

I paid for my coffee and saw my way out.

I took a deep breath before I got in my car and drove off to North beach. He bought an apartment there.

He has a thing for Dogs and God knows how scared I am of them.

I found him already waiting for me at the gate carrying his little yet barks like nobody's puppy.

Me: "Kodwa Mshazi. Is it necessary for you to carry him around?"

Nzuza: "Yes. The nanny beats him up. You're late" He hooped on.

Me: "I didn't say come stand here. I just said I was coming"

Nzuza: "Whatever. Where are we going?"

Me: "You choose"

Nzuza: "We've never been to Rocco Mamas"

Me: "Let's go then. Where is it?"

Nzuza: "How on earth do I know?" Aibo this guy. "Or just pull up at the shopping center. We'll buy buns and beverages. Do you have a cooler box?"

Me: "Yes" I found it in this car. He's never asked for it so I guess it was a package.

Nzuza: "Good. We'll buy ice too, get KFC and other snacks. We're going to the beach"

Me: "Yay! That is by far a best idea you've ever suggested" he laughed.

Nzuza: "Don't underestimate me girl. We gonna need a fleece and an umbrella"

Me: "As long as you're paying"

Nzuza: "You're so stingy child"

Me: "I'm not stingy I just don't have money"

He just laughed. He's my best friend. I love him.

Are all males like this? Complimenting women in bikinis? This is the least I expected from my dad. It didn't make it any less awkward that he's

complementing his age mates.

Nzuza: "Your mom and I had this talk the other day. That we should do you umemulo. We had disagreements on where should it be done until An elder that visited told us you belong to your mother's side and that means it should be done that side. I came into conclusion that even if it so, I should have you introduced to your paternal side. I wanted to ask if do you approve"

Me: "Of course. I would love to meet everyone. Won't your wife have a problem?"

Nzuza: "No. We spoke about you, as much as it hurt her she had no choice but to accept."

Me: "In that case then let's do it"

Nzuza: "Oh this was easy. Your mother was certainly going to refuse. Let me call her"

She picked up.

Me: "Oh my God!"

Mama: "How do I look?"

Nzuza: "You look beautiful. Are you going out on a

date?"

Mama: "No but I will be soon. Are you guys at the beach?"

Me: "Yes moghel. You should teach me how to do brows"

Mama: "Just buy the eyebrow tools and watch tutorials my baby"

Me: "I want you to teach me. I will book you a penthouse"

Mama: "Wuuh devil. I won't have time to be touching your face. I will be shopping and being beautiful"

Nzuza: "You're 45."

Mama: "So? Only you knows that. I will be walking in a bikini for your own information"

Nzuza: "What?" I laughed. The way he popped his eyes out.

Mama: "Yes dzaddy"

He looked at me. I shrugged.

Nzuza: "I called to tell you we're going ahead with

introducing Yoli"

Mama: "Why am I not surprised. She's Judas anyway. How do you know those Xhosa people won't cook you?"

Me: "Mama!"

Mama: "They will be fighting over your fingers I'm telling you. Bye bye you're wasting my airtime"

Nzuza: "I'm the one who called"

Mama: "Bye!"

She hung up.

Me: "Has she always been like this?"

Nzuza: "Yes but better. This is worse. She has a heart of Gold though" he said smiling.

Me: "Yeah does. It is just fenced with thorns"

Nzuza: "Exactly"

We laughed. We talked about anything and everything until he had to go to a gala dinner. I drove him back home and then drove to my place.

Ugh it sucks living alone. If we get that job these monkeys should come live with me. And in that way it'll be easier for us to travel to work, no stopping to pick them up.

I checked on the sick Kylie. She told me Raymond arrived. I checked on Ben. Who told me he flew to Jo'burg. What a boring night.

I took the meat out of the fridge for it to defrost.

I went to the bathroom to shower. Durban sun will fry you brown sometimes. I put on a cool dress afterwards and then began with boiling the rice. I took out snacks.

I sat in front of the t.v. and watched a reality show. I think I prefer these than movies.

I heard a knock.

Me: "Come in!"

The door opened. I became mad all over again. Me:

"What do you want?"

Q: "Food. I'm hungry"

Me: "Why? Didn't Nkule cook? Or she was just thereto serve you vagina" he laughed.

Q: "You look cute when you're mad. No she didn't serve me vagina" he chuckled and shook his head. "Ibrought you something"

He walked out and came back with a cat. I ran to the bedroom. What is wrong with him. He knows very well I almost died the other day at the hotel when that woman's cat ran into my room.

Me: "I'm gonna call the police Quinton I'm not playing" he was laughing. How can he be so old andbe this stupid. I felt his footsteps fade away.

I love cats from a distance. Just don't bring them anywhere near me. I have a very traumatic experience with them.

Q: "Come out. I have taken it back"

I opened slowly. He now had flowers and a gift bag.Me:

"Why would you bring it here?"

Q: "To cheer you up" I sighed. He's truly stupid. "Ohhere. I hope you're not allergic, but you're not or else

you would've told me on Valentine's day"

Me: "Did you buy some for Nkule too?" He smirked.Q:

"Yes"

I tried closing the door but he blocked it.Q:

"Jealousy could only mean one thing"

He got in and closed the door. There's a way he switches how he looks at me and its creepy. He placed the flowers and the bag on the vanity. And then walked towards me. I kept taking a step back.

Q: "I will follow you till you trip out of that window"Me:

"Why are you following me?"

Q: "Why are you stepping back?" I gulped.

The wall blocked me from moving any further. He stood before me...not just that but against me.

My whole body shivered. He put his right hand behind my neck, the bitch in me couldn't move my eyes off his. He hypnotize me I swear.

He has very beautiful eyes. He no longer smells of nicotine. He smells like his fresh usual self and you

know how much his scent is my weakness.

I felt his warm lips against mine. Its happening! Ohsweet Jesus I hope you're writing it down that he started it.

After a couple of seconds I gave in. His left hand rans down to my jiggles. He's so tall. I blessed myself with the privilege of touching his upper body.

Hhaibo. He's not going for my thighs, butt or breasts. I low-key wanted to feel his penis. They say the taller and skinny he is the bigger it is.

Kissing means we may now be pronounced girlfriend and boyfriend right? So no rush, I still have time to feel it.

"Yoli?"

I broke the kiss.

Me: "That's my dad. Jump out the window" Q:

"What?"

Me: "Do you see a place to hide here?"

Nzuza: "Yolanda?"

Me: "I'm dressing up. I'm coming"

I pushed the tall man to the window.Q:

"I will hide under the bed"

Me: "No!"

He headed to the bathroom. Oh God why me.I

walked out to daddy.

Me: "Hey" I hope I don't look guilty.

Nzuza: "I came to say goodbye. I'm urgently needed back home"

Me: "Oh okay"

Nzuza: "Am I gonna get a hug?" No! Just turn around and leave before you smell this man on me!

I hugged him for 2 seconds.

Me: "Safe journey I love you"

Nzuza: "I love you more"

I took him out to the lift. I made sure he gets in. I waited till it came again. He wasn't there anymore.Good.

I went back inside. I locked the door and sighed in relief.

I went to the bedroom. I knocked on the bathroom. He came out. Our eyes met. We laughed.

Me: "That was close"

Q: "I almost committed suicide. You're cold blooded"

Me: "You're the one who said my dad shall never know about you. What choice did I have?"

Q: "Under the bed, wardrobe and a bathroom" I laughed.

Me: "That didn't cross my mind. Sorry"

He came closer again and wrapped his arms around my neck.

Q: "So. Is it safe to call you my baby?"

Me: "Yes. because you're old enough to be my dad" He chuckled.

Q: "Sam is 55."

He leaned down and kissed me again.

Ben foreseen this. That Nkule peacock should stay in her lane now...

[2/26, 07:21] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

28

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I don't understand my mother. I let go of everything I was doing because she said they just passed ballitobut here I am. I have been waiting for over an hour, got chased away by taxi drivers at the entrance of Durban station because its "their spot"

I have never been so irritated in my life. A received a text from Q. Kylie almost busted us. This sleep over business is a no for me.

I slept with one eye open just in case he tried anything sexual but nope he kept his ugly hands to himself. And I appreciate that. I really had fun last night. He missed work, joys of working for fun.

Q: "Has she come?"

Me: "No. I'm still waiting. I'm so pissed right now" Q: "I can come keep you company if you want" He's acting like a little teenage boy in love.

Me: "No thank you Sir I'll be fine" It rang. Finally!

Me: "If people could die while waiting I would be long gone"

Mama: "Oh well I guess its a good thing they don't. I'm here."

Me: "Okay I'm coming"

I got out of the car and took a taxi to Durban station. I was parked at YMCA.

Mama: "Are you trying to get me stolen?"

Me: "It was only for a few minutes" Mama:

"Where's your car?"

Me: "Parked somewhere else. We gonna take a taxi there"

She adjusted her shades and sighed.

Mama: "I didn't sign up for this. Let's go"

She pulled her case and cat walked to the car. She ages fine like fine wine. I wish I inherited her gorgeous body, curves, beautiful long legs, B cup breasts, and a flat stomach you'd swear she doesn't have kids.

My phone rang as we sat down on the taxi. Me:

"Hey sis"

Ayanda: "Hey love. I just saw messages from your mother that she's stranded. Have you fetched her?"

Me: "I left my place 2 hours ago and I have been waiting. She just arrived."

She chuckled.

Ayanda: "She's so dramatic. Call me when you get to the hotel"

Me: "Bye. YMCA please"

We got off and went to my car.

Me: "Please fasten the belt"

Mama: "Its gonna ruin my outfit"

Me: "Its gonna make noise ma."

Mama: "Why are you the enemy of my happiness?" she buckled up. I drove off.

Me: "So I booked you there"

Mama: "Hilton? I said I wanted a 5 star"

Me: "It is"

Mama: "Does it have heated pool?"

Me: "You gonna have to find that out yourself"

Mama: "How far is the beach?"

Me: "5 minutes away"

Mama: "You gonna be my ride because I can't take taxis"

Me: "There's uber, taxify and bolt. Ready to take you anywhere, anytime."

Mama: "Yolanda I've heard very scary stories about those things so no"

Me: "I live in Westville which is like 25 minutes away"

from here. I am working on something so I can't drive you around"

Mama: "Fine I'll take bolt at least I've heard 2 scary stories about it"

I laughed. She's such a character.

She checked in. We took the lift up to her room. The look on her face when we entered the room, priceless.

Mama: "Its beautiful. The sea view. Thank you bambino"

Me: "Pleasure madam. You will read everything on that brochure. Breakfast is served between 7 and 10. Lunch at 12 to half past two and then supper at 8"

Mama: "Thank you. Is there WiFi?"

Me: "Of course. We should get you a router"

Mama: "I have 5 gig on my phone"

Me: "Why did you ask about WiFi then?"

Mama: "The Wi-Fi sign is very important when taking screenshots"

Oh God.

Me: "Get some rest. I will camp here on the couch" Mama:

"Come we'll share the bed"

I kicked my shoes off and went to the bed.

Mama: "Let me take a tour then I'll join you"

I nodded and then texted daddy. He told me he's meeting with the elders tomorrow to set the date for my introduction ceremony.

I put my phone away after our convo and drifted to sleep. I hardly slept last night I was scared.

...

I would rather be woken up by a truck hooting on my ear than my mom.

Me: "Its very normal to call out a name when waking someone up you know"

Mama: "If you can't you hear your phone how are you gonna hear me? Its been ringing"

I took it.

Me: "Oh my God its Khaya"

Mama: "See? Call him"

Me: "I don't have enough airtime"

She passed me her phone.

I started dialling his numbers. Khaya:

"Good day Khaya speaking"

Me: "Hi Khaya. Its Yolanda Vilakazi. I just got in from the shops. I'm sorry I missed your calls"

Khaya: "Hey boo. I almost gave someone else this job. How soon can you come to sign the contract?"

Me: "Are you for real?"

Khaya: "Of course. You earned it babes, my father is in love with your work"

Me: "Thank you so much I don't know what to say. Is tomorrow okay?"

Khaya: "Yes. You will find my PA and my brother though cause I scored myself a date" I Chuckled.

Me: "Okay. Thanks again"

I hung up. Mom was standing there looking at me anxious.

Mama: "So?" I smiled. "Thank you God"

Me: "Really?"

Mama: "Yes!" She hugged me. "I am so proud of you."

Me: "Thank you. I'm signing a contract with them tomorrow"

Mama: "I'm really proud of you baby"

There is nothing better than hearing those words from this woman. They mean a lot to me. They makeup for the past.

Mama: "Do you own anything formal? People should look good when going to those signing things"

Me: "I have 2. So you my queen doesn't have to worry about anything. Just enjoy your vacation. The heat is decent enough for you to go on the beach"

Mama: "There's a pool upstairs. I will go to the beach tomorrow with you to celebrate"

Me: "You know I don't like showing off my body"

Mama: "You can wear an overall and be Sdumo itsfine"

We laughed.

Me: "Let me go. I will call you later"

Mama: "Bye nana"

She withdrew something from the fridge.

Me: "Mah!"

Mama: "Hansa is my ride or die. I went to get some from the bar. I don't drink as much now. Just 2 500mls a day"

Me: "Well that's good. Bye"

Mama: "Bye. Keep your phone on you're on speed dail"

I give up on her.

...

I called the guys informing them about out jackpot. Ilove how much they are always looking forward into

working. Kylie deserted me today. She has not replied to any of my texts neither did Ben.

My phone vibrated. Finally!

Me: "Couldn't you spare 5 seconds of your time to text me?"

Ben: "Hoe please. I am sparing 5 minutes of my time to call you right now. If your future in-laws weren't so stupid I'd have called you earlier. How are you doing my pumpkin?" I Chuckled.

Me: " I'm good. When are you getting back?"

Ben: "When you tell me to come back."

Me: "Come back. Its really boring here"

Ben: "Girl one can not waste time on you. Soon you gonna be my boss and hanging out with the Dube slay moms and Chuck norris and that quiet one"

Me: "Oh please. I will not get to meet those people. Even if I do I wouldn't hang around them"

Ben: "Why? That's like a dream come true"

Me: "Rich people are not people to hang around with.

They are full of themselves" He
laughed.

Ben: "I give up on you. Bye for now"

Me: "Bye sweets"

I hung up and went to the kitchen to look for anything appetizing. How come this man hasn't called or texted?

I peeled off potatoes. I should stuff myself up with some roasted potatoes and roasted chicken maybe with some salad on the side. Advantages of staying alone.

My phone beeped. Oh no!

She just checked in at Eyadini Lounge at Umlazi and tagged me. My mother has to be the worst 44 year old in history of 44 year olds. What the hell is she doing there?

I called her.

Mama: "Hey bambino. Did you see me post?" Me:

"Yes. Why are you there?"

Mama: "To enjoy myself. You should join me" Me:

"No thanks. How did you even get there?" Mama:

"Sam ordered me a driver"

Me: "Aren't you scared now?"

Mama: "He's my personal driver. He will be the one taking me everywhere. Oh I'm on VIP, just in case you're wondering why isn't deafening"

Me: "I will constantly check up on you. Don't drink too much please"

Mama: "I won't don't worry. Bye. Have some sleep" Me:

"I'm cooking. Bye"

I hung up and texted daddy.

"A personal driver? Really? She's at Eyadini as I write this"

"Just let her live a little. We owe that to her. I have people making sure she's okay don't worry" -Nzuza.

Great then.

My food got ready. I ate and went to take a bath and

slept.

...

I woke up to soft music playing and smell of pancakes. I felt weight on my stomach. I opened my eyes I saw a hand I screamed and fell off the bed I kicked off the duvet. The nearest thing I got hold of was a knife.

Me: "Show your face!" He moved off the pillow. What?

Q: "Its me" he said with his eyes half opened. Me:

"Why are you here? And how did you get in?"

Q: "Because I missed you and I used to be a burglar when I was young so I broken in. Can i sleep now?"

Me: "No. Wake up. God! Do you know if I had heart disease I would've been dead by now."

Q: "You just watch too much movies. Lets say I was really a bad guy, do you think I would've been frightened by a knife?"

Of course. It kills.

Me: "Don't judge me please"

Q: "Come here" I put the knife down and climbed into bed.

Me: "Why didn't you make any contact last night?" Q: "I was giving you time to miss me. Did it work?" I smiled.

Me: "Maybe"

He brought my face closer and kissed me.

Q: "I brought a chef with me I hope you don't mind." Me: "What time did you arrive?"

Q: "30 minutes ago. I was working nightshift" I checked the time.

Me: "I have a meeting with Khaya...his brother and their PA at 12pm. I got the job"

Q: "Really? I'm proud of you. Can I drive you?"

Me: "No. You need to rest"

Q: "Here?"

Me: "Anywhere. Let me shower"

He pulled the duvet over his head. Why don't this creature ever feels the heat?

I bathed and dressed up in formal as mother said. He was really out.

I walked out. There was a note from the "chef" I guess. Pancakes with cream and strawberry topping. Yummy.

I ate and took out my bottle of frozen water out of the fridge. I went back to the burglar.

I shook him.

Me: "I'm leaving. Please lock on your way out. I will go to see mom at the hotel for a little celebration"

Q: "Then you'll come back and we have our own little celebration" oh?

Me: "Uhm...yeah, definitely" I hope he's not talking about sex. I kissed him and left.

Why am I not worried he broke into my house?

...

Arriving at Nanda we got down in business. I spent

less than an hour there. Wednesday was the day of beginning. I texted the guys. We have 3 days to rest.

I arrived at Hilton. I went to get my visitor tag. I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned. I frowned.

Me: "Are you following me?" I think I saw someone dressed like this eNanda.

Nkule: "Oh please. Don't flatter yourself. Can we talk?"

Me: "Talk"

Nkule: "Over there"

followed her.

Nkule: "Who the hell do you think you are?"

Me: "Yolanda Vilakazi"

Nkule: "You think Q loves you? He doesn't do kids, all he wants is that pussy and then he'll throw you away like a used teabag"

Me: "Is that what he did to you? I'm sorry."

I attempted walking off but she grabbed my arm. I looked at her.

Nkule: "You're nothing but a pig. You're nothing close to the kind of women he's attracted to"

Me: "Have you seen how much he loves ribs? The dominating meat in his fridge? Pork is his favorite meal babes." I snatched my hand away. "Get off that high horse or else you will see another side of me. And I mean that in a most humble way"

I walked off. Quinton and his shameless penis. Why did he sleep with this psychopath?

I have no intentions of entertaining her endless drama honestly...

[2/26, 07:22] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

29

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Nobody is always sleeping like this man. We are supposed to be watching this series but I'm watching alone now.

I reached for my phone and called mama. She has

been crowding the social media with her pictures. They are bomb as hell though, I guess she learned new selfie angles.

Mama: "I somehow feel like you and your father are here with me."

Me: "You miss us?"

Mama: "No. You call too much. You just disturbed my yoga session"

Me: "What? Yoga? Since when do you do yoga?"

Mama: "Since this morning. This is my afternoon session." I chuckled.

Me: "Ok miss Yoga. I was calling to check up on you"

Mama: "Thank you. Did you go to church?"

Me: "No. Hangover was killing me"

Mama: "Ok. Your father is coming this side tonight. Next time I will take a secret vacation so none of you will want to crowd me"

Me: "But you invited me"

Mama: "Whatever. I am going to the casino tonight.
What should I wear?"

Me: "Cocktail dress"

Mama: "I don't even know what that is"

Me: "That navy blue dress you posted wearing"

Mama: "Oh ok. Bye"

Me: "Bye"

I hung up and called Ayanda. She hasn't been really sober recently I am worried.

I carefully moved Quinton off my lap and went to the kitchen to fix myself a sandwich.

Q: "Its really rude to move someone's pillow" I
chuckled.

Me: "I'm sorry. I'm hungry" Q:

"That makes the 2 of us."

He made coffee while I made sandwiches. The weather had quickly took a u turn. I don't like being cold.

We took our food and went back to the lounge.Q:

"How many episodes have I missed?"

Me: "5. You are such a sleeper"

Q: "That's because you're here with me. I don't sleep when I'm alone, I work"

Me: "Speaking of work. Weren't you working today?"Q:

"No. I am off for 2 days"

Me: "Why are you working there? Do you get bored?"

Q: "2 old age homes benefit from my salary. I donate it to them"

Me: "Really? That's very thoughtful"

Q: "I guess. I never really reached out to old age homes. It has always been orphanages"

Me: "I never thought of you to be that man" He chuckled.

Q: "Well I am that man. I give out 15 bursaries, donate to 20 orphanages. 5 in Jo'burg, 5 in Pretoria, 5 here and 5 in PE."

Me: "Oh My God babe that is good. You're a good man After all" he laughed.

Q: "You just called me babe and said I'm a good man" I hit him. We laughed.

Me: "You truly are a good man"

Q: "Orphans are my weakness. After I found my son I never wanted to see kids stranded or hungry"

Me: "Found your son?"

Q: "Yes. Sbongakonke." He took his phone and showed me his picture.

Me: "Oh wow. How old is he?"

Q: "23."

Me: "Amen" we laughed.

Q: "Don't worry. He's a very good child"

Me: "Well to you. What if he slaps me when he doesn't find breakfast ready?"

Q: "I did quite an amazing job raising him. You don't have anything to worry about"

Me: "I hope so"

Q: "This means you are prepared to be my wife" Me:

"What? No"

Q: "Why are you speaking of Bonga slapping you if he doesn't find breakfast? Because the only time you will have to make breakfast for my children is when you're my wife"

Me: "Oh is it?" He kissed me. Q:

"Yes"

Well I don't think we'll go that far but I won't say it. My phone rang. My heart skipped a bit.

Me: "Its Kylie"

Q: "Answer it"

Me: "Hey boo"

Kylie: "If I didn't know better I would say you have found yourself a Ben 10 and you no longer care about me"

Me: "I'm so sorry. My mother being here has taken all

of my time."

Kylie: "Please meet me at Pavilion in the next hour or so. We have a lot to discuss."

Me: "Oh ok. Are you at your place?"

Kylie: "No. Right now I'm heading to Q's to drop his orders off and then I will drive to Pavilion"

Me: "Uhm ok. Let me get ready"

Kylie: "Ok."

I hung up. I quickly got up and took my plate and cup away. I came back to take my phone.

Me: "She's coming here. Do you mind if I borrow your car?"

Q: "Where are you going?"

Me: "My place." Duh!

Q: "Why shouldn't Kylie see us together again?"

Me: "Because it's still too early and this relationship will be much nicer if we keep it low-key"

Q: "Well go hide upstairs"

Me: "I need to go to my place and change. We are going out"

Q: "There are the keys. Choose any"

Me: "Bye. I will call you"

I kissed his grumpy self and took the keys and left.

I got in the car and drove off. I am driving in a towel once again. Those security guys better mind their own business again today.

...

I arrived at my place. Everybody mastered the skill of minding their own business in this building its lovely.

I rinsed my face and applied make up and dressed up. I didn't expect to find this bed made. At least he has good manners.

I took my bag and walked out. I took my car, I have no energy to be explaining why am I driving Q's other car.

I drove to Pavilion. She arrived 5 minutes later. We hugged.

Kylie: "Where are we going? Movie or a meal?"

Me: "Little shopping and then a meal. I settled that deal and I am starting on Thursday. I need new overalls"

Kylie: "Congratulations"

Me: "I take it you didn't get the text I sent you yesterday"

Kylie: "I didn't get any" I checked.

Me: "Oh it didn't go through. I'm sorry"

Kylie: "No problem"

I realized I have some unread texts from Ben. He arrived last night.

We bought a few things. She seemed a bit distant so I suggested we go get that meal. Whatever it is, it was eating her up.

Me: "Where are we eating?"

Kylie: "Have we ever ate at McDonald's?"

Me: "Nope. You always suggest fancy restaurants"Kylie:

"I feel like KFC though"

Me: "O-kay"

Kylie: "Or let's grab kfc streetwise 4 and then go to McDonald's"

Me: "Fine by me"

We went to KFC, ended up buying more pieces and hot wings for Quinton because we are going to his house after this.

We settled down at McD after receiving our order. It wasn't so packed as usual.

Me: "So. What did you want to talk about?"

Kylie: "A lot. I think I'm being punished" Me:

"You're speaking in riddles"

She took a mini box out of her bag.

Kylie: "Open it"

I did.

Me: "A ring?"

Kylie: "Yes. Ray proposed" a tear fell. Me:

"And you don't want to marry him?"

Kylie: "I don't know. I am scared of marriage Yoli. My last marriage was a disaster, what if the history repeat itself?"

Me: "Have you told him that?"

Kylie: "No I'm scared"

Me: "Are there signs of him similar to your ex's?" She shook her head. "Open up to him. Seek help and talk all that fear out. You love him right?"

Kylie: "A lot and what stresses me more is that I'm pregnant"

Me: "What! Oh my God I'm gonna be an aunt"

Kylie: "Shhh" we laughed.

Me: "Does he know? I have a feeling that he doesn't"

Kylie: "He doesn't. He proposed the same night I was going to tell him. I just couldn't bring myself to talk any further"

Me: "You should let him know"

Kylie: "I guess so. I will ask him to come over this side"

Me: "Great. How far are you?"

Kylie: "I don't know I booked an appointment for Tuesday"

Me: "Okay baby. You got this, always remember not everyone is like your ex. Whatever it is that he put you through we gonna pray that Ray doesn't do the same" I squeezed her hand. She smiled.

Kylie: "Thank you love"

Me: "Any time"

We ate and packed away our food and drove to Q's.

...

Q: "Look who remembered I exist! I haven't seen you ages. Thank you Kylie for bringing her over" he said as we walked in.

Kylie: "I think she has a boyfriend" he got up.

Q: "I think so too. She doesn't even take my calls at night. Come here give me a hug kid" What's wrong

with him?

He hugged me. "I missed you" he whispered. I pinched him. He let go of me.

Me: "Well I am very busy I have not been avoiding you guys"

Kylie: "You have. We brought you wings Mr Dube" Q:

"Really? You both are keepers"

Me: "Sure as hell we are. I'll get the glasses"

Kylie: "Don't worry I'll get them"

Me: "Ok let me go to the bathroom then"

Q: "Please bring me my pen on top of the bed"

Me: "Pen?" He nodded. "Ok"

I went upstairs to the bathroom. I peed and twerked a little as I rinsed my hands.

I went to Q's bedroom. There was no pen on the bed. I startled when the door closed.

Me: "Quinton Dube" Q:

"Yes baby?"

Me: "What are you doing here?"

Q: "To collect my kiss my lady"

He held me closer and kissed me to paradise. He pushed me down on the bed. He's never kissed me like this. This has more passion in it. His grip was a little tighter. He kissed me on my neck. I'm ready to lose my virginity at this very moment. I never really thought I'd lose it like this though, with my friend downstairs? No. I pictured rose petals all over, candles with lavender scent and a little picnic thereon the floor.

I felt his hand slid into my nunu. Nope not inside but just inside the underwear. I held my breath. He's making me hickeys!

He took his hand out of my nunu. I finally breathe. He pushed my dress up and kissed me from my boobs all the way to my thighs and then came up to kiss my forehead.

Q: "I'm just here to take a bath. Kylie is waiting for you downstairs"

He got off and disappeared to the bathroom.

I was still in a same position. What was that?

He came out in his boxers. He smiled, he has a very beautiful smile and set of teeth. He pulled me up.

Q: "I just got a call from home. The twins have been crying none stop. I am flying there in 2 hours. I will be back tomorrow evening with them."

Me: "Oh ok." I'm sad now.

Q: "I'm gonna miss you."

Me: "I will miss you too" we hugged. Am I in love? Why am I sad he's leaving?

We kissed briefly.

Me: "We'll accompany you to the airport"

Q: "Why don't you first keep me company while I bath?"

Me: "Kylie-"

Q: "Kylie is on her way to the airport to bully everyone to squeeze our jet in"

Me: "You guys abuse your power. I will pack for you instead"

Q: "You don't wanna see me naked? I swear my pubic hair is shaved"

Me: "No one is thinking of that" Q:

"Then come"

Me: "No."

Q: "I will try not to be too sexy" I pinched him. He laughed and walked back.

Me: "Which bag?" I shouted.

Q: "Any." He shouted back.

I took a brown leather one. I searched it. There was a picture of him and whom I assume is his brother because he looks like him but not so much and a woman that kinda looks...like me. It had dust. I cleaned it. She definitely looks like me. She's me in a slender version.

I heard the bathroom door open. I quickly put it back and put the bag away and took another one. Who is she? Could it be his previous lover? Is that why he fell for me, because I look like his ex?

[2/26, 07:22] Zoaness: 30

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As strong as I try to be I am failing!

I am getting insomnia over the fact that Nkule is in Jo'burg. That means his family love her. Or else why would they allow her into their home? Oh she's friends with the wife. How boring.

We began with work today. The boys arrived yesterday.

Khaya: "You have magical hands. You've done so much in 5 hours"

Me: "There's 5 of us. We will be done on Friday as your father said"

Khaya: "He said that?"

Me: "Yeah"

Khaya: "Get off that ladder" I got down. He led the way to the office.

Khaya: "Tell me your father did not just order Yoli to finish up by Friday"

Zweli: "He did"

Khaya: "Is he suffering some sort of disease? It's only Wednesday today"

Me: "It's nothing really. I can make it happen"

Zweli: "That will be over working you"

Me: "It's not like I have anything to do with my time" I really don't. Quinton is acting up and when he comes he will be spending time with his kids.

Khaya: "That still doesn't mean work for over 8 hours. Zweli call mom"

He pulled me out.

Khaya: "It's 12:30. Go have lunch."

Me: "My friend is gonna bring it for us. Thank you" He smiled and walked out.

Sbo: "Is everything okay?" I startled.

Me: "Yeah. Tell the others that we are taking a break"

Ben: "Holy mother of Jesus. Who is that snack I just saw at the parking lot?" Why is he so loud!

I went to him and closed his mouth.

Me: "What are you doing?" He moved my hand off.

Ben: "I'm asking about that God's creation I just laid my eyes on outside"

Me: "That is probably Khaya Ncube. Co owner of this place"

Ben: "I never thought I'd meet my husband in such a place" I took the food carrier bag and gave it to Nkosi.

Me: "You need to wake up from that dream. Come let me show you what we've done so far"

Ben: "What does he like?"

Me: "Who? This is going to be the kitchen area"

Ben: "Khalo. Its beautiful. Is the tiling still wet?"

Me: "Yes. Its Khaya not Khalo and for the love of God can we not speak about him in the moment? I'm trying to show you my work!"

Ben: "I'm well aware of that. I love the mosaic" Me:

"Oh. I thought it was a bit extra"

Ben: "Are you kidding me? Is this all it?"

Me: "Yeah. Let's go eat"

Ben: "What's going on between you and Quinton?"

Me: "Nothing"

Ben: "Why is your car and cellphone insured by the Dube logistics?"

Me: "Oh he gifted me with it"

Ben: "And the cellphone?"

Me: "It too"

Ben: "And you still not convinced that this man wants himself some you?"

Me: "Ben please"

Ben: "That car is registered under your name. Nobody makes it to the Dube insurance unless they are important"

Me: "I guess I'm the lucky one then. Where's your crazy ex?"

Ben: "At the crazy world. Doing crazy people's things" we laughed.

Why is my phone insured? This man gets creepier each day. We joined the guys. I introduced them to each other. He just blended in.

My phone rang.

Me: "Excuse me."

I got up and went to stand next to my car. Me:

"Daddy"

Nzuza: "Hi MaNzuza. Please forgive me for juggling up your schedule but this can't wait. U Makhulu who knows all the right customs is really sick so she suggested we go ahead with the ceremonies before she gets worse"

Me: "Ow ok. Which day did you choose?"

Nzuza: "Sunday. This Sunday"

Me: "Oh my. Ok. So I am supposed to come there on Saturday?"

Nzuza: "Yes"

Me: "Ok. I will call you later"

Nzuza: "Ok my Angel"

I hung up. I'm really scared to go there. I might need Kylie to come with me. I can not be around people I am not familiar with, not especially when I will be center of attention.

I got on Facebook to check on the notification of my mother who had just posted yet another picture and tagged me. She feels like a Vogue model.

I came across Nkule's post. She checked in with Quinton. At a hotel!

An hour ago.

I felt my heart sink. This is the reason he hasn't texted me. I am not gonna cry.

"Girlfriend. Do you feel like flying to EC?" I sent to Kylie and went back to every one and we ate listening to Ben's hilarious past. But he promised me they weren't doing anything!

...

I checked the time. I don't think I can go a minute longer.

Painting, tiling and plumbing all done. We were now

cleaning up. I felt like my eyes were gonna fall. Sbo: "I have never longed for my bed this much" Lwandle: "I want a warm bath and an 8 hour sleep"

Me: "Let's go. I am so hungry. What time is it anyway?"

Sbo: "Its 23:45 imagine"

Me: "We will come in at 12pm tomorrow." Nkosi: "Text them to not come here until then" Sbo: "Yes.

The floor is wet"

I laughed.

Me: "I will."

We turned the lights off and locked. There were only 2 cars on the parking lot.

I packed our tools on the boot. The owner of the other car opened the door and came towards us. I quickly pressed the close button and hurried inside the car. I started it.

I heard a knock on the window. I froze for a moment.

I pressed the window down.

Me: "Can I help you?"

Man: "Evening Miss Vilakazi. You didn't turn the alarm on"

Me: "Uhm. What alarm?"

Sbo: "The store alarm. Let's go turn it on" I gavethem the keys and they got out.

Man: "Its very important to turn it on. Especially inthis neighborhood. Its not safe."

Me: "Are you the security?" Man:

"You may put it that way. "Sbo and

Nkosi came back.

Sbo: "Its turned on"

Man: "Have a good night"

Me: "Thank you"

I drove off. The boys were on about how much of a good man he is. My worry was: How did he know who am I and how did he know we didn't set the

alarm. I texted Khaya asking if he works for them. He called. I put on the Bluetooth earpiece.

Me: "Hi"

Khaya: "Nkosazana. Did he scare you?" Me:

"No but he has me wondering"

Khaya: "He is my cousin. He volunteered to be your guard since you guys will be working late"

Me: "Oh. Ok thanks I wish you had let me know though cause I thought he is the bad guy"

Khaya: "No sweetheart he isn't. Go home and rest. I will see you tomorrow"

Me: "Thank you. Bye"

He hung up. There was no text nor a missed call from Quinton. I guess he's enjoying being with her.

...

We arrived home. We first ate with Nkanyiso and Lwandle while Sbo and Nkosi bath.

Me: "Guys let's call it a day. Its already Thursday"

Lwandle: "Good night sisi"

I took my phone and went to my room. I screamed when I turned the lights on. I heard their footsteps running towards my door. I locked it.

Me: "Its okay. It was just a rat"

Nkanyiso: "Ok."

He did not look happy at all.

Me: "I wasn't expecting to find you here"

Q: "There is a lot of places you'd find me at if you act like a headless chicken"

Me: "Excuse me?"

Q: "Why was your phone off?"

Me: "My phone is very on."

Q: "I've been calling you since the day began"

Me: "My phone is on Quinton and don't talk like that you're scaring me"

He got up.

Q: "Do you know how worried I was?"

Me: "No. All I know is that your bitch checked in with you in a hotel"

Q: "What?"

Me: "Yes. Now please don't come here and turn tables. Accusing me of keeping my phone off while you know very well you never called. You were with your woman doing only God knows what. Don't ease up your conscience with putting me on the wrong"

I took off the work suit.

Q: "I called you! And I did not do anything with Nkule. I was there to talk to her."

Me: "Couldn't you talk in a more public space?" Q:

"No"

Me: "Why? You wanted to have sex with her right?" He sighed.

Me: "Say 'yes Yoli. I didn't think you were gonna be smart enough to figure that out'. And how convenient it is to find you here? If you really wanted to find me you would've come to where I was. You're retracking my every move right? Why didn't you track it

till you made it to eNanda? I'm sick and tired of you and that crazy woman. If you still wanna crawl around with her, you better leave me the hell alone Dube"

I didn't understand the look on his face. He looked surprised, mad, sad and amused all at once. His eyes weren't on my face now.

Oh I was shouting half naked. I undid the bra and slid down the underwear. I picked it all up and took my walk of pride to the bathroom.

Me: "When I come out, I don't want to find you here"

I closed the door on his face. Who the hell does he think he is? Fucking that retarded bitch and come here to accuse me of things. Nx men.

I saw a sim card on top of the toilet seat. I took it. It is my active sim card. Fok!

I forgot to put it back last night. I put on Telkom to call my father last night. No wonder Kylie didn't respond to my text.

Either way he should've grown a pair and texted me

on WhatsApp or Facebook.

I went under the shower and scrubbed myself.

I finished and walked out. He had left. Good cause I would've smacked him till he died.

I put my sim card back and sat in front of the mirror. I need to vent. I called Ben.

He answered.

Ben: "It's quarter past 1 in the morning. Are you in trouble?"

Me: "No"

Ben: "Ok"

The line went dead. Aibo. I called him again.

Ben: "Yoli"

Me: "Ben. I need to vent!"

Ben: "I'm listening"

Me: "I lied. Me and your Mr Dube are a thing"

Ben: "Not surprised. Next"

Me: "And there's this crazy chick. His ex actually."

Ben: "Nonkululeko Ndlela?"

Me: "You know her?"

Ben: "No no no. Pretend I didn't say that" Me:

"I can't. What do you know Benjamin?" Ben:

"Its confidential. What did she do?" Me: "I

think they are still seeing each other" Ben: "I

doubt babe"

Me: "They were together today at a hotel"

Ben: "He was probably there to tell her to fuck off" Me:

"I shouldn't have called you."

He chuckled. I hung up.

"I will never do that to you Yolanda you have to believe me" where did he come from?

Me: "I can't believe you Q I'm sorry"

Q: "I went there to clarify things for her. She has this whole idea made out that her and I are together. We were never together, I have told you this before. She's on a mission to break us up. She went as far

as going to a witch doctor. I am sorry I went there without informing you. I tried calling you though" He pulled me up to stand. He held both my hands. God I'm so in love with him I want to cry. "I would never cheat on you, especially not with her. What I felt for her died a long time ago."

Me: "I'm scared. I'm scared I'm nothing like the women you always date."

Q: "That what makes you special. I love you Yolanda. The more I get reminded that I shouldn't is the more I love you."

Me: "I love you more" he wiped my tears. When did I get here? We shouldn't be doing this.

Do I ask about the picture now or? He hugged me.

Q: "Let's talk about your walk to the bathroom naked"

Me: "No I want to sleep"

Q: "Okay. Let me tuck you in bed"

Me: "Okay" we let go.

I applied roll on and lotion. He was watching. He has no manners at all.

Something crossed my mind.

Me: "Didn't you say you gonna come back with the kids?"

Q: "I did. They are at home sleeping"

Me: "With?"

Q: "Alone"

Me: "What! You need to leave."

Q: "They are fine. I need to kiss you" he kissed me and pushed me down to the bed.

"Yoli! Where's this kid"

The door opened. I pushed Quinton off. He fell.

Kylie: "Tell me this is just me hallucinating" she could barely stand.

Me: "What are you doing here? Its almost 2 in the morning"

Kylie: "Please tell me that isn't Quinton Dube "

I was now standing before her. Blocking her to come any further.

Me: "What? Where?"

Kylie: "I only had two glasses of whiskey. And I saw you kissing with someone" she pushed me out of her way.

I closed my eyes. I

heard her laugh.

Kylie: "Get up Dube"

Me: "We can explain"

Q: "What are you doing here?"

Kylie: "I knew that car wasn't out of generosity. And you protecting her from boyfriends was too good to be true"

Me: "What are you doing here really?"

Kylie: "I guess God wanted me to witness this. Sit down"

She made us both sit and then took a deep sigh.

Kylie: "How long has this been happening?" Me:

"2 weeks"

Kylie: "What happened to her being Kid?"

Quinton: "I don't know. Babe I'll see you tomorrow" he kissed my cheek. "Kylie. We have an early morning tomorrow."

Kylie: "Whatever." He chuckled and walked out. She hit me with a bag and laughed.

Kylie: "You're such a crook. How long were you going to hide this from me?"

Me: "For as long as I could." We laughed.

Kylie: "You know I was wondering why your phone is insured by his company but I brushed it off. I've always known he likes you"

Me: "Oh please"

She took off her heels and jumped in bed.

Me: "Why were you drinking?"

Kylie: "I was saying good Bye to alcohol. I told Ray.

He's over the moon. I am not ready for a child" Me:

"You will be. Sleep"

She had already did.

I went out to lock the main door.

Me: "Sweet Jesus! This is very creepy Quinton"

Q: "You thought I was gonna go without my kiss?" Me:

"The kids are alone"

Q: "I was kidding. There is a nanny" he put the ice cream back to the fridge. "You know its much nicer from the original tub"

Me: "I see"

He came over to me and we kissed.Q:

"I have something to tell you" Me:

"Yeah?"

Q: "Yes. Come"

He pulled me to the couch.

Q: "That picture you saw. That's my brother and his late wife"

Me: "Picture?"

Q: "I saw it on the footage." Me:

"Oh. So what's her story?"

Q: "Story for another day. I wanted to make it clear to you that, that's not me."

Me: "Ok. I'm going to EC on Saturday" Q:

"For?"

Me: "To meet everyone and be introduced to the ancestors" he went quiet for a while.

Q: "Alright. The twins and I will pass by here later tomorrow."

Me: "I'd love that. I will be here until 12"

Q: "Great." He perked my lips. "I wish I could just look at you until the sun rises" I blushed a little.

Me: "Go"

Q: "I want you to know that this relationship is yet to get very bumpy. Please stay by my side as we fight it all"

Me: "Should I be worried?"

Q: "Yes. A little though. But when all is over we will be the happiest" he kissed forehead. Absorbing my common sense.

Q: "I love you okay?"

Me: "Okay. I am glad you do"

Q: "And Nkule will never disturb our peace again"

Me: "She better not because I have enough money to hire a sniper to take her out" he frowned.

Q: "That's scary. Bye babe"

Me: "Bye sweets. I miss you already" He smiled and walked out.

That is his brother and his late wife huh? Why does she look like me? That's the answer I need. What does he mean the relationship is yet to get bumpy? Who is this man?...

[2/26, 07:24] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

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I woke up to my phone ringing like its the only audible thing in this world.

I opened one eye to check who might it be. Ayanda. She hardly calls. I answered.

Me: "Hey."

Ayanda: "Please look after my kids. Your brother inlaw is about to take my life" I opened my eyes immediately and sat on my butt. She is crying.

Me: "Wait wait. What's going on?"

Ayanda: "He's gonna kill me Yoli. He went to his carto get a gun." My heart beat out of it's rib cage.

Me: "Run!"

Ayanda: "I can't. He beat me up" oh my God.

Me: "Lock the door please"

Ayanda: "I love you baby"

Me: "Ayanda no! Mtase? Ayanda?"

The line went dead. I called her back it rang unanswered. I looked for my shoes and ran out. I realized on the lift that I'm not going anywhere. I am here.

I called Sizwe. I prayed as it rang.

Sizwe: "Hey"

Me: "Sizwe please help me. My sister is in trouble. Her boyfriend wants to kill her please drive to Edonsa please!"

Sizwe: "I can't hear you Yoli the signal is bad here. Please speak louder and slower"

Me: "Khoza wants to shoot Ayanda please call the police!"

Sizwe: "Where are you?"

Me: "Sizwe. I'm in Durban. My sister is there oLundi. Khoza wants to kill her!" Why is he so stupid?

Sizwe: "Oh shit. I'll call you when we get there" Me:

"Thank you"

I went back to my place. I sat on the couch anxiously.

I couldn't stop the tears from falling, thinking of all the worst scenarios. I tried calling mom and Nzuzabut their phones went straight to voicemail.

I checked the time. It was quarter past 10. I cleaned up to pass time.

I put pots on the stove and began to cook for Quinton and his babies after cleaning. I kept trying Sizwe but he wasn't answering.

My phone rang. I rushed to it. I sighed. I was hoping it's Sizwe or mom.

Me: "Hey"

Quinton: "Hey baby. We are here. I need a little help"

Me: "You guys are early. I'm coming"

I went to check on the guys. They were fast asleep. Seems like we will be going to work around 2pm today.

I went out to fetch the Dubes. He hugged and kissed me.

Me: "Where are they?"

Q: "Inside. They are sleeping" he opened the door. "I'll take these 2. You'll carry Sikelela" aren't they supposed to be 2?

Me: "I didn't know they were 3"

Q: "They are. Oh I'm sorry I forgot to tell you. The boy is Chris's. They can't be separated" Oh. He took the boy and a girl. I took the other girl and locked the car. We went inside.

Me: "Lets put them in the bedroom" we laid them down. They are even cuter in person. The boy has his resemblance. The girls do too, just lighter.

Q: "Are you okay? You look like you've been crying" I looked at him.

Me: "My sister called me crying. Saying her baby daddy beat her up and out to get a gun"

He pulled me out to the lounge. He took his phone out.

Q: "Have you checked up on her?"

Me: "She's not answering"

My phone rang as he put his on the ear and walked

to the bathroom.

Me: "Sizwe"

Sizwe: "We found no one here sweetheart. Just a messy house and traces of blood in the bedroom. Neighbors say they did not hear any gun going off"

Me: "No it can't be. Please look for her in everyhouse"

Sizwe: "We did. My shift has ended. The search squad has been called. I will keep you updated"

Me: "Okay thank you. Wait. Is his car there?"

Sizwe: "Unfortunately. No"

Me: "Ok. Thanks"

He hung up. I called mama.

Mama: "Yoli" she was crying and panting.

Me: "Mama. Khoza beat Ayanda up and now she's missing"

Mama: "I'm on my way there. I see police cars on their yard. God this is all my fault"

Me: "Please go and ask around if anyone saw where his car went. The police say they only saw a bit of blood in their bedroom. She called me earlier and said he went out to get a gun"

Mama: "Oh Jesus what have I done? This is all my fault"

Me: "Ma please"

Mama: "I Should've been a better mother. She wouldn't have fled home to stay with him. I thought he was a good man. How did I miss the signs! She was here on Tuesday, her back was bruised but she said she fell on her way to get woods. I shouldn't have believed her" I was now also crying. She hung up. Quinton came out.

He brought me in for a hug. Me:

"They found no one there"

Q: "They will find them baby. I have a business with the PIs that side. I was with them on the phone. They will be working with the police that are handling that case. Don't cry okay" he squeezed me. Funny how I wasn't convinced when Sizwe said they will find

them but now I had faith.

Me: "Okay. Let me finish up cooking" Q:

"Where are your guys?"

Me: "Still sleeping. We had a long day yesterday" Q:

"Why did you knock off that late?"

Me: "Because that man wants us done by tomorrow"

Q: "Is he on drugs? How big is that place?"

Me: "Side of your lounge and kitchen" he raised his eyebrows.

Q: "Call him and tell him you aren't coming in today. You have family matters to attend"

Me: "I can't. I will go around 2 to install cupboards and sinks"

Q: "You can't work in that state"

Me: "I can." I texted Khaya that we'll come in late and took out spoons and then ice cream out of the fridge.

He smiled. I gave him his spoon and we dug in.

Q: "Kylie kept looking at me and shake her head in the meeting" I laughed. When did she even leave? I forgot she slept here.

Me: "I don't wanna know what is she gonna say to me. You remember Ben?"

Q: "The white boy?"

Me: "Yes. There's no need to address him like that though"

Q: "He is white. I found out he works for us"

Me: "He does"

Q: "Nice. So, are you friends?"

Me: "Yes we are and he knows too"

Q: "Nice. I hope he doesn't discuss our confidential information with you"

Me: "Not at all"

Q: "Good."

My lips are itchy to ask about that woman of his twin brother.

Me: "What did you mean when you said our relationship will get bumpy"

Q: "I meant. Your father is gonna shoot me in the head when he finds out I'm dating his daughter."

Me: "Why? You never really told me why would he protest against this relationship. Was their feud that bad?"

Q: "Very bad. He wants nothing to do with us. Especially Khule and I. And on the other side, I lied to my brother about who am I seeing because they will not approve of our relationship. Concerning the fact that you're Sam's daughter."

Me: "So how long is it going to be a secret?"

Q: "I'm still trying to figure out how am I gonna break it to them"

Me: "And my dad?"

He sighed

Q: "That is our huge problem. He'll find out when he finds out. We have to be low key as possible"

Me: "This is harder than I thought." I got up to stir the

pap. If my father did not punch that man in Pick n Pay the other day when he kept pursuing me to give him my number. I'd say he's harmless but he's not.

I felt him behind me. He put his arms around me and pressed his chin on my head.

Q: "There's a lot of things I have to tell you but I'm scared you might chicken out and leave me. In everything just always remember I am not perfect and I have paid for all my sins. But I will tell you in due time"

I closed the pot and turned to him.

Me: "Whenever you are ready babe."

Q: "You wouldn't leave me right?" Me:

"If you didn't cheat. No I won't"

Q: "I am in this for a long run. I watched you for a whole 3 months. I fell deeper for you each day. You became the most exciting thing of my life other than my kids. If you ever leave me I will kill everyone you go on a date with"

Me: "Why do I believe that?"

Q: "Because I would do it" I laughed.

Me: "As long as you're trying. I'll forever be yours. It only been two weeks together but it feels like months"

Q: "You even shouted at me yesterday" I laughed. Me:

"I was mad"

Q: "You aren't scared of me."

Me: "Should I be?"

Q: "Yes. I am scary"

Me: "Well I'm brave hun"

He attacked me with a kiss. I don't know if I am really in love with this man or our kisses are more than just a kiss recently.

"The kids are watching" we startled and stopped. I saw Sbo on the other side of the counter. I flashed him a guilty smile. He pointed beside me.

There they were. Looking at us with bottles in their tiny mouths. Quinton waved at them. They smiled.

Me: "Hey guys" they stopped and turned and walked

to Sbo. He chased them around.

Me: "They're mad I kissed their father" we laughed. "Let me go bath I'll dish up when I get back"

Q: "I wanna-"

Me: "Stay here and eat your ice cream" He smirked and spanked my ass.

Me: "Don't waken my demons Mr Dube" Q: "Are they dangerous?"

Me: "Very dangerous" I winked and ran to the bedroom.

I prayed for Ayanda's safe return before getting into the tub. You really can't guarantee anyone's goodness. I never saw him to be that guy. I thought he was all about protecting her.

He got in as I put undies on. Q:

"We're hungry"

Me: "I'm finishing up"

Q: "I love that birth mark" I frowned. I have a birth

mark on my left butt cheek.

Me: "Thank you"

He came closer. I rushed to the bed and put my dress on.

Me: "Let's go and dish up"

He looked down at his pants. I chuckled.Q:

"I need to pee"

Me: "Yeah you do"

I left his horny ass. I dished up for everyone. The babies were having fun with Sbo and Lwandle. I served them.

Lwandle: "Are you guys...?"

Me: "If I tell you I might have to kill you"

Nkosi: "I saw it. He seems like a good guy though"Me:

"So everybody keeps saying."

Nkosi: "High profile people don't do this. They take what they want from you and leave."

Sbo: "True. But his kids are here." Q came out.

Q: "Finally." He kissed my cheek. "I'll first feed these monkeys and then eat"

Me: "Let me try. Maybe they'll smile at me" He chuckled and said okay.

They came to me as soon as I sat down with their bowl. I fed them. They were even speaking their own language. He sat there and smiled.

They finished the whole bowl. I was surprised. I gave them their meat. They were even happier. I took mine and ate too.

I washed the dishes afterwards. These morons were talking about football.

Our day of bliss was shortened when we had to go to work. They didn't wanna be carried anymore. We pulled them to the elevator. Lwandle and the guys went to get the car at the underground parking while I accompanied my babies out.

We buckled them up.

Me: "I wish I wasn't leaving for EC tomorrow. We'd spend quality time"

Q: "You guys have a life time to spend"

Me: "Yes we do. Bye lovie" they waved. I chuckled. I closed the door.

Q: "I will call you later. Keep your phone on"

Me: "Ok. That's if I won't find you waiting for me in my bedroom." He chuckled.

Q: "You won't." I smiled and kissed him.

He got in the car and drove off. Am I slowly getting into a serious relationship?

...

8 hours later we finished. Tired as yesterday. But we did pretty much. I thank God for the guys I'm working with. Very dedicated and active.

Me: "Tomorrow we will be getting our money and you may throw a house party on Saturday"

Them: "Yay!"

Lwandle: "Can't we come with you to EC?"

Me: "Really? You want to?"

Nkosi: "Yes. We've never been out of KZN. We've never driven over 5 hours to any place"

Me: "I'll speak to my dad. And we would fly there if he agrees"

They jumped up in excitement. They're such babies.

We cleaned up and set the alarm and locked. I felt a light headache.

Me: "Nkanyiso please drive. I don't feel too well"

He took the car keys. Khaya's cousin was there again.

My phone rang as we drove off. I was willing to drop it if it was Kylie or Ben. They crowded me the whole afternoon today.

Me: "Hey love"

Q: "Baby. I'm so sorry sthandwa sam. I don't even have words to say this. Ayanda is-"

I heard screeching tyres. Something like a window breaking.

"Pull him out!" Said a voice I couldn't recognize. I

heard someone groaning in pain. "Don't beat him up you asshole"

Me: "Quinton? Q?"

The line died. My phone rang.

Me: "Ma?" She just screamed. "Ma please"

Mama: "He killed them! He killed them!"

"Yoli this is Nkosazana. Ayanda and the child were found shot at the bushes. He killed them and shot himself too"

I hung up and bowed my head. God why?

With everything of women getting lost and getting killed by strangers. Some dying on the hands of their romantic partners. I never really thought my sister would also be a victim....

[2/26, 07:25] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

Its been a 3 months of pain, tears, disappointment and healing.

Healing from my sister and nephew's passing.

Healing from my failed relationship.

Seeing my sister's coffin go down. A huge part of me left with her. The only person I could confide in without her judging me was gone. My one and only sister was No more. I will never see her again. No more 1hour calls, talking about nothing but our crazy mother whom we resent actions of but still love her so much.

She has always believed in me. My poor baby boy. He didn't live enough to serve his purpose.

That Khoza man, even in his grave. I will forever hate him for killing my sister and her baby.

It all has not been easy but I prayed about it all. And I conquered. I'm finally over it all. It doesn't hurt as much.

Things took a sharp curve between Quinton and I. No explanation. No nothing. He just disappeared on me.

His phone always stayed off. I went to his house numerous times. The access code had been changed. The fingerprint scan denied me access too. But I kept going there until one day I found a security guard and he told me he moved out. I figured he didn't want me anymore. So I stopped trying.

Kylie & Ben moved back to Jo'burg. We called each other regularly but I couldn't bring myself to ask about Q. I didn't want to put them in that awkward position you know.

I won't lie I was really broken at first. But everything gets better with time. Here I am today, stronger and smarter.

And I finally graduated. My father made sure I looked and felt like a princess that I am. They also looked beautiful with mom. It wasn't so exciting though. We had just buried Ayanda 3 weeks prior. It would've been more special if she was there. The degree belongs to her. She persuaded me at all times to be the best at everything concerning academics. The pride in my mother's eyes couldn't be compared to anything. I literally cried.

2 weeks ago I went to EC for my ceremony. It went pretty well. I also found out that I have a niece but unfortunately she wasn't there. She was in PE in withher grandmother. The ceremony was done at the village that I can't recall the name of.

The Nzuzas were very good to me. Turns out I amthe youngest of the whole generation.

Everyone is 30 years old upwards. But funny enough I enjoyed being there with them. I didn't need the boys or Kylie to come along to rescue me afterall.

Her bump was getting visible. She looked sexy ashell.

And I have done 3 jobs so far since that one of theNcube furniture shop.

The news flash is Zweli and I have been going outfor 3 weeks now. No don't judge me. I do not stay around and mourn failed relationships. I move on when I find someone that I think I like.

He's sweet. Playful and very romantic. Random surprises every now and then. He's boyfriending verywell. My age group. I don't know what I was thinking

agreeing to be Quinton Dube's girlfriend? Sometimes we most likely to aim too high.

My babies moved out to their own new places. Lwandle lives with Nkosi. Sbo lives with Nkanyiso. They visit once a week.

If it wasn't for my parents and Zweli who always keep me occupied on my phone, I'd be dead of loneliness.

...

Its Saturday today. I just finished my third job yesterday. I have 2 promising. I'm crossing fingers.

I have to meet with my dad later on of which I'm not really up for. All he does is talk about his days with my mom, work, work, work and ask me if I'm seeing anyone.

Apparently the Nzuza people wed at 18. I'm not them. I don't want marriage. At least not now. I don't see it's relevance.

All I do on my weekends is mop around. Plus its June, 2 days until July its really cold. Pjs are my best

friend.

My phone vibrated under my pillow. Study says that is a bad habit and its not good for the cellphone andthe owner but it always ends up here. I don't care how many times I've read tragic stories about putting a cellphone under your pillow but I still do itany way.

"Good morning sunshine. Today's weather is for Netflix and snacks. What do you think?"

A text from Zweli read. Came to think of it. We've never spent time in each other's places. We spendour time at restaurants, cinema, beach, his office and places that I have worked at.

"Morning boo. That sounds like a good idea. This place gets too quiet at times." I sent and then got inthe shower.

A couple of moments later I walked out. I found 2 missed calls from him. I called him back. The DubeLogistics still recharges my phone with airtime andeternal data by the way.

Zweli: "Sphalaphala sami"

Me: "Hey there. I was taking a shower"

Zweli: "Really? I wish I could've been there with you"

Me: "Well you weren't. Stop being a pervert" he laughed.

Zweli: "How can I not? Ever saw that body?"

Me: "Yes I have thank you baby."

Zweli: "Heavenly. I called to ask your place or mine?"

Me: "Yours. My dad pops up here every now and then when he's here"

Zweli: "Okay. What time should I expect you?"

Me: "Uhm...I'm meeting with him around 12. I will probably show up around 4pm or so"

Zweli: "Okay sweetheart. See you then"

Me: "Bye"

I hung up. I made the bed and prepared myself for leaving.

Sbo and the crew were at home, Olundi so I wasn't expecting any visitors. I packed an overnight bag

and then left.

Its so crazy that I only know about 5 people in this block. I never leave my place unless I'm going to work. There's a coffee shop downstairs. Most people here eat breakfast there. I've only been thereocne.

I warmed up the engine and went to the boot to putmy bag and get a new packet of wine gums. I saw my teddy. I threw him in here, he reminded me of Quinton. I picked him up.

Me: "I'm sorry for punishing you for someone else'ssins bhabha. Come"

I closed the boot and went back inside the car. I placed teddy in his rightful seat and drove out, straight to South beach.

My phone rang. I forgot to call her last night.Me:

"Mommy"

Mama: "Hello Queen Elizabeth. Did your servants happen to forget to remind you to call me?"

Me: "My sincere apologies mama ka Yoli. I had

surprise sleep. I can't even recall what time did I fall asleep"

Mama: "Apology accepted my lady. Daddy tells me you guys are going out"

Me: "That is very true. I'm on my way there. How's my baby?" That has to be Ayanda's daughter. We thank God she was at school when all that happened or else we would've lost her too. She stays with my mother now. I've resumed a role of being a real full time mother to her.

Mama: "She's fine. She's still sleeping" such a lazy being.

Me: "Tell her to call me when she wakes up"

Mama: "Okay. Are you coming home soon?"

Me: "Yeah. Probably next Friday"

Mama: "Ok ntombi. Let me cook. Have fun"

Me: "I miss your cooking."

Mama: "Hhai go and eat your raw fish polar bear" I laughed.

Me: "It's called sushi madam"

Mama: "Raw fish!"

I laughed. She hung up. I'm so grateful for her guilt over Ayanda's passing. She cut down drinking. She did make it clear that she's on a break though.

I arrived at the meeting spot. I parked next to his car. I got out and called him.

Nzuza: "A boy in a white t-shirt is there to get you"

This looks like a pub. I hung up and walked towards the guy.

Me: "Hi"

Him: "Hey. Yoli right?"

Me: "Yeah. I suppose my dad sent you to get me"

Him: "He did. Ndlalifa"

Me: "I'm sorry, what?"

Him: "My name is Ndlalifa" ow.

Me: "Oh. Nice. You already know mine"

Him: "Yes I do. Let's go before your old man gets

worried"

He led the way into this Egagasini place. People were having the time of their lives here. Why on earth would he choose such a place.

He was talking and laughing with these old men next to him.

Me: "Greetings elders"

Them: "Molo nontombi"

Nzuza: "That wasn't so hard right. These are my partners. The men I'm working with on this new hotel. Gentlemen, this is my daughter Yolanda. Yoli this is Max and this is brother Tim, he was at your ceremony. Don't you recognize him"

Me: "I knew I've seen him from somewhere. How are you Sir?" I do not recognize him!

Tim: "I'm good my child how are you?"

Me: "I'm pretty well thank you" they started talking about things that do not concern Yolanda Vilakazi.

They had already ordered. The food arrived.

Nzuza: "You see? I didn't forget about your cocktail" Me: "I must say I'm pretty impressed"

Ndlalifa: "Does it have alcohol?"

Me: "About 0.2%"

Ndlalifa: "A young beautiful lady like you shouldn't have any bit of alcohol in her system"

Me: "Are you a Dr?" He chuckled.

Ndlalifa: "No not at all. I'm a young businessman" the old business men laughed.

Me: "Oh I see. I hope you won't tell me this meat isn't good for my health"

Ndlalifa: "Not at all Nkosazana"

Tim: "So, Miss Nzuza what do you do for a living?"

Me: "I eat, shop, work, read and sleep" they all laughed.

Max: "He means your profession" of course. Me:

"I am an interior designer"

Ndlalifa: "Wow really?" I nodded.

Tim: "Seems like we just got ourself a right candidate for the job"

Ndlalifa: "I just bought an apartment at Richview. Brother Tim bought a house at Umbilo."

Me: "Are you hiring me to sauce up your houses"

Tim: "No. Not yet. If you're interested you can pass by the office on West street Monday morning and present your previous work to us. I would really love to see pictures of the big houses you've worked on before. I am obsessed with breath taking bathrooms and kitchens. That house I bought has 2 kitchens and 3 bathrooms. I want them all in different styles. If I love what you've done in those houses. The job will definitely be yours"

Me: "Oh my God. That job is definitely mine"

We laughed. I looked at my dad. He winked at me. This food my Lord!

Max: "Look at the time"

Ndlalifa: "I wish we didn't have to travel this often"

Tim: "You signed up for this"

Nzuza: "Safe journey gentlemen" they shook hands. Tim:

"It was nice seeing you again Yoli"

Me: "Thank you Tata."

They walked off.

Nzuza: "They are flying to Cape Town to have dinner with Ndlalifa's parents."

Me: "Wow must be nice to be them"

Nzuza: "It is. They will be moving here permanently after their wedding"

Me: "What?"

Nzuza: "Ndlalifa and Tim. They are getting married in August" I chuckled.

Me: "For a moment when we walked on and saw no other female with you guys. I thought you were match making us" he laughed.

Nzuza: "I would never do that. They are a couple" Me:

"That's nice. This meat is to die but I'm full now" Nzuza:

"We'll take it away with us. Let's go to the

beach"

We left after taking our takeaways to the car.

We did what we always do at the beach. Chase each other around like little kids.

I excused myself and went to the loo.

There was someone puking in one of the toilets.

I peed and went to wash my hands. She sounded very sick. I knocked on her door.

Me: "Are you okay?" She puked again. "Hello?" I heard the toilet flush. The door opened.

Her: "Yez I'm fine. Just pregnant." My eyes ran into her stomach. She's chubby but I could tell. She was wearing the dress net over her bikini. So yellow and fresh and glowing.

Me: "Congratulations. I thought you were dying in there" she chuckled.

Her: "Thanks for caring. I will be fine"

Me: "Okay keep well"

She smiled and nodded. I walked out. I found daddy

waiting for me.

Nzuza: "I am meeting a few friends in an hour." Me:

"Okay. Let's go"

We walked back to where our cars are parked. I unlocked mine.

Nzuza: "The purpose of today was marketing. I found out that they bought houses and in search of an interior decorator so I offered them lunch before leaving. I didn't want to tell them to give you the job just because you're my child. I want you to earn it.

When you go there on Monday, break a leg. You will be against over 30 people. Make me proud, but mostly yourself" he hugged me and then kissed my forehead.

Me: "Thank you baba. I will surely do"

Nzuza: "That's my girl"

We got into our cars and went our separate ways.

...

He doesn't hug me. He attacks me. Every time he sees me he makes it seem like we haven't met in

ages. He lives in Musgrave. I passed by the shops to get us snacks. We'll buy pizza when we get hungry. Plus I brought the meat we had at that place.

Zweli: "I missed you monkey"

Me: "I missed you more baboon. This place is beautiful"

Zweli: "Thank you my love. You bought snacks too?" Me: "Yep. But we'll keep them for later"

He kissed me and led me to the couch.

Zweli: "We gonna camp here and choose a movie"

I took off the boots and a jacket and sat down. The heater was serving it's purpose very right.

He came to sit down too with a bowl of snacks. We chose a movie and cuddled. Perfect!

Zweli: "You're so warm"

Me: "My feet are crazily cold though"

He chuckled and kissed my cheek. We watched one movie after the other.

It was even darker outside. It was close to 8pm.Me:

"Aren't you hungry?"

Zweli: "I am"

Me: "Let's make food then"

Zweli: "I wanna eat you first" I turned to look at him. He brought my face closer to his and smooched me so slow and so nice.

The door got kicked open. We jumped into our feet. They had guns. I felt the urge to pee.

One of them: "Msoon ka Jack no Rose. Wallets! Phones!"

Another one: "Put your hands up!" We did. He collected our phones and took both my bags. He picked up the plastic of goodies I brought.

The first one to talk: "Know what? Just take the girl too"

Me: "No please"

Zweli tried shielding me but they beat him up. There was that I ordered I get taken pointed a gun at me

and shushed me.

They picked my shoes and my jacket up and gave me to dress.

"Now be a good girl and wipe those tears and walk away with us." I shook my head. He came to stare at me closer. I closed my eyes. His breath was hitting my face.

Him: "Do not let me shoot you girl"

Me: "You'd rather kill me"

Him: "Carry her gents"

I tried to run to the bedroom, jumping the passed out Zweli on the floor but they caught me and put a cloth in my mouth and pinned me against the wall and tied my hands and then carried me all the way out. It happens again: no people in sight. Where are they when you need them?

My tears helplessly gushed down...

[2/26, 07:53] Zoaness: 33

.

I woke up in my bed. What the hell happened? My head wasn't giving me any peace. I sat up straight. There was a box of pills and a glass of water on the mini table beside the bed.

I looked for my phone. These people could still be here. It rang. It was on the charger. They are very convenient criminals.

Hope does not kill. I drank the pills. If they wanted to kill me they would've killed me yesterday.

I went to get my phone. It was Lwandle. I'll call him later. The time was 1pm. Fuck those people. I missed church.

I heard a knock from the main door. I took a glance at myself on the mirror. They wiped off my make up. What kind of game were they playing?

I texted Zweli that I'm okay and at my place and asked where he is and how is he.

And then I went to open the door. I stopped halfway. It could be them. Why would they knock though? The door is supposed to be unlocked.

Me: "Who is it?"

"Hoe you better open up before I kick this motherfuckin door down" I laughed and rushed to open. It was locked. The key was hanging where I usually put it along with my car keys. This is insane. I opened up and hugged him.

Ben: "Be careful you'll make me drop my Louis Vuitton belongings"

Me: "Mxm aisuka." He got in. I closed the door and locked.

Ben: "Bring glasses"

I took them out and gave him. He took out champagne. I sat on the coffee table.

Me: "Are we celebrating something?" Ben:

"Yes. My new relationship. Cheers!" Me:

"Cheers!" We drank up.

Ben: "Were you sleeping?"

Me: "Yes. I was kidnapped last night and drugged I think, cause the last thing I remember is getting in

their car...." Maybe they raped me.

I got up and ran to the bathroom. I took off the leggings and the panty. I sat on the toilet and touched my nuna. Nothing felt strange.

I heard a knock.

Ben: "Are you okay baby?"

Me: "If I had sex I should discomfort right?"

Ben: "Open this door"

I opened.

Me: "If they raped me. I should feel right?"

Ben: "I guess so... wait. They kidnapped you and brought you back after?"

Me: "They abducted me from Zweli's apartment. I woke up here" he frowned.

Ben: "That's very odd"

Me: "Very odd"

Ben: "Come"

We went out. He sat me down on the couch.

Ben: "Did they take anything? Phones or money"

Me: "No. My phone is here. So are my car keys. I woke up with tablets and water on the table next to the bed"

Ben: "This has your dad written all over it. He doesn't want you dating"

Me: "He wouldn't dare"

Ben: "Oh yes he would. That threat he made to those Sbo guys" he told them they shall never let me go into any man's house or let a man in here or else kuzonyiwa.

Me: "He's so wrong. Let me take a shower"

Ben: "He's such a character" he laughed. "He even bought you pills. Psst" I chuckled and went to my room.

Me: "Order us something to eat" I shouted after closing the door.

Ben: "Pizza and marinated hot wings?"

Me: "Yes please"

Ben: "You'll never get that summer body"

Me: "To hell with it" he laughed.

I made my bath as brief as possible and did little make up. I dressed up and joined Ben. He was smiling at his phone. I took a fleece and covered myself on the single couch.

Me: "I'm all ears" he didn't catch that. I threw a cushion at him he startled.

Ben: "Oh My God do you know I have heart disease?" Me:

"Really?"

Ben: "No! But when you're in love you're most likely to have it. You scared me"

Me: "Who is he?"

Ben: "Khaya" he said and went back to his phone. Me:

"What! The one and only Khaya?"

Ben: "Yes."

Me: "Wow"

Ben: "That's all you gonna say? Wow? No 'you're

perfect for each other'? He's the one that told me about you and Zweli by the way"

Me: "He has a large mouth. No wonder he is so nice to me. He wants me to vouch for him every time" he laughed.

Ben: "No. He's naturally nice. You know fate, it is something else. We met in a business dinner in North West. My seat had been occupied by some uninvited coconut ugly bitch boy. He offered me his and the rest was history. Romantic isn't?"

Me: "Very romantic. I'm so happy for you my love" Ben: "What happened between you and tall Quinton?" Me: "It all vanished"

Ben: "You know I felt like you don't trust me enough when Khaya told me about you and Zweli"

Me: "I didn't want to burden you. I felt like if I tell you I will also ask you to tell me where he is"

Ben: "He's in Jo'burg. Today it is his children's birthday."

Me: "I don't want to know. He left. I should leave him

alone"

Ben: "Don't you miss him?"

Me: "My heart has accepted that he's gone. If I miss him or not is totally pointless"

Ben: "Didn't your mama teach you to go for what you want?"

Me: "She taught me to go for it if its gonna pay me" Ben:

"What about that makes you happy?"

Me: "Benjamin Clarkson please leave me alone"

Ben: "Be my guest"

My phone rang.

Ben: "Food is here"

Me: "Pay I'll replace it"

Ben: "Don't act all rich on me please" I chuckled and answered.

Me: "Hey babe"

Zweli: "Hey. Are you okay? Didn't they hurt you?"

Me: "No they didn't"

Zweli: "Thank God I am so worried. I just came back from the hospital"

Me: "I'm sorry. How are you feeling?"

Zweli: "In pain but I'm good. I will be able to come and see you"

Me: "There's no need to. I'll come"

Zweli: "I'm at my parent's house."

Me: "Oh. I'll be expecting you then"

Zweli: "Bye hun"

Me: "Bye love"

He hung up. Ben came back with food. And flowers. He put the food down and gave me the flowers.

Ben: "I guess these are for you"

Me: "For me?"

Ben: "Yeah I just found them at the door." I

took them and looked for the card.

Me: "Dear my better half. I love you Ma Vilakazi. They must be from Zweli"

Ben: "That's so cheesy"

Me: "Isn't he the sweet?"

Ben: "He is. But his brother is sweeter" we laughed and ate over a silly convo about their 2 days vacations all over the country.

He was happy. I was happy for him. He deserves all the happiness coming his way.

We took a nap. Woke up in a very dark house. I turned the lights on. Ben suggested we cook. He's obsessed with pasta and he knows all the right recipes. It was 7pm. Zweli had not contacted me.

I received a text from my dad as I thought of that.

"I hope you're prepared for the presentation tomorrow. Break a leg. Daddy loves you"

Me: "Shit I have presentation tomorrow." Ben:

"Really? You only gonna say that now?"

Me: "I totally forgot about it." I checked the time. "And I left my camera at Quinton's place. It has all the pictures of that house. It is the best big house I've done so far. I need those pictures. The ones I

took with my phone aren't of good quality" I called Kylie.

Kylie: "Uyaloya. I was just about to call you"

Me: "That is great because I desperately need your help"

Kylie: "Talk to me"

Me: "I need pictures of Q's house"

Kylie: "Why don't you take them?"

Me: "Because we broke up. I left my camera there and he's unreachable on the phone"

Kylie: "You broke up?"

Me: "Yes Kylie. I have to present my work to these rich men my father works with. If you can get someone to bring it for me please"

Kylie: "There's no one there"

Me: "Ask him if he left with it"

Kylie: "Left with it to where?"

Me: "His new place."

Kylie: "What new place?"

Me: "The last time I went there I found a new security guard and he told me the Dube's didn't live there anymore"

Kylie: "That's pure rubbish. Go get your camera"

Me: "If he still lives there that means he told the guard to say so which means I'm unwelcome. Even the finger scan doesn't recognize my finger anymore" I felt tears fill my eyes. I thought I was over it.

Kylie: "I will send you the code just now"

Me: "I don't think that's a good idea"

Kylie: "You will not throw away your chance of making millions just because you're scared. Go get your camera. If he gets you arrested he'll have to get me arrested instead"

Me: "Thank you Kylie"

Kylie: "Anytime baby. I will fly down tomorrow evening. Why would you want to face break up alone though Yolanda"

Me: "I didn't want to bother you"

Kylie: "Aisuka Yoli. We're friends for Christ's sake. You should trust me"

Me: "I'm sorry"

Ben: "Tell her please. She's such a hiding bitch this one"

Kylie: "You truly are. Greet that love struck teenager for me"

Me: "I will. Bye"

Kylie: "Bye babe"

Ben hugged me. I wiped off the tears.

Ben: "All shall be fine. Tell me if you want me to freeze his accounts as revenge"

Me: "Could you do that?"

Ben: "In a snap"

Me: "Please do it"

Ben: "Bring me your laptop"

I got off the bar chair and went to my room. I first

looked for his house's keys and then took the laptop. I gave him.

Ben: "You better change into something warmer" Me:

"That has to be my pajamas"

I went to change and put on my snug boots too. I took my purse cause my car has no gas wherever it is. I walked back to Ben.

Me: "Can I use your car?"

Ben: "Yes ofcourse" he tossed me the keys.

Me: "Keep your phone on please. Just in case I getarrested"

Ben: "Stop being a coward. Go" I

smiled and left.

....

I was saying a little prayer all the way. Kylie sent thecode.

I parked at the gate. What if I find him in there with a woman?

But he wouldn't be here. Its his children's birthday.

I punched the code. It was really late. It was after 9. I was driving very slow. I was too anxious to speed up.

The gate slid open. I drove in. The outside lights were off. I should've brought Ben along. The light from the street light was lighting this side a bit.

I texted Ben that I have arrived and got out of the car.

I unlocked and went in. I turned the lights on. I missed this smell. I closed the door and walked on to the tv and turned it on. I didn't realise I missed this place so much. It's like my second home.

I put on mtv and went to the kitchen. It was spotless. I boiled water and checked what's on the fridge. My donuts were still there. I took the box out.

I took one and ate it. It tasted very fresh. I opened the mugs cupboard. I took one out and made myself coffee. .

I went to get my camera from the tv stand. And went upstairs to his office.

I put everything on the desk and turned on the printer.

Now that I'm here I will not go without printing these pictures out. Just in case they don't have electricity.

I moved the pictures to the flashdrive and also printed them out. The big computer doesn't have password. Only the laptop does.

I finished up. I cleared all the evidence that I was here and turned the lights off and walked out.

I got down and rinsed the cup and put it back. I emptied the kettle while dancing to the electro song.

"Yolanda"

I died for 5 seconds I swear. His scent filled the whole space. My whole body instantly trembled. From fear and also from anger. I put the kettle back on its holder and I turned back. He had a portable bag of clothes on his hand.

He looked different. His beard had grown. Our eyes locked on each other.

Quinton: "What are you doing here?"

I gulped. I wanted to throw the camera at him and curse the hell out of him while on the other hand I

wanted to run to him and hug him so tight and tell him I love him and I missed him.

Me: "Why did you leave me?"

Quinton: "You shouldn't be here"

Me: "Why did you tell him to lie to me? Why didn't you come to me and tell me you don't want me anymore?"

Quinton: "Take your things and leave Yolanda"

Me: "Why would you do me like that? You asked me to never leave when things get bumpy. They haven't even got there but you left. Without a damn explanation! You left me Quinton. Why did you leave me?"

Quinton: "You aren't listening to me" Me:

"Why did you leave me?"

He put his bag down and walked towards the counter.

Quinton: "Its time to go home"

He collected my things and walked towards the exit.

I stood there with my tears gushing down. He came back in.

Quinton: "You need to leave me alone. Never ever come back here. You hear me?"

Me: "Why?"

Quinton: "Lock the door on your way out" he picked his bag up and jogged up the stairs. I followed him .

Me: "Why? Why should I leave you alone?"

He kept on walking. "Quinton Skhululiwe Dube tell me why should I leave you alone? I want the reason why!"

He swiftly turned and grabbed me by my arm.

Q: "Because I'm not good for you dammit!" It all happened so fast. He had me pinned against the wall. "You need to really leave me alone. I am begging you" he said in a calmer tone.

Me: "I can't." I said, in almost a whisper. He let me go and walked to his bedroom.

I stood there for quite sometime crying. I heard him

shout at someone on the phone. He kept mentioning the code. That has to be Kylie.

He went quiet again. I stripped naked and walked in. He could see me in the mirror. He sighed and bowed his head.

Me: "Make love to me. I promise I will leave you alone"

He turned to looked at me.

I climbed on the bed and lied on my back and closed my eyes. I am not even sure about this but if there's one I'm certain about it is that I want him to be my first.

Me: "I mean this from the bottom of my heart Nyamazane. I will pass you like I've never seen you in my life when we cross paths after this"

I felt his weight press the bed down after a while. My heartbeat's rate increased. I felt his weight on my upper body. He kissed me. I responded.

I wish he still loved me. I could feel his heartbeat on my chest. He was kissing me differently from all the

times we've kissed. More and more emotions were put on this one. What is going on with him?

I don't know how he does that but I love it so much.

I helped him undress. I felt liquid hit my eyes. I opened my eyes. He was crying. I quickly shut mine closed and paid attention to his hand that was moving down there. I was ready for him. He felt that and then rubbed himself against my sacred palace. He tried penetrating. My legs started shaking.

He stopped and exhaled.

Quinton: "Tell me you aren't"

Me: "I am"

He attempted getting off I held. "I'm ready Quinton"

Quinton: "I'm not gonna do this"

Me: "Please"

Quinton: "Not like this"

He got off and dressed up. He covered me with a duvet and then walked out.

I stayed in that same position until I heard the engine

rev. I got up and went to the sliding door leading to the balcony. I felt a little discomfort down there.

I saw his car drive out of the gate and sped off.

I went back to bed and closed my eyes hoping to fall asleep instantly...

[2/26, 07:54] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

34

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Lucky is me. I have myself a chef here. The food smelt and tasted so heavenly. I put his on a tray with cutlery aside.

I heard my phone ringing. I went to get it.

Me: "Mother"

Mama: "Queen of England. How did your presentation go?"

Me: "Pretty well I think. Thank you for asking"

Mama: "That job will be yours my baby. Where's your sperm donor?" My heart sank a bit.

Me: "He's out there doing only God knows what."

Mama: "I got a call from his wife's assistant. She wants us to visit her"

Me: "What? Why?"

Mama: "Maybe she wants to kill us. I don't know" I chuckled.

Me: "We aren't going anywhere"

Mama: "I was thinking we should actually. Should she try anything funny, I will show her what I'm made of"

Me: "We are not going."

Mama: "She said she wants us to talk"

Me: "There's Skype and every other form of communication if she wants to talk. There's no need for us to go to their home"

Mama: "Aisuka. I wanna go there and stab her bitch face"

Me: "I knew you were up to no good"

Mama: "She ruined my life"

Me: "It was fate. You're now living large. You have your own beautiful house and car. You can take vacations to wherever in this world."

Mama: "Oh yes I can and wanna stab her in the head and travel to Malibu" I laughed.

Me: "I'm done with you. Send my love to Princess"

Mama: "I will. She doesn't want meat anymore. She says she's a vegetarian now. I thought she was joking but she's not"

Me: "Buy her all the greens. She'll eventually miss meat"

Mama: "I'll get wrinkles because of this child. Bye"

She hung up before I could say it too. That's how petty she is.

Where's this man. He came down just as I was about to go fetch him.

Me: "The food is cold now"

Quinton: "I was speaking to my older brother"

Me: "Your twin?"

Quinton: "No. The first born, Calvin." He wiped his hands and sat down. He smiled looking down at his food. "Who taught you to serve people like this?"

Me: "What people?" He looked at me. Quinton:

"Me for example. Who taught you?" Me: "I have a mother Quinton"

Quinton: "Ohh. I forgot. She trained you well"

Me: "She sure did. Juice?" He raised his eyebrows. I chuckled. "Doesn't it get you drunk?" I took a bottle of castle lite out and put it on his tray and poured myself juice.

Quinton: "No." I nodded and we ate in silence.

I wasn't aware that I missed him this much. Or I was just in denial.

He brought his eyes up. They met mine. I smiled. Quinton:

"Why are you looking at me like that?"

Me: "Like what?"

Quinton: "Like that"

Me: "Now I can't admire you?"

Quinton: "Its seductive" I bit my lower lip. "Yolanda"

Me: "What?" I took a sip on my juice without moving my eyes off his. He smirked and dropped his.

Quinton: "If you gonna keep doing that. We will now meet at the beach"

Me: "I didn't know its safe for us to be seen in public"

Quinton: "You gonna have to bring a friend whenever you come here then"

Me: "Why? Am I irresistible that much?"

See I love this. Having this power over him. He can't say no to me and get away with it. I will seduce his fine ass until he gives in and tell him he was right, we shouldn't be doing it.

Quinton: "Don't you feel like going to your place?"

Me: "No. I feel like going down on you"

Quinton: "That's it. I'm out." He got off the chair and walked over to kiss my cheek.

Me: "Where are you going?"

Quinton: "Somewhere. Where I will not see your tempting ass" I laughed.

Me: "Don't go. I'll be a good girl"

Quinton: "Promise?"

Me: "Yeah. Let me rinse these and we watch a movie and we catch up. Tell me about all you've been doing without me. Who you slept with, where did Nkule go and so on"

Quinton: "I'll be choosing a movie for us then" He walked off to the lounge.

I rinsed the dishes and cleaned any possible mess I made and then took out snacks.

I saw a box of my donuts. I forgot to put it back to the fridge last night. It was sealed. Odd. I took them with me to the lounge.

Me: "You bought these?"

Quinton: "Yeah. I order them every morning"

Me: "Really?"

Quinton: "Yes. Remember those you left here?"

Me: "Yes. I ate them last night"

Quinton: "No. Those are the ones I bought on Thursday when I was here. They're my new favorite. They reminded me of you. I had them delivered twice where you worked the last time"

I thought they were from Zweli.

Me: "Were you stalking me?"

Quinton: "Sometimes. I had to be sure you're okay"

Me: "It should've been every time. I was kidnapped. It could've been the real bad guys"

Quinton: "I would've found you"

Me: "Women are raped and killed every hour. You would've found 2 days later that I was kidnapped by the time you find me I would've been dead"

Quinton: "In simpler words. You are granting me access to track your every move?" Am I?

Me: "Yes" he smiled. I rolled my eyes. "What movie did you choose?"

Quinton: "The kissing booth"

Me: "I think I once saw a trailer of it. Isn't too young for your liking?"

Quinton: "Its for you. We can watch Barbie if you want" I laughed and pinched him.

Me: "Or we can just watch 50 shades"

Quinton: "No. We are watching the kissing booth. Something your age"

Me: "Anna is-" he put his hand over my mouth.

Quinton: "Shut up" he put it on. He took a donut and rested his head on my thighs.

Me: "Don't fall asleep"

Quinton: "I won't"

Me: "Good" I also took a donut.

Quinton: "I slept with someone" he said. That stung my heart. I became lost for words. He turned to face up. I looked away.

Me: "Nkule?"

Quinton: "No." He paused. "I used a condom. That doesn't make it better I know. I stopped before I could finish. I'm sorry" I want to cry.

Me: "Is she important?"

Quinton: "No she isn't. She's Katlego's sister . I promise you nothing will ever happen between us"

Me: "You never learn. You still sleep with people for fun? Are you trying to create another psycho to disturb our peace?"

Quinton: "No."

Me: "If it happens?"

Quinton: "I'll take care of it. But I doubt she might do anything crazy"

Me: "You sound too sure"

Quinton: "I love you"

Me: "Don't change the subject"

Quinton: "I'm not. She will not bother us. She knows I'm off limits."

Me: "She better. What happened to Nkule" I'm gonna stab that Katlego's sister in the face.

Quinton: "Lets just say she's the least of our worriesnow"

Me: "Did you kill her?"

Quinton: "I don't kill women. We've missed half of the movie"

Me: "Let's start it afresh"

It was quite interesting. The bright lights had automatically came on. Which meant it was already dark outside. He was fast asleep. I wanted to go pee.

My phone rang. I reached for it. Kylie. I answered.Me:

"Hey"

Kylie: "I just landed. Are you up for picking me up?"

Me: "Uhh...in an uber though. My car is not with meat the moment"

Kylie: "Okay you'll find me at the cafe"

Me: "Okay baby"

I hung up. Or maybe I should borrow his car. I woke him up.

Me: "Kylie just called. She's at the airport. Can I use your car?"

Quinton: "No. I'll get someone to pick her up and we get to use this hour and 30 minutes to bond" haven't we bonded enough?

Me: "Let me hear what she says" I called her.

Kylie: "Are you here?"

Me: "No. I will send someone to get you"

Kylie: "I didn't know that habit was contagious. You sound like Quinton right now. Tell whoever that is to hurry up because I'm sleepy and hungry and needs a bath"

Me: "Ok love" I

hung up.

Me: "Who are you sending then?"

Quinton: "Thami. Our personal chauffeur" he put his

phone away. "Done. Ready to kiss me?"

Me: "Maybe"

We briefly kissed. My body is somehow weak in his hands.

He got up and went to the kitchen. He came back with ice cream.

Me: "Isn't too cold for it?"

Quinton: "It's never too cold for ice cream" he tossed me a spoon and sat next to me. We dug in just looking at each other.

I played music and danced for him. He ended up joining me. Happiness filled the whole house. If only my dad could see this.

Thami called saying he's outside. He wasn't supposed to bring her here.

Babe walked me out. I was wearing his huge ass flops. I couldn't get on the heels anymore.

He hugged and kissed my big forehead before I hopped on to the car. He greeted Kylie. She just told Thami to drive. I chuckled and waved goodbye at my

man that had just been mized by his PA.

...

We arrived at my place. She went straight to take a bath. I cooked.

She came out after an hour. She had a very huge gown on.

Me: "Baby mama. Let me see the bump" she undid it. She modelled for me. I cheered. "You're so fucking sexy. You look like you just came out of the box"

Kylie: "Thank you my lady" she dramatically bowed and fastened the gown again and climbed on the chair. "What are you cooking? It smells so nice. I see you've also adjusted into cooking with these Indian herbs"

Me: "They make the food taste and smell nice. Lwandle bought them for me"

Kylie: "Was he serious that he cooks?"

Me: "Yes. He is such a good cook"

Kylie: "Mmmh. So, you fixed things with Zebra?" I handed her potato chips.

Me: "Yes kinda" Kylie:

"Just like that?"

Me: "Yes. My dad made him do it"

Kylie: "And he listened?"

Me: "He threatened to kill his kids"

Kylie: "He's sick"

Me: "Really sick"

Kylie: "So, what are you guys going to do?" Me:

"Keep it undercover until our cover blows"

Kylie: "Maybe you should have a word with him" Me:

"Quinton said I shouldn't."

Kylie: "What a life. When your cover blows up you will be forced to choose between them"

Me: "He loves me. He wouldn't put me in that position. He's just found me. He'd die if he lost me" explains why he never came to me and told me to stay away from Q.

Kylie: "See? If there's anyone who could soften him

up and make him accept your relationship. It is you"really.
I'll do it behind Q's back.

Me: "I might visit EC this weekend"

Kylie: "Can I come?"

Me: "Yes"

My phone notified. I took it.

"I miss you already. Leave that nut head alone and
come here" I chuckled.

Kylie: "Look at you. I never thought this was this serious. He
wasn't himself the past weeks. He must've been bothered
by this situation"

Me: "Only now I've realized I was hurting and lost
without him"

Kylie: "This is just a test. In 3 months you'll be at your
happiest. Being relationship goals and all that"

Me: "I so wish"

A rough knock from the door disturbed us.

Kylie: "Who is it?"

"Zweli. Open up" she looked at me.

Me: "My ex"

Kylie: "What ex?" Me:

"Its a long story"

I went to open. He was leaning by the door frame. He was wreaking of alcohol.

Me: "Hey"

He pushed me back inside and closed the door.

Zweli: "Who the fuck do you think you Are? You had me beaten up by your boyfriends and then you dumpme?"

Me: "I don't know what you're-"

He slapped me.

Zweli: "Shut up you hoe! Do you even know who am I? You think you could just play me and leave like that?"

I had my hands covering myself and tears going down. I saw Kylie standing before me.

Kylie: "If you're not trying to die you better turn and

go away now"

He roughly pushed her she hit the floor on her butt. I rushed to her. He grabbed me up and then attacked me with countless slaps all over the head. He grabbed both my wrists apart to see my face. I closed my eyes.

Zweli: "You're mine! You get that? I will be the one to end this relationship. Not you or your scumbag boyfriends"

He painfully kissed my lips that were bruised. I could taste the blood.

He pushed me to the floor next to Kylie and walked out.

Wtf...

[2/26, 07:55] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

35

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The drive from the Dubes was quiet and long. Only the voice of the man in the radio was audible.

He drove in to the KFC drive through. He turned the light on when our turn came.

Nzuza: "What do you want?"

Me: "Krusher"

Nzuza: "Are you going to sleep with only that?" I was full. Quinton made me food

Me: "Streetwise 2 and hotwings will be fine"

He ordered and we moved on to the pick up window. Our order came. We drove off in silence...

...

Arriving at his house. He showed me to my room, the bathroom and his room shall I need anything.

I took a brief shower. I changed into pajamas and got in bed. I took my phone and called Quinton.

Quinton: "This has to be the longest 2 hours of my life"

Me: "1 hour and 45 minutes"

Quinton: "That's 2 hours. Are you okay?"

Me: "I'm okay. How are you?"

Quinton: "I'm okay. I miss you so much. How's your dad?"

Me: "Not talking to me but he'll be fine. How's everyone there?"

Quinton: "Tired and sleeping. Am I gonna see you tomorrow?"

Me: "Quinton!"

Quinton: "What? I miss you" well I miss him too. We've been seeing each other everyday the past 2 weeks.

I did not tell him about Zweli. I knew he'd want to react so I covered my bruises with concealer. Kyliewanted to tell him. I had to beg her every freaking time.

I got the job. But one house. The big one. I just finished it last Friday. And I have yet another couplewho want me to glam up their home in Ballito. I'm just waiting for their call.

Me: "I miss you too but we gonna have to slow down a bit"

Quinton: "Let's fly to Durban in the evening"

Me: "You need to bond with the kids"

Quinton: "I'll take them with me"

Me: "No. We'll go to Durban on Sunday" Quinton:

"You mean I won't see you for 3 days?" Me: "Yes. I'm sleepy now"

Quinton: "I wish a big ugly giant visits you in your dreams"

Me: "I'd love to see you babe" he laughed. His laugh hypnotizes me. I love him so much. "Goodnight. I love you"

Quinton: "It's 4am. Sleep well my princess. I love you too"

I hung up...

I woke up to music shaking and destroying my ear

drums. I grunted and rolled over to the other side of the bed and unlocked my phone. It was 11 but the cold you'd swear it was 1am.

There was a message from Quinton.

"Gold reef city?" No good Morning babe just a silly question.

"Are you trying to have us killed?" I responded and walked out to the bathroom. I need more clothes. My stay here is gonna be longer.

The music was still irritatingly high. I filled the tub and waited over the window looking outside. There were 4 cars parked outside. I should do a proper tour. It looks big and beautiful.

I stripped naked and got in the tub after I poured bath salts. I love them.

...

I got out after approximately 45 minutes. Only because daddy came to call me for breakfast.

I found missed calls from Kylie. I called her while I applied lotion.

Kylie: "Baby girl"

Me: "Hey baby mama"

Kylie: "Little birdie tells me you're in Jo'burg" Me:

"Yes"

Kylie: "And you didn't tell your bestie"

Me: "A lot was going on sweets. I was gonna call you today and inform you but the little birdie beat me into it"

Kylie: "You're a very bad girl. I'm going to a food festival in Fourways. Wanna tag along?"

Me: "I don't have clothes."

Kylie: "Where are you?"

Me: "Wait. Give me 5 minutes" I dressed up and went down.

Who's this? I took the remote and turned down the volume. He turned.

Him: "What are you doing?"

Me: "Hi. I'm turning the volume down. Where's my

dad?"

Him: "In the kitchen"

I walked there. He was frying things on the stove.Me:

"Morning"

Nzuza: "Morning. My guys came unannounced they ate all the food I made. Tea or coffee?"

Me: "Coffee please. Where is here?" He looked at me "A friend wants to know"

Nzuza: "We're in Midrand"

He placed a plate before me. He dished up for me.

Me: "Thank you" Kylie had hung up. I texted her my location and started eating.

Nzuza: "This is Nqaba. Your cousin" he was referring to the noise maker.

Me: "Nice to meet you"

Nqaba: "We met at your ceremony"

Me: "Oh? I'm sorry I met a lot of people there. I can't recall everyone"

Nqaba: "Of course"

Me: "You live here?"

Nqaba: "Yes." He took a smoothie out of the fridge and walked away.

Me: "I'm sorry" I said after awkward silence of him looking at me with a very disappointed face.

Nzuza: "Is that all you gonna say? Sorry? Do you realize the kind of danger you put yourself in?"

Me: "Yes and I'm deeply sorry baba"

Nzuza: "You shot Gizards. For what? Whatever it is that you're feeling for that man is temporary. You can not hurt people who will stick around forever for what you think is solid." It is solid!!!

Me: "You took his kids"

Nzuza: "Because he needed to know I'm serious!"

Me: "Well I couldn't let you torture people who have nothing to do with what Quinton and I are doing. They are just kids. I would've understood if you took him instead."

Nzuza: "What? Did he threaten to kill you if you refuse to sleep with him?"

Me: "What?"

Nzuza: "I want to know why are you with a man that is 12 years older than you. Is he threatening you?"

Me: "He is not like that. Maybe if you could just give yourself time to know him, all of them. You would realize they are good people. He's a good person. He wouldn't let anything bad happen to me. He's good to me"

Nzuza: "It must be guilt. If I ever see him anywhere close to you. I will shoot him dead"

Me: "I thought you loved me"

Nzuza: "I do. That is why I will kill him. If you go anywhere there will be people accompanying you"

Me: "I do not need people to accompany me."

Nzuza: "I've said what I said. And its gonna be your life until you die. If you need someone to go out with and take cute selfies with. Get someone younger.

Not that hardcore criminal."

He gave me my coffee and left me there wanting to scream and curse the hell out of everyone.

...

I had 2 guards indeed. I've never been this irritated in my whole entire life. Kylie told me to meet her at Mall of Africa.

My phone rang. It was mother. Face timing. She doesn't do that. I curiously answered.

Me: "Hi there"

Mama: "Yolanda" He told her.

Me: "I'm sorry"

Mama: "He's really hurt"

Me: "I am too mama"

Mama: "He cares"

Me: "I love him"

Mama: "They were responsible for his daughter's passing"

Me: "I know and I'm also hurt that happened but

we're here now. They can't undo the past. He needs to forgive" she smiled.

Mama: "You're really in love, aren't you?"

Me: "I am"

Mama: "I'm so happy. I thought you were lesbian" Me:

"What is wrong with that?"

Mama: "No grand kids. Dark grand kids are better than no grand kids at all" I laughed.

Me: "He's not that dark"

Mama: "He is. You're blinded by love. Your father is really hurt baby"

Me: "I know. But keeping me away from Quinton is just gonna make things worse cause its not gonna happen. I don't want him to think I'm choosing a man over him but he's just complicating things. Please speak to him"

Mama: "Your father doesn't listen to anyone but I will try. I am so afraid of what that love makes you do.

You shot a man"

Me: "Yes I did. He had taken little kids. It was my mess I had to fix it"

Mama: "I'm proud of you. That's what a grown woman does. Where are you heading?"

Me: "To the mall. I'm meeting with Kylie"

Mama: "Okay send my love"

Me: "I will. Love you"

Mama: "Where's I?"

Me: "I love you"

Mama: "I love you too miss of forbidden love. Don't get pregnant"

Me: "I thought you wanted grand kids"

Mama: "Not now please. How am I going to travel when you're pregnant?" I chuckled. "He's just my generous boss mama" she said imitating my voice. I laughed.

Me: "He was my generous boss. Still is"

Mama: "Generous boss my foot. You're shooting people for him now. Bye Mrs Darkness"

She hung up.

Never in my wildest dreams have I anticipated that I will grow to have such a relationship with my mother. All thanks to the return of my father. She stopped punishing me for his sins. And now she loves me.

She's my best friend.

"Ma'am this is the stop"

Me: "That was fast. Thank you. I will call you after I'm done"

Him: "We're coming with you"

Me: "No"

Him: "You won't even notice we're there"

Me: "Don't you have something better to do?"

Them: "No" I sighed.

Me: "Okay let's go. And I better not notice you guys are there"

Them: "Ofcourse"

I hopped off and took my phone out to call Kylie. I spotted her getting out of her car. I walked to her.

Me: "Its like I haven't seen you in months. This babygrows everyday" she just hugged me.

Kylie: "I missed you. And I would appreciate it if you didn't comment about my belly every time we meet"

Me: "Its fascinating to see it grow" we let go.

Kylie: "You're glowing. Tell me you aren't pregnant"Me:
"Oh please"

Kylie: "You're Quinton's girlfriend. The mother of thetwins was on the pill"

Me: "And you know that how?"

Kylie: "Because he told me when I had my firstpregnancy scare in February"

Me: "Well we'll use a condom"

Kylie: "Good girl. Where are we going?"

Me: "Mr Price. I saw some pretty beautiful dresses online"

Kylie: "I will never understand your obsession withdresses"

Me: "Spring is just around the corner"

Kylie: "But you're in Jo'burg. We should look for an outfit that you're going to rock on later when we goto the food festival"

Me: "Boots, leggings, bottle neck and a coat. I needthese dresses before they run out of stock" she rolled her eyes and we walked in.

...

I've always thought pregnant people are lazy. This springbok was jumping one from shop to another. We almost bought the whole mall.

Me: "I would kill for a nap right now" I said collapsion on a chair in a restaurant.

Kylie: "I would kill for chicken strips" yeah right. "Oh. Ben is joining us"

Me: "That crook. I haven't heard from him in 2 days"

Kylie: "Its close to December. The Dube employeesare very busy. These men never hire more than 2 people to handle such things. Their finance gurus are Ben and Milo. Imagine taking care of 3

companies financials. Its crazy"

Me: "They must be paying them millions"

Kylie: "They do but its tiring. You should convince Quinton to get maybe 2 more. Trusting people can't hurt that much"

A waiter came to get our orders and then left. Ben arrived we hugged and did all the dramatic greetings of his.

Ben: "You are a very bad bitch"

Me: "Right back at you. What have I done?"

Ben: "Zweli is fighting for his life and not even once have you went to visit him"

Me: "What? What happened?"

Ben: "Horrible. Terrific car accident. The family is still wondering how did he make it out alive"

Me: "Oh my dear Lord."

Kylie: "When God shows up he shows off"

Me: "Kylie"

Kylie: "What? I prayed every night something bad happens to him"

Ben: "Fill me in please"

Kylie: "He beat her up"

Ben: "Oh my kicking goodness! He beat Quinton Dube's girlfriend? This was bound to happen. I wouldn't be surprised if I hear he is dead. What was he thinking?"

Kylie: "We didn't tell him"

Ben: "I transferred 30 000 to some dodgy account the day Zweli got an accident. Please tell me its a coincidence"

Me: "It is. We have ordered."

Ben: "He did it" he whispered.

Us: "Ben!"

Ben: "What! You know he did"

Me: "Okay fine." I waved for attention.

Ben: "Baby mama. Where's the papa and when are we meeting him?"

Kylie: "He's at work and you gonna meet him today at the food festival"

Me: "And we will be holding a candle for you guys"

Ben: "Who is we? My man is tagging along"

Me: "Okay I'm so not going"

Kylie: "But Q wouldn't mind"

Me: "There's a lot going on Kylie. Q and I can't be seen together"

Ben: "Why? Are you engaged to someone else?"

Me: "Ben no. My dad is not approving of our relationship"

Ben: "He must go jump off the table mountain. Text Q and tell him to get his tuxedo ready"

Me: "Aisuka Ben. I have bodyguards"

Ben: "Drugs were created for a reason" Kylie laughed.

Me: "Are you high on them right now?"

Ben: "Just weed. But I know what I'm saying...look"

we turned to the direction he was pointing at. It was Khethelo and Katlego and 2 women.

Kylie: "They look like money"

Ben: "News people are always on standby. They're must look good" they were heading our direction. This Khethelo woman. There's something off about her. When she took me upstairs last night she asked if I realize the kind of unnecessary drama I've put her family in. She had a very nasty attitude towards me.

Katlego: "Ben. Kylie and...?" She said looking at me. I looked at her back.

Ben: "Yoli"

Katlego: "Yes Yoli. I didn't know you knew each other"

Ben: "We do. We're friends actually"

Khethelo: "Let's hope you aren't discussing your work with outsiders" see? I got up.

Me: "Excuse me"

I went to the bathroom. I just looked at myself and went back. They were sitting on a table next to ours.

Kylie: "What was that?"

Me: "I wish I knew"

Ben: "Give them time. Maybe they're just hungry. You know people aren't themselves when they're hungry"

Do these women feel like I owe them anything? They have no idea who am I. They must not be fooled by this innocent face.

Me: "I need to pee"

Ben: "What were you doing there?"

Me: "Nothing"

I picked my bag and went to the bathroom again.

I did my business and went out to wash my hands.

Khethelo was standing with her back against the wall. I proceeded and washed my hands.

Khethelo: "I hope you will listen to your father this time" I looked at her. "Because none of us is up for anymore of your father's games"

Me: "By listening to my father, what do you mean?"

Khethelo: "I mean stay the hell away from Quinton"

Me: "Oh?"

Khethelo: "Yes. We have a lot of serious things to be worried about. We don't have time to worry about a 19 year old slay queen who can't keep her claws off other men. You being with Quinton has consequences, which affect us. Not you"

Me: "You're a very bitter woman. Listen here Mrs Dube, I see carrying that rock on your hand makes you cross boundaries. You are not Quinton's mother and hell you aren't anything to me to tell me what to do and not what to do. They might treat you as their mother or queen but to me you are just one of the Dube wives who can not have a say in my relationship. Get off your high horse and try to be nice because I'm here to stay" she laughed.

Khethelo: "Oh please. You're just a phase"

Me: "I don't think he would've risked y'all lives and bewitched me if I was just a phase." I walked on towards the exit. I stopped. "And keep it in mind that you might be an older wife to Katlego and whomever is younger than our men but you aren't to me." I walked

out.

Who the hell does she think she is?!

got to our table.

Me: "Let's go"

Kylie: "What's wrong?"

Me: "These women are here to test my patience"

I took all my bags and led the way. I am so mad I think I'm gonna explode...

[2/26, 07:56] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

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When I got home I threw the bags on top of the bed and sat on the floor.

I took my phone out and asked Quinton to go with me to the food festival. I leaned my head back on the bed. Okay maybe I appear to be a bad person to

them but I did not tell my father to be who he is. I may have been the cause for Katlego and the kids to be taken but I wanted for them to return home safe. I shouldn't be crucified for my father's sins.

The door opened. I quickly wiped my tears off.

Nzuza: "Are you crying?" I shook my head. "He wasn't good for you anyways. Look we are going to EC tomorrow evening"

Me: "How was it when your wife told you to stay away from mama?"

He frowned. I stood up and sat on the bed. "I want to know"

Nzuza: "Just pack up"

Me: "It was hard wasn't it? If I have right information, she caught you long before I was conceived but you kept on seeing. You didn't care about the marriage you were breaking off. The vows you were stomping on. You followed your heart. You loved my mother, you didn't care what that love could cost you. You just wanted to be with her"

Nzuza: "If you're trying to justify your relationship with Quinton just know its not the same"

Me: "Of course it is not. You had to stay away from my mother because you were married. What am I staying away for? You're punishing him through me? Haven't you done enough punishment by keeping Phila away from them? Its been 4 years baba. You've kept the child away from her fathers."

Nzuza: "I'm doing what's best for her!"

Me: "You sure does a lot of that don't you? You are not her father, you will never be. And keeping her away from her paternal family isn't what's best for her, it is what's best for you just like it is by threatening Quinton to stay away from me. Daddy think about the day you will finally forgive. His family will hate even the things I touched because of what you did. Those people love each other so much they repulse anything that hurts one of their own. Why would you want to make my life that miserable?" I couldn't stop the tears from falling. "I am already crucified for your sins. What you're doing to Lesedi's daughter isn't fair. What will be your explanation the

day she asks why her father isn't there? That day is slowly approaching. Growing up without a father isn't a walk to the park Sam Nzuza. She-"

Nzuza: "Your mother hid you don't compare the two"

Me: "You weren't there. It makes no difference. Don't brew the child to grow up and hate her father. You need to let go. If you do not want your little girls to hate in the near future you better forgive and move on. Phila will either hate you and go to her father or hate you both. Hate you for keeping her away from her father and hate her father for not trying harder to get her"

I went to the closet. I opened it and hung the clothes that I bought.

He was just standing there watching me.

Me: "Kylie and I are going to a food festival later and I would love not to have those men with me. Ben will fetch me"

He walked out. I finally breathe. I might have been a little disrespectful but he's just too much and so unreasonable.

My phone beeped.

"What is a food festival about?"

Doesn't explain itself?

"You'll see when we get there" I responded.

"As long as this is not a trap. I will bring Tyler just to be safer"

I chuckled.

"It will be 2 by 2"

He called.

Me: "Hey"

Quinton: "So he should also bring a partner?" Me:

"Yes if he has one"

Quinton: "He has two of them. Are we gonna be vampires now?"

Me: "Why?"

Quinton: "Seeing each other at night. Your dad is probably gonna have people following you"

Me: "I asked him not to send anyone with me"

Quinton: "We better stay amongst people before I get my ass abducted and beaten up till my trousers dry off" I laughed.

Me: "Nothing will happen trust me"

Quinton: "Would we be meeting there or I should fetch you?"

Me: "Ben will fetch me. I'll send you the address of where we are going"

Quinton: "Okay. Let me make food for these little people. I'm left with 5 kids to babysit"

Me: "You're a good father my love. Don't feed them too much sugar"

Quinton: "You're late. We just cleaned out 1 litre of ice cream"

Me: "Oh my God"

Quinton: "I won't be here when they go all hyper. Their mothers will deal with it. Bye babe" I chuckled.

Me: "Bye love"

Would my father still want us to break up if I fell

pregnant? Just wondering. Maybe I should fake it and see what he does.

I shook off that crazy thought and went downstairs. He was nowhere in sight. Good.

I took out meat and boiled water for pap.

Nqaba came in as I chopped onion.

Nqaba: "Good afternoon. Need a hand?"

Me: "Yeah. You can chop the peppers"

He sat down and took a knife then started chopping. Me:

"Can you cook?"

Nqaba: "Yeah. I live alone I must cook"

Me: "Aren't you married?"

Nqaba: "No. I should be but life happened"

Me: "I'm sorry"

Nqaba: "Don't you wanna know what happened?" Me:

"If you wanna talk about it"

I put all the ingredients on the stew pot. My father doesn't consume cooking oil so his food gets boiled.

It's pretty tasty if you know your way around the kitchen.

I took a chair and sat down.

Nqaba: "Well. My father is a Zulu chief from KwaHlabisa. You know reed dance right?"

Me: "Yes I do"

Nqaba: "Yeah. So every chief's son gets to choose a wife there when he's 22 upwards. Me being cut from a different cloth by the time I turned 22 I already had someone. The meeting that included the whole Hlabisa kingdom took place. It was either I marry the girl my father chose for me or I don't marry at all.

You know what made me sick? My mother played along to that bullshit. She didn't do anything."

Me: "I'm so sorry to hear that. Where's your girlfriend now?"

Nqaba: "Around. Married and happy.

She wasn't gonna stick around for my absurd plans that were never successful. My father never even once wanted to consider me being married to

someone I did not choose from the reed dance."

Me: "That sucks. Why can't a person be allowed to date whoever they love?"

Nqaba: "Because we were born to be their kids. Somehow they feel entitled. Do not give up on your boyfriend. If you think it's real do not. There's no one with a Nzuza blood has ever married someone they love. The elders have always had something to stop them from dating whomever they love. Don't fall for it. If you need to sneak out to see him I'm your guy" we laughed.

Me: "Thank you"

We cooked while he tells me about his boss from hell, cars, his favorite clubs and all that.

I went upstairs to bath after finishing cooking. There were missed calls from daddy. I called him back but he did not answer. I went ahead to the bathroom.

The sun had just set. I made my face up after bathing. I put on pjs and a robe and then went downstairs to pass time until Ben shows up to get me. Nqaba was no longer there. I settled in front of a

TV with a cup of coffee.

"Are we still going?" A message from Q came in.

"Yes we are. It starts at half past 6. I'm waiting on either of my friends to come get me" I responded.

"What's the dress code?" I chuckled.

"Jean, tee, sneakers and a jacket or a coat"

I then texted Kylie that Q is coming with his brother and a partner.

The lounge door slid open. He walked in followed by a man with flowers.

Nzuzi: "I was driving like a maniac hoping to still find you here"

Me: "I will be leaving anytime from now"

Nzuzi: "Okay. This is Aviwe. Viwe this is my daughter Yoli. He's also going to the food festival"

Me: "Oh. Nice. I cooked, should I dish up?"

Nzuzi: "No my baby I will eat later. I have a very important call to make." He's in a good mood. He went upstairs.

The Aviwe guy stood there like he was pinned to the ground.

Me: "You can take a seat"

Aviwe: "Thank you. I brought you flowers. I wasn't sure which ones you prefer so I had them mixed up" I took them.

Me: "That's so sweet of you thank you"

Aviwe: "You're truly beautiful"

Me: "Thank you"

Aviwe: "As your dad said you don't have a date too for the event"

Me: "He did? I do have a date actually" my phone rang. It was Ben. "Excuse me"

I answered and ran up the stairs. My father will burn in hell I swear.

Me: "Hey cakes"

Ben: "I'm outside."

Me: "Please get in. You won't believe my dad. He brought me a guy here to be my date"

Ben: "I never thought he smokes weed"

Me: "Ben!"

Ben: "He's put you in market now just because he hates Q? Let me come in"

Me: "There's no-" the line went dead. Ugh.

I dressed up. Maybe I should just wear jeans. I took out the one I bought today. Quinton always complains when I'm wearing leggings.

I took my bag and left the room.

Ben: "Look at you. Shining like a precious diamond. Mr Nzuza you have a very beautiful daughter. Not only beautiful but intelligent too" I wanted to trip and fall. What happened to my Ben?

Nzuza: "You didn't tell me you have a date"

Me: "I did tell you Ben will fetch me"

Nzuza: "I thought you meant Ben your gay friend you once told me about"

Ben: "You have gay friends?"

Me: "Yeah. You'll find out a lot about me tonight."

Let's go. Daddy bye. It was nice to know you Aviwe.
Hoping to see you there"

Aviwe: "Likewise"

Ben took my hand and we walked out. He opened the car door for me I got in and waited for him to get in too.

He started the car and we drove out.

We cracked soon as we drove away.

Me: "You are for keeps"

Ben: "No girl of mine will go out with a man who wears parabellum." I laughed.

Me: "What is wrong with parabellum?"

Ben: "Nothing. But there is something wrong with wearing Nike jogging pants with parabellum. Is Q coming?"

Me: "Yeah. With his brother"

Ben: "Which one?"

Me: "I forgot his name" I texted him that we are on our way.

Ben: "Khaya is already there. Apparently he is in love with the artist that will be opening"

Me: "Are you jealous?"

Ben: "No. I want to see him happy"

Me: "If you say so"

....

She screamed and got up to hug us.

Kylie: "Do you know how hard it was to secure this spot?"

Ben: "We are grateful mommy" she smiled.

Kylie: "Uhm so this is Raymond Lukhuni. Babasthese are my friends. Yolanda Vilakazi and BenClarkson"

Us: "Hey"

Ray: "Hello. Nice to finally meet you"

Me: "Likewise."

Ben: "You're even hotter in person" I nudged him.

"Sorry" we laughed.

Ray: "I will go and get you ladies something to drink"Me:

"Thank you"

I felt someone hugging me from behind. I smiled.He's wearing my favourite cologne today.

Q: "Greetings everyone"

Us: "Hello" he kissed my cheek.

Q: "This is Tyler and Khethiwe" we shook hands. She's one of the ladies that were with Khethelo andKatlego earlier.

Me: "Thank you for coming"

Tyler: "We are glad we are attending something funfor a change. Have they started serving food?"

Kylie: "Yes they have. We were waiting for you guys"Ben:

"Let me go get my man."

Me: "Don't take too long"

He rolled his eyes and vanished. We all took outseats.

Q: "I thought it was 2 by 2" he said looking at Kylie.

Me: "Ray went to get us drinks" he nodded and tucked my arm under his and smiled. "I hate it when you do that"

Q: "I'm happy to see you"

Tyler: "Okay love birds. I'm hungry and thirsty. Who will be paying?"

Q: "People who have their cards with them"

Tyler: "I don't have my card with me"

Khethiwe: "That means you aren't eating" We laughed.

Kylie: "Since your brother pays me well. I will pay for your meals"

Tyler: "Thank you Kylie. You're very generous."

Ray came back followed by 2 ladies who were wearing uniform. Carrying trays with cocktails and the other with snacks.

Q: "Is this the Ray you always talk about?"

Kylie: "Yes"

Ray: "Quinton"

Q: "Hey man. What a small world"

Kylie: "Have you met before?"

Ray: "Yeah. He was doing his honors when I was doing my degree at Wits"

Q: "Do you still read novels?" They laughed.

Ray: "Not as much"

Q: "How on earth did you speak to Kylie" Ray:

"Dube drink that cocktail and shut up"Kylie:

"Why? What's wrong with me?"

Ray: "I was shy."

Tyler: "Tell me something. Did he bang his lecture?"Q:

"Tyler"

Tyler: "No I want to know"

Me: "Did he?" Ray frowned and picked his glass up.Ray:

"I'm glad to be here with you guys"

Tyler: "Did he bang the Accounting lecturer? Yes or

no?"

Q: "Baby Tyler is very jealous of our beautiful love he wants to ruin your mood" he whispered.

Me: "But I want to know" Q:

"That was 10 years ago" Me:

"So you did?"

Q: "Does anyone want meat?"

Kylie: "Yes please"

Q: "Let's go gents"

Tyler: "What were you guys whispering about?" Q:

"Khethiwe did you forget to give him his pills?"

Tyler ran to him. They chased each other to the crowd.

Khethiwe: "They are such babies"

Me: "Are they always like this?"

Khethiwe: "Yep. Even during dinner we're always listening to them mock each other" I chuckled.

Kylie: "They have quite a relationship."

Me: "So Khethiwe. You knew you were invited by me?"

Khethiwe: "Yeah. Why?"

Me: "Your sister wives know?"

Khethiwe: "Yeah. I wanted to know what happened in the bathroom and be clear to you that I am not against your relationship"

Me: "Khethelo told me to stay away from Quinton. You guys don't seriously think I'm with Q for money"

Khethiwe: "To be honest with you I couldn't care less why you're with him as long as he is happy. I worked with this guy for 3 and not even once I've seen him this happy. 19 or not if he thinks you're the woman for him then that's it"

Me: "I'm 22"

Khethiwe: "Get out of here" we laughed.

Kylie: "Your sister wives are little bitches."

Khethiwe: "They are good people I don't know what's wrong with them"

Kylie: "I understand why Katlego would be nasty towards Yoli but Khethelo...that was uncalled for"

Khethiwe: "Her and the mother of the twins were very close. Perhaps she feels like he moved on tooquick"

Kylie: "He was miserable."

Khethiwe: "He was. You know Yolanda I've been there. That is why I am 100% behind your relationship. It's better your father beat up Khule andQ, abducted Kat and the kids. For Tyler and I to be together blood was spilled. My grandfather went to attack at the Dubes 12 people died. Including Quinton's son"

Me: "Oh my God" it must be the little boy he doesn'twant to talk about.

Khethiwe: "It was pretty bad."

Me: "Did they hate you after that?"

Khethiwe: "I don't know. But all I know is that Quinton stood by Tyler all that time. He told him togo find me. Do not give up on him."

Me: "I won't" she smiled and put her glass up.

Khethiwe: "To Q and Yoli"

Kylie: "Cheers!" We drank up. Khethiwe:

"I need something stronger" Me: "Let's go
get a bottle of gin"

Khethiwe: "I have a partner now. Khethelo and Kat love
wine. It just gets me tipsy. I want the real thing"

Ben: "Residents. This is Khaya my pop corn. Love these
are my friends. You know Yoli. Khethiwe? Hi. This is
Khethiwe, one of the Dube wives and preggieis Kylie"

Khaya: "Nice to meet you ladies. Can I get you anything to
drink?"

Khethiwe: "Yes gin please"

Khaya: "Coming right up" he walked away.

Khethiwe: "You are pregnant?"

Kylie: "Yeah I am"

Khethiwe: "Congratulations."

Kylie: "Thank you"

Khethiwe: "It's like you guys just sneeze and fall pregnant" we laughed.

Ben: "Where are your nasty sister wives?"

Me: "Hhai Ben"

Ben: "They are nasty. What was that Khethelo said tome? I work for her husband not her. Tell her next time I will manhandle her"

Me: "Have you been drinking?"

Ben: "6 shots"

Me: "Yeah I can tell"

The men came back.Q:

"Ben"

Ben: "Quinton Dube" he's really drunk. Quinton chuckled. "You thought I was gonna say Mr Dube?Lol" we laughed.

Q: "I'm actually glad you know my name"

Ben: "I also know your father's. Khethiwe, is that your

man?" Khethiwe:

"Yes"

Ben: "Is he your brother?"

Q: "Yes"

Ben: "Real real brother? Like same mom same dad"

Tyler & Q: "Yes"

Ben: "Wow. I thought the whole family was blackcoffees"

Q: "Well you quickly jumped into conclusion. We have 2 light ones"

Ben: "Let's thank the Angel that scrubbed them"

Tyler: "You are racist mlungu"

Ben: "You just called me mlungu. Now that's offensive and very racist"

Tyler: "Its not racism when its the other way around"

Khethiwe: "Okay. Can we eat?"

Kylie: "I want no pap" Ray:

"You need to be full"

Kylie: "Meat will make me full"

Khaya came. We introduced him and the fun began. The alcohol for the men kept coming. They drank thegin Khaya had bought for us. A woman came and asked for Tyler.

Khethiwe asked me to accompany her to the toilet. We went.

She got in. I waited outside. I spotted the pregnant woman I once saw in Durban at the beach. I waved at her. She smiled and walked towards me.

Her: "Hey. Do you have a home here or you're on vacation?"

Me: "Yeah apparently I do. How about you?"

Her: "I do too. You look great"

Me: "Thank you. You also look beautiful"

Her: "Thanks. I'm Happiness by the way"

Me: "Yoli. Are you going in to throw up?" We laughed.

Happy: "No. I found out that soil ease up the nausea"

so I eat it every time I feel like throwing up"

Me: "That's good"

Happy: "It was nice to see you again. Let me bounce before my mother gets worried"

Me: "Bye sweetheart"

She walked away. Khethiwe came out. Khethiwe:

"Were you talking to someone?"

Me: "Yeah. Some pregnant lady I met at the bathroom in Durban. I thought she was dying"

Khethiwe: "People are getting pregnant left, right and center"

Me: "You sound like you don't want one" she sighed.

Khethiwe: "I'd kill to have one"

Me: "But you guys aren't ready?"

Khethiwe: "No. I can't carry to full term"

Me: "I'm sorry"

Khethiwe: "It sucks. That woman that asked for him is pregnant with his child"

Me: "Whoa..."

Khethiwe: "Yes. I just wish she gives birth today. I can't stand the thought of her being pregnant"

Me: "It must be really hard"

Khethiwe: "It is"

Me: "I'm sorry."

Khethiwe: "Its okay."

Me: "You must really love him"

Khethiwe: "You're yet to be introduced to MaNgcobobabes"

Me: "I thought she passed on" she chuckled.

Khethiwe: "Her spirit isn't. " I'm confused.

We got to our table. It was 10pm now. Everyone was drunk except for Khethiwe, Kylie and I.

Me: "I think we should go"

Kylie: "Yeah I'm sleepy"

Q: "Request us an uber"

Me: "You took an uber?"

Tyler: "Yes. We didn't want our mean brothers to track our cars. Baby do you know how much I love you?" He kissed her.

Khethiwe: "Yes I do"

Me: "Let's go. I'll first drop off you guys and then Ben and Khaya" because Ben was in no state of driving.

Khaya: We'd appreciate that"

Kylie: "No. Drop off the Dubes. I will drive Ben and Khaya home"

Me: "Great. Baby we are leaving" Q:

"All I see is you sitting down"

Everyone took their takeaways and we went to the parking lot. We hugged with Kylie and bid each other goodbye.

Me: "I think you should drive"

Khethiwe: "They will be very sober by the time we get home" I chuckled.

Tyler: "Yoli please we don't wanna die."

Q: "My kids are still young. Khethiwe flies"

Khethiwe: "I will not fly today" .

Q: "If you start speeding I will get out through this window"

We got in and drove off.

We arrived at their home. Tyler and Khethiwe got off. I jumped to the driver's seat.

Q: "You will drive alone?"

Me: "Yes"

He kissed me.

Q: "I love you. Call me when you get home"

Me: "I will"

He got out.

Q: "Open the boot. I need my gravy"

Me: "You put it there?"

Q: "Yes." I opened the boot.

Me: "Do you find it?"

Q: "Yeah. You can close it. Bye I love you"

Me: "Bye. I love you more" I drove off.

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The lights were still on when I arrived. I called Nqabato open the garage for me. It slid up and I drove in. I was so sleepy.

I took my bag and the food and went inside. I found Nqaba in the kitchen.

Me: "I thought you were asleep"

Nqaba: "I came to see what did you bring"

Me: "Meat and salads" I put it on top of the table. Nqaba: "It smells nice. Thank you"

Me: "Where's your uncle?"

Nqaba: "Upstairs sleeping"

Me: "Okay goodnight"

Nqaba: "Goodnight".

I went upstairs. I changed into pjs and went to wash my face then came back to bed. I took my phone and called Q. He didn't pick up.

I turned the side lamp off and drifted to sleep.

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I heard my phone ring from afar. I searched for it with my eyes closed. I found it. I opened one eye and answered.

Me: "Hey"

Q: "For the love of God can you come and get me out of this boot?"

Me: "What boot?"

Q: "The car's boot. I'm dying"

Me: "I don't understand"

Q: "The boot of a car you were driving. Come before I take my last breath"

I checked the time. It was 12. I rushed out.

The lights were out. I turned them on and opened the door to the garage. I opened the boot and went there.

He got out.

Q: "I almost died" he was wet. "Yeses this thing is so

hot"

Me: "Why on earth would you get on the boat? What if my phone was on silent?"

Q: "I would've died. I'm hungry"

Me: "Do you realize you're at my father's house?"

Q: "Yep. And I know he's snoring. I need ice cold water" he took off his coat and handed it to me.

Me: "I am requesting you an uber" Q:

"Where are we going?"

Me: "You are going home" he snatched my phone.

Q: "I want to cuddle" the alcohol was still in his system.

Me: "Well we can't"

Q: "I'll sneak out at 6"

Me: "Quinton" he kissed me.

Q: "I'm hungry" I sighed.

Me: "If my father sees you and kill you I will not be held accountable for your death okay"

Q: "Yes"

Me: "Do not talk"

We went in. I turned off the lights and took him to my room.

Me: "Stay behind the door"

Q: "Why now?"

Me: "Shhh!"

Q: "Okay"

I went downstairs to dish up for him. I waited for it to warm up.

Q: "This house is so beautiful babe. Your dad is really out. He didn't even hear me getting into his room"

I have never been this defeated. Why is he still drunk?

I took the food out of the microwave and pulled him up the stairs.

We got to my room. I locked the door and took a deep breath.

Me: "Is this my father's cigarette?"Q:

"Yeah. I borrowed it"

I gave him the food. "Thank you my sunshine. I'm gonna marry you"

Me: "Keep it low"

Q: "When are we unlocking your vagina?" He whispered.

I laughed.

Me: "When you're sober"

Q: "Okay. Your food tastes nice"

Me: "Thank you"

Q: "You can sleep. I will go rinse the plate when I'm done"

Me: "Quinton. This isn't your home"Q:

"I'm sorry I forgot"

Me: "Eat" I kissed his cheek. He fed me.

He's stupid at times but I love him.

I'm also scared of what this love makes me do. Why

is he sitting on my bed in my father's house eating his food?....

[2/26, 07:57] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

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I have never been to Sandton. I stayed in Jo'burg for 3 years but I have never found courage to go there. I instantly got excited when we stopped here. Roll with my father he shall take you places.

My eyes were wandering around as we walked to the restaurant.

The gentleman at the door offered to keep our coats for us while a lovely lady took us to our table. We took seats. She took our beverage orders and walked away.

Me: "Why did you book such a big table?"

Nzuza: "Because there are people joining us"

Me: "Who?"

Nzuza: "You'll see them when they arrive"

Nqaba: "As long as it is not your business people" we laughed.

Nzuza: "Not at all." He said with a huge smile.

My freshly squeezed orange juice and their Heinekens arrived.

"Grandpa!" Said a little person running our table. My father smiled and opened his arms. They hugged.

"Good Evening" said a woman in her mid 50s.

Nqaba: "Makazi. Its so good to see you" she sat next to my father and shook hands with Nqaba. She moved to me.

Her: "MaNzuza. You're even more beautiful in person" I smiled.

Me: "Thank you" The little girl was whispering with my father and sharing giggles.

Why am I so slow? This should be his wife and this is Phila.

He placed Phila on a chair between him and his wife who was just staring at me.

Nzuza: "Yoli. Meet your mother and your niece."

Phila: "Khulu who is this?"

Nzuza: "It's your mother baby"

Phila: "I have a mommy? Hi mommy"

Me: "Hey princess" I took her hand and kissed it. She giggled.

Phila: "How did you know I was a princess? Did khulu tell you?"

Me: "I just knew when you came in. Nice dress"

Phila: "Thank you mommy. You can get it at EarthChild, right gogo?" How old is this child?

Mrs Nzuza: "Yes my love." She turned to me. "Nice to finally meet you Yoli. You're my second pre-birthday surprise." My dad laughed.

Me: "I'm glad I was on your wishlist. Nice to finally meet you. I was hoping I'll see you guys tomorrow"

Nzuza: "Well I decided to make it sooner. I'm

starving"

Phila: "I want waffles"

Nqaba: "Its 8pm baby they don't serve waffles thislate"

Phila: "Gogo can I have a smoothie?"

Mrs Nzuzza: "You heard uncle Nqaba. Its 8pm. No sugar"
she pouted her little cute lips. She looks likeboth her
parents. She is light but I can see Quintonand Khule on
her. The bold black round eyes with long lashes. I am
inlove with her smart ass mouthalready.

Mrs Nzuzza...I honestly didn't know how to be aroundher.
This is the woman that threatened my unborn self. What if
she's here to complete her mission?

"Yoli!" I startled.

Me: "I'm sorry. We you saying something?"

Nzuzza: "What are you going to have?"

Me: "Oh. Uhm...buffalo wings, mayo dip and Greek
salad with no feta and olives" the lady nodded and
walked away.

Nqaba: "Are you okay?"

Me: "Yeah I'm good. I was just thinking about my laptop that I didn't close when we left"

Nqaba: "Its not like anyone is gonna break in" I chuckled and picked my glass up to drink.

Nzuza: "We'd know who did if something like that were to happen. The cameras run 24/7 in that house" I choked in the juice.

Nqaba: "Are you okay?"

Me: "Water please" he passed me the bottle of water. I drank up. My father took out his phone. He gave it to me. It was a footage of the lounge. My laptop was there where I left it. I want to die.

Nzuza: "See? Your laptop is safe. Nothing is gonna eat it"

Nqaba: "The house has cameras?"

Nzuza: "Yeah. I always watch you bring girls" Mrs

Nzuza: "Sam!"

Nzuza: "What? Safety comes first"

Me: "Even the rooms?"

Nzuza: "No. But the garage, kitchen, lounge, stairs and corridors have cameras" okay bury me now. He knows Quinton was there. Now that explains why he woke up at 5 and washed cars. What should I do with myself now?

Our food came. My body was here but my spirit somehow wasn't. I couldn't care about Mrs Nzuza's constant stares. I was dying inside that my father knows I let his worst enemy into his house.

We ate. I honestly couldn't wait for us to finish and go home. I wanted to be alone in my room and regret letting Quinton in.

Its like they could hear me. Mrs Nzuza suggested we go home. I couldn't more happier. Phila was already fast asleep. Nqaba took her from my dad as we walked away.

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I heard soft knock from the door. I hate how light I sleep. I can hear even a needle dropping in my sleep.

I opened my eyes. The sun had come out. I slept as soon as we got home last night around 10pm.

I climbed off the bed and went to open the door.

"Over here" I looked down. She flashed me a smile. I smiled back.

Me: "Hi love. You smell good"

Phila: "Avon hello kitty. I brought you coffee" she had a tiny cup in her hand. The doll cup.

Me: "You are sweet. Wanna come in?"

Phila: "Please" I can't! She is too young for how she speaks.

She came in. I took my little cup of coffee and drank the coffee that got lost in my mouth.

Me: "You are such a life saver"

Phila: "Thank you. Why didn't you join us for breakfast?"

Me: "Because I overslept."

Phila: "You should set an alarm. Gogo saved some waffles for you. Can I use your calculator?"

Me: "I don't have one but my phone does. Can you use it?"

Phila: "If you don't mind, please"

I gave her. She sat on the couch while I fixed the bed.

Me: "I'll go take a quick shower okay"

Phila: "Yes. Can I watch pictures?" Me:

"Yeah sure"

All these tiny creatures love cellphones. It keeps them quiet.

I went out to bath.

I came back. She was lying on her back on the bed. Phila:

"That wasn't quick mommy"

Me: "I'm sorry my princess"

She sat up straight and crossed her legs.

Phila: "Where have you been?"

Me: "Around"

Phila: "I see you sometimes in my night movies. Why

you never visit home?" My heart ached. She dreamsof her. I sat next to her.

Me: "I was away studying. So that we can have agood life. But I am back now"

Phila: "Forever?"

Me: "Forever" we did pinky swear. She attacked me with a hug.

Phila: "I love you mommy"

Me: "I love you more my Angel" my eyes failed me. Tears dropped.

She moved off. I quickly got up.

Phila: "I saw my friend in the pictures."

Me: "Your friend? Who is your friend?"

Phila: "I don't know his name. He never told me butwe were best friends. How do you know him? Did you tell him to be my friend?" I went to her.

Me: "Show him to me"

She swiped back. She stopped at Quinton's picture.

Phila: "Here. He used to call me everyday. But he stopped when uncle Jake got lost" confusion is my middle name right now.

Me: "I'm so sorry my love. We will look for him okay?"

Phila: "Okay. Do you have games?" Thank you Jesus!

Me: "Yes" I showed her. She lied on her stomach and smiled at the phone.

So between the 2 daddies. One has made contact with her. Who is Jake?

...

She ended up falling asleep. I left the door opened and went downstairs. I found only Mrs Nzuzza. She had an apron on and all the veggies you can think of on the counter.

Me: "Good morning"

Mrs Nzuzza: "Morning. Your food is on the warmer" Me:

"Thank you" I took it out and sat down.

Mrs Nzuzza: "I'm making Sunday meal. Do you wanna

invite anyone?"

Me: "Yeah but they wouldn't make it. They're probably snuggled up in their men's arms" she chuckled.

Mrs Nzuzza: "Well why don't you invite yours over?" I looked at her and snorted.

Me: "I am with someone that I'm not supposed to be with"

Mrs Nzuzza: "Is he married?"

Me: "No. But my father would skin us both alive"

Mrs Nzuzza: "He likes acting tough for no reason. Invite him over."

Me: "I can't really"

Mrs Nzuzza: "What if I told you they are at the gate" Me: "Who?"

Mrs Nzuzza: "The Dubes. They came to ask for piece but your father's pride is as big and Africa. He won't let them in. They've been there since 5am"

Me: "What?"

I went to the monitor. I pressed for the gate view. They were really there. With 2 goats. Tyler was sleeping next to Q on the ground. Pastor Chris, Khuleand brother Calvin were sitting down holding the goats.

Me: "Where is he?"

Mrs Nzuzuz: "Went out to buy sneakers" wow Samson Nzuzuz. Wow.

Me: "They must be hungry"

Mrs Nzuzuz: "I made them breakfast. Nqaba took it to them. Why don't you know he's here. Don't you text?"

Me: "We do. My phone has been with Phila." I paused. "Did my dad tell you I am with him?"

Mrs Nzuzuz: "Yes. The truth is, your father never really loved them. For him to accept Khule as Lesedi's boyfriend we had to use emotional blackmail. When she died under their care it was just a cherry on top."

Me: "So you don't hate me for dating a person who was responsible for your daughter's death?" She

smiled.

Mrs Nzuzuz: "No. Its actually fascinating. Its like the history is repeating it's self. I'm just glad you're a go getter like Lesedi. She even broke a knee trying to sneak out. She jumped from the balcony" I laughed. I could never.

Me: "No!"

Mrs Nzuzuz: "Yes." She immediately switched to a serious face. "Your mom did tell you about what happened in the past right?"

Me: "Yes she did"

Mrs Nzuzuz: "If you're questioning yourself either I like or hate you just know I love you. All that I said and did to your mother was just me being a married woman protecting her marriage. The past 19 years I have been trying to find ways to tell your father that he has a child somewhere in this world. When Lesedi died I wished I could just wake up and find you. The men who worked for me all passed on. One vanished so I didn't have anyone to lead me where your mother lived until January when I bumped into him

at the mall here. He gave me all the info. I wrote a letter to your father pretending to be one of your mother's friends and he bought it. I gave him all the directions to your home and fortunate enough he found your mother. I'm glad we now have a daughter again. He is at his happiest since Sedi died" she had glassy eyes. I smiled.

Me: "You're nothing like I had imagined. I thought you-"

Mrs Nzuzza: "Hated You? I did before but not anymore. I want you to treat me as your second mother. Your mother did tell you I invited you guys?"

Me: "Yeah. I found it very odd" she chuckled.

Mrs Nzuzza: "I know. I wanted us to discuss some things but I'm on it"

Me: "Is it s secret?"

Mrs Nzuzza: "Yes my love. Is Phila asleep or playing with your phone?"

Me: "Asleep. She is such a mystery"

Mrs Nzuzza: "Her IQ is on another level. She can read,

count and all that"

Me: "Wow I can tell. I was surprised she can use a cellphone's calculator"

Mrs Nzuzza: "That's Phila for you. Full of surprises" we laughed. "She thinks you're her real mother youknow"

Me: "Yeah I figured. She said she sees me in her night movies and then asked me to never leave her again. That broke my heart"

Mrs Nzuzza: "I'm sorry honey. I am planning on telling her about her mother when she turns 5. I've always told her she's overseas"

Daddy walked in.

Nzuzza: "We have visitors. Fix them something to drink Yoli" I got up and took out glasses.

Mrs Nzuzza: "You can be so cruel at times"

Nzuzza: "I let them in, didn't I?"

Mrs Nzuzza: "After how long? It's half past eleven"

Nzuzza: "It's even so generous of me to even let them

in"

He walked away.

Mrs Nzuzza: "One day he's gonna suffocate of that pride" I chuckled and took the tray to the lounge.

I put it on the table and went upstairs. They got in. Poor things.

I got upstairs. I took my phone. There were 20 texts from Q. They were all about how much cruel my father is. He likes complaining.

Phila was still fast asleep. It rang. Me:

"Baba"

Caller: "Its not. Please come help me here"

Me: "Oh ok. I'm coming"

I wore changed into a dress and a hat. I didn't bring any scarfs here. I then went down.

Nzuzza: "What are you apologizing for exactly? For killing my daughter or for sleeping in my house?" Oh God he knows.

Quinton: "For everything" he looked like a child

caught eating candy. His eyes were facing down. I felt someone grab my arm and pulling me.

Nqaba: "What is said there is totally none of your business"

Me: "Ouch. Let go of my arm then"

Mrs Nzuzza: "You're hurting the child Nqaba"

Nqaba: "She was eavesdropping" Mrs Nzuzza gave me a warning eye.

Me: "I wasn't. What should I do around here?"

Mrs Nzuzza: "Rinse the plates. The food is almost ready"

Nqaba: "I don't wanna be those guys" we laughed.

Mrs Nzuzza: "After a couple of minutes. Serve them beer. He will ease up a bit"

Me: "Are they gonna slaughter the goats?"

Nqaba: "Yes. That's if he wants them slaughtered"

Mrs Nzuzza: "We slaughtered all the peace offerings. I doubt he'll slaughter these too"

Me: "They done this before?"

Mrs Nzuzza: "Yes. They were just not let in. And its the Nzuzza elders that insisted he slaughter the goats.He wanted to let them free"

Me: "Wow. So this is progress?"

Mrs Nzuzza: "You can say that. Please take the beerto them"

Me: "I'm scared"

Nqaba: "Face your fears"

He rushed out. Amen.

I opened the fridge.

Me: "How did you know they drink this?"

Mrs Nzuzza: "They were once my favorite sons"

Me: "Of course" she smiled and attended her pots while I went to the lounge.

I took a deep breath before I appeared.

Nzuzza: "Lesedi was too good for you and so is Yolito you Queen" what is wrong with him.

Me: "Sanbonani"Them:

"Yebo"

Nzuza: "A whole 6 pack? Leave 3. They'll share"Me:

"Mama-"

Nzuza: "I said what I said." I took the 3 cans and left.Mrs

Nzuza: "And then?"

Me: "Your husband said I should turn back with themthey'll share"

Mrs Nzuza: "This man!" I laughed.

We gossiped about my aunt who was taking over atmy ceremony.

We dished up. Nqaba came. We took the food to the lounge.

My father was still doing the talking. Doesn't he gettired?

Nzuza: "There's no need for food. We are done here. Right gentlemen?"

Tyler cleared his throat.

Nqaba: "What a beautiful way to close off this meeting" he said putting the tray on the table.

Nzuza: "Take the food back. They didn't even drink their beer, they won't eat the food"

I walked back.

Me: "Can you please talk to him?"

Mrs Nzuza: "What has he done? Why are you coming back with the food?"

Nqaba: "Because he told us to take it back" Mrs

Nzuza: "I'll be right back"

Nqaba looked at me and laughed.

Me: "I'm irritated"

We heard a knock on the back door. I went to open.

Tyler: "Hi. I'm here to get my plate of food and beer. I spent the last 40 minutes thinking about this food. It's so nice" Nqaba laughed. I put a glass and a beer next to the plate and gave him.

Me: "I'll take them when I see you"

Tyler: "Thank you wifey" he walked away. I laughed. Mrs Nzuza came back.

Mrs Nzuza: "Your father gets to my nerves" Me: "Just let him be."

Mrs Nzuza: "Can you believe he fed Phila allergex just so she can sleep all day"

Me: "Unbelievable"

I made warm water and took it upstairs with me. I woke her up and made her drink it.

My phone rang.

Me: "Hey baby"

Q: "I miss you"

Me: "You just saw me"

Q: "I didn't. That gorilla father of yours kept his eyes on me when you walked in" I laughed.

Me: "That's my father."

Q: "Please dish up for me. I'm so hurt. Tyler only gave me a spoon"

Me: "I'm sorry love. I will see you later when my dad is asleep"

Q: "He told me I should come and ask him to take you out on a proper date."

Me: "What?"

Q: "Yes. And told Khule to do the same about Phila. I'm sorry to say this but I think he's smoking weed"

I laughed.

Me: "You better count your words. He might be listening. So when are you asking me out on a proper date?"

Q: "I'm still planning."

"Can you please focus on the road?"

Me: "Who's that?"

Q: "It's Tyler. I'll call you when I get home"

Me: "Okay love bye"

Tyler: "If you slaughter those goats. Save some meat for me"

Q: "Wtf man? Shut up. Bye babe" he hung

I don't know why they are this close. 90% of the time they are fighting.

So this means my dad approves of our relationship. I smiled alone. I took Phila to her gogo and went out to the garden where my dad was said to be.

I found him smoking.

Nzuza: "He has a large mouth" I stopped. I was tiptoeing.

Me: "I thought you hated them" he turned.

Nzuza: "I do. I just love you and Phila more than I hate them. All I want to see is you guys happy." I smiled and hugged him.

Me: "Thank you" I let go.

Nzuza: "Don't get pregnant. I don't want little thugs all over my house"

I chuckled. He walked away leaving me dancing in my heart. I never expected this. Although this sounds like he's gonna torment them everytime but it doesn't matter....

[2/26, 07:58] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

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I don't know what got into me but I had to run, run as fast as I could. I got downstairs to the reception I asked the lady to book me an uber because I had left my phone upstairs.

I was praying he is not following me because if he is I swear to god I'm going to faint right now I went outside I waited. This has to be the longest 2 minutes of my life. The uber arrived.

I even forgot to tell my destination. After driving and driving and driving, me thinking about the crazy Quinton. What was he thinking? what is he thinking! because right now I want to die. I want to drink. I want to get drunk and go to Durban. Fly or drive there as in now.

Driver: "Sisi. You haven't answered my question"

Me: "I'm sorry you said something?"

Driver: "Yes. Where are you going?" I don't even know where we are.

Me: "Where are we?"

Driver: "We just passed Melrose Arch."

Me: "Please drop me off at Crystal heights Sandton"

Do I even have my cards with me? I checked. Luckily I had a R200 note. My mind was all over the place. I had 1000 of bees buzzing in my head. I was scared, shocked and any other unpleasant emotions.

...

I pushed him out of the way and went straight to his wine stack. I took a bottle.

Ben: "If you wanna get drunk you better take the red one" I put the sweet white back and took the red one. I poured a full glass and downed it in one go. I sighed. This is what I needed. No I need a second one. I poured and drank it up.

Ben: "Ok. Out with it"

Me: "He proposed" his eyes widened. "Don't widen your eyes. Quinton Dube fucking proposed! Ben I need therapy"

Ben: "That's a good thing. Let me see the ring" Me:
"There is no ring"

I looked for chips in the cupboard. Ugh cheese and onion. Really Ben? I took it anyway and tucked the bottle of wine under my arm and headed to the lounge.

Ben: "What do you mean?"

Me: "I freaked out"

Ben: "Yoli. You better start talking like an adult" Me:

"I'm still in very bad trauma Ben please"

Ben: "Well bitch you better get over that trauma and tell me where the hell the ring is!"

Me: "There is no ring. I freaked out and did what I do best, ran off."

Ben: "You my hun doesn't need therapy. You need your ancestors combined and Jesus. Why on earth

would you run off? Do you really love this man or you've been wasting my data by telling me every freaking day that you do?"

Me: "He asked me to marry him. What do I know about being a wife? Let alone how fast he's going. Its only been 5 months. Where is he rushing to?"

Ben: "The man is 34 Yoli. What wait are you expecting? And by the way I had to withdraw 500 000 2 months after Khule met that coconut hoe ofhis. And you wanna know where that money was going? Lobola"

Me: "I need to sleep" Ben:

"Yes you do. Come"

I had finished the whole bottle. My mind wasn't sobusy. This is perfect. Exactly what I needed.

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I woke up the next morning. I needed a toilet. I needed to discharge all the alcohol or whatever thehell was inside me. I ran to the bathroom and threwup.

I'm only 22 why would my life be cut so short.

Me: "Ben!" I said with the last strength in me. "Ben I'm dying"

I collapsed next to the seat after flushing. Ben came in.

Ben: "That what happens when you drink a whole bottle by yourself. Here, this should help" he handed me a bottle of water and...7 tablets. I hate pills!

But I drank them anyway. He gave me his hand. I took it and he pulled me up. We walked back to the room.

Me: "I need to bath"

Ben: "No. Lie down bit. I will make you food. Quinton called"

My heart beat faster. I had forgotten about him and his proposal. That was the best 5 minutes of my life. Now I'm back to my reality.

Me: "What did he want?"

Ben: "To know if you're with me. He sent your phone"

Me: "I don't want it"

Ben: "Just rest. When you wake up you will be on your right state of mind"

Me: "What time is it?"

Ben: "Rest time" he closed the door. I couldn't really tell. There was no sun. It was actually raining. I pulled the duvet over and felt drowsy. This is overdose.

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"Wakey wakey sleepy head" I felt something soft hit my poor head. I tried opening my eyes.

Me: "No"

Ben: "You've been out for 5 hours. Come on"

Me: "What is she doing here?"

Kylie: "Hhaibo! I'm here to check up on you"

Me: "You knew he was going to propose and you didn't even warn me"

Kylie: "Like the hell I knew. I just got a call from him in the morning. Trust me I was also shocked. But

running friend?"

Me: "Don't give me that look please" I sat up straight and took the tray from Ben.

Kylie: "The poor man is traumatized"

Me: "Well I am too. Can we stop talking about it?" Kylie:

"No. Why did you run?"

Me: "Because I freaked out!"

Ben: "Do you not want to marry him?"

Me: "I don't know. Can I eat now? In peace?"

Kylie: "Yeah sure."

They sat on the couch and watched me eat. These freaks.

After eating Ben brought me a new toothbrush and my phone.

There were tons of missed calls from my father, mother and Zweli. So he didn't even bother to call huh.

I bathed while listening to music. I will call the

parents later. As for Zweli, he must just leave me thehell alone.

I finished bathing. I need clothes I can't wear this tight ass dress and heels. I first checked the available flights to Durban. They were all sold out. I will have to drive.

I dressed up and went out.

Me: "Can I borrow your car?"

Ben: "And when will I get it back?"

Me: "This evening."

Kylie: "I can drive you home"

Me: "No thanks. I feel like being alone" they stared at me.
"I need to think"

Ben: "How do we know you won't lose focus on the road and be in an accident"

Me: "I won't. Call me every minute to make sure"

Ben: "So much can happen in a second"

Me: "You worry too much" I took the keys. "Thanks for the hospitality"

I walked out to the car. I drove to Mandela Square. I need something comfortable to drive on.

I love this time of the month. People have blew all their salaries and the stores are peacefully empty. I ended up buying snacks for the road.

I saw Nqaba walking in as I headed to the door. I waved at him. He saw me and stopped. We hugged.

Me: "You good?"

Nqaba: "Yes. I was expecting you last night"

Me: "Yeah. Sorry I couldn't call. My phone was acting up. Is your uncle home?"

Nqaba: "No. They left this morning. Are you going back to bae or you going home?"

Me: "I'm going home. I just need to get into these comfy clothes then I will drive home"

Nqaba: "Okay I will see you there. I will pass by the carwash."

Me: "Be quick. I'm thinking of driving to Durban"

Nqaba: "Why?"

Me: "Its a long story. If you come home early I will tell you"

Nqaba: "Now I'm worried. Let's go" he took my plastic and we walked off.

I startled at someone standing before me.Me:

"You scared me"

Khethelo: "I've always known you are a little hoe. Quinton loves you and you do him like this?"

I took a deep sigh.

Me: "Keep well" I moved her off my way. I felt a gripon my hair.

Better be not her cause I swear to God. I turned. She slapped me. I slapped her back. Nqaba held me back.

Me: "Don't fucking ever touch me woman. I am sick and tired of you. Who the hell do you think you are? I may be young but I will crush your bones Khethelo I swear. Lord!" she still had her hand over her cheek.

Nqaba pulled me away. People were now video recoding and taking pictures of us. I was so angry I wanted to cry.

What is up with this woman? Does she want both these men to herself? Or she really does see me as Lesedi.

Nqaba: "Who is she?"

Me: "Khule's wife. She has always been nasty to me but this...she's totally went overboard. I'm so mad"

Nqaba: "Oh. She's weird. I'm sorry. Is she mad you look like Sedi?"

Me: "At this point I really do not know"

Nqaba: "Let me drive. I will fetch my car later" I tossed him the keys and got in at the back. I failed to hold the tears in. I cried.

I ended up falling asleep. I woke up as the car drove in home.

Nqaba: "Will you be okay?"

Me: "Yeah. Thanks"

Nqaba: "What time will you be leaving for Durban?"

Me: "I can't drive like this. I will book a flight for tomorrow"

Nqaba: "Great then. I'll bring us food"

He got out and headed outside the gate. I stayed in the car for about 30 minutes or so.

I do not trust this woman around my sister's baby now. If she hates me this much what about One thing that keeps Khule connected to Sedi?

My phone rang disturbing my trail of thoughts. Me:

"Mother"

Mama: "At least you still know who am I"

Me: "I'm sorry. I didn't have airtime"

Mama: "I will act like I believe you. How are you?" Me:

"I'm good. How is yourself?"

Mama: "Beside the fact that your hard cheekbone mother wants me to give your father a child. I am good"

Me: "What?"

Mama: "Yes. She wants me to marry your father and have sex with me. Imagine. Your father with diabetes on top of me and me underneath saying "ah ah ah"

faking it at that" I laughed. Why did God chose this crazy woman to be my mother? Who tells that to their child?

Me: "That is too much information ma'am. So, did you agree?"

Mama: "I'm not crazy. She is just jealous of my tiny waist that's it. How are things there? Where's the black man?" I took a deep breath.

Me: "At his home. He proposed last night" she alulated. "I didn't say yes" she stopped.

Mama: "Oh baby. I'm sorry"

Me: "I didn't say no either. I just ran off"

Mama: "Why?"

Me: "I freaked out."

Mama: "My poor little freak."

Me: "I'm scared he is going to dump me"

Mama: "If he loves you and really wants to marry you. He will propose again"

Me: "I slapped his twin brother's wife at the mall"

today"

Mama: "What? Aibo Yoli"

Me: "She caught me off guard. When she grabbed my hair and slapped me I just lost it"

Mama: "She what? You should've choke slammed her, hit her against the wall and break her neck.

Every place with hair is itchy right now. The nerve of that child!"

I heard a sound of a call coming through. I checked. Me: "Let me call you back. Send my love to nana" Mama: "Ok. Don't let no woman walk over you"

Me: "I won't"

She hung up. I answered Calvin's call. Me:

"Hello?"

Calvin: "MaNzuza. Can you make yourself available at Chris's house in the next hour?" Oh God. I knew it. She ran and told them.

Me: "Please send me the location"

Calvin: "I will"

He hung up. I could hear he's pissed.

I leaned back on the seat and sighed. I took the plastic and got out.

I headed inside the house. I made coffee. Only it can make me feel better right now. I rang Quinton up. It rang unanswered.

I hate my life at this very moment. I'm totally not ready for what Calvin is calling me for.

I drank my coffee as I went up to change. I picked a maxi dress and a simple coat. A doek will do me a little good. They will see I'm not only a freak that ran away from a marriage proposal and slapped Khethelo the following but I'm also a decent woman.

My phone rang while I looked at my reflection on the mirror. It was Khethiwe.

Me: "Hey"

Khethiwe: "Babe. I just heard. Are you Okay?"

Me: "I'm good. Is everyone mad?"

Khethiwe: "I just got here. It looks pretty tense" she better had not lied cause if she did I will beat her in front of her family.

Me: "I hate this. She started it" Khethiwe:

"It doesn't look like that here" Me: "I'm not coming then"

Khethiwe: "No no no. Come. You need to tell your side of the story"

Me: "Is this how you people live? This is absolutely not my life"

Khethiwe: "Nope. We are all new to this trust me. Just come. Everyone is here"

Me: "Calvin hasn't sent me the address"

Khethiwe: "I will send it to you just now. Drive safe" Me:

"Thank you"

I hung up.

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There were many cars outside. Seems like everyone

came in their own. I parked next to Q's. I'm not ready to face him. I said a little prayer before getting out of the car and went into the house.

I went in through the kitchen. There was Katlego and Emi.

Me: "Evening" the sun had just set.

Kat: "Hey" she hugged me. "They are in the lounge"

Emi: "Do you need a glass of gin?" I chuckled.

Me: "If I didn't feel like dying I would have one. Thanks though" she smiled and continued cleaning glasses. I proceeded to the lounge.

They all turned to look at me. Katlego followed. I sat on the single couch that faced Khule and Quinton.

This resemblance is crazy honestly. If Q could just cut his beard I swear I would confuse them everytime.

I greeted.

Calvin: "I'm not even going to beat around the bush.

MaNzuza, Mamnguni. I am very pissed. I am so revolted by what you did at the mall. How old are you?"

3? 4?" I shook my head. "Then why would you act so childish? Do you know what is happening on SA blogs right now? Do you know the hot gossip of tomorrow morning news papers will be?"

Chris: "After months of trying to stay off the frontpages. You just had to drag us back. You are to blame Khethelo"

Khethelo: "Oh why? Because I am not a slay queen?"

Me: "That is the very same thing we will make it to the news everyday because I am fed up of you and calling me that." I said calmly. Without eye contact. "With all due respect bo Nyamazane. I am sick and tired of how Khethelo is towards me. It began at the restaurant. She called me that name, she kept making nasty comments at dinner that night. I reached out because I had realized this was more than about what my father did but rather about my sister. Khethelo feels threatened by how much I look like my sister, I think she somehow feels like I will be a re-"

Khethelo: "Bitch please you-"

Me: "I'm not done!" Fuck. This isn't the side of me I want these people to witness just yet. "She feels like Khule will be reminded of Sedi. That's what I've concluded because I learned that people died because of Khethiwe and Tyler's union but no one ever hated Khethiwe as much as Khethelo hates me. And what she did today. She really put me off. And I'm deeply sorry that happened. I'm sorry it put your family to the news. I'm sorry I slapped you back Khethelo but please wherever we cross paths. Never ever grab my hair. Q I'm sorry I ran out on you yesterday. This is why I ran off. I can't marry where I might be fed poison. Khule please take care of my baby. I certainly do not trust this woman. Everyone I'm sorry to have had brought all this unnecessary drama to your family. Maybe you were right Khethelo. I was just a phase"

I was at edge of breaking down. I got up and rushed out. Tears were pouring down as reached the door.

I heard people talking behind me. I unlocked my car. There was a car parked behind me.

Quinton: "I can't believe you both" I turned. It was

him, Khule and Khethelo.

Khule: "You beat my brother's girlfriend" Khethelo:

"You don't know what she was doing" Me: "That was my cousin"

Khethelo: "Yeah right"

Khule: "Apologize"

Khethelo: "I'm not crazy"

Q: "Apologize Yoli"

Me: "I did."

Q: "Do it again"

Me: "What? No forget it. She will start thinking she's my God if I do"

They chuckled.

Khule: "There's one thing that you two do not know. We'd choose each other over anything and anyone. If you think we will be with women who are sworn enemies then you got another thing coming."

Q: "We can always find ourselves little hotties who

will act like adults not you two old magogoz with tiny brains." Wtf?

Me: "You gonna date 18 year olds now?"

Khule: "If they are mature than you two then yes. Until you both have humbled yourselves and learned that you are twins and be obsessed with each other. Do not step in my house"

Khethelo: "Are you listening to yourself?"

Khule: "Very clear. Have fun while you fix your relationship."

Quinton handed us envelopes.

Quinton: "In there are your visas. The jet is ready to board today at 10pm heading to Indonesia. Is it Bali?"

Khule: "Yes. Enjoy yourselves my loves. Its an island."

They hugged us and headed back in.

Khethelo: "This is all your fault"

Me: "I'd rather be single than to go anywhere with

you"

She rushed back inside while I got in the car. I hate how much this moron knows I love him!...

[2/26, 07:59] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

39

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[Unedited. Apologies]

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I zipped the luggage and put it down. Ready to go. It has been a glorious 2 days of bliss.

Although we almost died of hungover yesterday but it was worth it. We went to church yesterday and came back to have lunch with a get to know each other session while at it. They are good people after all I hope they think the same of me.

Lelo begged her men to not try and find us. I found it really weird that they would even look for us. Girls

need time to themselves once in a while.

I know I am already bad influence in their eyes but this escape was worth it. For Emi's stress and for our amends. I heard a soft knock and a door opened. She smiled.

Khethelo: "Is it safe to come in?"

Me: "As long as whatever you have behind you is not alcohol" she laughed and closed the door.

Khethelo: "Its champagne actually. I see you are done packing"

Me: "Yes I am. Its an hour until we leave I love all these new clothes I wouldn't survive forgetting any of them" she chuckled and sat on a chair turning her back against the dresser.

Khethelo: "Well you and I both." She paused. "I felt like we needed to talk about this before we leave"

Me: "Sounds serious"

Khethelo: "A bit. Maybe...uhm...on Friday, when I said the smoke has cleared between us. I didn't mean it I-"

Me: "What? Why?"

Khethelo: "Let me finish. I just said that to free everyone from the emotional tension I felt in that meeting. I just told myself I will pretend everything is okay until whenever but something happened on Saturday. I realized you were genuinely happy. I was genuinely happy we were all there drinking ourselves to death. You fit just right into the puzzle. It's like you were the missing piece and now we're complete.

Thanks to Calvin for forcing the truth out of me."

Me: "I'm not going to cry okay. I'm just glad we're finding common ground and I promise you, you will not regret what you felt on Saturday" she smiled.

Khethelo: "It's still going to take a lot though to adjust to having a spitting image of my husband's late wife"

Me: "I'll wear heavy make-up" we laughed. She looked at her wrist watch.

Khethelo: "We better get going before you get late for that meeting" I sighed.

My dad called last night and asked me to stand in for him in a business dinner tonight. I tried getting

myself out of that creepy situation but he told me hispa will email me the speech. All I have to do is be there, smile, shake hands and read the speech of which sounds like hell to me. I do not like being center of attention.

Khethiwe: "Do we really have to go?" She said after packing our bags at the back.

Lelo: "Yes. You missed work today remember?" Emi:

"Well I quit mine"

Us: "Why?"

Emi: "I won't be able to look at Brad everyday." We got in the car. Lelo volunteered to drive us. Couldn't be happier. I hate driving.

Kat: "Shame. What are you gonna do with your life now?"

Emi: "Look for a job. Khethiwe don't you need a PA?"

Khethiwe: "I have a PA"

Emi: "Khethelo, any new hair dressers needed?"

Kat: "Definitely not" we laughed. Yesterday she failed

twisting Lelo's afro.

Soft ballad came on the radio. I positioned myself well and drifted to sleep.

...

Very generous women. They dropped me off at home. I have Kylie, Ben and Quinton to deal with and I hate every moment of it.

Around 6pm. 40 minutes after I arrived the 2 gentlemen arrived with the dress to wear at the function dinner or whatever the hell that thing is.

All I can say is I looked like a dream. Had I not ran out of Quinton I would be wearing a ring to add on my peri-peri sauce being.

I rode in a limo. I had no idea there were gonna be camera people and a fucking red carpet!!!!

The door opened. I want to die at this very moment.

Cheaffur: "Ma'am you may step out" I took my clutch and stepped out.

I walked as though there were no cameras flashing at me. I kept my face down until I was inside.

So many grey haired men with fresh faces beside them. The rings on thier fingers!

This is gonna be me in 5 years dear Lord...

It has been 2 days. It doesn't seem like I'm going to Durban anytime soon. I have about 3 more weeks to stay here. Tyler called me yesterday and asked me to redo his baby mamas house. I don't want to seem like a betrayer to the Dube wives but I can't also turndown a job hence I am going to hit Khethiwe with a surprise at the office.

Wasn't it Friday just days ago? And here we are on yet another Friday. Its been 6 days since I saw that man of mine. I have been making up excuses when he says he wants to meet. I need all the strength to face him or any of his brothers after I suggested they get left with kids.

I finished dressing up and walked out.

I passed by the mall to get meals and snacks. I drove straight to Dube logistics. I have never been there.

It is as beautiful as they show it on the pictures. I proceeded when I noticed the parking space organiser was looking at me.

Why did this man retire? I would've loved to pay him a visit here. I had just the right outfit for the environment.

Me: "Hi" I said to the receptionist.

Her: "Hi. Oh my that hair." I smiled.

Me: "Thanks. Lulu's hair salon. She does pretty beautiful braids" yes I did my hair yesterday. I went and sat 6 hours than to meet up with Q.

Her: "I will definitely try them out. How may I be of help sweetheart?"

Me: "Is Miss Khethi-"

I felt someone grab my arm pulling me away. I freed from the grip. What the hell?

Me: "What the hell is wrong with you?"

Zamo: "Showing up at my work place, really? I thought I made myself clear it is over. Are you trying to cause a fight between my girlfriend and I?"

What on earth is this boy about? I didn't even know he works here.

Me: "You're very pathetic Zamokuhle. Learn to keep your claws off me" I saw security guys come up to us. They asked if I'm okay. I assured them I'm good and they pulled the lunatic Zamo away.

I went back to the reception desk.

Me: "Is Khethiwe in?"

Her: "Are you okay?"

Me: "Yeah I'm good. It was just a misunderstanding" she gave me a visitor's tag and had a lady accompany me to Khethiwe's office.

I sure know when to visit. We met at the corridor leading to her office. She had just come out the meeting.

Me: "This is a very beautiful office"

Khethiwe: "Really? I was thinking you could just put a vase to it"

Me: "You only need a vase of white flowers on this little table and that's it. I brought lunch"

Khethiwe: "You are a life saver. I never got time to eat today I am starving"

I took the food out as we sat down on the couch. Me: "Is this your special couch?" She chuckled.

Khethiwe: "Nope. Its Emi's. She has this couch in every home and every office of her brothers"

Me: "What?"

Khethiwe: "Yes. She's thier cute little princess"

Me: "Must be nice" we ate in silence. "I have something to tell you" I said. She turned to me.

Khethiwe: "You are scaring me"

Me: "Jessica hired me to do her house and I saidyes" she frowned. "Say something"

Khethiwe: "Is that it?"

Me: "Yes" she laughed.

Khethiwe: "I do not expect you to hate Jessica. She's part of our family. She's caring Tyler's child and babe whoever may ask you to work on their houses pleasedo it. How any of us feel about that certain person

doesn't matter. This is money we're talking about and I appreciate your honesty. Tyler already told me"

Me: "That's a relief. Thank you" she smiled.

Khethiwe: "Let's eat and stop worrying about crazy things"

Me: "I don't wanna seem like a two faced snake"

Khethiwe: "Nope. A job is a job"

My phone beeped.

"Please get veggies and rajah on your way back home"
Yoh Nqaba and cooking. Why can't we eat out? It's Friday.

"Okay. Send me the list"

We gossiped about celebrities. The pictures and a video of me and Khethelo had been taken down.

After lunch she had a meeting to prepare for so I left. I understand nothing about this world of offices.

What do these people talk about in these 5 meetings a day?

I had hard time reading that speech at my dad's function. I nailed it though.

My phone rang. It was Khethelo. We are slowly getting there. I put on the earpiece and answered.

Me: "Hey" I heard little giggles. "Phila?"

Phila: "The babies want to talk to you"

Me: "Ok put them on the phone" apparently daddy T has been teaching her how to use gadgets. Her nails are painted and the hairstyle changed. Khethelo says Khule threw away the earrings but she woke up with new ones so I had to ask my dad to pierce her and fortunately he agreed. Daddy T has found a best friend in her.

I would be lying if I say I heard anything other than foreign language but I responded any way until they hung up. Of which I doubt they did. It must've been the airtime running out.

I arrived at the mall. It wasn't this packed earlier. Shouldn't these people be at work?

I bought all that I needed and more. I stood on the

line about 30 minutes. Never been so pissed. By the time I walked out I wanted nothing but ice cold anything. I went to KFC to buy ice cream and headed to the parking lot. I pack the groceries and got in.

There were 3 missed calls from Quinton. I turned the engine over and dialed him. I heard a knock from the window I startled.

He signaled me to roll it down. I did. Nervously so.

Q: "Wanna grab ice cream?" Can't he see I have a cone in my hand?

Me: "I am eating ice cream" Q:

"Cool. Let's go get mine"

Me: "Can I drop these at home first?" Q:

"I don't think that would be smart."

He paused as though he had just thought of something.

He went to the car next to mine. How many cars do these people have? He came back and got on the passenger seat. He took my ice cream, it was starting to melt out so were my poor hands.

Me: "I thought you wanted us to get ice cream"

Q: "I thought we were dropping these at home first" Me:

"You going to my father's house?"

Q: "I'll wait outside"

I reversed out the spot and drove off.

We were quiet all the way home. I took the groceries in and we left.

Q: "Turn right"

Me: "Why?"

Q: "I'm not gonna kill you please just turn right" I

looked at him and turned.

I drove until we were in front of someone's house.

Q: "80509." I looked at him confused. "The code." Oh. I punched it. The gate slid open. I drove in. He got out and came to open for me. He took my hand and headed inside.

Q: "This is my other house. Welcome home baby" I chuckled.

Me: "Thank you"

Q: "Bonga and Mtho are looking after it"

Me: "It is beautiful and very clean. What more do I not know about you?"

He poured me juice and led me up the stairs.

Q: "I haven't been here in 6 months. It has everything that I hate to remember."

Me: "Which is?"

Q: "My son. His mother and the twins mother" oh? He sat me down on the bed. "You know baby. I've lost pretty much everyone I ever cared about through a gun. Lamu's mother was shot at this gate. She took her last breath in my hands. Lamu was shot next to my parents house at Estcourt, he took his last breath in my arms. And then the twins mother she was shot in town. She was flown to 4 different hospitals because I felt like each one wasn't best enough. On the day I had just signed the papers for her to be taken to Malawi for yet another operation. As I sat with her waiting for the confirmation papers the panic sounds started getting crazy, Khethelo

walked in she called for the doctors but it was too late the line had went straight. She took her last breath too, in my arms." I pulled him to sit down nextto me.

Me: "Baby..." he held my hand that was resting on hischeeks wiping his tears.

Q: "One thing I did not consider about loving you so much is what might happen to you. Will I also lose you? I am a broken man and when I met you for oncel forgot about what ends up happening with people llove so deeply. That thing you did on Saturday messed me up, I thought my bad luck had caught up with me"

Me: "I'm sorry. I am deeply sorry"

I don't know what hurt me more. Seeing him cry thismuch or the fact that he went through all that.

Q: "I am a broken man Yoli and I was so selfish toask you to marry me. Yes for now you and my kidsare bringing this light in my life but I know somewhere down the line my darkness is going tocatch up with me and I would hate to put you

through that. If you were under pressure by saying yes I will understand if you didn't mean it"

Me: "I meant it. I want to be there for you when that darkness comes. We will overcome it together. And I am deeply sorry you had to go through all that. I am ready to be your wife, have your 20 kids and be a mother to all these you already have" he laughed with glassy eyes. He's so cute.

Q: "Am I?"

Me: "You are what?"

Q: "Cute?"

Me: "Did I say that loud?" He nodded. I laughed. He took something out of his pocket.

Q: "Here is your ring then. I will now tell Calvin it is safe to send that letter to your dad"

Me: "What letter?".

Q: "Asking to marry you. I'm 34 baby I do not have anymore time to waste."

Me: "Does that mean we gonna have sex?" He collapsed. I laughed.

Q: "I have never seen someone so obsessed with sex"

Me: "Come on. I felt stupid with your sister in-law stalking about it"

Q: "They were discussing that? That's very creepy"

Me: "No its not. I should get my nails done this rings should be popping"

We laughed.

Q: "We can go later to do them. I missed you" I kissed him.

Me: "I missed you too"

He pulled me to sleep on his chest.Q:

"Tell me about the strippers"

I laughed. Does he really wanna know?

Q: "I heard Khethelo say we could never do that for you. What exactly were they doing?"

Oh my God he heard that!

Maybe I'm stuck on the honeymoon phase but I

really wanna do this for the rest of my life....

[2/26, 08:00] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

40

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I watched him sleep. My father has to give them a mature response quick. I want to be with him all the time now. I have seen what he meant about the darkplace. This is it. I let him cry it all out until he fell asleep. Why would that man put salt in his wounds?

I wish he shot him. My man deserves his big break. He deserves a year that has permanent happiness.

He squirmed. I tossed the book I was reading and shook him.

Me: "Hey, hey. I'm here" he held me tight. "I'm here." He was panting. "Let me get you something to drink"

Q: "No stay" he said grabbing my arm as I attempt getting off the bed.

I laid down next to him and hugged him in. Maybe this is a test. God is trying to see if I will really stick around through such hard dark times of his life.

Seeing him breakdown like that scared me but it didn't make me want to run away but to hold him and cry with him instead. I felt his pain.

Q: "It was just a bad dream. Don't cry" He wiped my tears.

Me: "Maybe we should go back to Durban." Q:

"You have work to do here"

Me: "I will find another one"

Q: "I'm still waiting for your father, remember?"

Me: "If he responds. You will come back. Bad things don't happen in Durban. We were happy" he chuckled.

Q: "It's either I face this or it will stay an unattended crisis"

Me: "Are you gonna kill him?"

Q: "If we don't reach an agreement and he insists on digging Lamu. I might" my heart skipped a beat.

Me: "Consider going to the chief first. I don't want you going to jail again" he frowned.

Q: "I never told you I once went to jail"

Me: "I saw you last year. Maybe it was Khule" he sat up straight.

Q: "Where?"

Me: "Braam police Station. You walked in with detective Sizwe, that's if that was you"

He laughed.

Q: "It was me. Why you never told me?"

Me: "I don't know. Khule later showed up with Tyler and some guy. I know its Khule cause you would've recognized me when you saw me in Durban"

Q: "Hhaibo baby. Tell me more." He positioned his hands under his chin. I laughed. He's so nosey.

Me: "They came to ask about Pearl. My friend Thabi knew...I shouldn't be telling you this"

Q: "We found her family. Go on"

Me: "They scared us. Thabi even suggested we

move to a new place because the Dube men are a bunch of danger" he laughed. "Its not funny. We had a terrible week. Why do you think I ran when I saw you at the hotel?"

Q: "Because you always run?" I pinched him.

Me: "No! I was running because I recognized you. I thought you were there to kill me" he laughed so hard.

Whew! At least he's cheering up.Q:

"You even took a knife"

Me: "I didn't even realize"

Q: "Am I ugly or scary?"

Me: "You were scary"

Q: "Am I not now?"

Me: "No. You're my man now so you look friendly"Q: "I am friendly regardless. Khule is the scary one"

Me: "I don't find him scary anymore. You should've seen him when I found them with Thabi. And that guy with a scar. My God!"

Q: "That's Charles. Our right hand man. He's friendly too. They had to be scary for you to give out the info they needed"

Me: "It was not cool."

We heard a soft knock at the door. Q went to open.

Khethelo came in with a tray followed by Khethiwe with another one.

Khethelo: "Supper for you my loves."

Khethiwe: "Spoils for you soon to be Mrs Dube" Q:

"Lucky you Yoli. Thank you zithandwa zam"

Khethelo: "Are you sleeping over?"

I looked at Quinton. He nodded.

Me: "Yeah. I am"

Khethelo: "Okay. See me before you sleep"

Me: "Ok" Khethiwe did a little clap and they walked out.

Q: "Let's eat"

Me: "I'll have this fruit salad. I will eat later. Let me

go see Khethelo"

Q: "No. Feed me first" I laughed.

Me: "Since when?"

Q: "Since now."

I took the plate and fed him. I couldn't help but giggle every now and then. He's weird.

Q: "You make everything better"

Me: "Eat please"

Q: "You're the light my life has been in need of. I was crying and miserable 3 hours ago but here I am smiling and laughing. I love you Yolanda"

Me: "I'm glad babe. I love you more, open your mouth now here comes the aeroplane" he laughed and took the spoon in. Almost done.

Q: "You can go now. I'll finish this by myself" I handed the plate over and got up. "Don't take too long. Remember you left your baby here"

Me: "Okay baby"

Q: "You have 2 pieces. Can I take one? Why did I

have 1?"

I laughed.

Me: "You can have it." I closed the door behind me. I went to Khethelo's bedroom. I found Khule.

Khule: "Is he up?"

Me: "Yes and in a better mood" he smiled.

Khule: "Of course. He wasn't gonna be sad forever while you were there with him"

Me: "I'd love to take the credit but..."

Khethelo walked out of the bathroom. She climbed on bed and kissed Khule's cheek.

Khethelo: "Don't you wanna go and check up on your twinny?"

Khule: "But you said I can be part of the discussion"

Khethelo: "Change of mind." He huffed and got out of bed.

Khule: "Don't take too long"

He walked out. Khethelo took her phone and did

whatever.

Khethelo: "You may take a seat. Drink?"

Me: "No thanks. Am I in trouble?"

The door opened. Katlego and Khethiwe came in wearing sexy nighties.

Khethiwe: "I am now very okay with Tyler having sex with his Jessica. My vagina is gonna get loose" she touched it at that. I laughed.

Khethelo: "Okay Yoli. We bought you a little something"

She pulled a paper bag under the bed. I took it. Me:

"Is it my birthday?"

Kat: "No but it is Quinton's on Thursday"

Me: "Are you kidding me?"

Khethiwe pointed at the gift.

I opened it. What is this? Fuck no!!

laughed.

Me: "No!"

Them: "Yes"

Me: "You nasty creatures."

Khethelo: "Today is the perfect day for you to rock that and give him the best sex of his life"

Kat: "Get on top. Ride his brains out. If he dies he dies."

Khethiwe: "There is gin if you won't have the strength to be in charge." They went on and on about what should I do.

Me: "Guys..."

Khethelo: "Don't stop until he calls MaNgcobo"

Me: "I would really love to do all that but I am a virgin"

Them: "What?"

Me: "Yes."

They all sat down on the couch facing me.

Khethiwe: "You are telling us. All you guys do is kiss?"

Me: "Yes"

Kat: "Head?"

Me: "No"

Khethelo: "Are you waiting for marriage?"

Me: "He doesn't want us to do it"

Kat: "He's a rare breed on the Dube house. These men never turn down a vagina"

Khethiwe: "Wear it. He won't be able to resist you in this"

Me: "I will chicken out"

Kat: "Try. If he gets excited go with the flow and tell him you think y'all should wait for marriage when he's about to put it in" I laughed.

Me: "That's pure evil"

Khethelo: "I'm still stuck at the fact that you're a virgin. The way you spoke at Mpumalanga I don't conclude you guys were active"

Me: "Nope"

Me: "So Khule knew you bought me this?"

Khethelo: "No. He thinks we're preparing you for their crazy life"

We laughed.

I wore the lingerie underneath and I went back to Q. I knocked and went in.

They were sleeping, peacefully.

I took a fleece and carefully walked out.

Khethelo: "Why are you back?"

Me: "They are sleeping. I'm scared to disturb them"

Khethiwe: "Let them be. Good night"

They walked out.

Khethelo and I got in bed and she took me down to the very first day they met...

4 MONTHS LATER

The award of drama king goes to Sam Yoli's father Nzuza.

He made my in-laws burn in the September sun for 3

weeks in a row. He kept saying it is custom. As my father he should test my fiance's patience. And the poor Dube's, they never ran out of it. They kept coming back.

I still want to know how much he charged them. I tried fishing it out of Nqaba but he wouldn't budge.

I am now officially Quinton Dube's fiance.

Before the negotiations Sam Nzuzas had to go to the Vilakazis and pay lobola for my mother. Yes she betrayed me and agreed to be his second wife. So now I legally fall under the Nzuzas. I know it has a lot to do with me being a legally a Nzuzas.

A week after the lobola Quinton asked that we go to Estcourt.

I have never seen such a huge home. It is a shopping center. I literally drove from my house to Maxaba's. I am not trying to lose weight. And those people are so many I know about 10 if not 9. I'm still yet to know more when we go to visit again.

None of these wives warned me about everything I found in that place. But I enjoyed being there

anyways.

I'm a full time mommy now, I have grandsons due this month. My life just took a sharp curve and here I am with a blooming company, a husband to be, kids, a daughter in law and whole bunch of family members who show up in my house like they own it. My apartment was no longer mine. Tyler and Khethiwe even have their own key.

Let me not leave out the drama my father caused when I told him I will be moving in with Quinton. He said I must wait until umembeso at least. Mrs Nzuzand Ntombenhle had to get him to calm down. He wouldn't hear none of it until after a month since I asked he told me I can move in.

I only moved in 2 weeks ago. The twins are going to creche, they will stay 2 weeks here and 2 weeks in Jo'burg since they are a package. Daddy's branch this side is now running, he's back to work. And they've learned a new culture of celebrating birthdays. Since I insisted we throw them a surprise party they've been interested on whoever's birthday is coming up.

My phone rang. Disturbing my beauty sleep. I searched for it. This man and his kids. Why are they not in bed?

Oh hubby upgraded my phone by the way.

Me: "Mother"

Mama: "Hey wena. Why did you leave with my bra?"

Me: "What are you talking about?"

Mama: "I'm talking about my bra that hides only nipples. I know you want to sexy your man please buy your own sexing things"

Me: "Since when do we wear the same size?"

Mama: "Never mind. I found it. Is mkhwenyana therewith you?"

Me: "No I'm alone"

Mama: "Oh ok. Did you pop the cherry?"

Me: "Mah!"

Whatever is going on in that man's head. He is not willing to penetrate any time soon. We only do oral. Its good but I'm ready for the thingy. I also want to

participate in talks with the ladies but Mr Dube won't budge. "I know what I'm doing" that's his excuse whenever I ask how long are we going to abstain.

Our wedding date is set for April next year. I am now worried that maybe he's getting it from somewhere.

Mama: "You know you can tell me anything"

Me: "You will be the first to know when it has happened"

Mama: "Hhai Yoli. Learn to heat up your butt cheeks. No man can resist you for this long. Your butt is very icy my angel. Maybe it's what keeping him off you" what kind of a mother is this?

Me: "Lalela Mrs Nzuzza. Please call your husband I am going to eat breakfast now"

Mama: "Send my love to your big headed kids"

I laughed and bid her goodbye. For some odd reasons, the Dubes are very fond of Ntombenhle Even the little ones. They love the fact that she doesn't shout at them. I was very scared that she will say something out of line on the gathering but no.

She was on her best behaviour. She would only

make fun of me and crack jokes there and there.Me:

"Morning"

Q: "Morning. We were making you breakfast. Was gonna bring it in bed"

Me: "Ah aren't you guys sweet" I kissed his cheek and went to kiss the little ones.

They have grown to mize everyone. They attend you for that short period of time and go back to playing.

Me: "Have you fed them?"

Q: "Yes I did. It took us an hour to finish because they were running all over the place. How do you keep them down?"

Me: "Motherly touch. Is Phila still coming?" That drama queen! Every house is partly ruled by Phila. Her fathers get amused by it all. Next year she's going to school. Finally she will torment teachers.

Q: "No. She's going to Tyler's"

Me: "Hasn't Jessica delivered yet?"Q:

"Nope"

That arrogant peacock. I was an inch away from drilling her empty head. The way she ordered me around you would swear I was her maid. I was so happy when I finished working on her house.

Me: "Oh. I guess we'll see her next week then" I don't think this lot of travelling is good for someone her age though.

He pushed the tray with my food towards me and handed me a napkin. "Thank you love. I can't help but feel guilty whenever you wake up first and make breakfast"

He took my hand and kissed it.

Q: "You work a lot. You deserve to be pampered at least 4 times a week. I was thinking we should have a nanny. To prepare them for creche in the morning and fetch them in the noon you know"

Me: "I don't think that's a good idea. Nannies are not good people anymore" and with kids like these nope a nanny would hang them.

Q: "We will get someone a bit older. You can't wake up at 5 everyday. I am tired of helping you choose

outfits for them"

Me: "Babe! We do get 2 weeks to rest. And I can't have a stranger staying here with us"

Q: "Fine. But if you change your mind let me know"Me:

"I won't."

Q: "Are you still meeting with that friend of yours?"

Me: "She has not confirmed yet."

He nodded. We ate gossiping about our neighbor that is into younger men. The way she dresses!

What a joke this world has become...

...

Thabi confirmed our lunch. I buckled the kids up and drove to Westville. I picked this particular restaurant because it is children friendly.

This is me now. Considering such things before I take my trio anywhere. Not to blow my own horn but I am mothering very well. This thing comes naturally, you do not have to force it.

I saw 2 policeman walk in. I hid my face with the

menu as checked if Sizwe isn't there. Yesterday at the building where my office is, there was burglary. And guess who showed up? Sizwe. He works here now. He offered to buy me coffee after they were done with questioning. He sounded intimidated that I am dating Quinton. He stuck around too much to my discomfort. Sbo rescued me out. He's such a nuisance

I saw Thabi coming in. My phone beeped.

"Your favourite person in the whole wide world just landed in Durban. Feed those kids allergex at night, we're going out"

It could only be Ben. The pregnant hippo friend is mad at me for not calling in the morning as I promised. Kylie and Ben are what adds to my fatigue.

I waved at Thabi. She's huge. I haven't seen her in like forever. I got up to hug her.

Me: "Oh my God. What are they feeding you in Mauritius"

Thabi: "Fish" we laughed. "You look beautiful." She took a seat.

Me: "Thank you. You're beautiful too. Its been long"

Thabi: "It's been a year. We last saw each other onthe 5th of November last year"

Me: "Wow. A year sure does go by quick. I was hoping I'll see you on graduation but dololo"

Thabi: "Work moghel, work"

We placed our beverages orders. I checked on the pumpkins. They were still fast asleep.

Thabi: "Are they yours?"

Me: "Yes" she pulled the stroller closer.

Thabi: "Were you pregnant when you left?"

Me: "No silly. They are Quinton's" her smile faded away.

Thabi: "So it's true?"

Me: "What?"

Thabi: "That you're dating a Dube man."Me:

"What is wrong with that?"

Thabi: "Everything!" I frowned. "Did I not warn you

about those people?"

Me: "Stop shouting you're attracting unnecessary attention"

Thabi: "How can I not? You willingly got into danger Yoli"

I got up and pushed the stroller out. All the way to an empty space.

Me: "I am not 4 Thabi"

Thabi: "Well you seem 4 to me. These his kids. You're pausing your life for a thug that abuse and kill women? Are you in it for money? You're only 22 Yoli. You shouldn't be pushing strollers around. Not kids that aren't yours for that matter"

Me: "If I knew you invited me to lunch to judge me I wouldn't have come. I chose this life, I love it. And I have my own money. I am with him because I love him"

Thabi: "He's old"

Me: "And I love him like that. Now if may excuse me" I pushed the babies away. I paused a distance away.

"It wasn't him who killed Pearl."

....

I spoke with my dad the whole way home. Thabi ruined my day. She came all this way just to be an angry bird.

The kids were up and singing their own weird songs.

Where is this man? He usually comes to help me out with anything that I have.

I carried the groceries towards the door. The babies were already there waiting. I opened the door and we went in. They ran to the lounge. I went to the kitchen to put the things and walked to the lounge. I threw myself next to him and kissed him. He didn't even acknowledge me. He kept on tickling Sikelela.

Me: "Are you okay?"

He took out toys for the kids and pulled me upstairs. He gave me a brown A4 envelope after sitting me down on the bed. He then leaned by the dresser and crossed his ankles.

It was pictures. Pictures of me and Sizwe, kissing in

a tub, and every pic we ever took. Freakin witch

Me: "These are old pictures. There's no need to be mad"

Q: "I'm not mad. I am wondering why he was never mentioned."

Me: "I totally forgot babe I'm sorry"

Q: "And even when you bumped into him yesterday. You still forgot to mention you saw an ex and went out for drinks"

Me: "What? He ordered me coffee. I swear" Q:

"And told him our home address?"

Me: "I am not crazy. Why would I do that?"

Q: "I don't know! You dated this fucking clown and you never told me. You told me about every ex but him"

Me: "It slipped my mind okay. We never even-" this is embarrassing. "Sizwe has a wife now"

Q: "Is that why he's sending these pictures?" Me:

"Okay. I'm sorry I never mentioned him. I am

sorry I did not tell you I saw him yesterday. You're now doing what you told me not to do. You're angry and you haven't even heard my explanation" he sighed.

Q: "Come here" I tossed the envelope into the bin. He hugged me.

Me: "Do you remember what mamkhulu said?"

Q: "I'm sorry. I got carried away. Those pictures got me worked up"

Me: "That's what he was trying to do"

Q: "You have a thing for mental cases" he smirked. "Myself included because I want to shoot that fool or any fool that has ever had a chance with you" I laughed.

Me: "But only you has my heart. And I agreed to be your little wife" he kissed me.

Q: "I know your mother calls me mkhulu bae" I laughed.

Me: "And I love you just like that. Even when you start growing grey hair I will still love you the same"

We kissed. I wonder what happened to Mr fancy pants and his shenanigans. I've been afraid to ask. But whatever happened to him I wish it happens to Sizwe. What is he trying to achieve with this? Bloody moron...

[2/26, 08:01] Zoaness: 41

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My phone buzzed as I applied lipstick. I put it back to its shelf and attended my phone.

It was a missed call notification. Khethelo had called. Yesterday they went to sign. They are officially divorced. I am hurt. Quinton is a mess. I wish they could've done things differently. This is weighing hard on everyone.

I tried calling her back but it rang unanswered. Q came in looking like a mechanic. He's been fixing his scrap car for 4 days now. He grabbed my waist with his greasy black hands. He should just sell this car.

Me: "This is my favorite dress baby!" He kissed me. Q:

"We'll buy another one."

Me: "This was limited edition. Look, this tee is greasy too now. What happened to the overall?"

Q: "It's dirty"

Me: "That's the point. You are damaging clothes. We just bought them" .

Q: "I'm sorry. I'll wear the overall tomorrow" he kissed my cheek and headed to the bathroom while I headed to the closet to get another dress. "What time are you gonna be back?" I do not understand his attachment. He's acting like a little baby that doesn't want his mommy out of sight.

Me: "Before you know it. We'll shop for the house, pay and I'll drive back" I am meeting with the owner of the house I will be working on from next week.

Q: "Ok. Refuse lunch if he offer you"

Me: "Why?" He came out and helped me zip up my dress.

Q: "We're going somewhere"

Me: "I'm trying to be in shape. Don't take me to junk food places"

Q: "You can have your wedding dress tailored from scratch Mrs Dube. I do not understand your fuss about staying in shape"

Me: "I shouldn't be bigger than the dress I've already fit love"

Q: "Who cares. We're going out to junk food place later no arguments"

Me: "Yes Sir. I'll call you"

Q: "Don't forget to text me your location"

Me: "I won't" I put my phone inside my tiny hand bag and he accompanied me all the way to my car. He kissed me goodbye.

His love grows each day. I am certain I am loved here....

...

My Saturday left felt more like a Tuesday or Wednesday. The man brought his wife and his daughters. The shopping took longer than expected. Long enough it made Q come to where we were. He did not come to us but he was there, going into every

shop we went in. Dancing, blowing kisses and winking at me whenever our eyes meet.

I got sad when he disappeared. He came back eating hot wings.

After the Zungu's shopping session. I bid them goodbye and went to my car. He was standing against it. He had taken an uber apparently.

He drove us to the "place".

He told me to wait in the car. I called Khethelo. She answered.

Khethelo: "Hey"

Me: "Hey. I tried calling you in the morning"

Khethelo: "I just saw the notification. I've been busy. I'm moving to my new place"

Me: "I thought you were gonna stay with Mam Dino"

Khethelo: "Its unlawful. Lucky for me I know someone who's an estate agent that's how I was able to get this apartment"

Me: "Oh ok babe. You done moving things in?"

Khethelo: "Yeah. It was just beds and kitchen utensils. I'm only left with cleaning up and get somerest"

Me: "Ok. You should send me your address maybe I might stop by tomorrow after church"

Khethelo: "I will. I really could use some company. I regret leaving my kids in Jo'burg"

Me: "As long as you're in a good state to be around them you can fetch them"

Khethelo: "I will fetch them next Friday when I've settled in" Q opened the door.

Me: "We'll talk on WhatsApp. Keep well"

Khethelo: "Thank you hun. Bye"

Me: "Bye"

hung up.

Q: "You can come now"

Me: "Are you trying to kidnap me?" He frowned and chuckled.

Q: "And why would I do that?"

Me: "Because my father just sealed that international deal" we laughed. He took my hand and we headed inside this dodgy place. It looked beautiful inside. There were a few people eating and minding their own business. He led me to a table for two at far end.

Me: "You look excited"

Q: "I am." A waitress brought us drinks. My cranberry juice with sliced lemon on a huge jug.

Me: "Are you about to propose again?" Q:

"Maybe" I laughed.

Me: "This tastes heavenly"

Q: "It comes highly recommended. Women who tasted it bought it like crazy"

Me: "Where did they taste it?"

Q: "Here."

Me: "You told them to make it?"

Q: "Yes and many more of your weird mixtures" Me:

"You're abusing your power Nyamazane"

Q: "I had to make sure our restaurant sells what our customers can not find anywhere else" I chuckled nervously. He called the waiter and told him he can bring our food and the "thing".

I focused on my juice.Q:

"Do you like it?"

Me: "Yeah it's beautiful"

Q: "I knew you'd love it." The waiter brought a brown envelope. He thanked him and he walked away. He pushed the envelope towards me. "Only that is left is for you to sign and then this will be officially ours"

Me: "Quinton-"

Q: "Shhh. Sign. We'll talk about everything else at home."

Me: "Are you sure?"

Q: "I'm certain my love." I took the papers out and sighed. He sighed last week on Monday. He has secrets.

I put the papers back then our food arrived. My nerves always get the best of me. I kept looking

around. The thought of owning such a place sent shivers down my spine. This is something huge to not discuss it with your partner first.

We ate over a silly conversation. We stayed for hours and then drove home with takeaways...

...

The following day. I woke up and prepared for church. Khule is coming over apparently so this man of mine can't come. He called at midnight and informed us.

Now I have to prepare something that'll cook when I get back. I don't know if I will even be able to go see Khethelo.

He got in and peed.

Q: "You do know you won't die if you skip church right?"

Me: "Yes I do but today is very important" Q:

"Every Sunday is important to you"

Me: "Don't discourage me. God will take me away from you" he chuckled and hugged me from behind.

Q: "He understands I want to spend my Sunday with my woman"

Me: "Then come with me to church"

Q: "Khule is on his flight already. I have to fetch him" Me:

"Bolt, Taxify and uber are there for a reason"

Q: "Have you ever heard about what those people do to innocent people?"

Me: "What did they do to you yesterday?"

Q: "He showed me his penis. You should've seen me begging him to put it away" I laughed.

Me: "That isn't funny babe. Just say you wanna fetch your twin"

Q: "Yes I do. But first. I will drive you to church" I put my make up back to the bag and turned around to kiss him.

Me: "Thank you my love. Get dressed. I will be downstairs marinating the meat"

Q: "Ok. Don't miss me too much"

I chuckled and headed out. I put on my shoes and

went downstairs.

Why does time move slow when you're keen about something? Its been days in December but we're not even a week close to Christmas. I don't even wish to witness the length of January, February and March.

This man isn't about games. He's really not entertaining the sex thing. I've decided to let it go because I am fighting a losing battle. My mom has given up with her morning phone calls.

He came down with my bag soon as I finished. I rinsed my hands and off we went....

He kept stealing glances. Sometimes I get an idea that he's scared to say some things to me.

Q: "You don't seem excited about the restaurant thing"

Me: "Am I not?"

Q: "I mean if you were you would've mentioned it. You haven't said anything about it since we came home last night"

Me: "I'm sorry. I guess I'm still processing it. I'm

overwhelmed honestly. I'm sorry, I love it babe. Just scared I might not be able to take care of it, you know how my job keeps me busy"

Q: "Every work place has a manager and a supervisor.They run the place on your behalf. You might show up twice or 3 times a week to check on the progress"

Me: "Are we gonna have money to pay them?"

Q: "Yes. It has made enough to pay them for 3 months in this 5 days."

Me: "Wow that's incredible." I paused. " Why didn't you tell me though?"

Q: "I wasn't sure if you would like it and now I knowyou don't"

Me: "I do. Don't be like that"

Q: "I know when you're excited about something. You couldn't sleep when I came home with the paperwork of your office"

Me: "I love the restaurant. You just caught me off guard. We're talking about a whole restaurants under

my name. Every person who never dreamt of owning a restaurant at 22 would act like this"

He pulled up. It was packed.

Q: "Call me when you're done. I will fetch you"

Me: "Don't be upset please. I'm sorry"

Q: " Its okay." He kissed me and faked a smile. I know its fake because his expressions are telling another story.

Me: "I love you"

Q: "I love you"

He hopped off and came to open the door for me. I got off. I hugged him and walked off...

....

Ben insisted we go and have coffee while I tell him what's bothering me. I did not even enjoy church as I had anticipated. I feel bad for not being excited enough.

Ben: "Ok spit it out before it chokes you"

Me: "He bought us a restaurant"

Ben: "Who?"

Me: "Quinton. He took me to this place in South beach and had me signing for that restaurant to be officially ours and now he's mad because I'm not excited enough"

Ben: "Rewind please. You're speaking too fast I missed some parts." He handed me a glass of water. "Drink up and take a deep breath" I did as per instruction.

Me: "Need I start afresh?"

Ben: "No. Just answer my questions. He surprised you with a restaurant?"

Me: "Yes. Not a restaurant that still needs work. It has been running for 7 days now"

Ben: "And you're not happy?"

Me: "Don't you think he should've at least hinted? How on earth am I gonna run that place?"

Ben: "You will learn. Stop being a drama queen and be grateful Yolanda"

Me: "I'm scared Ben you don't understand"

Ben: "Maybe you're looking at your feet. Wander you eyes off and see that this is the legacy for your kids and you shall get someone to help you understand how restaurants are ran and stop being a child.

You're someone's wife babe and you better start acting like one" I looked at him. "Let's go. I'm taking you to your husband and you going to give him a foot massage while you apologise and create new ideas on how to keep people locked on your restaurant"

Me: "You're making me a 1918 wife"

Ben: "Their marriages never failed. Let's go" He took my bag and pulled me up.

...

He dropped me off at the gate. He was giving me advises all the way. He irritates me for never siding with me but I love him for always being straight up with me. He doesn't beat around the bush. He warned me to do as he said before driving off.

I scanned my finger and went in.

I heard laughter when I walked in. I know my mother's voice when I hear it.

They are both here. Eating and laughing.

Q: "You're back" he seems better than when we parted ways.

Me: "Yes I am back. How is everyone doing?"

Dad: "We are good. We are here to celebrate the good news"

Me: "I wasn't expecting you to actually come here"

Mom: "Don't you want us at your house?"

Me: "That's not what I'm saying. You look beautiful"

Dad: "That's because you are having a little brother or sister" They smiled and held hands.

Wft?

[2/26, 08:02] Zozaness: 42

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There are people who buzz the intercom and then there's this idiot at the gate right now.

Quinton woke up. I could see him on the mirror.Me:

"I'll get it. I just had to finish up here"

Q: "No continue I'll get it"

He got out of bed. He missed a step and balanced by the wall. They drank and smoked until 4 am. He asked me not to wake him up because he's not going to work. Perks of being your own boss.

I came back from work and found them cooking. To say I was impressed to find them wearing aprons would be a lie. I got terrified. The weed they've been smoking is too much to trust them with anything, especially cooking.

But to my surprise the food was pretty nice. It was nice having a meal with both of them. Taking everything crazy. I laughed until we finished eating. They told me to go upstairs and have a warm bath while they clean up. Who says no to that?

He came back.

Me: "Who is it?"

Q: "The police" he put on his trouser.

Me: "What do they want?"

Q: "I don't know. We're yet to find out. Are you done?"

Me: "Yeah"

Q: "Please go attend them I'll be down shortly I need to brush my teeth"

Me: "Okay"

I got up and left.

I found a note on top of the kitchen counter.

'Your breakfast is at the oven. I went back to bed.' He doesn't sleep.

I went to the door to let the police in.

Amen hallelujah.

Me: "Good morning"

Sizwe: "Morning. Is your boyfriend in?"

Me: "Yes my husband is in. You may come in"

They came in. I closed the door and followed them.

Sizwe: "We'd like to speak to him please"

Me: "He's upstairs. He'll be with you shortly. Anything to drink?"

Sizwe: "No we are good"

Me: "My brother would you like some coffee? This house is cold, my husband broke the aircon" I said to his partner.

Him: "Yes please"

Me: "You may take a seat"

Sizwe: "I'll stand"

Me: "This is a man's house. You can't come here and deny seats. You could've remained outside if you wanted to stand"

His partner pulled him to sit down. I walked to the kitchen. I made coffee for me, partner and Q.

He came down holding my handbag.Q:

"Good morning"

Sizwe: "If I were you I wouldn't even take that seat"

Q: "Why? Need I pray to you to sit on my furniture now?" I brought them coffee.

Sizwe: "No. I am taking you in for questioning"Q:

"For what?"

Sizwe: "Death of Glade Ngubane"Q:

"She's dead?"

Khule came down rushing.

Khule: "I gotta rush to the Berea police station. Gladewas found dead and Khethelo is arrested."

Me: "What? Are they crazy?"

Q: "Look, I'd love to stay and chat but this important"

Sizwe: "Denying to come with us will be you breakingthe law"

Q: "Okay. I don't wanna find you both here when I come back"

He jogged up the stairs.

Sizwe: "And you wanna live your life with a killer?"Me:

"Yeah"

Sizwe: "I'm so disappointed in you"

I led the way to the exit. They walked out. He turned after walking a bit.

Sizwe: "On my next visit I will be with the hawks"

Q: "You can even bring the military and Bheki Celeboy. Get the fuck off my yard before my wife and your partner become witnesses of how you died"

He closed the door.

Me: "Did you just threaten a detective that was hereto take you for questioning about Glade's death?"

Me: "Yes. He thinks I'm his grandmother. Why would I be questioned about Glade's death?"

Me: "I don't know but threatening him will just raise unnecessary suspicions"

Q: "And I don't care. Let's go"

He took my hand and we went to the garage.

I texted Sbo that I will arrive late they must continue with the work.

...

We found Khule sitting outside on his car.

We parked next to him. Q got off and went to him. Karma caught up with this bitch sooner than I had expected.

I texted Katlego to ask if she heard. She called.

Me: "Mosadi"

Kat: "I gave up trying to call you last night" Me:

"On this number?"

Kat: "Yes"

Me: "It must've been the signal."

Kat: "Just like that the hoe died and Khethelo is taken in"

Me: "Bullshit at it's best"

Kat: "She was working with someone. There's No way in hell everything could point at Khethelo. She's in Durban for Christ's sake!"

Me: "Where was she killed?"

Kat: "The rumors say in her apartment."

Me: "Then how Khethelo could've flew across the country so quick. Her boyfriend must also be arrested"

Kat: "Tyler will do anything to take her out. I can't imagine how heavy her heart is right now"

Me: "Don't mention it. We're here to see her. I don't know if they'll let us cause Khule left first but we found him outside"

Kat: "If they let you in. Please send my love" Me:
"I will hun. I will fetch the nunus on Friday"

Kat: "There's no need. We're going to Estcourt next week"

Me: "Ugh I forgot about that. Are they okay?"

Kat: "Yep and driving me nuts as usual. Sasa is backbut it still feels like she's not here" I laughed.

Me: "Go out more. Avail yourself to the salon 24/7"Kat:
"That's what I'm going to do today"

Me: "Okay babe. Talk later then"

Kat: "Bye"

I hung up. Q came back.

Q: "She's can't see anyone until she's seen her lawyer"

Me: "That's bad"

Q: "Let me take you to work and finish up"

Me: "I'll just go to my office. Only ceiling is let to do. They will manage without me"

Q: "Okay"

He started the car and drove off...

...

This place can get so lonely at times. Maybe I should get someone to help me around. Someone to talk to.

I took my letters and put them on my desk. I hardly open these. I could be left with 8 days to vacate this place but I wouldn't know it.

He got in screaming.

Me: "What's wrong?"

Ben: "Guess who just got asked partnership by Pretty Paints?" He threw a letter at me and cat walked around singing what I couldn't make out.

I read the letter.

Me: "Why did you open my letter?"

Ben: "Because I couldn't wait to get here to read the good news."

I still couldn't believe it. I have been using their paint on my projects and when posting the results I would mention them. I didn't know they were watching all this while.

I took my phone and called husband.

Me: "Ben please keep it down"

Ben: "Noway! Go Molly its your year. Hey y'all my best bitch is in partnership with your favourite highselling paint!!!!" He was shouting at the window.

Q: "Mshazi"

Me: "Baby. How are you?"

Q: "I'm good. Miss me? Are you at the party?"

Me: "No that's Ben. Pretty paintings just asked me for partnership"

Q: "You're kidding me"

Me: "I'm not. I have a letter right here on my hand."

Q: "That's great my love. I am so proud of you. Wow. This is what I needed for this day"

Me: "Thank you babe. I should meet up with them on Thursday"

Q: "Can a husband tag along?"

Me: "Definitely you can come. I'd love that"

Ben: "No way Quarrel. I am the one that saw the letter, therefore I'm the one she's going with"

I laughed.

Q: "Please ask him why people haven't received their bonuses"

Me: "I will."

A tall guy knocked. He had flowers and a gift box in his hands. Ben rushed to the door to open up for him.

Him: "Greetings. Miss Nzuza?"

Me: "Yes please take a seat. Uhm babe there's someone here. Can I call you later?"

Q: "Yes my love. Call on my offices phone" Me:

"You went to work on sweatpants?" Q: "I

didn't have a choice. I love you"

Me: "I love you more" I

hung up.

Me: "I'm sorry about that"

Him: "No problem ma'am. I'm here to deliver these.

Please sign here"

He gave me the clip board and I signed trying by all means to not lose focus and laugh at the things Ben was doing behind the poor guy.

He took his clipboard and bid us goodbye. Me:

"You're gonna be the death of me" Ben: "He's a real gem"

Me: "You have a man"

Ben: "That doesn't mean I can't do window shopping sweetie"

Me: "Its from pretty paintings. This is a voucher for paints and a make up kit, earrings, rings and a necklace"

Ben: "Oh my they are so beautiful. Whoever put this package together has a crush on you"

Me: "Come on"

Ben: "Let's go have lunch. We'll order the best champagne in the house"

Me: "I was planning on reading these letters"

Ben: "You need a PA sis. Let's go"

Me: "Q said why are people's bonuses not paid"

Ben: "I just thought we should also be delayed like other companies for once. But don't worry, their phones will be buzzing today at 8pm"

Me: "You're cruel. Its December, people have plans"

Ben: "They are closing tomorrow. I didn't want them to blow their money before the 15th"

Me: "Its their money"

Ben: "True but I wouldn't feel good when they are drowning in debts next year. Your car or mine?"

Me: "Q brought me here"

Ben: "You go Mrs Dube. Y'all are so inlove"Me:

"We are trying"

My phone rang. Its a video call. Does she really think I want to see her deceitful face?

Ben: "Answer it"

Me: "I don't wanna see her"

Ben: "She is your mother. Fasten your seatbelt and Answer"

I did and answered. Mama:

"Hey grumpy face"Me: "Hi"

Mama: "Are you still mad?"

Me: "No"

Mama: "Smile then"

Me: "No."

Mama: "We're inviting you for dinner tomorrow"

Me: "There's Khule at home remember?"

Mama: "I am inviting the all of you. Phila is coming with Nosipho (Mrs Nzuza) tomorrow morning"

Me: "What's the occasion?"

Mama: "Come and find out yourself."

Me: "Okay"

Mama: "When are you going to stop being mad at me?"

Me: "I'm not mad mah"

Mama: "Then why haven't you called me since Sunday?"

Me: "You don't either. Your priority is your man and your baby"

Mama: "That's not true"

Me: "You guys completely forgot about me and now that I let you be it hurt you"

Mama: "We are giving you space to be a wife your husband and not always find us wherever you turn to"

Me: "I never asked for that. I want you guys to continue being in my face"

Mama: "We're sorry we didn't know"

Me: "Yes you should be. And the way you dropped that baby bomb on me, it was not on"

Mama: "Your father got carried away. I'm sorry punkie"

Zozo: "Hi mommy" I couldn't help it I smiled. I haven't spoken to her since last Wednesday. Guilt!

Me: "Hey princess. How are you my love?"

Zozo: "I'm good. When are you coming to get me?" Me:

"This weekend baby. I miss you"

Zozo: "I miss you too. You owe me remember?"

Me: "How could I forget?" I owe her a games day for passing her grade 4.

Zozo: "Good. Do you have enough airtime? I want to

show you my new school uniform. I am so excited to go to school with white people"

Me: "Go get it before my airtime runs out"

She disappeared.

Mama: "It slipped my mind I'm sorry"

Me: "Which one did you choose?"

Mama: "The one around here; I forgot it's name. Harry's is full"

Me: "Ok. So you're permanently going to stay here?"

Mama: "Yeah. I will go home during school holidays" Me: "Okay"

Zozo got back. She's happy and that's all that matters to me. She's a little version of Ayanda. She literally left herself behind.

We said our goodbyes.

Ben: "See? Nothing killed you"

Me: "Whatever"

Ben: "I heard there's a place in this dodgy corner"

Me: "And that is my restaurant" he gasped.

Ben: "Bitch shut up!"

Me: "Yep"

Ben: "I would also sulk if I bought someone such a place and they don't show excitement. That place is beautiful Yoli"

Me: "It is and I love it"

He pulled up before it. "And people seem to love it too"

Ben: "Khaya brought me the granadilla juice with sliced lemon and a cheese burger. I said fuck diet"

Me: "And you want me to fuck mine too?"

Ben: "You have gym in your house. Consume all the junk you want and jog it all out later"

Me: "I don't have that time"

His walk beats Beyonce's. He's 100% that boy!

My phone beeped. My dresses have been delivered. Its about time!

We chose a table and the waiter came into our rescue. We ordered. Not forgetting the best Champagne in the house.

Ben: "You should redo it"

Me: "Only the counter. I love the furniture"

Ben: "That's the lazy demon in you talking. This place is elegant and it shall look so"

Me: "You're allowed to redo it if you want"

Ben: "You have 4 minutes to say you're kidding"

Me: "I'm not. I will work on the counter and the whole place is yours to transform"

Ben: "You won't regret it I promise"

Our food arrived.

Me: "That was fast... Thabdo" I read her name tag.

Thando: "That's our profession madam."

Me: "Yoli please. Thank you this looks lovely"

Thando: "It tastes lovely too. Enjoy your meal"

Ben: "Thank you hun" she smiled and walked away.

"So humble and beautiful"

Me: "I'm scared to fall inlove with this place"

Ben: "Why? This should be your second baby"Me:

"What if I abandon the first one?"

Ben: "You won't"

Me: "I'll test waters"

He raised his glass and we drank to that.

I took a picture of our meals and sent it to Q and posted it on Insta and Facebook. This place needshigh recognition.

We called Kylie. We spoke for minutes. Being a new mommy loves her.

We chilled at the restaurant until the sun set.

Khaya came to get Ben. I took his car and drove tothe office to check if I locked.

I tidied up and swept the floor. I received picturesfrom Sbo as I drove home. I should go see for myself tomorrow morning.

My phone rang.

Me: "Nyamazane"

Q: "Where are you?" He doesn't sound pleased.

Me: "On my way home, why?"

He hung up. I called him again. He didn't pick up.

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I arrived home. I took off my heels soon as I stepped in.

Me: "Bab Dube"

Khule: "Manzuza. How was work?"

Me: "Work was good. How did it go at the police station?"

Khule: "Tyler saw her. She might be released tomorrow"

Me: "That's good. I brought these from the restaurant"

Khule: "Thank you. Let me warm it up"

I don't like seeing him like this. He was happy with

his weed last night and today he's back to being sad. I went upstairs. I found Q standing by the window.

Me: "Hey"

Q: "Having money drives you bananas huh?" I

frowned.

Me: "What are you talking about?" He walked to the bed and faced the box on top down. Penises came out bumping.

Q: "You order dicks now?"

Me: "Uhm..."

Q: "You thought I wouldn't see them? Are you fucking kidding me" he picked one up it mistakenly got turned on and it started dancing. He threw it back to the bed. "Why are you ordering dicks Yoli!"

Me: "Because you don't want with yours!"

Q: "Turn this shit off right now and put it back to this box and throw it out of my house!"

Me: "No"

Q: "I'm not playing Yolanda"

Me: "Neither am I" I collected them back to the box. I kept the dancing one in my hand "I will use them" I put it against my cheek

Q: "Don't test my patience Yoli" he snatched it and threw it across the room.

Me: "You can throw it away but I am not going to anew year a virgin"

Q: "You want dick?" Me:

"Yes!"

Q: "Here it is." He said pointing at his shaft. I felt all my sensitive places do the dance. "Throw this shit away and come get dick"

I took the box and rushed out with it. Thank you delivery people for delivering a wrong order. I don't even know whose penises are these but finally I'm gonna have some....

[2/26, 10:38] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

43

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I might need these for future use. I took them out of the bin outside and went to the garage to stash them where they're not likely to be found.

I went back inside. He was in the kitchen eating yesterday's left overs. Its as if they can sense I am too tired to cook today.

Me: "Should I go upstairs and wait?" He brought his intense eyes up.

Q: "For what?"

Me: "Dick" I said in a lower voice. I don't want Khule hearing me begging my soon to be husband for a penis.

Q: "No. Go watch TV or something"

Me: "You promised"

Q: "And now I'm breaking my promise" he picked his plate up, walked over to me and kissed my lips. "I love you okay"

I left him standing there and ran upstairs. What more can I do for this man to understand I am ready!

This is torture. This is why people cheat. I get it now. Who stands for being deprived sex? Had tables been turned he would've long gone to find a girl to service him.

And...I am not convinced he hasn't slept with anyone since May. That is impossible.

He got in and leaned against door and watched me cry. Yes I was crying, tell me who wouldn't? I turned to face his direction.

Me: "Are you still sleeping with Lulama?"

Q: "No" he said without hesitation. "I would never cheat on you" yeah right.

Me: "Then why won't you let us do what engaged people do?"

Q: "What do engaged people do?"

Me: "They have sex!"

Q: "I don't understand your obsession with sex honestly."

Me: "It's not for you to understand. I'm 22 Quinton. I am engaged. I am allowed to have sex. What is wrong with you?"

Q: "What about what I want?"

Me: "What do you want?"

Q: "To have sex on our honeymoon. I want your firsttime to be special, I want our first night as a married couple to be special" Jesus! What kind of fantasy world does he live in?

Me: "I would also love that but babe..." I got up and walked to him. I looked him deep in the eye. "I want you. Each night is torture Mbuyazi. I am ready. Even if we do it today it will still be as special to me because it will be with man that I love. I know there's more to this but whatever it is that you're scared of we'll talk about it in the morn-" he kissed me.

Hungrily so. My hand had been inside his boxers playing with him all this while. And it worked.

He unbuttoned my blouse with one hand while he held me firmly on the waist with the other one.

He finished and took it off letting it drop on the floor.

He switched positions I found myself against the wall. He slid his hand into my underwear and made contact with my moist coconut. My body has gotten used to getting moist for him so today wasn't gonna be any different. He undid my bra with one hand, where did he learn doing these things?

Oh never mind. He went to my neck and smoothly kissed me while his finger did wonders down there. I was moaning as low as I could. Khule's room is nextdoor and I don't trust these walls. And we're next to the door. He could be passing and hear all the thingshe's not supposed to hear.

He took turns kissing my breasts. His finger was stillthere. I felt my knees getting weak. I held on to him. I released myself. Yeah I'm weak like that. He scooped me up. I almost died of heart attack. He chuckled.

Q: "I do not negotiate at such times my queen'Me:

"Just don't drop me"

Q: "How are you getting married to someone you don't trust?"

He started walking to the bed.

Me: "I trust you but not when I'm floating" he gently laid me on my back. He kissed me from in between my breasts to my coconut.

He undressed. Okay now I'm scared. My legs started shaking. I straightened them.

He smirked. I don't like that.

Me: "Okay don't hurt me to prove a point"

Q: "Hi I'm Quinton and I'm 34" I laughed. He's stupid.Me:

"Yeah yeah yeah"

He climbed on top and kissed me. His little fella was as hard as a rock. This might be a bad idea.

He parted my legs enough to accommodate him. My legs started shaking again.

He inserted himself bit by bit, gently at that. This isn't as painful as I had anticipated. He kept pushing in and out gently.

Where's the nice feeling? There was an uncomfortable feeling but nothing I couldn't handle.

Q: "Are you good?"

Me: "Yeah its-" He pushed in a little too hard I could feel it getting all in. I flinched, pinched him even.

Heavenly father it is painful.

Q: "I'm sorry" he kissed me. "I'm sorry babe" he was still going on. What is he sorry for then? "Yoli" I shook my head. He was still continuing. Where's mercy in this man?

I was crying. Don't judge me I was feeling pain and bit of...the nice feeling. My bitch ass mind focused on the nice feeling and deserted the pain it came with. I hadn't stopped crying though.

He stopped.

Me: "Why are you stopping?"

Q: "You're crying"

Me: "I'll be fine. Continue please" Q:

"Are you sure?"

Me: "100%"

He started again. His heavy breathing down my neck

sent me straight to a mental institution.

He forgot that we just started working on this mine. He was digging me like crazy. THE NICE FEELING!!!

My moans were fueling him. He started making those funny noises he usually makes when I'm blowing him out.

He lifted my legs up in the air and worked me up. I could get use to this. The pleasure feeling outweighed the burning down there.

My hands were all over him. I just didn't know what to do with myself. He pinned them both down and pounded me deep and very fast.

Khule can hear what he might hear. This is too much for not moaning my fucking lungs out.

He let go of my hands and put his under my body and squeezed me followed by a little groan. He then let his body loose and caught his breath. He was all sweaty. He's so heavy.

I wrapped my arms around him. Only our heavy breathing made noise.

Q: "I love you" he said after some time.

Me: "I love you more" he kissed me.

Q: "Thank you for blackmailing me" we laughed.Me:

"You're welcome babe"

He kissed me again and got off. He went to the bathroom and came back shortly.

Q: "We're gonna take a bath and get you pills then make you food"

Me: "Is that the aftermath treatment?"Q:

"Aren't you feeling pains?"

Me: "I am but they aren't severe"

He pulled me up. Oh they are a bit too much.

Q: "And I need to change the sheets" there was a tiny blood stain. Khethiwe said there wouldn't be any.

Me: "I'll change them"

Q: "The tub must be full now. Go soak yourself I'll join you just now" this comes once in a life time. I might as well obey being treated like an egg.

He put in bath salts. He's obsessed with my bath salts. When they are running out he's always the one to buy new ones.

I relaxed on the tub after flinching to the stinging feeling on the vajayjay.

He came in and closed the door. He got in behind me and kissed my back then made me lie on his chest and caressed my arm with the other hand on my left boobie.

Q: "Have you always known you'll end up here?"

Me: "No. Why?"

Q: "Why did you make this bathroom every thing you like and made this tub so huge?" I chuckled.

Me: "You told Kylie I should do this house as if it was my own and here you have it" he laughed.

Q: "I did?"

Me: "Yes you did. Did you like me then?"

Q: "I must've. I just didn't like you before I saw you" Me:

"How do you not like someone you've never

seen?"

Q: "Kylie was making you such a big deal. Yoli this Yoli that. Oh my God her projects are insanely beautiful. Yoli posted a picture blah blah blah. I thought y'all were lesbians" I laughed.

Me: "I'm so gonna tell her"

Q: "I once found you both cuddling you can't blame me"

Me: "It was innocent"

Q: "Well it wasn't written innocent" he paused. "I'm so glad you chose me"

Me: "You're worth choosing my love."

He chuckled and sent his hand straight to my burning vagina....

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In the morning I woke up and got the same treatment. I wish I didn't have to go to work I was so sleepy. He kept waking me up. Saying he's getting me used to it cause should we wait for tonight it'll be painful again.

I acted convinced.

I drove to the house we were working on to check if everything was on point.

My guys never disappoint. I told the Ngemas they can come and review the place, say their complaints and we fix whatever is done wrong. They said they will come in the noon.

I left their house and headed to my office. I

found Nkosi cleaning up.

Me: "You love cleaning"

Nkosi: "I discovered this tile cleaner thingie. I thought I should come try it out here"

Me: "Is that it's smell?"

Nkosi: "Yes. Nice right?"

Me: "Yeah. Where did you get it? We need more"

Nkosi: "We've been working of it"

Me: "Who's we?" Nkosi:

"The guys and I"

Me: "You guys! This is pretty impressive." Nkosi:

"We now need a way to get it out there"

Me: "Leave that to me. I'm so happy right now." He smiled shyly.

I took it and sprayed the unused tiles and wiped. It became squeaky clean.

Me: "This is amazing."

Nkosi: "Thank you. Do you need coffee?"

Me: "Yes thank you. And doughnuts"

Nkosi: "You and doughnuts" we laughed. He walked out.

I sat down and took the tile cleaner. Who would've thought young boys from a small town could do something like this? I am proud. I should speak to hubby. The country needs this.

"Smiling alone?" I sent my eyes up. He was leaning on the door frame.

Me: "Do you mind not doing that?"

Sizwe: "Why? Its not like your boyfriend can't afford

to fix it if I broke it"

Me: "How can I help you detective?" He chuckled and sat down.

Sizwe: "I'm detective now?"

Me: "I don't have all day okay. What are you doing here?"

Sizwe: "Can't I visit a friend?"

Me: "I'm not your friend"

Sizwe: "I'm not here to ask for love back I have a wife. Get off your high horse"

Me: "We never dated. Get out"

Sizwe: "Why are you so grumpy? I just came to say Hi"

Me: "Let this be the last time okay? Next time when that thing inside of you tells you to come here and say Hi. Ignore it"

I picked my phone up.

Sizwe: "If you need me you know where to get me" he got up and headed out. Bathong!

I looked at the pictures of the 3 houses I have to do next year. I should begin as soon as possible after coming back from Estcourt. I want to be done by March so I can fully focus on planning my wedding.

My phone vibrated.

"Are you still good?" Since I left home he's been asking me this.

"I'm good. Stop fussing" I replied.

"Okay babe. I miss you. I might show up there before the day ends" -Him

"I would love to see your cute face. Its 11:30 aren't you supposed to be in a meeting?"-Me

"I am. That has never stopped me from texting you" -Him.

"Have some manners please. Pay attention" -Me

"I am. One of the dudes here they cut his hair wrongly. I can't stop laughing" I found myself cracking up. He's the silliest old person I've ever seen.

"He's gonna beat you up. Focus!" I reply and put my

phone away and brace myself for coffee and doughnuts.

Nkosi: "The line is as long as 1994 voting queue" Me:

"That's exaggerating. Thank you"

Nkosi: "You don't mind if I leave you alone for 4 hours right?"

Me: "No not at all. You can go"

Nkosi: "Okay. Bye"

Me: "Bye"

I regret eating a little bit of breakfast. The way Khule kept looking at us its like he heard what happened last night. So I just decided to leave.

A knock set me free from my pile of thoughts about last night.

What on earth have I done to God? I

signalled him to get in.

Zamo: "I'm looking for Mrs Dube" no hello no nothing. Me:

"Hello. Get in"

Zamo: "Is she in?"

Me: "Yeah. How may I be of help?"

Zamo: "My boss sent me to bring these to his wife. I will wait for her right here"

He took a seat. I stared at him for a while and then decided to let him be. He was looking around.

Zamo: "So you downgraded. From your own boss to a secretary? Why are you even sitting on your boss's chair?"

Me: "Why are you so bitter?"

Zamo: "I'm not bitter I'm asking you a question"

Me: "So you think when you left you left with my luck?"

Zamo: "You're an errands girl so yeah I left with the most of it" I chuckled and sipped on my coffee. We stayed in complete silence for a good 30 minutes.

My phone rang. Just in time.

Me: "Nyamazane"

Q: "Mshazi. Have the boy arrived?"

Me: "He's here for me?"

Q: "Yes. He's one of the transferred interns from Jo'burg maybe he got lost"

Me: "No he's here sitting on the couch waiting on Mrs Dube. I don't strike him as one"

Q: "Please put him on the phone" I

handed the phone out to Zamo.

Me: "It's your boss" he hesitantly came to get it.

Zamo: "Hi...oh I'm sorry Sir yes I'm here" he turned to look at me with a disappointed ugly face "Yes Sir understood...apologies sir" he gave me the phone. He had hung up. He gave me the flowers first and then gave me the paperbag and walked out without a word.

I read my card first.

'Reminder: You're no longer a virgin. Congratulations!'

I laughed. He smoked weed I swear. I

took out the little box first.

'This is a morning after pill. It is taken after unprotected sex if you don't want to get pregnant'

Thoughtful. I drank it and opened the second box. There was also a note.

"These are the snacks to feed your cravings just incase that pill doesn't work. Xoxo"

He's really high. I took the lunch bar and ate it while I swung my chair around....

[2/26, 10:39] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

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I arrived home. Hubby was had arrived already. I miss the trio. Its been 3 weeks. And this house is too quiet.

I opened the boot and took out plastics of groceries. I bought two 5litres of ice cream because the ice cream junkies are both here and eat it like its their first time.

It is very surprising that the reason they love ice cream so much is because their mom owned a truck, she had her own ice cream recipes. Eating too much ice cream at the young age should've made them to hate it. At least that's how I am. I do want to have too much of anything. I lose interest very fast.

It smelt very nice. He knows his way around the kitchen. I just do not trust him around this gas stove. He smiled when he saw me. He trimmed his beard. I wonder when does he do his CEO duties.

Me: "Hey handsome."

Q: "Hey beautiful. You're early" Me:

"What do you mean? Its 6pm"

Q: "I was hoping you'll find the food ready"

Me: "It doesn't matter babe. This sight is very amusing. You're sexy in an apron"

Q: "Wanna eat me up?" I

looked around.

Me: "If your brother wouldn't walk on us I would"

Q: "He left" he stirred the pap and came to me. He brought me close and kissed me. "You know what that means?"

Me: "No." He kissed me again. His kisses are a mystery. I haven't caught his permanent way of kissing. Every occasion has it's kiss.

Q: "It means I have you any where in this house"

Me: "Is it so?" He nodded and slid aside the collar of the blouse and kissed my neck. "Did he leave because he wanted to or you told him to leave?"

Q: "Does it matter?" He licked my lips.

Me: "Yes it does. You could see he's not okay. He can't be out there alone. You're part of him"

Q: "He left on his own mama. He is going to fix a few things in Jo'burg concerning Glade's death"

Me: "Is Khethelo out?"

Q: "Yes. Can we continue now?" I chuckled and wrapped my arms around his waist and we resumed kissing. He tried picking me up I moved his hands.

Me: "Where are you taking me?"

Q: "Here" he said patting the counter. I climbed on my own while he watched. "I would never drop you"

Me: "I know. Come here stop sulking" he came and stood between my legs and wrapped his hands around my waist.

Q: "I missed you"

Me: "I missed you more. And thank you for the package" he laughed.

Q: "Did you take it?"

Me: "Yes I did. I will take the injection tomorrow"

Q: "Do you know that most children in our family were conceived regardless?"

Me: "Noway"

Q: "I'm telling you. So you may take the injection but when you're supposed to fall pregnant you will" my heart beat faster.

Me: "You're scaring me"

Q: "I'll pull out. Go upstairs and change, take a bath and come down to eat"

Me: "I thought we were about to-"

Q: "The pots are gonna burn." He squeezed my boobie and went to the stove.

I got off the counter, took my bag and went upstairs.

Me: "Please put ice cream in the freezer" I shouted.Q:

"Okay" he shouted back.

I opened the door. I turned the lights on. Wow.

I couldn't help but smile. There were roses and lit candles all over. There was a gift bag on top of the bed. And a love making sofa and a cross next to it.

Q: "Do you love it?" I startled and turned to him. "I almost did things to you on the kitchen. I had forgotten about this"

Me: "When did you do all this? I love it"

Q: "I knocked off at 4 and its not hard for your husband to get anything" he was done unbuttoning my blouse.

Me: "You want us to try them out?"

Q: "That's if you don't mind my queen" I closed my eyes and moaned, his hand was inside my coochie already. He kissed me and gently pushed me to the wall where the new furniture is.

He positioned me right against the cross. I felt chills down my spine. This escalated so fast but I'm loving every bit of it. This is the kind of sex I've always fantasized about and husband and delivering just that.

He fastened the cuffs around each hand. He took my skirt off and the panty followed and then he parted my legs. He did the same on my feet.

He unhooked my bra. It didn't have straps so it just fell off. He cupped my boobs and kissed them. His obsession over them is crazy. He left me there exposed and went to the bed. He took out a tiny piece of cloth.

It was a blindfold. He blindfolded me. I felt something tickle me from my coochie all the way to my breasts.

Me: "What is that?"

Q: "Shhh" I felt him kiss my vagina. "You can choose a safe word ma'am" His tongue was going up and down my freshly shaved sensitive pussy lips.

Me: "I'm blank" I said with my almost not there voice.

Q: "Stop isn't it" he stuck his tongue in at that. I moaned. I crouched my toes for balance. His finger followed. His right hand went up to grab me on my love handles. He sucked on my clitoris like his life depended on it. His tongue was going back and forth also in circular motion. I feel my legs shake.

Me: "Baby stop...ahh" He's not having it. He continued. His finger was still inside gently moving it in and out. I was now moaning helplessly.

Me: "Quinton....I'm losing my breath baby st...op"

His hand went below to squeeze on my ass. The safe word!

Me: "Carrot! Carrot is my safe word" I released my juices. He stopped. He came back up. "Untie me

please" I wanted to cry. Tears were forming actually.

He went to get a towel and came back to clean me up and then unbuckled the cuffs. He took me to the bed. He put a fleece over me.

Q: "I'll go dish up" I nodded. My legs were still shaking.

He got up and left. I smiled alone. Too much pleasure can kill me I swear. I got up and went to the bathroom to shower because once I eat I will fall asleep instantly....

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[Khethelo]

I was woken up by the intercom buzzing. It was still dark. The lights of the city shined through my window. I took my phone on the side table. 2am in the morning. That must be drunkards pressing the wrong room number.

It didn't stop. I got up and turned the lights on and used my phone's flash to light my way to the bulb switch in the lounge. I switched it on and took the

phone.

Me: "We would like to sleep please" I heard heavy breathing. "Who is this?" The person took a deep breath. Its him. What is he doing here so late?

I put the phone back and let him in. I unlocked and went to my room to put on a robe. I was sleeping only in my underwear. The Durban weather doesn't do well with pjs, unless you're trying to faint in your sleep.

All I could smell was alcohol when I came back to the lounge. He was standing against the wall for support I think. There is no way someone can wreck of alcohol and be not too drunk.

I stood there and watched him. He was staring right back at me.

Khule: "Did you do it?" I frowned confused. Oh no. He did not just ask me that.

Me: "You come to my place at 2am to ask me that? Really?"

He finally untangled himself from the wall and

walked to me. He has his balance in place but I could tell he's drunk.

Khule: "If you did it tell me so I can take a different route to fix this" his voice was low. Too much to my discomfort. I moved to the kitchen area.

Me: "I thought you knew me."

Khule: "I do" he was still in the same position, staring at where I was standing. "I just don't know how you when you're betrayed"

Me: "I'm not a killer Khulekani."

Khule: "Why were you at the hospital the night she was killed?" I felt my heart beat faster.

Me: "I was sick. And yes I am shattered she got into my marriage but not even once have I wished death upon her" he turned when he heard me sniff. "I'm not capable of taking a life"

Khule: "Did you ask someone to do it for you?"

Me: "I would never do that. This whole thing was staged by someone trying to ruin my life. The evidence that the state holds in their possession

could put me in jail for life. Whoever did it had a lot of time to plan it. I am expecting everybody else to think I'm responsible for her death but not you"

Khule: "I had to ask. There's no crime in that. I will fix it before the 24th of March" that is my trial date. I wish I had anything solid to prove my innocence that day but my hospital records might sell me out.

He motioned towards the door.

Me: "How did you get here?"

Khule: "I drove"

Me: "Did you eat?"

Khule: "No. Sleep well"

Me: "Stop!...I mean, you can't drive in that condition. I also didn't eat but I cooked. If you don't mind we can eat and sleep here. You can sleep in my room I'll take the couch" I'd suggest a couch for him but he's too tall and a couch causes him cramps plus he's drunk.

Khule: "Are you sure?"

Me: "I'm certain. Please close the door and come

take a seat" he closed the door and came to sit on the high chair. I dished up the pap on a medium serving bowl and put it in the microwave and turned the stove on to warm up the stew.

I opened the fridge and took out ice cream. I placed it before him and boiled water on a kettle. We just sat there in silence looking at each other.

I fixed him a cup of coffee and handed it to him.

Khule: "Thank you" the microwave finished. I took the bowl out and out a fresh one to dish up the stew on. I took out spoons and handed him his. He chuckled.

Khule: "I thought this was mine alone"

Me: "If you don't get full we'll dish up again." We ate till our pace slowed down.

Me: "I'm full now."

Khule: "I underestimated it. I'm also full. Thank you" Me: "Pleasure."

Khule: "I missed your food"

Me: "I miss cooking for you"

Awkward silence. I cleared my throat and opened the ice cream.

Me: "A little dessert won't hurt"

Khule: "Why are you doing this?"

I looked at him for quite some time.

Me: "In life I believe everyone has that one person that shall remain their biggest part of life. No matter what that person can do they will always have a special place in your heart. In my life you're that person. You're the closest thing to me, even I feel like killing you I also want you to live so that I can have you till eternity. It is so crazy baba ka Ngiphile, you hurt me so bad but somehow..." my tears got better of me. "But somehow it feels like you're the only person in this universe who can take that pain away. Everyday I dial your numbers but drop the call before it even rings. I am incomplete, I am suffering" he had taken my hand into his.

Khule: "You didn't have to leave home"

Me: "It felt like the best thing to do. Even though I am still very mad at you I still love you so much."

Khule: "Stop crying okay. I'm sorry. Come here"

Me: "And hate this moment. I was not planning on breaking down in front of you but I just-" he just hugged me in.

Khule: "I am sorry and I shall be sorry for as long as I shall leave Mamnguni. I'm crazily dysfunctional without you and that is affecting our children because we're both physically and emotionally distant from them. They are too young, they don't deserve that" I haven't seen them in 2 weeks. What of a mother does that make me?

"Please just come back home. We will be pretty much divorced but just come home. I will make up for my sins everyday until you find it in your heart to forgive me"

Me: "What's the point? That will leave you and the kids sad when I go to jail"

Khule: "You're not going there trust me" he moved me off chest and made me look at him. "I will find who is behind Glade's death before your date to

appear in court. I owe you that much"

Me: "Thank you"

He smiled and kissed my forehead and then let me rest my head on his chest again. I miss him. I miss his smell. Who am I kidding? I love this man and I am more hurt that we aren't together anymore morethan the fact that he cheated. I felt safe, I felt like everything is gonna be okay. His arms felt like home. I believed him when he said I won't go to jail. How could my heart betray me like this?

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[Yoli]

We forgot about mom's dinner invite, well I did. I woke up to tons of messages from her and dad.

Quinton decided we go and apologize in person. He bought a baby stroller and a pack of cigar. He said its a standard procedure of apologizing.

Q: "I don't want to think about the kind of food wekissed out on."

Me: "We have food at home"

Q: "I would've loved to eat something prepared by umkhwekazi (mother in law)"

Me: "Well you should've woken me up when you came back downstairs and found me sleeping" he said he remembered but just thought I had decided wearen't going.

Q: "And eat me alive? No thanks"

Me: "Let's stop talking about this"

Q: "Be my guest. Let's talk about your safe word" he laughed.

Me: "Focus on the road please"

Q: "What came into your mind for you to think of carrot?"

Me: "I don't know. It is the word that just came"Q:

"Mmmh"

We finally arrived at my dad's place. He carried the stroller. I only had my bag in my hand.

Me: "Zamo is my ex"

Q: "Who's that?"

Me: "The one you sent to deliver me those things"Q:

"You dated that rude fool?"

Me: "Yes" he laughed.

Q: "Your choice in men is questionable my love no offense"

Me: "None taken because you're also my choice"

I pushed the door open. There was a lady in a cleaning uniform dusting off a vase.

Me: "Morning sisi"

Her: "Morning. You must be Yoli"

Me: "Yes I am. Are the parents in?"

Her: "Yes. They are in the patio"

Me: "Ok thanks....oh this is my soon to be husbandQuinton. I didn't get your name"

Her: "I'm Maurine. Nice to meet you Quinton" they shook hands and we proceeded to the patio. Philasaw us first and ran to us. Quinton picked her up.She was crying telling him how much she missedhim. The love she has for her fathers is insane. I

picked the stroller up and headed to the old ladies.Me:

"Greetings mommies"

Mrs Nzuzza: "Look at you!" She opened her arms, I crouched for a hug.

Me: "Where's your husband?"

Mrs Nzuzza: "You know your father with endless meetings"

Me: "He must retire" mom was on her phone. Completely oblivious to my existence. Quinton greeted. Just there and then she showed interested.He put Phila down, she came to me. We hugged andkissed.

Q: "We are deeply sorry for not availing ourselveslast night. Something came up at home and we completely forgot about the dinner"

Mama: "Oh my. Is everyone okay?"

Q: "Physically yes but emotionally, its another storybut they'll be good"

Mama: "That's a relief. I kept the turkey for you"

Q: "Thank you ma. We bought a little something for the coming soon member"

Mrs Nzuza: "Oh my God! Is this it?" She got up and opened it. "Ntombi, I will be the first one to push him around with it no arguments"

Mama: "Why are you such a bully?"

Mrs Nzuza: "I can see myself wearing that gray summer dress, stilettos and glasses while pushing my little paniki here" I was dead with laughter cause she was illustrating.

Mama: "Thank you mkhwenyana" Q:

"Any time ma."

Phila: "Can I leave with my mommy and my daddy?" Mrs

Nzuza: "No. You will visit on Friday"

Phila: "But I want to go today not on Friday"

I felt tiny hands cover my eyes. I startled. She laughed and came around to hug me.

Zozo: "I missed you"

Me: "I missed you more baby"

Phila: "See? Zozo also wants to go"

Mama: "Zozo didn't say that"

Phila: "Don't you want to go visit mom and dad?"

Zozo: "Hha gogo I do. Can we?"

Mama: "They are going to work"

Q: "My work actually has a place to accommodate them. Since its school holidays there are other kids. We can leave with them if you don't mind"

Mrs Nzuzza: "Okay go ask aunt Maurine to pack yourbags" they screamed in excitement and ran inside.

Durban loves Zozo. She's gaining weight.

Sis Maurine brought us food. I was full we ate coming here. Quinton saw that a great opportunity to eat all the meat. What kind of mkhwenyana is this? eating in front of mamazalas.

"Does anyone in this home know how much food isto feed other men?" If its not my one and only kingwho else could it be? Quinton immediately put the plate down. He picked a glass of water.

Sam: "Uh-uh. Put it down. Water also costs thousands in this neighborhood" he put the glass down. My poor baby.

Me: "You're such a bully kodwa Mahlobo" we hugged and I sat back down. He formed a feast and extended it to feast bump with Q. They did and then he sat down.

Sam: "How does food bought with my money taste?"

Mrs Nzuzza: "Please leave my child alone. He bought us a stroller"

Sam: "What is that? Nice pram, where did it come from?"
We laughed.

Mrs Nzuzza: "From Quinton"

Sam: "He bought a pram and a stroller? Where's that stroller?"

Me: "A stroller is a pram"

Sam: "Oh. Why use bombastic words? Dube, did you teach my family that word?"

Q: "No Sir Its my first time hearing that this thing is called a stroller"

He narrowed his eyes at Q. He's too much. Old age is catching up with him in a bad way.

Sam: "Oh I was going to announce that I would love to give 25% shares of my company. Its up to you if you split it or you just leave it like that" he said and lithis cigarette. Just like that? "You're welcome to show your faces there on Friday to sign. You can come with your lawyers to read the contract for you"

Me: "You aren't joking?"

Sam: "No. I'm not doing this for you two. I'm doing itfor my grandchildren."

Q: "We're grateful. For a moment I really thought youwere kidding"

Sam: "You know I don't joke when it comes to business"

The mothers were sitting next to each on a couch smiling at us. There I was not showing enough excitement. This is overwhelming....

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[Lelo]

This house has been feeling cold since Monday evening. Calvin let us have the meeting by ourselves. He was not home when we arrived.

Last night he came back from work and locked himself in his study. I just decided to let him be. He slept there. I only saw him in the morning.

I spent the whole day running around preparing for Yezwe and his friend. He's flying from Greece. I have never been so proud. To think that I even seconded that he goes to business school while his passion has always been fashion. I saw it but I just did not think it was a thing that could take him places like it is now.

While Calvin went crazy about having a gay son. The gay son was flying to Greece for a fashion that would also present his collection.

I finished laying the table. I took the kids to Khethiwe. The best part about discovering this family is that the children are everyone's kids.

Sisipho came down.

Sisipho: "I still feel like he's bringing his lover"

Me: "It doesn't matter"

Sisipho: "Your husband will cause drama." Me:

"He wouldn't dare. Go get the napkins"

Sisipho: "Aunty Emz is now sad I cancelled again"

Me: "Tell her you will come first thing in the morning"

Sisipho: "I did. You know how much she loves sulking" we laughed. She disappeared to the kitchen.

Calvin came in. He greeted.

Calvin: "Special occasion?"

Me: "I sent you a text"

Calvin: "I did not check my phone today" I

heard Sisipho scream.

Me: "Yezwe is coming home and that must be him"

He appeared holding hands with Sisipho followed by the "friend".

Yezwe: "Sanibonani"

Me: "Just come and give me a hug already" he

smiled and we hugged. "I'm so proud of you"

Yezwe: "I wouldn't have done it without your support." He turned to his father. "Mbuyazi"

Calvin: "Yezwe. Tell me the bullshit I read in that magazine isn't true. Why does your friend has makeup on?"

Me: "Calvin please"

Yezwe: "It is actually true. I'm sorry you had to find out that. And this here is Popi, my boyfriend"

I held Calvin's hand tighter.

Calvin: "So you didn't have the audacity to come here alone first and explain yourself. You bring this clown looking human. You're adding salt to the wound, you're rubbing it to my face that you suck dick"

Popi: "Oh no daddy in bae he doesn't. I do the sucking"

Calvin: "Who the hell is talking to you? Get the hell out of my house. Now!"

Me: "Go upstairs please. Give me and your father some space"

They followed each other up. I waited till I heard a door close.

Me: "If you chase him away. I will leave with him"

Calvin: "You wouldn't dare" I looked him deep in the eye.

Me: "Try me Dube. Try me"

I stormed to the kitchen. I heard him groan softly and then dangling keys after. I heard the front door slam. I carried the jug of juice and went to the dining area. I called the kids to come down.

My husband needs deliverance...

[2/26, 10:40] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

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[Yezwe]

My father is the least of my worries. I've always known he would react this way when the news

resurface. I know he loves me and he is just angry. Sooner or later he'll come around.

The supper was good. My mom has always been my firm support system. She was all ears about how Greece was, what am I making on, how long have I been with Popi. A mother's love shall remain priceless.

I was woken up by the smell of fresh toast. I felt a gently kiss on my lips. I rubbed my eyes and smiled. I sat up right.

Me: "You were high yesterday, weren't you?" He placed the tray on my thighs.

Popi: "Yes and I'm sorry. I needed courage to face your father. You did not describe him to be the friendly type. And when I said I do the sucking, it felt like the right thing to say to save you but that was just marijuana speaking"

Me: "Next time please don't smoke it. My father is a hard core Zulu man and the last thing he needs to hear is someone admitting to be the one who suck his son's penis"

Popi: "I'm sorry. Should I apologize to him?"

Me: "If you can" he smiled. "Nothing extra please Popi."

Popi: "I'll send him a card" He looked into the drawer and found one with a pen. He took a seat before the vanity "Dear Mr father inlaw. I am sorry for what I said last night. That was disrespectful of me. Apologies...what's his favorite clan name?" I chuckled.

Me: "Mbuyazi"

Popi: "Mbuyazi omuhle. Goodbye dad" I laughed.

Me: "Be serious for once. Remove that omuhle, he'll think you're flirting with him"

Popi: "What if it softens him up?"

Me: "It won't. Nothing softens that man up. You just got to give him time"

Popi: "Okay. Are we still meeting with my mom?" Me:

"Yes. Why would you even ask?"

Popi: "I don't know. Maybe you don't feel like it" I

shook my head.

Me: "Your mom is who I'd want to meet up with even on my death bed"

That woman is so welcoming. Unfortunately her husband passed on last year, Popi says he also didn't have a problem with his sexuality. I would've loved to meet him.

Popi: "That's all because you both are always teaming up against me and my happiness"

Me: "On facts only"

I finished eating and got up. I kissed his cheek. "Thank you for the lovely breakfast. Where do you want us to go on this remaining week?" He pouted.

Popi: "Do you really have to go?"

Me: "Yes. Family time is valued so much at home you know that. And I've been so distant. I only attended daddy Chris's wedding out of all occasions that took place this year. It wouldn't be fair of me to not be home for festive"

Popi: "I understand but you know I wish you weren't

going." I hugged him in.

Me: "It'll only be for 2 weeks"

Popi: "That's a lot without you" I tilted his head and kissed him.

Me: "You won't even notice I'm gone"

He smiled and James Aurther Say you won't let go came on the speaker came on. We danced to it. Asmentally unstable as he is I still love him. He has a huge impact on my life....

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[Tyler]

It feels good to be back home with my people. I flew straight back here after getting Khethelo out.

It broke my heart to see her cry that much. I need to start working on her case as early as possible. She is not going to jail for something she did not do, even if she did it. She's not going to jail.

Khethiwe: "Babe!" Oh we are back home, Pretoria.

Me: "Closet" she got in.

Khethiwe: "Are you going somewhere?"

Me: "Yes we are going somewhere."

Khethiwe: "Where?"

Me: "Breakfast and we go to the salon"

Khethiwe: "We can't take him to such a place. Salons have gems"

Me: "We'll drop you off and go check out that car"

Khethiwe: "Sounds good but I also wanna see the car"

Me: "We'll go to the park then while waiting for you"

Khethiwe: "Okay let us bath"

Me: "He's already" she frowned-smiled and came closer to me.

Khethiwe: "You're doing very well daddy. I'm proud of you" I grinned.

Me: "Thank you my love. Have you forgiven me?"

Khethiwe: "I forgave you the first day you came. I'm the happiest woman alive Nyamazane. I wouldn't

have my life any other way than it is now."

Me: "I've never seen you this happy to be honest."

Khethiwe: "When God answers your prayers it shows."

Me: "I see you're even considering being a housewife" she laughed. Her laughter is what I'd rather listen to everyday.

Khethiwe: "Quinton was saying that. I would really love to raise my son until he's 6 months atleast untill go back to work"

Me: "You're lucky you're Quinton's favorite" Khethiwe: "Phela if I get fired. I will be your PA"

Me: "Never. You want me to lose focus, you know your devil's agent side resurfaces without warning" she laughed and pinched me.

Khethiwe: "That's because you're irresistible myhoney" she bit her lower lip.

Me: "This is what I'm talking about" I picked her up and pinned her against the wall. She giggled, we shared a slow passionate kiss....

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[Yoli]

My phone rang as I looked for my car keys on the parking lot. I pulled it out first and checked the callerID. She must think I abandoned her. I answered.

Me: "Hey babe"

Khethelo: "Where are you?"

Me: "I'm at Umhlanga. What's up" she was whispering.

Khethelo: "I did something. I need you." She sniffed.

Me: "Where are you? Do you need me to come get you?"

Khethelo: "Are you at to work? I would love to see you"

Me: "I could make an exception"

Khethelo: "Okay please meet me at Southern sun in 2hrs"

Me: "Okay"

I hung and reached my keys. I got in my car and face timed Kylie.

Kylie: "Hey God mother"

Me: "How are you doing my people?"

Kylie: "We are good. Just waiting on your visit"

Me: "I will see you guys on Saturday I promise. So its official. I just signed" she screamed in excitement.

Kylie: "Congratulations baby. Keep securing that bag honey so you'll have to retire at 30 and travel the world"

Me: "Thank you baby. I so wish I could."

Kylie: "You will. You're on the right path. I'm proud of you"

Me: "Thank you. Stop you gonna make me cry"

Kylie: "I'm thinking about how tough you had it growing up but look at you now. You're a living testimony that God always has a plan you just got to be patient. You are patient, grace and mercy shall follow you everytime" I pulled a tissue and dried my tears.

Me: "It always seems unreal. You know I still pinch myself at night thinking I will wake up from this too good to be true dream" she laughed.

Kylie: "You better stop. This is you, this is your time to shine moghel."

Me: "You always make cry. Bye, pass my love to extra cheese" she laughed. She always wanted extra cheese on anything she ate.

Kylie: "Please leave my baby alone."

Me: "Pass my love to Ray"

Kylie: "I will babe. Go celebrate with hubby in style since you do not grown ups stuff" I laughed. I haven't told anyone that we've popped the cherry.

Me: "Yeah whatever. Bye"

I hung up and took a deep breath. Ben phone calls are always longer so I ring him up and drive off heading to Hubby's office. I couldn't take either of them with me cause, Work.

Ben: "Yoli's bestie speaking. Hello"

Me: "No need to flatter me. How are you bestie?"

Ben: "I will be good when you tell me the deal assigned and sealed"

Me: "As you say my baby" he screamed. My friends are for keeps honestly.

Ben: "Q must buy you a new dick, you deserve it baby! When are we celebrating?"

Me: "Not today of course. I will be at the parent's house to inform them"

Ben: "Ugh. I wanna spoil you rotten on that day we will be able to celebrate."

Me: "I can't wait"

Ben: "Are you and Q planning on making babies soon?"

Me: "Why?"

Ben: "He bought a loveseat and a freaky cross"

Me: "Do you see every transaction made by these people?"

Ben: "If it exceeds R5000 yes ma'am. So are you planning on making grandkids for Mr Nzuza" I

laughed. His tone when he said Mr Nzuza.

Me: "Ofcourse. We're getting married in a few months"

Ben: "I should teach you woman on top. I do not want you embarrassing me" I laughed.

Me: "Please leave me alone."

Ben: "I will have something delivered for you. Wear it tonight and see if he won't get tempted. Its a new collection and trust me women recommend it"

Me: "As long as it is not complicated to put on"

Ben: "Lingeries require educated people. It is not complicated for educated people"

Me: "I'm a rural girl"

Ben: "An educated one." Oh I'm here. Me:

"I'm at Hubby's office now. Bye boo"Ben:

"Don't forget to suck his penis"

Me: "Ben!"

Ben: "I know the hoe in you wants to. Bye!" He

laughed and hung up. He's such a character.

I found a parking spot. I parked and headed inside. This is my third time coming here. I do not like how everyone around here always wants to give me that special treatment. It doesn't feel right.

I greeted the receptionist and headed straight to Quinton's office before any of those in sight try to offer me coffee or to hold my bag.

I found him on the call. I whispered he should continue. I noticed a portrait of me made of mosaic on the left side wall. There's only a couch and it hangs over just above it. I have never seen this picture of me before.

I am in the kitchen with a bowl of ice in my hand. I am laughing.

This was last week.

Q: "It was delivered this morning" he said hugging me from behind and kidding my neck. I put my hands over his.

Me: "It's beautiful"

Q: "You're beautiful" I blushed. "How did it?"

Me: "Very well thanks. Its official" I took a deep breath and turned to face him.

Q: "I'm proud of you." He perked my lips and let go. He went back to his desk "What kind of cake would you like?"

Me: "Now?" he picked up his office phone.Q:

"Yes."

Me: "Oh I'll have whatever you're having"

I took off my heels and blazer and relaxed on the couch.

Me: "Have you spoken to Khule today?"I said after he got off the call telling whomever to bring in champagne, cakes and snacks.

Q: "No. I've been trying him but his phone goes straight to voicemail."

Me: "Oh"

Q: "Did he call you?"

Me: "No. I was just asking since we hadn't heard how

did he go"

Q: "I called Bonga he said he hasn't heard from him since Friday last week"

He picked my legs up and sat down and placed them on top of him and gave me a foot massage.

I battled in my head if I should tell him about Khethelo's call or not. All I know is that I was feeling a bit of concern about Khethelo's call.

The celebration package arrived.

He popped the champagne and poured it into our glasses. He handed me mine. He raised his, I followed the leader.

Q: "To more good deals and good life" I chuckled shyly. I don't know what is happening with me today but my shy persona is taking over.

Me: "To more good deals and good life" we drank to that. He took my hand and kissed it.

Q: "I love you mama Dube." Me:

"I love you more Mbuyazi"

He smiled. Revealing his beautiful set of teeth. I wonder who did they inherit these teeth from because all them have beautiful white teeth.

I reached for the huge slice of cake. It looked very appetizing. He shook his head smiling and laid his head on my lap. It tasted as beautiful as it looked....

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[Khethelo]

2 hours later

I stood by the balcony and watched the waves and let the sea breeze hit my bare skin. I almost told the lady I want the room on 1st floor. This is much better and very calming. I needed it. After what I went through this morning I needed something as calming.

"Mfazi where are you?"

Me: "Balcony babes. On top of the bed is your bikini. I don't know if I got the right size"

Yoli: "Are we having a party for 2?" I chuckled. Me:

"Something like that"

She appeared after a couple of minutes. She has such a beautiful chubby body.

Yoli: "It fits." She sat down. "This is a beautiful view" Me: "Indeed it is"

Yoli: "I'm gonna die of champagne today" she said pouring it to the glass. I chuckled.

Me: "I'd have ordered alcohol but you might be pregnant so..." she laughed.

Yoli: "Are you and Khule speaking?" I took a deep breath.

Me: "Yes. He slept at my place last night and we had sex" she gasped. I took a sip of my remaining champagne.

Yoli: "You don't look happy"

Me: "Ofcourse I'm not" I groaned. "I'm mad."

Yoli: "Start from the beginning please. Didn't he go to Jo'burg?"

Me: "No. I wish he did."

Yoli: "Why are you stressed?"

Me: "He found out I terminated pregnancy"

Yoli: "You what?"

Me: "Yes! We're divorced for Christ's sake and I was scared it might not be his since his sermen was saidto be not active anymore, apperantly it is" she frowned.

Yoli: "I don't understand"

Me: "I found myself a one night stand after the news came out. We used protection but you know things happen"

Yoli: "I don't know what to say." She paused. "Howdid Khule find out?"

Me: "His people got hold of my hospital records. Wefought, it got bad he ended up strangling me" she widened her eyes.

Yoli: "Are you okay? Are you going to report him?"

Me: "I am okay. I won't. I don't think I'll ever see him again. He cried Yoli. I feel awful. He said I better tellhis kids he was a good man and then he left."

Yoli: "Don't cry. You were doing what you thought

was best" she was rubbing my shoulder.

Me: "Well it wasn't. If you can please ask Quinton to speak to him."

Yoli: "I will. He also can't get him on the phone but I'm sure he'll call him eventually"

Me: "I wish to return time." She hugged me.

Yoli: "I know baby. I'm sorry"

He said a lot of things like he's about to die. He wouldn't kill himself, would he?...

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[Calvin]

Pearl peeped her head in.

Pearl: "There is someone here for you Sir but he doesn't have an appointment" That must be Mkhonto.

Me: "Let him in"

I got up to pour whiskey. Indeed it was him. Me:

"You may take a seat Makhedama" he did. I

handed him a glass. He grinned.

Mkhonto: "Ain't a thing changed." He said swirling the glass around.

Me: "At all. How have you been ndoda yamadoda?"

Mkhonto: "I've been very good."

Me: "Are you doing well in catching criminals?" He laughed.

Mkhonto: "Ofcourse. Do you not read newspapers anymore?"

Me: "No I'm a very busy man lately."

Mkhonto: "I am the best thing that ever happened to the police department"

Me: "That's what I want to hear. You never thanked me for making sure you make it to the cabinet"

Mkhonto: "I know. I shall forever be indebted to you"

Me: "No need" he smiled. "Cause I also need a favor from you"

Mkhonto: "As long as it is not beyond what I can do"

Me: "Not at all" I pulled an envelope out of a pile of files. "Inside here there are details of a docket I want to disappear. Its in Durban, Brea police station. I want you to get to it before it is moved somewhere else"

Mkhonto: "Madonna I-"

Me: "I don't want no excuses Mhlongo. If it is not lost by Saturday, you and my brother's wife will have one thing in common: being charged for murder"

Mkhonto: "Its not easy Calvin"

Me: "So was killing your competitor. Just get it done" he sighed. I took a seat on my chair and opened my laptop.

He picked the envelope and walked out. That's more like it.

The door opened again after some time. Whose birthday is it?

Me: "Stand right there. Who is this and what are these for?"

Pearl: "Its a delivery for you sir"

Me: "I did not order those. Please check the receiver again"

Delivery guy: "Mr Calvin Dube"

Me: "Okay please place put it over there. Who sent them?"

Pearl: "Unknown" I signed and they walked out. I got up and looked for a card amongst the flowers. I found it.

'Dear Mr father inlaw. I am sorry for what I said last night. That was very disrespectful of me. Apologies Mbuyazi omuhle. Toodles dad'

I'm being tested. I reached for my phone.

Yezwe: "Nyamazane"

Me: "Come get this circus your boyfriend, girlfriend or whatever that make up wearing man sent here."

Yezwe: "I'm not following"

Me: "Get to my office right now!" I hung up.

My office looks like a fucking balloon shop or a cemetery or a hospital ward.

Dammit it must be those heels that drive him nuts...

[2/26, 10:43] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

46

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[Yezwe]

I arrived at dad's office. He was not in. My eyes landed on flowers and balloons shaped in every possible shape there is. I swear to God if these are from Poppy I'm gonna lose it. I looked for a card to no avail. I took my phone out and called him.

Popi: "Hey. I was about to call you"

Me: "And tell me you did the opposite of what I asked you?"

Popi: "What are you talking about?"

Me: "The things you sent my dad dammit! I told you to not do anything drastic but no you didn't listen."

Popi: "Calm down. I am trying here okay"

Me: "Well don't. I will deal with my dad on my own. This isn't how you 'try' with him. A simple apology card would've been enough"

Popi: "Is he mad?"

Me: "What do you think?"

Popi: "Oh my I will send him another card apologizing"

Me: "Don't" I hung up. He really doesn't understand who my father is. I took a deep breath and went out to see if I could get anyone to take out these things. I found 3 guys about to get on the lift.

Me: "Gents. Howzit? Would you please help me with somethings here inside?" They nodded. I led the way back in. "You can take these I'm sure you all have girlfriends and they would like some flowers and balloons"

One of them: "Are you for real?" I nodded. "Thank you Jnr"

They took everything with them.

I decided to look around. Its a beautiful office, very

spacious.

Everything is golden, he thinks he's royalty. If I could sell all this furniture I swear I would get about a million.

The right wall is decorated with his family pictures. I stepped closer. I chuckled, every picture of our milestones is on this wall. I saw a picture of us we took at the school grounds when I was 16. I had just scored 3 goals. The pride on his face was priceless.

I smiled alone. He's is not perfect but he is the best father we all could ever ask for. He's always been a busy man but he's never skipped even a single event we ever invited him for at school, unless he was out of the country of course.

I startled at the sound of a slamming door. He walked to his table and hit the file on it.

Dad: "Bloody Mthimkhulu"

Me: "What did he do?"

Dad: "He walked out on me. Can you believe him? He just decides to ditch me for Nkabinde

telecommunications."

Me: "Is there anything I can do to help?"

Dad: "What? Are you gonna design new underpants that will fit his little balls?"

Me: "That is offensive. You're talking to a business school honours graduate and I trust my negotiation skills are 9/10" he gulped down his whiskey.

Dad: "You've never negotiated a day in your life. How would you know that?"

Me: "Dad fashion design is also a business. We negotiate from time to time"

Dad: "Where did your boyfriend's circus go?"

Me: "I had it taken out...look dad, I'm sorry. He's-"

Dad: "Tell him to never ever send anything to me I'm not his friend"

Me: "Will do. Should I schedule a meeting with Mthimkhulu?"

Dad: "If you think you can change his mind then go ahead" he took a seat. "I want to work now. Make

yourself scarce"

Me: "Yes Sir. Have a lovely day"

I picked a petal from the floor and walked out..

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[Yoli]

I woke up with my head pounding. I reached for my phone. Damn. I'm late for work. I quickly got up and made the bed.

The door opened and Quinton got in, with a long face. We fought yesterday. I don't know why but suddenly he has a problem with me drinking. He's still mad cause if he wasn't he would've woken me up.

Me: "Morning"

Q: "Where were you yesterday?" The fight still continues.

Me: "Hilton hotel"

Q: "With?" I took a deep sigh.

Me: "Khethelo"

Q: "Celebrating that she murdered my brother's baby?"

Me: "She murdered nobody and I take it you've reached your brother. I'm glad to know he's okay"

Q: "I don't want you near her" I chuckled.

Me: "Why not?"

Q: "I don't need to explain why. Just stay the hell away from Khethelo"

Me: "Not that I am favoring her for doing what she did but that it is none of my concern or yours. She has a right to do whatever the hell she wants, its herbody and besides, nobody wanna have babies with their ex husband babe"

Q: "Are you listening to yourself?"

Me: "Yes. And I don't understand why are you so mad. You weren't this mad when your brother spent a night in Glade's bed...oh no, nights. My bad" he stared at me briefly.

Q: "Everyone is flying here tomorrow. We are no longer going to Estcourt. We'll spend Christmas

here" he reached for the door knob.

Me: "Wait wait. What do you mean everyone?"

Q: "I mean everyone" he closed the door behind him.

Is he kidding me? What am I gonna do with a housefull of people while we're on bad terms?

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[Khule]

I ignored all the greetings from the employees. Itstoo early to be friendly.

I found Nkazi waiting for the lift.

Me: "Nkazi"

Nkazi: "Mr Dube...uhm good morning sir"

Me: "Good morning how are you?"

Nkazi: "I'm okay sir how is yourself?"

Me: "I'm perfect"

The lift opened. My eyes met with Bonga's. We stepped in.

Me: "Just the man I needed to see. Mbuyazi" we

shook hands.

Bonga: "I was worried sick about you. We've been looking for you"

Me: "You weren't looking enough otherwise you'd have found me"

Bonga: "You know I did. Nkazi please ask sis Dee to fix us breakfast" the lift chimed.

Nkazi: "Yes Sir" the door part and we walked out. We arrived into his office.

Me: "Do you redesign it every month?" I said taking a seat on the visitor's chair.

Bonga: "It's all Nkazi. You know I would work in a storeroom if I had to"

Me: "Yeah I know. I need an office"

Bonga: "For?"

Me: "I'm coming back"

Bonga: "You're...you're claiming back your position?"

Me: "What do you take me for? I don't know what I would be but I just wanna see myself working"

Bonga: "We're closing today Mbuyazi"

Me: "Then I'll be the last man standing. I'm pretty sure there's a lot that needs to be done here"

Bonga: "Baba? Is everything okay?"

Me: "What do you mean boy? Everything is perfect. I am perfect and this place is about to be perfect baby. I want my office all ready and shining on Monday" I got up and whistled my way out. I met Nkazi on the hallway I took a Russian and proceeded walk to the lift...

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[Khethiwe]

He finished hooking on my bra. He's very helpful lately and I couldn't be happier.

Me: "Not that I'm against going to Durban but is it necessary? I mean Quinton's house is pretty huge but to have everyone there? It's a bit too much"

Tyler: "As long as we have a room and there's food"

and PlayStation then I'm good"

Me: "Babe! What about Jason and Emi's damages?"

Tyler: "That will be taken care of next year"

Me: "Oh so Jason can come to Durban?"

Tyler: "To say what?"

Me: "Uhm hello? To see his baby mama"

Tyler: "Exactly. Not his wife so he must stay the hellaway"

Me: "You guys Emi is about to be a mother"

Tyler: "Abd you know she and the baby do not needthat ugly Jason" I laughed.

Me: "Would you feel good if Banzi's baby mama kepty'all away from your grandson?"

Tyler: "We are the Dubes. Nobody deprives us of anything. When are we getting married?"

Me: "When you're ready for commitment"

I finally finished dressing up. I look amazing. Newhair and new nails. I got myself a keeper here.

Tyler: "I am"

Me: "I don't want us jumping into marriage and then boom you fall and accidentally land on someone's vagina" he chuckled.

Tyler: "That would never ever happen I swear"

Me: "We honestly do not need marriage to prove we really are in love. If we are in this forever then I don't see the need for marriage"

Tyler: "Mmmh" his phone rang. He excused himself. He sat down and started applying make up...

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[Khethelo]

I felt like shit. I got home last night and drank again. I tried reaching him the whole night to no luck.

I rolled over to the other side I fell. Great.

I stayed in the same position for a couple of minutes. I heard a door creak open.

"Hey beautiful" oh heavenly father no. Another one night stand?

Me: "Who the hell are you? And what are you doing here?"

Him: "You don't recall a thing about last night?"

Me: "Did we?" He chuckled. I was fully dressed but you may never know with this gender.

Him: "Oh no. We met at the parking lot you fell. I took you here and went back to my room after putting you to bed"

Me: "Ohh. Thank you. You live here?"

Him: "Yes I do. I brought you breakfast I hope you don't throw up. Do you have painkillers?"

Me: "Uhm yeah. Thank you. I'd have slept in the parking lot. For a moment I thought I got home and drank again"

Him: "You might have cause I saw you walking out again after 8 then when you got back you could barely stand. I don't know how you drove that drunk"

Me: "Thank you so much. I don't know what came over me"

Him: "We all have those days. Take care"

Me: "Thank you once again"

He turned around and walked off. I took a deep breath. Alcohol is cancelled in my life. I do not remember walking out again, let alone driving.

I went to the bathroom to bath first.

I found my phone ringing when I walked back in. Oh he's alive.

Me: "Hi"

Khule: "I found your missed calls"

Me: "Yeah. I wanted to check if you're okay"

Khule: "Don't ever call me."

Me: "Whoa I wanted to know if you're okay" silence.

"Hello?" I moved the phone off. He hung up on me

I called him. He did not pick up.

'I'm done with you. Don't ever contact me or wave at me when you see me in public. Murderer'

I felt a huge lump on my throat. I swallowed it and tossed the phone on the bed. My eyes burned with

tears. How could he say this to me?

I stared at my reflection on the mirror. Am I really that much of a bad person?

My phone beeped. I wiped my tears and reached for it.

'Thank the lucky stars. Your docket is missing.

There's no longer a case'

It was from Tyler. They definitely had something to do with that. I am not even going to entertain it....

•••

[Quinton]

The office phone rang as I walked in from the meeting. I took it.

Me: "Dube's office"

Bonga: "Baba"

Me: "Boy. Is everything okay?"

Bonga: "What's wrong with bab Khule?"

Me: "I don't know. Have you seen him?"

Bonga: "Yes. He was here this morning. He said he wants an office. He will be working"

Me: "That's crazy. We're closing today"

Bonga: "Trust me I told him but he said he will work" Me:

"I'll speak to him. How's Happy and the kids?"

Bonga: "They are good thanks. How's mom?" I chuckled.

Me: "Your mother is good just getting up to no good"

Bonga: "As long as she won't get arrested" Me: "I

don't know son. Let me call your father" Bonga:

"Okay. Have a good one"

Me: "You do too"

I hung up. I felt someone hug me from behind. Her scent hit my nostrils I got goosebumps.

Me: "How are you Mrs Dube?" Yoli:

"I'm not good at all. I'm sorry" Me:

"For?"

Yoli: "For talking back and saying all that I said" It turned to face her.

Me: "How sorry are you?" I smirked. She laughed.

Yoli: "Don't start with me. I am tired I just did a linen laundry"

Me: "You mean the machines did?"

Yoli: "I put them out to dry. That is too much" Me:

"Well you enjoy it"

Yoli: "I don't"

Me: "Then why don't you have a maid?"

Yoli: "I don't wanna seem lazy"

Me: "FYI my mother had 6 maids"

Yoli: "Really? They why aren't there any maids in all these Dube houses?"

Me: "Because they are all house wives. I really don't mind if you want 10 or 50 maids"

Yoli: "I will look for one in January"

Me: "I suggest you get 4 chefs and 4 maids. Its

festive, people need jobs. With everyone coming here I believe you don't want to make breakfast, lunch and dinner for over 10 people"

Yoli: "I really can't. I need rest"

Me: "They you better start making those calls. I'm also sorry about last night and this morning. I thought you were out with strangers and I'm just mad at Khethelo."

Yoli: "Its okay" we hugged and briefly kissed.

Me: "You may invade my office all you want. I am going to a meeting."

Yoli: "You're the best. Can I eat your ice cream?"

Me: "Yes ma'am." I kissed her cheek and headed out...

•••

[Emi]

Lihle: "Is it necessary to pack all these? I mean we could get to Durban and go shopping"

Me: "Its too hot I won't have the energy"

Lihle: "Pack a few things. I'll go for shopping"

Me: "You will make it to the headlines: 'Dube princess collapses' we laughed.

Lihle: "I won't. I'm not pregnant."

Baby walked in.

Me: "My personal person" he put the takeaways on top of the dresser.

Jason: "Hey bambino. You look cute" Me:

"Thank you baby. All thank to Lihle"

Jason: "Thank you God mother. I'm also coming to Durban"

Lihle: "Let me go check on the pots" she rushed out. Me:

"Jay"

Jason: "I'm not coming to your brother's house. I will stay at a hotel" I sighed in relief.

Me: "Okay. I'm glad you'll be closer"

Jason: "Yeah"

He held me by my chin and kissed me...

•••

[Yoli]

I don't know what I would've been if I did not take Q's advise to get chefs and ladies to help around here.

Everyone arrived in the noon.

The house is buzzing. Its laughter from every corner.

Khethelo is the only one missing and it's very awkward.

Kat, Lelo, Khethiwe, and our husbands remained at the lounge after eating while everybody went to their rooms.

These men love board games. Khule seemed different. He was dressed unusually even. He did not say much. He was focused on the beers.

Calvin: "So you invited Yezwe and excluded his boyfriend?"

Q: "This is a family gathering bafo"

Calvin: "I hope I will not be expected to invite him over in future"

Lelo: "Don't start please"

Calvin: "Do you know what he sent me on Thursday?"

Balloons and flowers you'd swear I was fighting for my life in coma. The card wrote: Dear Mr father inlaw" we all laughed.

I love that poppy already.

Kat: "As his mother in-laws we will welcome him with warm hands"

Calvin: "No. You should hold a prayer and cast these demons out"

Khethiwe: "Its not demons brother Cal. Its who they are. God made them that way"

Calvin: "To wear heels and red lipsticks?"

Lelo: "You're so hard headed"

Chris: "Keep it down guys" He increased the TV volume.

"As the new reports come in. A new witness has been found. He also took part in the heist that took place in Fourways at the African bank on the 5th of March in 2010 where 15 people were left deceased. The witness will be kept in police custody while the state gathers the information. 2 people have been

arrested as a result that they must've been there.."

Quinton changed the channel. He got up and walked out. Chris followed. Khule too. Tyler picked his phone and walked out too. Calvin was the last one to walk out.

We looked at each other.

Kat: "I think we should call it a night" I got up .first.

Me: "Yeah. Good night ladies"

I climbed up the stairs. I got to my bedroom. I put on a jacket and went down on my knees to pray....

[2/26, 10:46] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

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[Calvin]

I leaned by the wall watching them all smoke. Even

Tyler.

Me: "Okay wrap it up and give me some attention"

Khule: "Not now Cal"

Me: "Turn around and tell me you had nothing to do with it"

Quinton turned.

Q: "I'm not much of a liar Dube."

Me: "Damn you boys!" I looked at Tyler.

Tyler: "I was not involved"

Me: "Then why are you smoking?"

Tyler: "Because I will be expected to represent them of which I won't"

Chris: "Nobody is going to jail"

Me: "Turn around and tell me why because they have an eye witness and 2 people have been arrested so far?"

Chris: "You aren't helping. We need time to think."

Tyler: "Let me go sleep. Mphangiseni did tell you

boys you'll reap what you sow"

Khule: "Shut the hell up! You have no fucking idea why we did it"

Tyler: "Oh really? You were greedy little bastards that didn't want to listen to your father" Khule flew to him and punched him. I rushed to them and held Tyler away while Chris and Q held Khule.

Tyler: "It still doesn't change the fact that you're going to jail" he freed away from me and went inside.

Me: "Go get some rest. We'll get to the bottom of this in the morning"

I guess they didn't get that cause they all lit another cigarettes and smoked. I went back inside.

Is there ever peace in this home?

•••

[Quinton]

She jumped and almost broke a glass of water in her hand.

Me: "Is everything okay?"

Yoli: "Yeah...everything's fine I just...wasn't expecting you to be up already"

Me: "What are those?"

Yoli: "Anxiety pills. I didn't have a good sleep"

Me: "Yeah I figured" I slid my hands into pyjama pants. She pulled them out.

Yoli: "I have to go bath the kids"

She poured the water into the sink and walked out. I took a deep sigh and took a piss.

I walked out and took my phone and called Charles. Charles: "Zebra"

Me: "Get a quiet place. Where the hell are you this early anyway"

Charles: "I'm having a get together. Ass and boobs" Me:

"Well fuck that. I need you to get me Mpisi Asap" Charles:

"Get him? How?"

Me: "Charles. I need Mpisi here by the end of today"

Charles: "Is everything okay boss?"

Me: "Just get me Mpisi and stop asking me shit. And yourself too"

Charles: "Nyamazane"

I hung up. Khule walked in.

Khule: "Motto motto's brother is the witness"

Me: "Brian?"

Khule: "Yes" I clenched my jaws. We are doomed.Me:
"We're fucked"

Khule: "We are" he's computer genius. He helped us plan that heist. He kept the bank footage disk of thatday.

Me: "We're stupid"

Khule: "He probably ran out of money and flew backto the county"

Me: "That son of a bitch. He's definitely working withMotto motto"

Khule: "What would he gain from all this? He'll go tojail too"

Me: "They probably made a deal with the police. Who are the 2 suspects?"

Khule: "Haven't found out yet."

Me: "We're gonna need most of our old contacts. If it comes out that I built all my empire with that money I'm finished man"

Khule: "We're-" Yoli walked in.

Yoli: "Breakfast is ready"

Me: "We're coming"

She walked towards the closet. I put on a t-shirt and followed Khule out...

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[Chris]

Every time we think we've made it to the new peaceful era something always got to come up.

Me: "Have I told you how beautiful your wives look today?" They all look at and laugh.

Khethiwe: "I know you're about to ask for something Dube but thank you" we all laugh.

Calvin: "Is that how bad we are?"

Katlego: "Yes. Only Tyler compliments out of the blue"

Khule: "We're so wrong then. Pardon us. Thank you for the beautiful children too"

Lelo: "It's not like we had a choice." They laugh even harder

Katlego: "Have you guys heard about the male birth control?"

Calvin: "We do not need those"

Katlego: "You do actually because our birth controls are non-existent to your sperm" Yoli choked. I passed her water while Quinton pat her back.

Khule: "Are you okay Mamshazi?"

Yoli: "Yeah I'm good. Just this egg went down the wrong pipe"

We ate silently. The intercom buzzed I was the one to get up first.

It was our guys.

Me: "Would you guys mind borrowing us this floor?"

Lelo: "With pleasure. We are gonna go grab some swimsuits"

Khethiwe: "We are?"

Lelo: "Yes. We spoke about this last night"

Kat: "Side effects of having a little one. Let's go. I'm paying"

She gave me a kiss and they walked away.

Khule went to tell the helping ladies to go upstairs. The guys walked in. We exchanged greetings.

Me: "I believe you know who we are"

Carter: "We do and very honoured to be working with you?"

Me: "Do you have good news for us?"

Carter: "Yes. Brian Nzima is the witness and he is kept in Police custody in East London"

Khule: "Come back with his head tomorrow morning"

Carter: "Uh... its not as easy but-"

Quinton: "Didn't you just hear a word he said? We want his head"

Carter: "He's watched by the hawks"

Me: "Are they immortal?"

Carter: "No Sir"

Me: "I thought as much. Who are the 2 suspects?"

Carter: "Haven't gotten the names yet but they were definitely there"

Me: "There was only 6 of us and none of us has been arrested"

Carter: "Could've been a mislead"

Calvin: "Too much babbling. Get lost and bring us that head"

He nodded and they bid us goodbye.

Khule: "I'm signing the company off to Bonga"

Me: "Don't tell me you're already throwing in the towel"

Tyler: "That is for the best actually" Me:

"What do you know cheese boy?"

Tyler: "I'm a lawyer by profession Dr Dube. And The Dube construction isn't at stake here but Dube logistics and everything that you and Quinton own is. Khule could say he bought his houses with the money he made at dad's company but you guys..."

Quinton: "What do you suggest we do?"

Tyler: "Sign your things over to Bonga or Yoli...nopenot Yoli you have to be married first"

Calvin: "What if you guys turn yourselves in?" We all looked at him. "And negotiated. How much did you score?"

Me: "Millions"

Calvin: "Say you're willing to pay back that money" Quinton:

"And wake the deceased?"

Calvin: "Shit there's that. I'm so nervous. I feel like there's no way out of this one. If they have the person who planned the whole thing then its bad"

Me: "You aren't helping"

Khule: "We'll burn down all magistrate courts and police stations if we have to. We just need Brian dead"

Quinton: "We need that nutcase Jason to hack into the states system and format everything"

Khule: "That isn't a piece of cake Quinton"

Q: "Do you have something better in mind? Maybe if weren't high on cocaine the only thing we'd be worried about is paying back that money and serve less than we should behind bars"

Khule: "So now its all my fault?"

Us: "Yes!"

Me: "It was supposed to be smooth, harmless but you and Mpisi decided otherwise. 2 cops included. Do you think we'll serve less than 25 years?"

Khule: "I don't have time for this" he grabbed his car keys and walked out.

Quinton thud the coffee table.

I took a seat on the couch and buried my face on my hands.
This might be the end of us...

•••

[Khethiwe]

They were too carefree. I can't be the only who saw what happened last night. I had no courage to ask Tyler what is going on.

Lelo: "Mama ka Banzi" she shouted I startled.Me:

"mmh?"

Kat: "Where are you?"

Me: "I'm just thinking if Banzi is changed"

Yoli: "I know you're not. I'm also concerned too" I frowned at her. "The bank heist."

Lelo: "What about it?"

Yoli: "I think they had something to do with it"

Me: "If they are we are fucked"

Kat: "By what?"

Me: "Life Katlego. If there's a witness that means

they're definitely going to jail"

Kat: "That will prove how much we got this. You heard those weak ass compliments? That was the way to tell us they are going away"

Me: "I won't be able to handle it"

Yoli: "Me too. I can't even look Q in the eye"

Lelo: "Well you better be able"

Me: "15 people deceased? No guys that's too much"

Kat: "Well that's the kind of men we chose amongst the billions. And I highly doubt Tyler was involved in any way. He was still a child"

Me: "You may never know Katlego this is a very weird family"

Yoli: "So the thing of their sperm being strong is a real thing?" We looked at her and laughed.

Kat: "Have you guys popped the cherry?"

Yoli: "Yes and I regret it. What if I'm already pregnant?"

Lelo: "Is that a problem?"

Yoli: "Yes. He might go to jail. I don't wanna go through that pain of being pregnant while my fiancée is locked up"

Me: "I think we should fast. Nothing beats prayer" Yoli:

"God would probably laugh"

Lelo: "Stop it. As long as they haven't told us that that means they are handling it"

Yoli: "You should've seen the look on the twins' face. They aren't handling it, trust me"

Kat: "That makes the Dubai collapse, sweetheart" Me:

"There's a witness"

Yoli: "Yes"

Lelo and Kat looked at us with disappointed faces.

Kat: "Maybe you guys should take a vacation to Dubai because wow, this is no time for your negative energy"

We shrugged and sipped on our cocktails...

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3 days later

[Quinton]

She got in with shopping bags. Sikelela ran to me. I picked her up. Sisekelo just held on to Yoli's dress. We aren't best of friends lately.

Me: "How was shopping?"

Sikelela: "Chips"

Me: "Oh really? Isn't mommy the best?" She giggled and kissed me and I put her down.

Me: "Go to mam Lelo. She has candy"

They cheered and ran away. I took a deep breath. Me:

"Hey"

Yoli: "Hi"

Me: "Didn't they give you hard time?"

Yoli: "No. I'll go pack these" I grabbed her arm before she could take one step further.

Me: "How long are you going to act like this. What is really wrong with you?"

Yoli: "There's nothing wrong with me. I'm just waiting for you to man up and actually tell me why were there guns in my house, why did you come home bruised the night that a detective who's handling the bank heist case was killed?"

Me: "You don't think I did it, do you?"

Yoli: "With all this scheming, strange men outside our gate, midnight meetings with your brother. I honestly wouldn't put it past you Quinton"

She snatched her arm away and walked up the staircase. I rubbed my face frustrated.

I took my phone and called Khule.

"We're here" I turned around and ended the call.

Me: "I wasn't expecting you this soon"

Chris: "That judge is kak"

Me: "Shhh keep it down"

I led the way upstairs to my office.

Tyler: "Are you trying to smoke yourself to death?" He snatched away my cigarette.

Me: "It helps me think"

Khule: "There are cameras at Detective Nkosi's hotel" I looked at Chris.

Chris: "It was hidden."

Me: "You told me the coast was clear man!"

Chris: "That's what I thought too Okay? I wouldn't have known there's 2 more fucking hid on the lightbulbs"

Me: "Do you know what that means?"

The deafening sound of helicopter made us cover our ears and then we heard loud screams. We all ran out.

My lounge had turned black with hawks pointing bigguns at my women who were crying hysterically.

"Stand right there! Keep your hands where I can see them. Quinton Dube?"

Khule: "Yes" I looked at him. He put his hands up and slowly

Me: "What the fuck are you doing man?"

Khule: "Shut the fuck up" he mumbled as he went down. I attempted following.

Hawk: "I said stand right there. Quinton Dube you're under arrest for murdering the man who had purpose of serving justice to the community violated by hardcore criminals like you, Detective Nathi Nkosi. You have every right to remain silent. Everything you say can be used against you in a court of law" I can't let this happen.

Me: "I'm Quinton" I rushed down the stairs. They blocked my way. "He's not Quinton"

Khule: "Don't try and take a fall for me Khulekani stay back!"

Me: "Man what are you doing?"

Hawk: "We don't have all day Dube boys. Take him away"

They dragged him away.

Me: "Khulekani!" They pushed me down to the floor and kicked me. Katlego and Lelo tried getting them to stop but they blocked them away.

They kicked me until they had enough. He squatted before me.

Sizwe: "I will find dirt on you too and I won't stop till I find it." He chuckled. "Tell your brother I will have all that sugar to myself and this house will be mine soon since he isn't getting out"

He got up and kicked me so hard on my stomach. I groaned in agony. He laughed and led the way out.

I closed my eyes. I will kill him. I will freakin murder him tonight. Not tomorrow or any day but tonight!...

[2/26, 10:48] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

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[Khethelo]

Nhlelo: "Khethelo!"

Me: "Yeah?"

Nhlelo: "Come quickly"

I rushed out to the lounge.

Me: "What?" She points at the t.v.

There's a picture of Quinton on the left far corner. I took the remote and increased the volume.

"Mr Quinton Dube is believed to appear in court next year on the 5th of February. Will catch you after the ad break..."

Me: "What did they say he did?"

Nhlelo: "He murdered detective Nkosi. I'm shocked for days"

I handed her the cellphone.

Me: "Please call Khule for me and ask if everything is okay, if he's okay"

Nhlelo: "Ofcourse not. His brother murdered a state's person, he's arrested and all over the news"

Me: "Just call him!"

I rushed back to my bedroom and took my phone. I called Yoli. It rang unanswered.

I changed into fresh clothes and walked out.Me:

"Can you look after them?"

Nhlelo: "He's not answering"

Me: "Okay. Can you look after the kids?"

Nhlelo: "Yeah. You won't find us here though. We'll go home"

Me: "Okay. Bye guys" they waved. They don't about me at all. When Tyler brought them on Sunday they cried for him like crazy.

I took the car keys and left.

My phone rang as I drove away.

Me: "Hey"

Yoli: "I take it you've seen the news"

Me: "Yes I have. How are you holding up?"

Yoli: "Can you come here? We need to talk"

Me: "I'm actually on my way there"

Yoli: "Okay. See you when you get here then"

Me: "Ok dear"

I hung up and sped up...

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[Yoli]

I mixed dettol and a bit of salt in a bowl of warm water and took a towel and walked back to the room. He was still sleeping. I placed it beside the bed and cleaned the sliding door.

I don't know how I feel about this situation. I couldn't sleep at night. We fought a serious war last night keeping him in. He wanted to go after Sizwe. If his brothers weren't here he'd probably would've gone ahead and do only God knows what to that man.

"If it dries out I'll be hard to blend it in" I startled abit.

Me: "You're up"

Quinton: "Yes I am. Good morning"

Me: "Morning" I put down the napkin and the cleaner and went to him. "You're still bruised." I said picking up the basin.

Quinton: "That makes it more painful"

Me: "It'll be fine"

I carefully placed the cloth on where he's bruised. He grunted.

Quinton: "Are you mad at me?" I shook my head and continued pressing on his forehead. "Look babe I-"

Me: "I don't wanna hear it. You kill a man and then you ask me if I'm mad at you? Well I am furious Quinton. I am scared, you don't know how much it took me to even share this bed with you last night"

Quinton: "I did what I had to do okay?"

Me: "Carelessly?"

Quinton: "Chris..." he paused. "He said the coast was clear" I felt hot flushes. I got up.

Me: "He's also a..." I gulped.

Quinton: "Killer? No he's not but we were all together in that heist"

Me: "But why? Your parents were there for you guys!" I was crying. The thought of them all going to jail made knots on my stomach. Who are we gonna be left with?

Quinton: "Mphangiseni made sure we hated his money. I hated his money so we had to make our own one way or the other"

Me: "And killed 15 people?"

Quinton: "That was a mistake. Mpsi, Motta motta and Khule shot those people"

Me: "I need air" he blocked my way.

Quinton: "I had to do it Yolanda. If it comes out we were involved the state will confiscate everything. I've worked so hard to be here. It's been 11 years of hell because that money was enough to buy me a little house in Diepkloof and the rest I used to start my company of which was no walk to the park. All I wanted was to give my siblings and our kids a better life and leave them a legacy to carry until the Dube are forgotten they ever existed. Imagine if I lost it all. My daughters would become strippers or prostitutes and my sons be thieves and die before they even turn 30."

Me: "So how is it going to help to kill Nkosi?" He cleared his throat.

Quinton: "Let's just say there's no witness anymore" Me:

"You killed the witness too?"

Quinton: "No. But we gave him an injection that will mess up his mind"

Who is this man dear God?

Me: "I told Khethelo to come here"

Quinton: "Okay I'll see you later" he said pulling his pants.

Me: "Where are you going?"

Quinton: "To do what I have to do to get Khule out" Me:

"Ohh ok"

He kissed my forehead and headed out. I collapsed on the bed.

Khethelo: "Earth to Yoli" I startled.

Me: "Ugh a lot is going on in my mind. That was fast"

Khethelo: "I live at Musgrave not Pine Town"

Me: "Yeah right. You may take a seat" She pulled the

vanity chair and faced it my direction.

Khethelo: "Its so quiet in here. Where's everyone?"

Me: "They are still in bed. They're as tired as I am but worse I guess cause they are still sleeping."

Khethelo: "They never stay in jail he'll be out in notime"

Me: "That's the thing. Its not him who they took"

She frowned. "Khule took the fall" she didn't look surprised nor upset.

Khethelo: "Well they have an attorney under this roof so he's sorted"

Me: "But do you think there's anything they can do? There's solid proof"

Khethelo: "They'll get someone to make the docket disappear like they did with mine"

Me: "What?"

Khethelo: "Yes." I fanned my eyes. "Don't even put so much pressure on yourself. Turn a blind eye to everything that is happening if you want to survive"

hun because he could really use someone strong by his side"

Me: "Its so hard. I thought I could handle it but I'm failing. Did you know about that heist?"

Khethelo: "No. I saw his email to motto motto the other day. This Nkosi was handling the case?"

Me: "Yeah"

Khethelo: "That's bad"

Me: "You knew Chris is also like them?"

Khethelo: "He was. He became a pastor 6 years back when they all decided to be decent people"

Me: "Well he knew they were going to murder that poor man"

Khethelo: "They are Mphangiseni's sons so this behavior is expected. Why did this Nkosi resurface a case from 10 years ago? He asked for this"

Me: "People died there Khethelo. Their families still want justice"

Khethelo: "They won't get it. The perpetrators are

master minds. I really feel sorry for them but wanting justice will just waste the tax payers money." I sighed and then got up to make the bed.

Me: "Let's go get something to eat"

Khethelo: "Now that you've mentioned it I am starving" we laughed.

Me: "How's top deck?"

Khethelo: "Khule told my kids to hate me. They prefer to be with Nhlelo"

Me: "They can feel the heaviness in your heart"

Khethelo: "Oh well I hope they'll be friendly when I get back cause my heart is light now"

Me: "Why?"

Khethelo: "Khule is in jail. I pray they beat his ass"

Me: "Khethelo!" She laughed. "You're a witch you know that?"

Khethelo: "A bit"

She cracked eggs with a smile on her. I give up...

•••

[Quinton]

I drove in to the police station. I saw that idiot come out.

He must have seen the personalized plate. He came towards the car. He knocked on the window. I pressed for it to slide down. He smirked.

Sizwe: "A beautiful face you have here. Are you here for your brother?"

Me: "You know I'm going to kill you right?"

Sizwe: "Mamnguni made you soft. I doubt you still have it in you. The person who can kill is inside so nah I'm not worried"

Me: "That's the interesting part"

Sizwe: "Right now I'm on my way to your brother's house and console his wife. Might give her some dick-" my fist landed on his face. I opened the door and punched him till he was on the floor. I kicked him a couple of times and brought him up.

Me: "Dare set your foot to my house or near my wife.

I will kill all your family you hear me?" He nodded rapidly.
"Now get in this car. Dare report me I will make sure you don't see the end of today" I let go of him. He rushed to his car without looking back.

I looked around. There was no one in sight. I followed him.

Me: "Hey pussy. Tell your buddies to flush today's footage or you will follow Nkosi"

Sizwe: "There are no cameras here you fool"

I imitated slapping him he ducked. I laughed and walked back to my car.

I took my phone and wallet then locked it up.

I called Charles as I walked around to the entrance.

Charles: "Baby"

Me: "Why is that motherfucker still alive Charles?"

Charles: "Boss lady told me not to"

Me: "Are fucking kidding me? Who's your boss Charles?"

Charles: "Both of you but I listen to the one who

cooks nice food and offers me more money...ey
mabebeza come here. Look I'd like to stay and chat but
these Durban babes are calling my name"

Me: "Futsek" I

hung up.

'Where did you get money to send Charles?' I

sent to Yoli.

'From your account'-Yoli

'You don't want your boyfriend to die?'" -Me

'I don't want all my husbands to go to jail. Tyler is coming
with breakfast'-Yoli

'Ok thank you. I love you' -Me

'Stay out of trouble if you really love me' Yoli' I

will mahlobo. I love you'-Me

'Okay. I love you but not today'-Yoli

'Ouch'-Me

'Have you seen Khule?'-Yoli

'Not yet. Just walked in'-Me

'Send my love and tell him to tell the police he's not you'-Yoli

'Hhaibo Yolanda I'm claustrophobic'-Me 'You wouldn't be a bad boy if you were'-Yoli'Respect your elder please'-Me

'Stop acting like a baby then. Bye'-Yoli

I sighed and told the fool behind the counter that I'm here for my brother.

Him: "Wait until 10am"

Me: "No"

Him: "It's the law"

Me: "To hell with law. Why are you even wearing a bullet proof vest? Do thugs come here to steal yourpens and stamps?"

Him: "Mr that is uncalled for"

Me: "Call Mncube. Tell him I'm here"

Him: "Are you rich?"

Me: "No but I'm living a comfortable life"

Him: "Okay come. People who usually come here and ask for Mncube are filthy rich"

Me: "Don't wish to be them. It took them a lot to be where they are"

Him: "I'd risk anything to be rich" Me:

"You don't mean that trust me"

Him: "I'd give up my grandma for sacrifice" I laughed.

Me: "What did the old lady do to you?"

Him: "She ate all my inheritance and I couldn't further my studies"

Me: "How old are you?"

Him: "27"

Me: "Do you still want to study?"

Him: "Yes. I have raised money and will start next year"

Me: "Tell Mncube to give you my business card and give me a call"

Him: "Yes Sir I will" he unlocks the cell. "Whoa. How does the police know they got the right one?"

Me: "I have heard"

Him: "Still"

Me: "What's your name?"

Him: "Nhlakanipho Mthombeni. Just ring this bell when you're done"

Me: "Trust me you'll come to drag me out" he laughed and locked then walked away.

Khule: "This place is so peaceful."

Me: "Are jail impacts kicking in?"

Khule: "I need such a place to think my life through" Me:

"What the hell is going on with you man?"

Khule: "Everything. Khethelo left me, like that wasn't enough she killed my baby"

Me: "You can always make another one"

Khule: "I want that one she killed"

Me: "Stop torturing yourself. Do you feel like going

home?"

Khule: "No. Let me be here until February"

Me: "No. You're really crazy"

Khule: "I've stopped myself 3 times from killing her. I've been going to her place at night. It's better if I'm here"

Me: "You what? You need help"

Khule: "No. I need her dead!"

Me: "Hell no! That's the mother of our children"

Khule: "Leave I need to be alone"

Me: "I'll get you out of here by Friday"

Khule: "That's tomorrow"

Me: "Next week is Christmas. Our first Christmas with Phila. You can't miss that"

Khule: "Mncube wouldn't mind to take me home on that day and bring me back"

Me: "No you're going home tomorrow"

Khule: "I'll come back here for killing Khethelo"

anyway. Did you bring me cigarettes?"

Me: "Yeah."

I handed it over and watched him. He needs help.

I heard voices. Mthombeni appeared.

Mthombeni: "I'm back. I hope you don't mind I took a piece from your food"

Me: "Not at all. Tyler do you have cash on you?" Calvin: "I do" he gave him.

Mthombeni: "Thank you so much brother."

Chris: "Since your grandma doesn't bake on Christmas you can join us. Our wives do"

Mthombeni: "Really? I'd love that"

He locked and walked away.

Khule: "What are you up to?"

Me: "Nothing. He's just a young man and very driven"

Khule: "Don't use him for anything"

Me: "I want to pay for his studies. What you think we

planned this?"

Khule: "I wouldn't put it past you"

Calvin: "He could be your replacement" we laughed.

Tyler: "He's really nice"

Calvin: "So I have someone to get you out of here" Khule: "I don't wanna get out of here"

Chris: "What?"

Me: "I think he's suffering some sort of mental sickness"

Tyler: "He is. No doubt"

Calvin: "You will get out of here either way. This is the Christmas not to be missed"

Me: "Thank you Cal"

Khule: "Your time is over you can leave now"

Tyler: "Here is food. Eat"

We sat next to him and we ate. Tyler started with his stories while he was still a fuckboy....

•••

[Bonga]

Happy's mom finally agreed to let them sleep over at my place. Today I'm going to Durban.

We woke up with my honeys, bathed, fed and went to the lounge. We used the bedroom downstairs because it's a mission to carry them upstairs.

Happy came out. She did not look pleased at all. She gave me the tablet.

Happy: "And you want me to date you and raise my kids in such an environment"

Me: "Your kids environment is my house not of my father's and besides don't go around believing everything you read on these blogs"

Happy: "There's proof that your father killed that man Bonga!"

Me: "I don't see how that concerns us"

Happy: "In a way that last night was a mistake. I can't do this. That would be putting my children in danger" I looked at her puzzled. "I'm leaving"

Me: "We didn't agree on that"

Happy: "I don't care what we agreed on. I'm leaving"

Me: "Know what? I tried. I can't put my life on hold anymore Happy. My fathers are bad people because there's nothing they wouldn't do to protect us, their family. Even if it means killing. That's who they are and they will not change just because we want to be involved in my children's lives. Go on ahead and contact me when you're mature enough to understand that our life isn't these expensive cars and multimillion houses. It's more than that"

I picked two of the kids and went to the garage. I buckled them up and fetched the remaining two.

Me: "Get the bags"

I buckled them up too and reversed the car out of the garage. She came out.

Me: "I'll send money later"

Happy: "Aren't you driving us?"

Me: "No. You can use it" Happy:

"I'm sorry"

Me: "Its cool"

I walked back inside. I called Mam Katlego.

Katlego: "Tell me you're at the airport"

Me: "Gonna bath and come. Oh and also fetch Mtho"

Katlego: "What's wrong with his car?" Me:

"Nothing. We'll just travel together"

Katlego: "Okay baby. How's Happy and the kids?"

Me: "The kids are fine. I've tried everything with Happy. Just when I thought we were fine she sees an article about Baba's arrest and then boom she can't do this"

Katlego: "Let her be. She's still too immature to be yours if such things still shake her up"

Me: "That's what I thought"

Katlego: "Just come home" Me:

"I will. Should I buy meat?"

Katlego: "Yes. We could do with some braaing" Me:

"Okay"

We bid each other goodbye and I went to shower...

•••

[Yoli]

She threw herself next to me.

Katlego: "I don't think they'll be back anytime soon" Me:

"They should answer their phones at least" Katlego:

"Don't worry. They are okay"

Me: "Is Lelo asleep?"

Katlego: "Long gone"

My office monitor wailed.

Me: "Uhh! What is it now"

I took my phone. And called the security company.

Katlego: "What is it?"

Me: "Its the office. There was motion detected" It stopped.

Katlego: "Let's go check it out"

Me: "Its 10pm"

Katlego: "I know where's Chris's gun"

Me: "Katlego!"

She laughed and went upstairs.

I put on my shoes. My phone rang.

Me: "Finally"

Quinton: "We're a bit busy with something. The security company is facing some complications right now. They have 2 cars and they are occupied"

Me: "It has come off but we'll go check with Katlego"

Quinton: "Okay Bonga and are also on their way there"

Me: "Okay thanks"

Katlego came back. We took the car keys and left.

...

Katlego: "Take this. If you find a thug. Shoot" Me:

"Ohh Katlego I'm afraid to touch it" Katlego:

"Take it. I'm going to the loo"

I sighed and took it. I put it in my hoodie pocket and walked towards my office. I attempted to unlock but the door pushed open. My heart skipped a bit. I might use this thing.

I put my hand in the pocket and used the other one to turn on the lights.

Me: "You must be shitting me" he smiled.

Sizwe: "You like it?"

Me: "Get the hell out!"

Sizwe: "You mean I set all this up and you gonna just give me that attitude?"

I pulled his filthy rug out the wine split all over the place.

I came back. He was still seating on my chair.

Me: "My sons are gonna be here any minute and there's gonna be trouble if you don't leave"

Sizwe: "You mean that boy who's old enough to be your boyfriend?"

Me: "Do you want me to call the police?"

Sizwe: "I am the police"

He got up and walked towards me. I moved aside. He pulled me close and tried to kiss me. I pushed him. He came back with force , pinned me against the wall and tried to undo my button. I screamed.

Me: "Katlego! HELP!!!"

Sizwe: "Shut up!" He covered my mouth and kissed me all over my face. Tears came down rolling.

I took out the gun. His hand was now touching my vagina.

I hit him on the head with it countless times he fell down. I pointed it at him and fired. I heard him grunt. I saw blood trailing away.

Katlego: "Yoli I heard-" she froze.

I cried so loud. What have I done dear lord....

[2/26, 10:49] Zozaness: 49

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[Katlego]

She put her phone in her ear with her hands shaking.

I snatched it.

Me: "What are you doing?"

Yoli: "I'm calling the police"

Me: "For the love of God can you stop crying and focus? Do you wanna go to jail?"

Yoli: "I just killed a man. We need the police. Let me at least call my father" She's really a child. I checked Sizwe's pulse. "Now is not the time to call the daddy nor the police, well unless you're trying to go to jail.

The security guys will show up soon, by then this body should not be here. Or this blood. Stop whinning and get things to clean this blood"

I dialled Chirs. He answered right away. Me:

"We need you here"

Chris: "Is everything okay?" Me:

"No. We're in deep trouble"

Chris: "We're on our way there. Was there a break in?"

Me: "Worse. Just hurry up"

I hung up. Yoli was still glued to the floor. I went to the cabinet and looked for cleaning equipment.

Me: "Where do you keep domestos?" She pointed to the upper one. I found it all there. I poured water in 25L buckets. I got the cleaning clothes. I handed her the bucket.

Yoli: "There are gloves are in the shelf"

Me: "Get them! Yolanda!"

Yoli: "Stop!"

Me: "No you stop! He's dead. Being glued here will not wake him up"

Yoli: "Are we gonna take the body to the mortary afterwards?"

Me: "No we'll bury it"

Yoli: "What? It get be found sooner or later"

Me: "And it won't be our problem then. Get the gloves"

She finally moved. She took them out and gave me a pair.

The door opened.

Bonga: "Oh shit"

Me: "Where's Mtho?"

Bonga: "Outside. What happened here?"

Me: "Keep him away. He can't see this"

Bonga: "Is he dead?"

Yoli: "Does he look alive to you"

Bonga: "That wound doesn't kill"

He squatted and felt his pulse. "He needs to get to the hospital urgently"

Me: "He's not dead?"

Bonga: "If he doesn't get help in the next 30 minutes she will be"

The men filled the office. Yoli ran to Quinton's arms. Yoli:

"I didn't mean to do it. God knows I didn't" Chris: "What happened?"

Me: "She shot him"

Bonga: "Can questioned be answered later? This man will die anytime from now"

Chris squatted beside him and checked his pulse. Chris:

"Call an ambulance"

Tyler: "And the police"

Me: "Will that not get us in trouble?"

Tyler: "He broke in."

Yoli: "He...he was trying to force himself on me"

Quinton: "He what?" We should've just finished him off. Who breaks into someone's office and tries to rape someone? How did he even know that Yoli will be the one to show up?

...

We watched the ambulance go away.

Chris hugged me from behind.

Chris: "You don't have to live dirty like us"

Me: "What other choice did we have?"

Chris: "Let's go home. I'll run you a bath and give you

a massage. Yoli's statements taking won't end anytime soon. She's a mess"

Me: "No babe we can't leave them"

Chris: "I'm tired and very sleepy. Let's wait in the car"

took his hand and led the way to the car...

•••

[Quinton]

Nzuza: "Dube I want to know where were you when that jerk forced himself on my child?"

Yoli: "Dad he-"

Nzuza: "You shut up! Go make us something to drink" she got up and walked off.

Me: "Mshazi I was out taking care of some things" Nzuza:

"And left my daughter to be raped?"

Me: "Ths9t was a mistake sir I'm sorry"

Nzuza: "He could've raped her Dube. Do you understand that?"

Me: "Yes and I'm very much regretting letting her go

there"

Nzuza: "I'm disappointed in you. I let you be with my daughter because I believed you can protect her at all costs"

Me: "What happened last night was an honest mistake. It will never happen"

Nzuza: "It's better not. I'm taking her to see someone"

Me: "I've already arranged that. You don't have to worry about it"

Nzuza: "Good. I'll come by later"

Me: "We'll be glad" he gulped down the whiskey that Yoli had on the tray. He kissed her cheek.

Nzuza: "I'll see you later okay?"

Yoli: "Okay. Thanks for coming" He headed to the door.

Tyler: "He's spitting fire"

Yoli: "Is he alive?"

Tyler: "The monkey? There's hope he'll make it" not

what I wanted to hear.

Yoli: "That means I won't be going to jail?"

Tyler: "You aren't going to jail either way. Let me gobath. Seeing that asshole made me sweat"

Me: "Thank you."

Tyler: "Has breakfast been served?"

Yoli: "Yeah. I put yours in the oven"

Tyler: "Thank you mama"

He climbed up the stairs. I sighed. Me:

"So...are you ready for the lady?"Yoli:

"Yes. But I'm fine really"

Me: "Just to be on the safe side"

Yoli: "Right. Where are you off to now?"

Me: "Meet up with an old friend and then go see Khule"

Yoli: "Okay. Call me"

Me: "I will. Are you gonna join the others after?"

Yoli: "These things take time. I will just prepare adish"

Me: "The chefs are here for a reason"

Yoli: "They are people too. They should spend their time with their families"

Me: "We don't mind eating takeaways"

Yoli: "I'll double check with the ladies"

Me: "I love you"

Yoli: "I love you"

I kissed her forehead and went out through the door leading to the garage...

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[Khethelo]

I thanked the officer and wiped the chair. He was lying on his back facing the ceiling.

Khule: "What are you doing here?" I clear my throat. Me:

"To see you"

Khule: "I don't wanna be seen"

Me: "Well I'm here. And I brought you food"

Khule: "Do I look hungry to you?"

Me: "Yeah"

Khule: "You here to poison me?"

Me: "That's an easy way out for you. If I wanted you dead I'd prefer to torture you" he turned to sleep on the side and face me. I smiled and handed the bag over.

"You sure as hell like 5 star treatment, even in jails"

Khule: "It's the pecks of being a Dube"

Me: "That's why you've been trying to kill me?"

Khule: "Yes"

Me: "Mmmh. Is that how much you don't care about our kids?"

Khule: "There's plenty of people who can raise them"

Me: "I think you're suffering some sort of mental sickness."

Khule: "Get out"

Me: "Stop this nonsense. Phila needs you home for Christmas. Stop being a self centered bastard. The families of everyone you've killed feels exactly the same way. Stop being a little baby and man the hellup." I got up and buzzed.

Khule: "Have you bought them Christmas clothes?" Me:

"Yes. And sent Mtho money too"

Khule: "Thank you. And for the food too. It tastes good"

Me: "Of course it does. That poison should startworking now"

He laughed.

Khule: "At least I will get justice because there arecameras here"

Me: "You know I won't go to prison. I was once a Dube wife"

Khule: "You still seem like one to me"

Me: "Bye"

Khule: "Are you wearing fake ass?"

Me: "No. I've been doing squats honey"

Khule: "Can I feel it?"

Me: "Mr officer you better come before this man does me bad!"

He laughed.

Khule: "Send me nudes when you get home"

Me: "R1000 each"

Khule: "Make them 10"

Me: "You're sick"

The officer came. "Bye jail bird" he waved.

Me: "Why is he on a private cell?"

Officer: "I'd have to kill you if I told you"

Me: "Not ready for death" he laughed.

...

I texted Nhlelo to meet me at the mall with the kids. My phone rang as I parked.

Me: "My love"

Yoli: "You don't even check on me"

Me: "I don't have airtime baby. Are you Okay?"

Yoli: "No. I shot Sizwe. He's in the hospital fighting for his life"

Me: "Whoa! What happened?"

Yoli: "He was trying to rape me"

Me: "Wtf? Which hospital is he in?"

Yoli: "Not you too"

Me: "Well trash like him belongs to a grave. Who the hell does he think he is? I'm gonna come see you later okay"

Yoli: "Bring my kids"

Me: "With pleasure"

Yoli: "Thank you mfazi. Bye for now"

Me: "Bye my love"

I felt a poke on my shoulder. I jumped.

Me: "What the hell!" I paused. "You scared me" its the guy that rescued me from sleeping at the parking lot

the other day.

Him: "I'm sorry. I never got your name"

Me: "Khethelo"

Him: "Oh ja you did. I just wanted to be sure."

Me: "Ohh"

Him: "I'm Khetha"

Me: "Thank you once again"

Khetha: "It is my responsibility as a man to make sure women are safe"

Me: "Spoken like a true king"

Khetha: "Are you driving?"

Me: "Yes I am"

Khetha: "Oh I wanted to play hero again" I laughed. Me:

"I'm sorry. Next time"

Katlego: "Sister wife! We've been calling you since the day began" where did she come from.

Me: "You did?"

Kat: "Yes Mrs Dube" okay.

Me: "Uhh Katlego, this is Khetha, my neighbor.
Khetha this is my sister Katlego"

Kat: "Nice to know you Khetha. I'm sorry I'll have to
steal her. We've been waiting for her for the past 3
hours."

Khetha: "No problem ma'am. I'll see you around"
Me:
"Okay. Have a great day"

Khetha: "Thank you. You ladies have fun"
Us:
"Thank you"

He walked away. Me:
"What the hell?"

Kat: "Hhaibo mosadi I'm looking out for my brotherinlaw"

Me: "Ugh please. Why are you even here? Who is Yoli
with?"

Kat: "Tyler? Emi and Lihle and the kids"

Me: "Are you all here?"

Kat: "Yes. Shopping for Christmas"

Me: "Ohh. Why is Sizwe still alive?"

Kat: "He's in coma"

Me: "Why is he in coma. Him being alive means no peace for the Dubes"

Kat: "Exactly my point. I told Chris the same thing" Me:

"I'll have a word with Q" she smiled.

Kat: "Still playing for our team. I like that"

Me: "You're my family"

They cheered. I laughed. "Why do you always take over?"

Lelo: "Because we can." They got up to hug me.

Khethiwe: "We miss you marn. Who was that douche?"

Kat: "Her neighbor. So she said"

Me: "What? I'm not supposed to date now?"

Lelo: "Dating who? Your man is in jail"

Me: "Mxm that punk"

Lelo: "Are you coming for Christmas?"

Me: "No. The kids will come though"

Khethiwe: "Don't be a bore."

Me: "Khule would probably strangle me. He hates me"

Lelo: "We'll fetch you on Tuesday. Nobody can bake muffins as you."

Me: "Oh I'm a slave now?"

Kat: "No. We need your mutton curry and muffins"

Me: "I'll cook it at my place"

Lelo: "No. We want you in the kitchen with us, drink wine, get drunk and laugh at our problems" we laughed. My phone beeped.

Me: "Well I'll show up. Let me go my babies are waiting"

Khethiwe: "Bye baby. Learn to keep your phone on your hand. You're forever unreachable"

Me: "MTN signal is kak at my place"

Lelo: "Change to Telkom"

Me: "I might. Bye"

Them: "Bye"

My phone beeped again. It was a bank notification.

Reference Khulekani Dube.

A message popped up."I

will be waiting"

He's so crazy...

•••

[Yoli]

Q's idea of not cooking didn't work out. Khethelo came and we ended up here in the kitchen. We've checked up on these wives 5 times already. They don't seem like they are coming home today.

Khethelo: "So... Have you seen your periods?" Me:

"Yes thank you" she laughed.

Khethelo: "We must praise the Lord"

Me: "I serve a living one"

Khethelo: "You sure do. This is done. I should get going"

"Where to?"

Khethelo: "Hi. My place."

Khule: "Travel safe"

Khethelo: "Thank you"

Q: "No one is going anywhere." He hugged her.

Khule: "I see you want to sleep with a drunk wife"

Khethelo gasped.

Khethelo: "I'm hurt"

Q: "There's a wine cabinet in the pantry. Drown yourselves my hunnies" he kissed my cheek and pulled his brother away

Khethelo: "Let me take a walk to the pantry"

Me: "We've drank 3 bottles already " Khethelo:

"We need 3 more"

Me: "You're such a drunkard"

Khethelo: "Thanks sis"

Emi: "I'm just here to get my juice"

Me: "Whatever baby mama. No ice, put it back"

Emi: "Yoli"

Khethelo: "I'll punch you in the face" she left the glass on top of the counter.

Me: "You want Jason to hack our phones and leak our nudes shall anything happen to that baby"

Emi: "Nothing will happen" she shouted

Me: "Drink water from the tap then"

...

This moment again. Everyone is here. We are laughing. We are happy. There's something about being gathered in one place. It boosts each one of us. We become a little better. The rain just made it more intimate.

Katlego got up.

Kat: "Attention please. I'd hit the glass but these are limited edition" we laughed. "I would like us to pray"

We all held hands. She started praying. "Heavenly

father. I stand here before you with my family. Please forgive us for all the wrongs we've done, you made us humans who sin. We happen to sin a lot in this family. May you forgive us for all those sins, the ones we committed aware and unaware. We thank you for the comfortable life. We thank you for our kids and grandchildren. We thank you for our husbands. Keep us reunited even when we fail to tolerate each other. We are praying for a smooth year ahead. Keep us healthy almighty. In the name of Jesus. Amen"

Us: "Amen"

Cal: "That was smooth"

Q: "I can feel the holy spirit within us"

Tyler: "Don't come near my food holy spirit I'm very hungry" we laughed.

Khule: "Its gonna go down the wrong pipe trust me"

Tyler: "I'm gonna take you back to the cell"

Q: "Yezwe"

Yezwe: "Baba?"

Q: "Where's Dolly?"

Yezwe: "Dolly?" Me:

"Its Popi babe"

Q: "Oh yeah. My bad" Yezwe chuckled.

Yezwe: "He's at his parent's house"

Q: "Would he like to join us on Christmas?" Calvin choked.

"Drink water. Yezwe?"

Yezwe: "For real?" Me:

"Yeah? For real?"

Q: "Yes. You love him right?"

Yezwe: "A lot"

Calvin: "Oh Maria help me"

Q: "He's family then. Mtho, would Ndalo like to come?"

Mtho: "She dumped me"

Khule: "What did you do?"

He dropped his eyes.

Khethelo: "It runs in the family" I nudged her. She drank a whole bottle by herself.

Khule: "People must have manners in their ex's houses"

Khethelo: "People must not start other people"

Khule: "People-"

Lelo: "Okay folks. No need for that" Q:

"Bonga?"

Bonga: "I'm still single baba"

Me: "What about Happy?"

Bonga: "She said she doesn't wanna be part of thisfamily"

Khethelo: "And you let her go?"

Bonga: "Yup"

Emi: "Bhuti?"

Q: "Mmmh?"

Emi: "I'm here"

Q: "So?"

Emi: "I'm not single"

Q: "Ofcourse you aren't. Go untie him Tyler"

Me: "Who?"

Tyler got up and walked out.

Calvin: "Are you really inviting that heel wearing boyfriend?"

Q: "Yes"

Calvin: "I don't wanna be called Mr father inlaw" we laughed.

Emi screamed and ran to the wet Jason.

Jason: "Sanibonani"

Us: "Hey"

Emi: "Why are you wet?"

Jason: "Your brothers tied me into a tree"

Emi: "Bhuti!"

Q: "I didn't know you were a snitch Nzima"

Me: "Take him upstairs to change. What on earth iswrong with you guys?"

Khule: "Don't look at me people. It was his idea"

Q: "Yoli's father still tortures me. What's so special about Jason to be treated smooth?"

Khethiwe: "I give up on you mbuyazi. Well, Tyler and I have decided to tie the knot 2 weeks after Q and Yolitie theirs"

Tyler: "Really? Thank you thank you baby" he kissed her all over. "Ha! I'm getting married. Bonga you're my best man"

Bonga: "Amen"

Mtho: "Me?"

Tyler: "You're gonna be my flower boy"

Mtho: "And hold coldroom keys?" Khule:

"No that's my job"

Q: "You will Mtho."

Calvin: "What a way to seal this day. To happy beginnings"

We raised our glasses and drank to that...

[2/26, 10:50] Zoaness: 50

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[Yezwe]

I was on call with Poppy. It had been an hour and none of us was willing to hang up. I love how much we enjoy each other's company.

The door opens. They throw themselves on my bed.

Me: "Uhm babe. Apes just got in my room. Let me call you later"

Popi: "Okay my hun. Don't forget about your Dr's appointment at 3pm"

Me: "I won't. I'll set a reminder"

Popi: "Okay bye"

He hung up.

Me: "Are you blankets cold?"

Mtho: "Yup."

Me: "You can take the couch"

Bonga: "No thanks. Let's do something fun later"

Me: "That's drinking?"

Mtho: "[Yezwe]

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He hung up.

Me: "Are you blankets cold?"

Mtho: "Yup."

Me: "You can take the couch"

Bonga: "No thanks. Let's do something fun later" Me:

"That's drinking?"

Mtho: "Yes. It'd be a huge mistake to leave without visiting Eyadini, Kwa Max, Kwa Shembe, Egagasini and Butterworth hotel"

Me: "No Butterworth please"

Bonga: "Popi is coming for but some of us Butterworth is the way to go"

Me: "As long as it is safe"

Bonga: "So we going?"

Me: "Yeah. We haven't done anything exciting since we got here"

Mtho: "I have. I've been to Butterworth"

Daddy T came in.

Tyler: 'Are you trying to die of HIV or something? Come, breakfast is ready. Phila is tired of calling you down for breakfast everyday. Next time you will not eat breakfast"

Me: "But I told mom to call"

Tyler: "Even us as your fathers we do not wait to get called down stairs. Everyone knows that breakfast is

served at 8"

Bonga: "Apologies Nyamazane. It won't happen again. Let's go"

We got up and followed each other out.

Khule: "Why do we always have to wait for you?" Tyler:

"They were discussing going to Butterworth" Yoli:

"What?"

Me: "We weren't"

Tyler: "I'm lying?"

Bonga: "No but we weren't. We apologize for our this inconvenience. From today onwards we will camp around the lounge in the morning"

Kat: "We'd be glad. Sit down"

We sat down and Baba said grace...

•••

[Yoli]

He hugged me from behind and planted a soft kiss on my shoulder.

Me: "Are you trying to get me to ruin my lipstick?"

Q: "The weather is perfect for us to cuddle, why do you have to go?"

Me: "Because we have people coming over for Christmas eve and there's not enough food in this house" he lets go and come around to sit on the vanity.

Q: "Why do you always like its compulsory for you to cook?"

Me: "I love cooking, so does every wife in this house. We prefer to eat food made by us. We love the gossip and laughter we share in the kitchen while cooking. It creates good memories" he sighed and took my hand to kiss it.

Q: "Don't be long okay?"

Me: "I'll be back before you know it babe. Stop sulking" we shared a brief kiss, disturbed by a knock on the door. I took my bag and went to open.

Khethiwe: "We don't wanna be late"

Me: "I'm done. We can go"

Q: "Remember you left husbands behind" he shouted as we walked down the stairs.

Me: "With these rings on our fingers? We won't my love"

Khethiwe: "He's such a big baby"

Me: "But likes to act tough"

We laughed.

We finally drive away heading to the gate after 5 minutes of arguing about who should drive.

None of them want personal drivers and they also hate driving.

Me: "On our way back I'm not driving"

Lelo: "That'll depend who will have heavy loads on her troll- Oh my God what the hell?"

Khethiwe: "Close the windows! Close the windows"

Katlego quickly pressed the button. I was frozen. They were everywhere: The police, the news people with cameras and micro phones. They came out in numbers. They were all over the car patting on the

windows. Its a good thing they're tinted.

Katlego: "What the fuck is happening?"

Me: "I have absolutely no idea...." I pause. "I think this is about uSizwe"

Lelo: "Yoli what are you doing? Hey come back!" The door finally opened.

"Here she is! here she is! Did you really shoot detective Sizwe?"

All the mics and cameras were pointing at me. I was 5 minutes away from going blind and deaf. I couldn't take the amount of flash my eyes were receiving nor the noise of these people talking all at once.

I was paving my way back to the house of which was a challenge because they were blocking me, pushing me back.

"Do you not regret it that now he's dead? Don't you wish you wouldn't have..."

I felt the sun closer to my face, resulting to dizziness. I heard sirens wailing from a distance. They're here

for me.

"What did that great man do to you to kill him? Do you know how much he served this department?"

I couldn't even see the person speaking. My eyes were blurry with tears.

"Move! Move! Move! It's the minister. Everybody I said move!"

I felt people grab from either sides. It was Kat and Lelo.

They rushed with me back to the house. It started raining just before we got in.

Me: "They said he's dead"

Lelo: "Calm down"

They put me in a chair and gave me water then disappeared.

I couldn't hold the glass steady. I put it down on the counter.

Q: "Baby? Yolanda?" I felt tears threaten my eyes. He saw me and came to hug me. "I'm so sorry we were

in the pool room and the music was a bit loud. I'm sosorry"

Me: "I'm scared of going to jail"Q:

"You are not going there"

Me: "The minister is here. Its bad"Q:

"Fuck"

The door opened. I closed my eyes and tightened mygrip around Quinton.

Quinton: "Turn away. I'm still talking to my wife"

Person: "I'm with the mayor and the minister Sir"

Quinton: "Even if you're with God and his children.

Close the door and knock"

The door closed. "Look at me. Yolanda, now is notthe time to be a baby okay?" I nodded rapidly whilewiping my tears. "Good. They are gonna take you with them. I need you to be strong for the next couple of hours while I try to get you out of there"

Me: "I'm scared"

Quinton: "I know sweetheart I know."

He kissed my lips and walked to the door. I

heard many footsteps walk towards me. Q:

"Mkhonto? And where's the minister?"

Mkhonto: "I'm here on his behalf. I guess this is our suspect"

Me: "No cuffs please she'll walk voluntarily"

Mkhonto: "5 star treatment even when going to jail?
Fine. I brought the whole army thinking you boys will give me a problem"

Me: "This title nyana makes you think you breathe flavoured air right? Baby, I promise you, you won't spend the night there okay?"

Mkhonto: "I wouldn't be too sure about that." He turned to me. "Miss Nzuzwa you've been charged with murder of the man of law Sizwe Samabutho. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you."

Q took my hand.

Mkhonto: "She will be accompanied by the officials.
Thanks for the enthusiasm"

The two policemen walked out with me. I was holding in the tears. I don't know for how long though.

There was no journalist in sight. The ground was wet but the sky had no signs of it could've rained.

Mkhonto: "Do you know how much equipment you destroyed with this stunt? And do you know how much it's worth?"

Q: "I'm pretty sure it still wouldn't be enough to fix the car that they broke"

They opened the door for me. I looked back at Q, he nodded.

I got in. The doors closed. Everyone was now outside.

The cars drove off. I failed to hold in the tears....

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[Narrated]

At the Nzuza residence

Mrs Nzuza switched off the TV and stood in front of it.

Sam: "I'm watching"

Mrs Nzuza: "I know you killed that boy. Do you know how much damage you've caused?"

Sam: "I'm watching tv baby. Can we please talk about this later?"

Mrs Nzuza: "No! Your daughter is arrested! You did what you do best: thought selfishly"

Sam: "What?"

Mrs Nzuza: "Yes. Fix it"

Sam: "I will"

Mrs Nzuza: "I mean it Sam!"

Sam: "I'll get her out"

Mrs Nzuza: "Why would you kill him?"

Sam: "Nobody messes with my daughter and lives to tell a tale. Call Sbhamu, tell him to meet me at

Sakhile's house"

Ntombenhle: "I think my water just broke"

She said standing on the door way only in her bikini set.

Sam jumped and they both rushed to her.

Mrs Nzuzza: "Were you in the pool?" She said snatching away the juice in her hands.

Ntombi: "Yes"

Sam: "Do you ever listen? The Dr said no pools at this stage!"

Mrs Nzuzza: "Would you calm down?"

Sam: "How? She's risking the baby's life. Are you in pain?"

Ntombi: "No."

Mrs Nzuzza: "Go dress up. I'll be starting the car. Sam get the baby bag"

She walked out. Sam clicked his tongue and walked to the nursery.

Ntombi: "You're very ugly when you're angry. It irritates the baby"

Sam: "Go get dressed"

Ntombi: "No. The world needs to see this ravishing pregnant body. I'll put on a see through pareo"

She got into her room...

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[Khethelo]

My phone beeped. I wiped my hands and took it.

Me: "Yes!" Next year is gonna be quite a good year for me. It rings. Ugh kill joy. "Khethelo speaking, how may I help you?"

Khule: "Did you bribe them to sell that place to you?"

Me: "Do I look like a briber to you? Such things need you to have good communication skills in order to seal deals baba ka Ngiphile"

Khule: "Please sell it to me. I know you don't want it. You just went for it because you knew I wanted it"

Me: "Oh? Like you did with the restaurant I wanted in

Pretoria? No I'm not wicked like you."

Khule: "What are you gonna do with it?"

Me: "Many things. A strip club is number one on mylist.
Now if you don't mind"

I hung up. I finished making breakfast.

Me: "Kids!" Nhlelo introduced my babies to cartoons.
They can't get off her laptop. Apperantly the tv is just
decor in this house.

Nhlelo: "Why does your eggs always look so good" she
took in a chuck and put the twins on their chairsand gave
them their food.

Me: "Because I'm 25 and have been frying eggs since I
was 11. We should eat quick. We're going todrop these
munches off at mom's then we go checkout that new
place I just scored"

Nhlelo: "A house?" She said excitedly.Me:

"Sadly no. Its a place of business"

Nhlelo: "Oh my sis! That's much better. Is it gonna be a
restaurant? Ice cream parlour? Oh I'd love it to be an ice
cream parlour."

Me: "Its in a working environment so its gonna have variety of foods, Ice cream included"

Nhlelo: "I'm gonna pass by every day"

Me: "I thought you were going to Cape Town" Nhlelo:

"Not anymore. UKZN is where I'm going."

Me: "More than happy to hear that babe. There are more eggs on the bowl. I'll packing all the things I'll need"

Nhlelo: "Bye"

The door bell rang. I went to get it. There was no one. It must be the kids. I closed the door and headed to my bedroom. I heard it chime again.

Me: "Nhlelo please get the door"

I heard her scream in terror. I rushed back. Oh my God. I took one baby from her.

Me: "Go to your bedroom and lock the door"

I dialled Bonga. He answered instantly.

Me: "Bonga, I have a bit of a situation right here."

There's a fucking huge ass creepy snake, snaking itself into my couch!!! It looks like one of your crazystupid ancestors. Come get this thing out of my house!"

I hung up. It's eyes met mine. I ran for my dear life to Nhlelo's bedroom...

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[Quinton]

I made calls. I thought of anyone who could help me but no luck. I couldn't stomach the thought of her scared and crying in that cell. I failed her.

I did not sleep a wink. I cleaned this room from scratch. It distracted me a bit. Here I am stressed out. It's 8am.

I heard a knock from the door.

Me: "It's open"

It opened.

Katlego: "Morning. There are people downstairs here to see you"

Me: "Tell them I'm busy"

Katlego: "Its the police"

Me: "What do they want now? I'm coming. Tell Bongato get his car ready I'm using it"

Katlego: "He's not home" I nodded. She closed the door.

I changed into decent clothes and then went downstairs.

Me: "Morning"

Them: "Morning"

Policeman1: "I'm Detective Sibanda and here with me is a search warrant. Miss Nzuza escaped the cell last night. If she's here please..."

Me: "Wait wait wait. What do you mean she escaped?"

Detective: "I mean she's not in prison"

Me: "How the fuck does a woman like my wife escape prison? You put her in Westville didn't you?"

Detective: "Correct. Sir I..." I lost my temper and

punched him continuously. I heard women scream for help calling my name.

They got me off him.

Khule: "Control yourself dammit!"

Me: "How? They came here guns blazing to arrest her and now they're coming here telling me all this crap? No Khulekani no! Mkhonto and that sick mayor and minister know where my wife is and I want her here before the end of today! Do you hear me? Take your stupid detective and get the hell out of my house!"

In 5 minutes they were gone. I was on my 4th can of beer. I wanted to scream so loud. They'd left me alone in the kitchen. What did they do to her?

My phone rang.

I answered and put it on loud speaker.

Nqawe: "It was overdose of potassium chloride."

I hung up. I finished off the remaining beer and took my car keys.

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Driving in, I saw his car parked in front of the garage.
Good.

I got out of mine before the engine could turn off. I
found Mrs Nzuzi cooking in the kitchen.

Me: "Good morning ma. Is your husband home?" Mrs

Nzuzi: "Sit down son. Is everything okay?"

Me: "How? How could everything be okay when your
husband keeps sticking his nose where it doesn't
belong?"

He came down.

Sam: "Dube. So early in the morning"

Me: "You ruined everything. Would you stop meddling
into my business? Do you realize what you've done? Yoli
is missing from her cell. She could be lying dead
somewhere in this country because of you!"

Sam: "Were you planning on keeping that dog alive so
he can succeed with raping her?"

Me: "You have no idea what my plan was. Maybe if

you stopped always playing the big hero we wouldn't be here. I can take care and protect my wife. Stay back and focus on being a hero to your wives. You better pray I find her alive or I'll slaughter you"

Mrs Nzuzi: "Quinton!"

Me: "Nisale kahle"

I turned and walked away clenching my jaws. My phone rang as I drove off.

It connected to the Bluetooth.

Person: "Mr Quinton Dube?"

Me: "Speaking"

Person: "You're speaking to Lesedi Ramabulana from Enco news. The whole state is on it's feet concerning the escaping of your fiance from prison. The minister Bhambatha Zondi just confirmed that they will not rest until she's found and that you're the prime suspect for planning the escape. What do you have to say for yourself?"

Me: "I'd like to say you're stupid. So is your minister"

Lesedi: "Sir you're live on national TV please ease up with the language"

Me: "Oh, apologies. Fuck you and your minister can kiss my ass"

The line went dead. I'm going to kill Mkhonto and his crazy minister....

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[Bonga]

This place has changed so much. I got on the road around 2am.

I'm here and this place looks more like a deserted place. The place that Chloe used to stay in collapsed.

My heart thought of Hlelo and Mbali. I couldn't sleep anymore so I woke up and drove here.

Finally a human being.

I roll down my window and greet.

Me: "Ninjani baba?"

Old man: "Siyavuka ndodana unjani"

Me: "I'm good. Ehh...I was wondering if ubaba knowstwin girls named Hlelo and Ntando"

Old man: "I would be lying. There are no girl children in this village"

Me: "There were. They lived in a white big house, it was somewhere next to that hill"

Old man: "No house has ever been there. Are you sure you got the right place?"

Me: "Yes I'm certain"

Old man: "That's the cows eating field. It has been for the past 100 years. As chief, I have never seen a girl child in this village. Try kwamaluleka maybe they're from that village"

Me: "Oh. Thank you baba."

Old man: "Safe journey"

Me: "Thank you"

I looked for a few notes and gave him to buy himself something to drink and drove off...

[2/26, 10:51] Zozaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A

Beholder

51

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[Bonga]

I turned on the lights. My head felt heavy. I only drank 2 cans for God's sake.

I placed the keys on the counter and went to check for leftovers in the oven. I found chicken. I took it out. Baba and Bab Khule ate this. Only them eats full chicken like this.

I looked for anything to down it along with. I found salads. Perfect.

I sat down and ate. My phone rang. I checked who could it be calling so late. I haven't heard from her since that day she walked out on me.

I answered.

Me: "Is everything okay?"

Happy: "Yeah. These little humans won't sleep so I

thought of you. Why are you still up?"

Me: "Why am I still up? I...I just arrived at home"

Happy: "Oh. You guys are having a tough one hey"

Me: "Yes we are. Its bad enough to share our lifewith
the outside world"

Happy: "There's no escaping it" I sighed.Me:

"I guess so. Kiss my babies for me"

Happy: "Daddy sends kisses." She laughed. "They are just
sucking each other's fingers"

Me: "I miss them so much"

Happy: "Just 10 days left till you're back. Hold on"Me:

"With everything going on, I doubt"

Happy: "Maybe we'll drive down"

Me: "Noway. I wouldn't allow that"

Happy: "Sisi will drive us" I hear a little cry. "That's mycue.
Have a good night"

Me: "You do too. Thanks for the call"

Happy: "Thanks for picking up"

She hung up. I startled.

Me: "You'll cause me heart problems Nyamazane"

Baba: "Where have you been?" He took a seat opposite me.

Me: "Where Chloe was kept" he frowned.

Baba: "Doing what?"

Me: "To check on those twin girls. My spirit led methere. I learned that they never existed"

Baba: "What does that mean?"

Me: "It means there hasn't been girl children in thatvillage for the past 100 years. The twins were a mystery. That's my conclusion" he scratched his beard.

Baba: "I'm confused. Khethelo called crying that there's a snake at her place but it wasn't there whenwe arrived"

Me: "She did call me too but I was already there atthe mysterious village. Something is up"

Baba: "Yes. Yoli is missing without a trace."

Me: "I heard on the news. This needs me and my full focus."

Baba: "I'm drained. My brain isn't functioning at all."Me:

"I'll fix it" I pause. "Maybe we should go home"Baba:

"Home?"

Me: "Yes. Home home. Its easier to connect with theleaf when I'm there. Plus Mkhulu Ndoda will consultthe elders." He sighs.

Baba: "I was really hoping for a smooth December.I'll let everyone know tomorrow morning"

Me: "Yeah. Go get some rest"

Baba: "You too. You've been on the road. Goodnightson"

Me: "Goodnight baba"

•••

[Khethelo]

My phone rang. Waking me up from a beautiful dream.

Jesus Christ this man.

Me: "Hello?"

Khule: "Where are you?"

Me: "What do you want?"

Khule: "My kids. We're going home"

Me: "What home?"

Khule: "Khethelo open this door. Estcourt isn't around the corner and we have a lot of things to do when we get there"

Me: "Well I'm not there and you can't just come and take my kids. Go alone"

I hung up. It rang again. I watched it ring. This mentality of always controlling everything and everyone has to end when it comes to me.

I got up and cleaned. I went to take a shower afterwards and then went down to make breakfast.

My phone rang again. For the love of God can people stop calling me so early!

I took it and answered.

Me: "Hey"

Khule: "I'm at the gate"

Me: "What are you doing at the gate?"

Khule: "Open"

Took the hand remote and went outside to open the gate.

I waited for him to drive in.

Khule: "What are you wearing?"

Me: "Clothes"

Khule: "You're naked"

Me: " I'm at my father's house. I can dress however I want"

Khule: "Have you packed their bags?"

Me: "The kids aren't here"

Khule: "Where are they?"

Me: "Pietermaritzburg. They left yesterday with MamDino and Nhlelo."

Khule: "And you didn't tell me? Call Nhlelo and tell

her to me at PMB town with my kids"

Me: "No. They're there to meet some of my relatives"

Khule: "Do I look like I care?"

Me: "What's up with you? Don't take your frustrations out on me please. Ngiphile and Ngithandile are our kids, not yours alone. They're allowed to go meet my side of the family relatives. The Dubes know them, they won't die if they don't see them. Now if you'll excuse me I was in the middle of breakfast"

I left him standing there. I'm getting tired of being bullied about my kids. Tired...

•••

[Yolanda]

I tried to move but my body wouldn't let me. I tried to scream but my mouth wouldn't open.

I forced my body to at least move a finger but nothing. What happened to me? Am I dead? No I can't be dead, I can't be dead.

I heard beeping sounds of machines. I heard people

talking, I couldn't make out what they were saying though but there was so much panic in their loud voices.

"Ma'am? Ma'am can you hear me?" Said a female voice.

"She's coming through. Inject her again""She's had enough Rethabile"

"Just inject her! I know what I'm doing. I can't lose another patient" I'm in hospital.

"She needs to get up. We need her name"

I attempted opening my eyes. They half opened. The lights were too bright they sting. I closed them again.

I moved my head.

"Hey she moved. Give me a damp cloth"

I felt something cold touch my skin, I gasped.Me:

"What the hell?"

Her: "You're awake!" They hugged. "We did it friend" they let go and got back to me.

Her: "Do you remember anything about yourself? Or what happened to you"

Me: "What happened to me?"

Her: "We don't know sweetie. You were brought here by 2 gentlemen who said to have found you on the side of the road. You were badly injured. You've been here for 3 days now. We have not sent out any notices because we figured your life might be in danger"

Me: "Please take me home or my place. What day is it today? I've missed school"

Her: "What's your name?"

Me: "I'm Yolanda Vilakazi. I'm first year student at University of Johannesburg"

Her: "Johannesburg? What were you doing here then?"

Me: "Where?"

They looked at each other.

Her: "I think you need to get some rest"

Me: "Can I use your phone?"

Her: "No. I need to run some tests. Then I will give you when we're done"

Me: "Ok doc"

They walked out. 3 days? That's too much schoolwork to miss out on. I hope the lecturers understand that I was in hospital...

•••

[Narrated]

Sam: "I am getting tired of going up and down"

Ntombi: "Don't even dare open that pie hole. You shouldn't be here. You should be out there looking for my child"

Sam: "What do you want me to do exactly? I try to leave, you stop me. I stay, you send me away"

Ntombi: "Right now I don't wanna see you unless you have Yoli by your side"

Sam: "Her husband told me to back away"

Ntombi: "This is a very bad time you chose to obey"

someone's order Sam. I want my baby home!"

Sam: "My guys are trying their best"

Ntombi: "Their best isn't best enough then, because if it was Yoli would be home warm!"

She got off the car and banged the door. She

found Mrs Nzuzza busy in the kitchen. Mrs

Nzuzza: "False alarm again?"

Ntombi: "Yes" she showed no interest of keeping the conversation going as she proceeded to climb up the stairs.

Sam followed in with bags.

Sam: "This is getting rather annoying"

Mrs Nzuzza: "She's stressed out. When she stresses, the baby stresses too and that can cause the fake contractions and that's not good for the baby Sam"

Sam: "She should just go for C section"

Mrs Nzuzza: "No. Find her child! Why are you so relaxed about this? Do you perhaps know where Yoli is?"

Sam: "What are you accusing me of?"

Ntombi: "I'm not accusing you of anything. I asked you a question!"

Sam: "I don't know where Yoli is! I am making calls and trying everything to find her. But that can not be seen because I'm the bad guy right?"

Mrs Nzuzza: "Finally! He sees it. Yes you are the bad guy. If you had not killed that detective. Yoli would still be here but as always you thought selfishly"

Sam got up and stormed out leaving his wife fighting with onions.

Ntombi: "Be careful with that!" She said taking away the knife. "You gonna cut yourself. I'm heading out to the Dube, you can come along"

Mrs Nzuzza: "No go ahead. I will stay here and cook"

Ntombi: "Take a deep breath and then proceed. I don't want to find you here with missing fingers"

They laughed. Mrs

Nzuzza: "I will."

Ntombi: "Okay I'll see you "

She waved her goodbye and then collapsed on a chair after ntombi closed the door....

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[Calvin]

Lelo came in.

Lelo: "We're ready to go"

Chris: "Finally"

Me: "I am not in the mood to even drive anymore. We should've been long on the road"

Tyler: "Passing by Maritzburg maybe"

Lelo: " And now you're wasting time with talking" We got up and headed to the exit.

Me: "Where is Khule and Q?"

Lelo: "Outside smoking"

Tyler: "Those smoke pipes are gonna die young"

Khule: "Nyamazane"

Me: "Mtakababa. Are you driving?"

Khule: "While there's kids? Noway."

Me: "I totally forgot about those junkies. Where are they?"

Khule: "Inside, at the backseat"

I opened the window.

Me: "Boys, one of you should drive us"

Yezwe: "Not me"

Bonga: "Not me too"

Mtho: "We'll take turns, right baba?"

Me: "Yes"

Mtho: "Then I'll drive you my beautiful family with pleasure"

We all got in the car. Katlego, the young children and Khethiwe were taking the jeep.

The minivan couldn't accommodate all of us. I didn't even realize we were this many even with the 2 people missing.

We drove out.

My phone rang.

Me: "Tell me the good news"

Spijo: "She's at Prince Mshiyeni hospital eMlazi." "Thank you Jesus.

Me: "Thank you my man. I owe you" I hung up. "Turn around. Yoli has been found"

Khule: "Why are we turning around then?"

Emi: "Is she okay? Where is she?"

Me: "Emlazi. We need to go there"

Khule: "Call Katlego. Tell them to stop, we'll use that car. Everyone can proceed with the journey"

Bonga: "I'm coming with you"

Yezwe: "Me too"

We found a petrol station. We exchanged cars and drove away....

•••

[Narrated]

She tossed her handbag on the couch and went over to the kitchen area to make herself something to drink.

Khumbulani startled when he saw her.

Khumbulani: "You have a spare key now?"

Lucia: "I own this place." She took a sip on her cup.

Khumbulani: "That doesn't give you a right to come here unannounced"

Lucia: "Oh it does. You're enjoying your payment but you haven't done any job"

Khumbulani: "Haven't done any job? Are they still together?"

Lucia: "No. But why isn't Khulekani waking up next to me every morning? Why is that hoe wife of his still breathing? Did you even send that snake to eat her?"

Khumbulani: "Yes the kids saw it first"

Lucia: "Then send another one! Jesus Khumbulani. I should've gotten married this festive not standing here still telling you to get this right"

Khumbulani: "I am trying okay. If you could just stop pestering me"

Lucia: "I'm turning 46 soon. I need to have my man by my side when I retire. Maybe you should go back to your tiny shack, in that way you'll stop being too comfortable and get on with work"

Khumbulani: "No, that doesn't have to happen. I'll send something more dangerous tonight"

Lucia: "Good"

She took her bag and catwalked out...

•••

[Quinton]

We arrived at the hospital and rushed to the reception where they sent us to the female ward.

We got there. They sent us back to the reception to ask for a Dr Ngoza.

The lady in reception told us to sit down and wait.

Khule: "Stop doing that. You're making me more anxious"

Me: "I can't help it"

A Dr walked up to us. I got up to meet her half way.Me:

"Dr Ngoza?"

Her: "Yes. I hear you're here for me"

Me: "Yes. We believe you have a patient that goes by the name of Yolanda Nzuzi"

Dr Ngoza: "Nzuzi? I don't have such a patient. Please excuse me" I stopped her.

Me: "Vilakazi or Dube"

Dr Ngoza: "Say one surname you're sure of sir"Me:

"Vilakazi"

Dr Ngoza: "How are you related to her?"

Me: "I'm her fiance and these are my brothers"

Dr Ngoza: "Lihle, please take him to the recovery room. Please follow this lady. I will be with you shortly. Only you can go in"

I nodded and followed the nurse.

I could feel my palms sweat as we went down the

corridor.

She opened the door. There were 5 beds. She led me to the 3rd one.

It was really her. I rushed to her.

Me: "Baby" she stared at the nurse and then back at me.

Yoli: "Who are you?" I chuckled nervously.

Me: "It's me. Quinton. I've been looking for you everywhere" she snatched her hand away.

Yoli: "I don't know who this man is. Please get him out of here. He could be one of the men who attacked me"

Me: "Don't joke like that Yolanda it's not cute" Yoli:

"Stop touching me! Please call my mother" Me:

"Yolanda"

Yoli: "Get out! Don't you have securities in this place?"

Dr Ngoza got in rushing.

Dr Ngoza: "Mr Dube I'm so sorry. I just got her results back. She...the head injury was severe, she...she might suffer memory loss, Infact she is.She thinks she's still in school"

Me: "No"

Dr Ngoza: "I'm sorry. There are ways to-"

Me: "No, there must be some kind of mistake.Yolanda?"

She was staring into space.

Yoli: "I wanna get out of here. Maybe I have a test coming up"

Dr Ngoza: "We'll have to send her to professionals. She needs to regain her memory before the baby isborn" I shook my head as tears gushed down.

Yoli: "Call my roommate at least. Tell her to inform my lectures I'm at the hospital"

Me: "You gonna be okay baby"

I took her hand and sobbed silently while I held it close to my chest. She wasn't even paying attention to me.

What kind of punishment is this?

[2/26, 10:52] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

52

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[Quinton]

The flash lights came at me mercilessly almost leaving me blind. Everybody had kept it down. Kylienodded and gave me a thumbs up.

Me: "Good day. As most of you may be confused which one of us is this. I'm Quinton Dube, founder of the Dube Logistics. As rumors have been going around that I have been spotted with my wife. I am here to confirm that its all true. We found her through a generous Dr whom I can't mention the name of. Its been 4 months, a quite difficult 4 months for me and my family. My wife was found lying by the side of the road unconscious by two goodhearted men who took her to the hospital.

When we learned that she was hospitalized we rushed to Umlazi, Prince Mshiyeni hospital. I was then told she had severe head injuries of which I saw and she had lost her memory...." I loosened the tie. "My wife was taken from our home by the police.

The following morning they knocked at my door and asked where I've hidden my wife. A 22 year old, who's never been arrested in her whole life was said to have escaped, how? There's no footage of her leaving the cell nor the prison. Aren't there wardens, police and securities at Westville Prison? Why wasn't she at the holding cell at the nearest police station like they normally do? To the minister and his little friend the forests you're hiding in will burn and I shall find you I hope you have enough protection for what's coming for you."

Kylie came on to me.

Kylie: "Uhm...Unfortunately that'll be all. Mr Dube will not be taking any questions"

Journalist: "Why? Is he hiding something?"

Kylie: "That's a question. Thank you all for coming. I

hope you don't jot down anything Mr Dube did not say or else, you know what"

She pulled me all the way to the lift while security escorted us.

The lift closed.

Kylie: "The last part sounded like a threat"

Me: "I was telling the truth. I'm going to kill them, painfully so"

Kylie: "Quinton. You don't wanna raise your chances of going to jail. Every policeman is hungry for you.

Escaping Nkosi's murder case does not give you a right to want to commit more crimes. You have Yoli to get back to her normal self and a little baby on the way. Stop thinking with your ass" we got off at our floor.

Me: "I'm gonna kill them anyway"

Kylie: "Are you even listening to me?" I stopped.

Me: "Kylie, I do not expect you to understand. Ray is at home not pregnant with no memory of who you are."

Kylie: "Yes true. But if he was, I wouldn't want to do anything that'll make me be locked away from him and my child"

Me: "Have Ndaba attorneys respond? I need this suing business done and over with" The fact that Yoli was found innocent in all this made everything easier.

I pushed the door into my office.

Kylie: "No they haven't. You have a meeting with Mpisane lodge in the next hour. Cool off and get ready for making more money"

Me: "I'm going to see Yoli. You'll have to handle that"

Kylie: "Quinton Dube I'm getting tired of you. In this period of 4 months we've lost 3 important clients because of your negligence! I understand what you're going through, Yoli is as important to me but we have to learn to give attention to both Yoli and Work. If you can't multitask then please get off the boat and we hire someone who'll give this company their all, be dedicated"

Me: "Fine! Please tell Mamazo to fix me a

mountainous plate of beef stew and pap"

Kylie: "I doubt food is ready yet"

Me: "She always have left overs"

Kylie: "Ok. I'll go try her out"

I nodded. She walked out. I unbuttoned the blazer and sat down on Emi's couch.

Wherever I see those fools. I shall not think twice to take out a gun and pop their brains...

•••

[Katlego]

I heard an engine dying down. I put the last plate on the cupboard and closed it. I am already late.

He walked in with grocery bags. He put it on the counter.

Chris: "I hope I am not too late"

Me: "For?"

Chris: "For us to cook and talk about us"

Me: "That's unfortunate. I am heading to class"

Chris: "You can skip it"

Me: "I can't."

I took my car keys and my bag.

Chris: "Katlego, I am trying here"

Me: "Now that it suits you? Oh please"

Chris: "What do you want me to do?" He took my hand. I looked at it and then at him.

Me: "I want you to get your filthy hands off me."

Chris: "Have a good day. I'll fetch the kids from creche"

I turned on my heels and walked away.

I got in my car and drove off.

I don't know why I can't let myself leave but resent to be in the same space as him. Like many women, I am still here. I guess I'm also waiting for that day he finally beats me until I take my last breath. I wish I had guts to leave or tell the family about this but a part of me wouldn't let me.

Right after the year began, the man I knew wouldn't

do anything to hurt me transformed into something I couldn't recognize.

Up to this day it is still fresh on my mind how he beat me like I had no flesh nor feelings just because I was seen with a man.

I thought it was a mistake. It all got him at a wrong time where everyone is having the worst time because of Yoli and everything.

He did it again last month. He quit church in February and forbidden me to ever set my foot there. When I was at my mother's house. I went to her church, to pray for normalcy back into our lives. He found out, he boxed me down I ended up in hospital then he blamed it on demons.

I haven't been the same since then. I really don't know why am I still living in his house but I still am.

I jumped at horns honking. I had crossed the yellow lane. I swung back to my side of the road.

Me: "Dammit"

I pulled up. Tears came down flowing. I hate my life.

I believe I was cursed at birth. I thought I had finally found peace and protection. A man who would never hurt me physically like Pitso did. It feels like déjà vu. I am practically reliving my life with Pitso.

I can't end my life. My child doesn't deserve that

I took out my phone and requested a meeting with an estate's agent. It rang as I put it down.

I started the car. It connected to Bluetooth. I answered and remained quiet.

Chris: "Please come home. I have called and informed them you won't be coming in"

Me: "Without my permission? I am not your object Christian"

Chris: "I know baby I know but I want us to fix this. I'll go for help, anything"

Me: "This is the 3rd week. You've been giving me silent treatment and telling me to get over myself, that you did not even hurt me that bad whilst I ended up in the hospital, I lost my child you bloody asshole and now that your balls itched for you to "fix things"

you're canceling my classes? Leave me the hell alone! I am done"

Chris: "Wait wait wait. What do you mean you're done? Katlego please. I've quit alcohol, I've been sober for 5 days now. Baby please I swear on our child's life I'll never bea-"

Me: "Shut it dammit! I hate you. You're the worst mistake I've ever made in my whole entire life."

I hung up and pulled up again and cried. I'll never forgive him. Ever!..

•••

[Emihle]

April 15. God decided to bless me with a beautiful bouncing baby boy. No complications or whatsoever. A smooth birth followed by a smooth motherhood since I have this supportive, loving and caring baby daddy. Khan sent me flowers and goodies after I came home. We had a bit of fight with Jason but he came around. If only I knew I'd have told him to stay away. He came with a huge bomb a few days after

the flowers and demanded DNA test. He caused us unnecessary drama, he even took legal actions and we had no

choice but give him what he wanted.

Due to Jason's paranoia, I have guards now. A whole Emihle Dube who resent having scary quiet men beside her have bodyguards and there's nothing she can do about it. Awakhe is the center of Jason's world. He would hang himself if anything went bad about his well-being. The Dr does house calls because his son can't be out there catching evil spirits. I don't even know what sleepless nights feel like. I am queen. I only bath myself and feed my baby. There's help everywhere around this house.

Mamkhulu agreed that I move in with him since he paid half of the lobola. I don't know how I feel about the lobola part. I am not ready to commit my whole life to a man. I still have a lot to obtain for myself.

Sis Thandi came in with soft porridge. I faked gag. She laughed.

Sis Thandi: "Those breasts are empty. You don't

wanna starve Mr Nzima's diamond" I chuckled.

Me: "I hate this thing with passion Sis Thandi. Can'twe make it sour?"

Sis Thandi: "Hhaibo! Sour things burn out the milk."

Me: "Oh God. Let me close my eyes and just gulp itdown then"

Sis Thandi: "Bit by bit. Your food is almost ready" Me:

"Are you trying to get me more fatter than this?"

Sis Thandi: "Your house has gym. If you didn't like this weight you'd wake up every morning and go jogin that machine"

Me: "I'll start when baby is 6 months"

"Daddy is home!"

We turned to face the entrance. Me:

"Hey you. Did you dodge work?"

Jason: "No" he put his briefcase down and kissed Awakhe. He's forever sleeping. And then he came tosit next to me and kissed my cheek. "I had a client around here so I thought I'd stop by and check on

you my people. Thank you Sis Thandi. I know I can always count on you" he said pointing at the jug of mageu.

Sis Thandi: "I'm very reliable my boy" they laughed. "I'll go dish up for you."

Jason: "Is that lunch?"

Me: "Yes. Its close to 12pm"

Jason: "Damn. That maid didn't even offer me water babe, can you believe it?"

Me: "You should've asked"

Jason: "You know I'm bad at that. Your brother called" he switched from bubbly to serious or whatever that was.

Me: "What did he want?"

Jason: "You. My father is in town so he says its not safe for you and Awakhe to be here"

Me: "With all these men outside? Didn't you tell him that we have enough security?"

Jason: "What do I ever say to your brothers and they

actually listen to it? I did but he kept on insisting"

Me: "Well that's on you Jay. You're giving them that power over you. Just this once, step your foot down and tell him he's not taking us anywhere"

Jason: "I don't wanna find myself not being able to see you guys anymore. I told him he can fetch you later"

Me: "Are you kidding me? Who's gonna help me out at that house?"

Jason: "You'll take Sis Thandi with you. I really do not want to have any conflicts with your brothers."

Me: "You paid lobola Jason. I'm practically your wife. Do not let Khule bully you!"

Jason: "If I had an only baby sister. I'd never feel like she's under enough protection if she weren't with meso I get where he's coming from. My dad never stays, he'll probably be gone by Monday next week" I can't believe this guy.

Me: "I'm not going anywhere"

I got up and headed to our bedroom. Why is

Khulekani Dube so controlling? I do not recall a day Sam came home to fetch Khethelo just because he felt like 'she wasn't safe'. They forget I exist and remember when it suits them. He must go to hell for all I care....

•••

[Bonga]

Me: "No I don't think that will be necessary. I just need it to be simple yet unique"

Nkazi: "My line is breaking I can't hear you clearly" Me:

"Hang up. Aretha are you still there?"

Aretha: "Yes. You said pink petals, sunset, a swing that has glitter and pillows"

Me: "Cake. Whatever that has vanilla" I

jump and turn quickly.

Me: "Jesus baby you almost killed me...uhm Mr Jones we'll speak soon. Keep well"

Aretha: "What? Wait, you said-"

I hung up and removed the earpiece. I hugged and

kissed her.

Me: "You look beautiful"

Happy: "I feel beautiful. I needed that treat. Thankyou my love"

Me: "Anything for my queen, though I thought it'll take longer"

Happy: "It did take long" she glanced at her watch."Its a couple of minutes after 12"

Me: "Is it? I hope you didn't eat" Happy:

"No. I ordered on my way here"

Me: "That's so thoughtful of you. Did you check in on Dikeledi and the kids?"

Happy: "Yeah. On my way up here." Her phone beeped. "The food is here. I hope my wings are doneas I requested"

Me: "You should have your own wings restaurant. Infact, I'll buy it for you"

Happy: "Really? I can't wait mbuyazi wami" the food arrived. We sat on the couch and started eating.

Me: "Nkazi is gonna be so jealous I had such mouthwatering food for lunch instead of sandwiches" she cleared her throat. "Really now?"

Happy: "She's like bad rash in my life. You can't keep her name out of your mouth"

Me: "A year later. We're still here. If I had any intentions of dating Nkazi, I think I'd have already"

Happy: "Then why do you always talk about her?" Me: "Because she's my friend"

Happy: "Mmmmh. Remember that first couple I matched up when I got back to work?"

Me: "Yeah"

Happy: "They are getting married and we're invited to the wedding"

Me: "So fast?"

Happy: "I was as surprised but when you find the one I don't see any reasons to wait" That statement had something in it.

Me: "True."

Nkazi walked in. She paused.

Nkazi: "Sorry. I didn't know you had company. Hey Happy"

Happy: "Hi"

Me: "Is it important?"

Nkazi: "Kinda but I'll come back when you're done"

Happy: "Excuse me" she got up and went to the bathroom.

Nkazi came closer.

Nkazi: "Are we still enemies?"

Me: "Yes"

Nkazi: "Take her out of her misery and tell her I am lesbian and I actually wanna lick her from toes to-"

Me: "Whoa whoa! What?"

Nkazi: "Yes" she adjusted her glasses.Me:

"Wow"

She laughed and headed to the door. Happy came out. She rolled her eyes and sat down.

Lesbian? I chuckled and shook my head and joined baby mama. I don't want her anywhere near Happy from now on...

•••

[Khule]

My phone alerted. I wiped my hands and took it.

'Bhuti I'm pleading with you to stop bullying Jason. I understood why at first, but now? You're being completely unreasonable. There's no man that can't keep his family safe. You know that best'

I called her. It rang unanswered. Is she kidding me? I called Charlie.

Charlie: "KK"

Me: "Are you here"

Charlie: "No. I just landed in King Shaka."

Me: "Pity. Who can make sure my baby is safe from that Motto Motto fool?"

Charlie: "Not sure. Let me check with the guys then I'll get back to you"

Me: "Dankie bozza"

I hung up. Mthobisi came in running. "Are you being chased by a ghost?"

Mtho: "No. I forgot my wallet. Almost earned myself a ticket"

Me: "You're very careless"

He proceeded up. Lucia came in too. She didn't look happy at all. She tossed her handbag over the couch.

Lucia: "I'm getting tired of that child"

Me: "Who?"

Lucia: "Your ex wife. She called my office like crazy yesterday and then just an hour ago journalists crowd my workplace and ask me silly questions. She freakin went to the paparazzi and told them I am a bad parent. I didn't know your kids were allergic to pickles for Christ's sake!"

Me: "Sit down" she did "Take a deep breath...good. I'll speak to her"

Lucia: "Please do because if she continues like this

I'll have my lawyers involved"

Me: "You don't have to do that. Go upstairs and take a long nice bath. I'll bring you wine and food" we got up. I kissed her. "I'm sorry okay?"

Lucia: "I'm just tired baby. When will she get the message that I'm here to stay? Her time is over she must get over it"

Me: "She will, eventually"

I kissed her forehead then she climbed up the stairs. I took my phone and called Khethelo.

Khethelo: "Yes"

Me: "Khethelo. Why are you so full of drama?"

Khethelo: "Don't nyenkelo me. Why didn't you tell Dolly Parton that my children have allergies? Do you want me to tell Nzuza that your old hag fed his grandchild milk?"

Me: "No no no. But calling the news people?"

Khethelo: "She seems to enjoy the spotlight so I thought I should give her one. You did well you

called. I want you to collect every rug of yours that's in my house and never set your hard tiny legs there"

Me: "What are you talking about?"

Khethelo: "You will know soon. Also my cars but before that stop calling me"

Me: "Have you gone mad-" she had hung up. I clicked my tongue. Her house? She's crazy. I dished up for Lucia...

•••

[Khethelo]

I swear this man wants me dead with that magogoof his.

I wheeled myself with my chair to the bar fridge to take magnum then wheeled myself back to the desk.

My phone rang. It better be not that devil. I took it, oh.

Me: "Hey baby"

Khethiwe: "Hey sweerie. How's you?"

Me: "I'm good love. How's yourself?"

Khethiwe: "I am alive and dying with flue. Have you spoken to Katlego lately?"

Me: "Yeah. On Sunday I think"

Khethiwe: "I just bumped into her. She's not okay, she's been avoiding me like crazy."

Me: "Is she sick?"

Khethiwe: "Sort of. She lost weight and doesn't look vibrant as we all know her to be"

Me: "What could it be? I'm now worried. Please go to her house after work"

Khethiwe: "I will babe. You know she literally just greeted and passed me quickly like we were strangers"

Me: "That's not good. The space between the brothers shouldn't affect our relationship in anyway. As much as I'm no longer a wife but I'm still your sister and you're still my family. I'll try to clear my schedule and fly there tomorrow. I have other few things to fix any way."

Khethiwe: "Ok love. Let me go back to work."

Me: "Us owners are knocking off now" she laughed.

Khethiwe: "I really wish to be you"

Me: "I am going to see Yoli"

Khethiwe: "Send my love babe. Bye. Love you" Me:

"I will sweets. Love you more"

I hung up and packed my things.

I drove to KwaNzuzi. That's where she stays. She tried to call the police when they took her to her house. My heart breaks for her. There isn't much progress but we're doing everything to help her gain her memory back.

...

My phone rang as I drove in following Quinton's car. I answered.

Me: "Your call means trouble"

Skhaleni: "Dube and his sugar mama are also trying to buy that bakery" backstabbing bitch.

Me: "Kill them"

Skhaleni: "Huh?"

Me: "What? Aren't you fit for the job? Get someone who will then"

I hung up. I honestly have no heart to deal with Khule and his magogo. They've been after everything that I want. Fuck them.

I parked behind Quinton. I forgot to order pizza for Yoli. I ordered via uber eats and got out.

Quinton hopped out with it.

Me: "You're a life saver" he laughed.

Quinton: "Is this your new baby?"

Me: "Oh yeah. Fetched it this morning"

Quinton: "Your business are blooming unbelievably. I'm proud of you."

Me: "Thank you. Let me help you with that" I took the plastic.

Quinton: "Have you heard from him?"

Me: "Yes today."

Quinton: "That's good"

Me: "He doesn't bother reaching out?" He shook his hand.

Quinton: "And I've decided to let him be"

Me: "That's the best option. You have a lot to worry about than worrying about a stupid old man like him"

He laughed. We got in. We found everyone sitting at the dining room.

Us: "Sanibonani" Them:

"Yebo"

Yoli: "Where do you people always find money to buy these things"

Quinton: "We work"

Yoli: "Ohh. Hi sisi"

Me: "Hey baby. Does your feet feel fine today?"

Yoli: "Yes. Mom massaged me"

Me: "That's great."

Quinton: "I brought you something"

Ntombi: "We'll go prepare for supper."

Me: "So early?"

Ntombi: "Yes"

They both got up, her and Mrs Nzuza.

Me: "What do you have?" I whispered to Quinton.

Quinton: "Umembeso video" I nodded.

Yoli: "What are you guys whispering about?"

Quinton: "Do you remember what mommy said to you yesterday?"

Yoli: "Yep" she wasn't paying attention to Quinton really. She was focused on her pizza.

Me: "What did she say?"

Yoli: "That I don't go to school anymore" she stopped eating and became sad. She looked at us with eyes full of tears. "I graduated a year ago. I am a successful interior designer. She showed me my graduation pictures and the projects I worked on. I do not remember all that. Why do I not remember the biggest part of my life. I'm stuck at this 19 year

old mind" I sat beside her and comforted her.

Me: "The fact that you're speaking like this means you're getting better baby"

Yoli: "I'm not!" She got up. "I can't watch you do this to yourself bhuti. Go find yourself a woman. Waiting for me to heal is far fetched. I will not get better."

Quinton: "What are you talking about?"

Yoli: "I saw the videos. You seemed to have treated me well with care and love but-"

Quinton: "But nothing. You're getting better. I can see it"

Yoli: "I am not"

Me: "You are!"

Yoli: "Khethelo I-"

Us: "Wait"

Me: "I never told you my name"

Yoli: "I saw it when you called in the morning."

We sighed in disappointment. "There's no hope. Just

walk away and forget about me"

Quinton: "The Dr said you're getting better and we should take you back to help you boost your memory"

He put on the USB and excused himself.

Yoli: "I pray that God performs a miracle upon me." Me: "He will baby" she gasped.

Yoli: "Oh my God is that me?"

Me: "In flesh. That's me right there"

Yoli: "I can't watch this" she took the remote and turned it off and cried.

I hugged her in and cried with her...

•••

[Narrated]

Nkazi walked in running. She closed her umbrella.

Nkazi: "I swear to God this rain isn't from God" Zandi(her mom) handed her a cup of coffee.

Zandi: "Didn't you take uber?"

Nkazi: "No I took a taxi. Financially I am climbing Drakensburg mountains"

They laughed.

Zandi: "If you could just swallow your pride and ask for some money from your father"

Nkazi: "I would rather mop the sea dry. Is he back yet? I have to write Q cards for my boss's very important meeting tomorrow"

Zandi: "He should be here any minute...oh there he is" he walked in followed by his business associates. They exchanged greetings.

Mpisi: "She's early"

Nkazi: "Yes and you're late. Can we make whatever this is about quick? I have a lot to do and time isn't on my side"

Mpisi: "Okay come. Gentlemen"

They all walked to his study. They took seats.

Mpisi: "You can't work for the Dube's anymore Nkazi" Nkazi frowned. "I need you to resign with immediate effect"

Nkazi: "You're kidding right?"

Mpisi: "Do I look like I am? We're done here. You cango"

Nkazi looked at him, tried to speak but decided against. She walked out banging the door.

Bhambatha: "That was odd"

Mpisi: "She's too stubborn. I can't go soft on her"

Mkhonto: "I guess the apple does not fall far from the tree."

Mpisi: "Yeah. She's a mini version of me"

Bhambatha: "Gentlemen let's get down to business. My wife is waiting at home"

Mpisi: "My reliable source told me the Dube's no longer eat on the same plate"

Mkhonto: "What does that mean?"

Mkhonto: "They are scattered all over the country, without contact at that. If there has ever been a good time to strike any of them, it is now"

Bhambatha: "We want Quinton down. We don't care about the rest"

Mpisi: "I do. Their father built that company off my father's sweat and as ungrateful as his sons, he shot him and buried him in it! While you get a waiter that will poison Quinton I want you to get all the right paperwork to dig up the Dube construction ground floor. When we're done with them they won't know what hit them"

He poured vodka and gulped it down and groaned....

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[Tyler]

Khosi put the file on my desk and walked out. She knows better than to try and talk to me when I'm on call with my love. She closed the door a little too hard.

Khethiwe: "Do you have a visitor?"

Me: "No, it was Khosi. Have you heard from Q?"

Khethiwe: "No and I don't want to disturb him. He'll call when he's up for a chat"

Me: "I'll call him anyway"

Khethiwe: "I spoke to Khethelo, she was with him yesterday so that means he's fine. We should go to Chris's after work"

Me: "I don't think that's a good idea. There's a reason why they didn't let you in yesterday"

Khethiwe: "I'll go by myself then. Katlego is going through the worst"

Me: "Maybe she has flu"

Khethiwe: "Babe, I know Katlego. She wouldn't have greet and walked past me like that. She would've atleast stopped and told me she's sick"

Me: "You're right. I'll drive there after work then, although I feel like we'll be pasting ourselves"

Khethiwe: "Thank you. She would've done the same for me"

Me: "We'll also go see Khule, he said he needs some legal advice and then Bonga"

Khethiwe: "I will be at Bonga's when you go there" Me:

"Not that again"

Khethiwe: "I am not taking my baby anywhere near that woman. She almost killed the top deck and Phila with pickles"

Me: "Stop fighting Khethelo's battles"

Khethiwe: "I'm not! I just do not want someone that careless around my baby" I sighed.

Me: "I hear you" the door swung open. "Uhm love, seems like I'm still in trouble with the law. I'll call you later"

Khethiwe: "Is it Mpanza again?"

Me: "Yes"

Khethiwe: "Isn't she done with her investigation?"

Me: "I thought she was. Perhaps she discovered something"

Khethiwe: "Ok bye"

Me: "Bye"

I hung up and offered miss Mpanza a seat.

Me: "Please bring something Miss Mpanza something to drink Khosi"

Miss Mpanza: "No thanks I'll pass"

Khosi walked out.

Me: "Is this still about business?"

Miss Mpanza: "What else could it ever be about?"

Me: "I don't know. I am a very charming if you may have noticed"

Miss Mpanza: "Sadly no. And no sophisticated woman wants to associates herself with the Dubemen, y'all have no respect for women. Especially you"

Me: "So you've been going digging up my dirt?"

Miss Mpanza: "Your family's. You do not appear to be good people at all. Your brothers have been in and out of jail, of which gave me motive to investigate again. I might have missed somethings" I chuckled.

Me: "For 4 months? If there was something dodgy you'd have found it"

Miss Mpanza: "I was in a rush. Now I have all the time I need."

Me: "This firm was built with clean money. Not every rich person has skeletons. I am getting an idea that you're working with Sibiyi attorneys. This law firm has base, I already knew who'd bring me money when I built it. Coming back here to re-investigate after you've wasted my 4 months I will sue you miss. Do you know how much I lost in this 4 months? If you wanna investigate, come back next year. Tell your bosses I'm up for the court game if they wanna take me on"

Miss Mpanza: "You think you're above the law, don't you?"

Me: "You tell me Miss Mpanza. I am a very busy man. My clients are on the waiting benches waiting for me to come out and tell them none of them are going to jail, now if you'll excuse me"

I got up and took my iPad. She got up and headed to

the door.

Miss Mpanza: "This is far from over. Tell your brothers I'm coming for them"

Me: "Ofcourse" she walked out.

I took my phone and called Calvin. It went to voicemail.

I took a seat and wrote him an email...

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[Bonga]

I kept glancing at my watch. I wasn't even paying attention to what they were discussing. All I knew was, their bubble was gonna bust.

Khule: "Bonga!"

Me: "Baba?"

Khule: "Where are you? Can we start voting?"

Me: "Uhm..."

"Without a queen? I don't think so" my heart smiled.Me:

"What are you doing here" I got up to hug her.

Khethelo: "I heard there's a meeting and I said, since I'm in town why not attend. Greetings everyone. Look at you, skinny, don't your Jo'burg mothers cook?"

Me: "They do but not uphuthu and beef stew"

She laughed.

Khethelo: "Don't worry wena my baby. Mommy is here you'll eat proper food tonight"

Me: "Thank you phakathwayo. Please take a seat and we proceed"

She took a seat. Baba had not moved his eyes off me since mam Khethelo came in.

Me: "Ma, I'm sure Lindi briefed you about Dube constructions emerging with Lucia enterprises" she laughed.

Khethelo: "We are mixing business with pleasure now? Khulekani you must not let a vagina turn you into a softie boo or else you'll wake up and this company won't be here"

Khule: "Can we please vote?"

Me: "Of course. Those in favour of this company

partnering with Lucia enterprises please raise your hands"

All 8 members of the board raised their hands. "Ok thank you. All those against?"

Mam Khethelo and I raised hands. Lucia snorted.

Khethelo: "Here with me are Quinton's, Chris's, Tyler's, Emi's, Mtho's, Hawu's and Banzi's votes. They are voting against. This is a family business and all of us sane family members want to keep it strictly family"

Lucia: "Girlie grow up! Do not bring your personal agendas at a place of work"

Khethelo: "You're trying too hard to squeeze yourself into our circle."

Me: "Meeting adjourned"

Everyone took their things and walked out.

Khule: "So you called her here?"

Me: "No"

Khethelo: "Khulekani be careful with the decisions

you make while Lucia lies on your chest. This isn't your company, you can't just wake up and decide to give it away"

Khule: "You know nothing about business"

Khethelo: "Bonga and Q does. Why did they vote against?"

Khule: "Because they hate Lucia that's why!"

Me: "No Mbuyazi I don't. I just know what's best for this company. Please excuse me"

I walked out...

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[Khethelo]

I headed to the door too. He grabbed my arm.

Khule: "You ordered people to take me out? Who the hell do you think you're messing with Khethelo?"

Me: "If you do not stop going after everything that I want. Next time they won't miss"

Khule: "Do not start a war you can not finish woman"

Me: "Get your hands off me." He did. "Stop meddling with my business. That was just a wake up call. If you do not stop, I'll pinch you at the wound"

I opened the door and then turned back.

Me: "I want your things out of my house by the end of this week"

Khule: "Are you high?"

Me: "Just do what I've just said"

I walked out. I bumped into magogo.

Lucia: "You don't know who you dealing with"

Me: "A diabetic bitch that's who. Move out of my way"

She clicked her tongue.

I went to Bonga's office. I found him eating.Me:

"Party for one?"

Bonga: "Yours is in the microwave. Lucia and Babacauses one so much hunger" I laughed.

Me: "They're pathetic. Bringing their lousy

relationship into work, crazy"

Bonga: "They will push until they win"

Me: "They won't baby trust me. Where's Nkazi?"

Bonga: "She called in sick"

Me: "Oh ok. This tastes heavenly"

Bonga: "Some shop down the road"

Me: "I must steal their recipes. When last did you see Kat?"

Bonga: "Its been a while. They are never home" Me:

"That's strange. Chris?"

Bonga: "I haven't seen them all in ages"

Me: "Something's going on between them. Khethiwe says she came across Kat but she just greeted and passed like a total stranger"

Bonga: "Why would she do that?"

Me: "I don't know baby. I'll go check up on her"

Bonga: "Please do. What on earth could be going on?"

Me: "Life is happening. I'm trying my best to keep this family intact but I'm failing dismally"

Bonga: "You've always tried your best. You can't keep them together if they don't want to"

Me: "Bonga isn't who we are. Quinton is dealing with Yoli's issue alone. None of his brothers are there for him. Its only Tyler. He's going through the worst time of his life. He's in need of those game nights and random weekend braais"

Bonga: "I know. But we are here. He can't force them to be there for him"

Me: "I am still looking for other ways to bring everyone together again"

Bonga: "You will"

Me: "Is it still not safe to let them know?"

Bonga: "No. But soon enough you'll be free"

laughed.

Me: " Yeah right"

My phone beeped.

"Hey wifey. I decided to take your advice. We are on our flight. Durban is full of news people ready to snap at anytime so I thought Jo'burg will be fine"

Me: "It's your baba. He's coming this side"

Bonga: "Aibo. He left mam Yoli behind?"

Me: "No. He's with her. I suggested he takes her out every day, be cute, get her to fall in love with him just in case she doesn't gain her memory back"

Bonga: "But the Dr said she's recovering" Me:

"Yes but we can't take chances."

I took off my coat.

Bonga: "What if Baba walks in?"

I rushed to the door and locked it. He was laughing. Me:

"This isn't funny Bonga."

Bonga: "Do you still love him?" I made myself comfortable on the couch. "Child bring me my food and stop laughing and asking me silly questions"

He brought my food. I ate. Feels nice to eat without people disturbing you. I miss them already though. I

should've just brought them with me...

•••

[Chris]

I buzzed the intercom and waited.

"Hello?"

Me: "Hi. Its Chris"

"Ok hold on"

The gate slid aside. I drove in. I parked under the shelter, I reached for the flowers and a goodie bag then got off.

The main door was opened, I knocked. Mrs Mokgotho came to let me in. We exchanged greetings on our way to the lounge.

Mrs Mokgotho: "Katlego is in her bedroom taking a bath. She'll be here in no time. I am busy on my garden, you can make yourself feel at home son"

Me: "Thank you ma. I'll wait just here on the couch"

Mrs Mokgotho: "Come on. There's breakfast on the warmer. You need to get over your Zulu culture when

you come to my house. You're my child and this is your home, feel free to do anything you like" I chuckled.

Me: "I'll try but not today"

Mrs Mokgotho: "Okay. Kat will sort you out then" she switched on the tv and walked away humming a song.

I switched into sport's channel.

I heard footsteps clapping away. I turned my head.Me:

"Katlego! Stop!"

I ran to the corridor. She was no longer in sight.The 3rd door opened. She came out.

Kat: "What do you want?"

Me: "You. I'm sorry, please come home"

Kat: "What home? I am home, this is my home...stand where you are!" I stopped.

Me: "I'm sorry Katlego. Come home, I will prove to you I'm a changed man. I've dealt with my demons I will never do anything like that ever again"

Kat: "Are you done?"

Me: "Katlego please! Khethiwe was there looking for you yesterday. What do you want me to tell her if you aren't home?"

Kat: "Tell her you tried to kill me and I left"

Me: "What about the kids?"

Kat: "Bring them to me"

She went back in to her room and closed the door. I sighed and kicked the wall. Lord what have I done!

•••

[Khule]

She banged the pot against the counter.

Me: "Okay okay okay. Out with it. No need to break dishes and pots"

Lucia: "I do not understand why do you let that woman walk all over you. You're divorced for Christ's sake. Why does she still have a say on your family's company?"

Me: "Because she was my wife. I was put in charge

so my wife had to have a share"

Lucia: "Well I'm your wife now, she should be moved the hell out"

Me: "I'm afraid that isn't possible. That's a decision that should be made by the whole family"

Lucia: "You're the leader of this family Khulekani!"

Me: "Calvin is the eldest which makes him the leader"

Lucia: "How long has he been here? 5 minutes? But he's already the leader? He's not your mother's child, you're the leader of your mother's children. Your father wouldn't have appointed you to be in charge of his company if you weren't a leader. Take up your position and let these kids know who you are, but most of all put that bitch in her place"

She turned to stir her stew. I sighed.

Mtho: "Sanibonani" Lucia turned.

Lucia: "Come here" he went to her. She slapped him across the face, I jumped to hold her.

Me: "Are you crazy?"

Lucia: "After all I've sacrificed for you, going up and down with you, putting you in expensive schools, giving you everything you wanted. I'd have bought you the world if it was possible. For once in your life you had to do me a little favor but you chose the enemy over your own mother!"

Mtho: "I'm moving out"

Us: "What?"

Mtho: "You heard me."

He walked away. Lucia tried to free away. Me:

"Let him be"

Lucia: "I'm gonna kill him! I'm gonna kill him!" He came down.

Mtho: "I do not owe you anything ma, It was your responsibility to make sure I had a good life. Don't ever think I have to repay you for all that. You've made enough damage by coming into Baba's life, I will not let you cause further troubles for this family by getting into business with them. Keep well"

Me: "Mthobisi"

Mtho: "I'm done Dube."

He closed the door. Lucia cried. I hugged her tight.Me:

"He'll come around. He's just angry"

Someone cleared their throat. I brought my eyes up.He stood there. Looking drained but mostly disgusted by what's before him.

I let go of Lucia. She quickly wiped off her tears.Lucia:

"Uhm...Good evening"

Q: "Can we talk? Privately"

Me: "Yeah sure"

We walked towards the back door....

•••

[Quinton]

I lit my cigarette and leaned against the wall.

He was sitting on a chair. Just looking at eachother.

Khule: "How have you been?" I chuckled.

Me: "I've been good. Life's great"

Khule: "Yoli has recovered?"

Me: "Oh yes. She remembers everything." I killed my cigarette. "Tell me Khulekani why don't you ever call to ask all that?"

Khule: "I-"

Me: "You chose a woman over your own blood?"

Khule: "I didn't"

Me: "I called you to tell you Yoli was in hospital. I needed you by my side, to tell me everything will be okay but instead you told me you're getting married on Saturday. And after that you never called"

Khule: "I was busy"

Me: "For 3 months? How about a text?"

Khule: "You judged me for marrying Lucia dammit!"

Me: "You also judged me for being in a relationship with Yoli. Did I ever stop loving you?" He didn't answer. "But you did. When I needed you the most you turned your back against me. I came to tell you Yoli is getting better and that my kids can't visit you anymore"

Khule: "Where do kids enter in this?"

Me: "Because you're nothing to me anymore."

Khule: "Don't be ridiculous"

Me: "I've said what I've said. When you see me. Walk the opposite direction. If you ever try to sell off my father's company I will claim back my position.

You're disgusting Khulekani. This new love has you fucked up. You repulse me with this foolishness"

I walked away...

•••

[Bonga]

I got off the call with Happy and went downstairs to fix myself a sandwich.

I startled, even dropped my phone.

Me: "Jesus Christ! We spoke about this!"

Gogo: "Don't shout at me boy."

Me: "Your appearance should be as normal as possible"

Gogo: "Its not my fault you're a coward. Fire that nanny. She's a daughter of an enemy, Nkazi is too but keep her close."

Me: "You need to fix obaba"

Gogo: "Those ones must just stay like that"

Me: "They hate each other gogo. This family is falling apart"

Gogo: "Being apart will teach them the importance of unity. And will make them realize how much they need each other, they will see that eventually. Wherewas I? Oh....Mamnguni must go back to Durban.

Someone will soon notice and we don't want that to happen. Take Manzuzi to Bab Cele, without your father knowing though"

Me: "And how am I gonna do that?"

Gogo: "You're old. Figure a way. Most of all, I need you to go to the office at midnight. On the the ground parking, where there's a tap, dig. You'll find abody, probably bones by now. Go and burn it and spill the ashes into the moving river. Take Quinton with you"

Me: "I am-"

She disappeared. "Come back! Whose body or bones are those? Jesus your tasks are forever worse! Why did you pass me this crazy gift! I hate this life!"

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[Katlego]

I woke up feeling better than all the previous days. My mother has been forcing food down my throat without a fail. I am scared of that woman. When she gets to her motherly mode she does not take nonsense and I am glad or else a fan would blow me away.

I got out of bed and made it. I do not like the helping going in and out of my room. I should fetch my things and my kids after the house hunt. I do not like the houses we've gone to see so far, they are not

children friendly and I have no time to renovate.

I went to the bathroom and showered. I searched for the kind of weather to be expected today. Still cold. I hate winter. I dressed up in warm clothes. I wonder if my babies are warm enough. I heard a knock as I packed my things in my bag.

Me: "It's open" she tucked her head in first.

Mom: "You're awake. Going somewhere?"

Me: "Yeah. House viewing." She came in and sat on the bed.

Mom: "Ready to talk?"

Me: "No"

Mom: "Are you getting divorced?"

Me: "Yes"

Mom: "Katlego I am your mother. You can not keep me in the dark like this"

Me: "I am no longer happy in that marriage but I really don't wanna talk about it yet. Please never let him again"

Mom: "I had no idea dear I'm sorry. I will not I promise"

Me: "Thank you" she got up and came to hug me.

Mom: "Whatever it is. It will get better and I'm proud of you for choosing yourself. That is very brave"

Me: "Thank you"

We let go. She caressed my left cheek.

Mom: "Let me go warm up your breakfast" I faked a smile. I don't want food!

She walked out. I sighed and zipped my bag. My phone rang on top of the bed side table.

I went to take it. I gather all the courage in me and answer. Its been long ignoring his calls.

Me: "Mbuyazi"

Quinton: "Thank goodness! I was starting to think you're dead or something. Are you okay?"

Me: "Never been better. How are you?"

Quinton: "I am not good at all. I spent the night at your house last night, it is not like you to leave your

kids behind. What is going on?" I cleared my throat. Me: "I-
I got held up at home."

Quinton: "That is not true. Chris won't even talk
anything with sense. What is going on mama ka
Hawu?"

Me: "Everything is fine. I am on my way there as we
speak. You left Yoli in Durban?"

Quinton: "No. We're all here, Her and Khethelo"

Me: "Ok. I'm coming. Is there enough breakfast
there?"

Quinton: "No. The house did not look like it has people
staying in it but Khethelo went to shop"

Me: "I'm sorry about that. See you in the next hour"

Quinton: "Drive safe"

Me: "Thank you"

I hung up and took a deep sigh. I texted the estate agent
top postpone our appointment and walked out.

I packed my breakfast and left...

•••

[Bonga]

If there's someone who is never off their phone, that is Mthobisi Dube.

Mtho: "Morning"

Me: "So early. Who are you chatting to?"

Mtho: "I am trying to get a bursary"

Me: "Its almost the middle of the year"

Mtho: "Trying my luck. I moved out of your father'shouse"

Me: "Why?"

Mtho: "Whatever scheming they are both up to. I don't wanna be part of it. My mother thinks the world revolves around her. She wanted me to vote in favour. Imagine"

Me: "You're her son ofcourse she thought you would"

Mtho: "And give away our legacy? I am not that stupid man. Where were you last night?"

Me: "Huh?" I handed over the plate of breakfast.

Mtho: "Thank you. Yeah, I came into your room around 11pm but yoh weren't there"

Me: "Oh Happy forgot her bag here I had to take it toher"

Mtho: "Oh"

Me: "Let go to work. Clean up, sisi won't be coming in today and please do attend your classes Mthobisi"

Mtho: "Yes dad"

We laughed.

Me: "Uzoswaba sarn"

I took my keys and walked out...

•••

[Khule]

Fastening my cuffs can be pretty frustrating especially when you're already frustrated.

Me: "I think I will drive to Heidelberg after the meeting"

Lucia: "To do what?"

Me: "Check up on Calvin. It is not like him to be this quiet, his phones aren't going through, also Lelo's'

Lucia: "Maybe that's a sign that they do not want to be contacted"

Me: "I will find that out today"

Lucia: "Why? Aren't you man enough to live without your brothers? Your brothers hate me I do not know why would you bother about people that don't like your wife"

Me: "Its not that. We just caught them by surprise"

Lucia: "Really? Did you see the way Quinton looked at me? It was as if I was dog's puke!"

Me: "That's because he's mad at me"

Lucia: "Exactly! He's mad at you for marrying me"

Me: "No. Not everything is about you Lucia. He's mad cause I've been negligent at his time of need"

Lucia: "You have a life, a wife. He must just grow up and stop being selfish"

Me: "That's not how we live. We matter to each other. A lot. I've been a jerk"

Lucia: "No, you've been a good husband to your wife. Being there for him wouldn't have brought back his wife's memory"

Me: "Lucia!"

Lucia: "What? Would it have?" I kept quiet. "I thought so too"

Me: "I'm leaving"

Lucia: "But I'm not done"

Me: "We're leaving in separate cars today" I

closed the door.

I grabbed a plum and banana at the kitchen.

I took the Audi Q 7 keys. Haven't drove it since Khethelo did. Her scent was all over. I got off and got in the BMW X6 we always drive and drove off...

•••

[Khethiwe]

I went back to the reception desk. I hit the desk lightly with my bag. She looked up at me.

Me: "I really don't have the whole day sweetie. Please call Miss Mpanza and tell her its urgent"

Her: "Ok ma'am. She usually take less than this with her clients I don't know what is happening today"

Me: "Maybe its my bad day"

She picked up the phone and punched numbers.

I went to make myself a 3rd cup of coffee. She waved at me.

Her: "You can go in. 2nd floor, office B"

Me: "Thank you"

I walked to the lift.

I found her outside her office watering a plant.

Me: "Nice" she sighed in a rather bored face and put down the little metal watering kettle and walked inside her office.

She sat on top of her desk and folded her arms before her breasts.

Miss Mpanza: "How may I be of help Miss Dladla" Me:
"Mrs Dube sweetheart"

Miss Mpanza: "Looking through Tyler's papers, he has
no record of marriage"

Me: "And with that you thought you had a chance
with him?"

Miss Mpanza: "What?" She chuckles. Guilty if I read that
face right.

Me: "You came into his office unannounced yesterday.
You thought that wasn't enough, you texted him those
nasty boobs and unshaved vagina. Do you know I am
going to take all those disgusting nude pictures to the
authorities?"

Miss Mpanza: "Mrs Dube I-"

Me: "No stick to Miss Dladla love. Please do me 2 favors,
get off my family's business and stop trying to get to my
man's pants. If you don't, I will not only expose you for the
hoe that you are but I will also kill you"

Miss Mpanza: "Are you threatening me?" I smirked at

her and shook my head no.

Me: "I will. I don't do threats. By the end of today I want my husband to receive a letter that he is no longer under any stupid investigation"

Miss Mpanza: "That is impossible. It takes days to close down an investigation"

Me: "You aren't only good at investigating. You're also a good hoe, go to whomever grants the letters, suck his dick and then boom. If you don't. Tomorrow morning the whole of SA will be talking about your ugly vagina"

Miss Mpanza: "You will rot in jail for that! Posting someone's naked pictures is now serious offense"

Me: "Dubes never stay for a week in jail so..." I shrugged. Someone walked in. "I trust you Miss Mpanza. Don't let me down. Hello" I greeted him as I walked out.

This old bitch sent Tyler her nudes and all other nasty messages about how much she craves for him. He thinks it's funny cause he's stupid but it had my blood boiling. I wanted it to be today already so I put

my hands on her but I woke up calm....

•••

[Quinton]

"Quinton! Quinton!"

I rushed up the stairs. I flew into the room. She was but naked. I gulped. I haven't seen her naked since forever, it felt wrong to look at her.

Me: "Put on something"

Yoli: "Why? Have you not seen me naked before?"

Me: "I have but its different now" her stomach is growing slowly. I want it to balloon.

Yoli: "Why? Because I lost my memory?" She laughed.

Me: "No. Because I will get aroused"

Yoli: "Ohhh that's bad. Don't you have sex?" Me:

"No I don't"

Yoli: "Liar"

Me: "I'm serious. Did you call me here to see you

naked?"

Yoli: "No. I called you to please shave me" Me:

"Where?"

Yoli: "Vagina" she laughed again. "I'm kidding. I felt a movement"

Me: "Really?" I took the towel and covered her lower body. "Can I touch it?"

Yoli: "Yes but it has stopped" I slowly sent my hand to her belly. "Ouch you're cold" I moved the hand.

Me: "Sorry."

Yoli: "Its okay. Have you always been like this with me?"

Me: "How?"

Yoli: "Sad, scared, shy, worried and everything that isn't happiness"

Me: "No. I don't know how to be around you and not be sad."

Yoli: "You feel like I won't get better"

Me: "Yeah"

Yoli: "Don't cry" I smiled and tilted my head to stop the tears from falling. "I feel like I've been here before. That counts for something right?"

Me: "Yeah it does" she hugged me.

Yoli: "Thank you. I know it is not easy but you're still here. Thank you" I hesitated to touch her but she did not let go. I eventually gave in. I missed her. This is the first physical contact we've ever made since she got out of the hospital. She moved her head to look up at me.

Yoli: "You're so tall" I laughed.

Me: "You said that every time we hugged" I kissed her forehead. She smiled.

Yoli: "You said we're coming here to get me better right?"

Me: "Yes I did"

Yoli: "Then let's go that restaurant you said I love so much. Take me to your twin brother's house. Take me anywhere we've ever been, share the bed with

me"

Me: "I can't share the bed with you"

Yoli: "Why not? How will I remember how it feels to love you if we aren't connected? You're always here but never close Quinton. My dad can not walk in on us seating on the same couch here, we can do whatever we want here" she's right.

Me: "Let me go take a shower and then we'll go to that restaurant"

Yoli: "Let's take a shower together"

Me: "I-"

Yoli: "What if I don't get better? I need to learn to love you again. When the baby arrives I want us to kiss. I read our texts every night and cry at how much we were so in love. I don't want that love to slip through my hands" I squeezed her tight.

Me: "Let me go get my bag"

We let go. She wore this big beautiful smile. She's been this happy since this morning. I am happy she's happy.

She went to the bathroom while I walked out. Hope restored in me again...

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[Bonga]

Me: "Oh you arrived early today"

Gogo: "Because you haven't dug up the bones!"

Bonga: "Baba is very occupied. I can't just go to him: Baba let's go dig up bones of a person we have no idea who. Gogo's order"

Gogo: "Sbongakonke"

Me: "Gogo"

Gogo: "So you closed down this place for nothing?"

Me: "I'm still trying to come up with an idea of why we're renovating. We just renovated 6 months ago"

Gogo: "Come up with something quickly my boy or all this flashy lifestyle and every thing you have will be taken away. All of you will squat at the Diepsloot matches box of a house"

The door roughly opened. I swear to God they are

truly tongue and saliva.

Khule: "Why is this place not running?"

Lucia: "Do you know how much money-"

Me: "This is a family matter ma'am. Please wait outside"

Gogo: "Don't tell this little weakly a thing"

Me: "I'm renovating baba. The pipes are leaking they have caused damage to the underground walls"

Khule: "And you didn't see it fit to let me know?"

Gogo: "Tell him yes."

Me: "Yes"

He tried to hit me. Lucia held him.

Gogo: "Tell him I am here"

Me: "Gogo is here"

Gogo: "Tell him I don't want this woman here. I want to speak to him"

Me: "She says Lucia should get out. She wants to speak to you"

Khule: "Lucia is my wife. Whatever you want to say to me you can say it in front of her"

Gogo: "Bloody fool. Have the security take him out. If you ever let this hard face whore into any of my children's houses I'll set them on fire. If you let her into my jet I will crash it. I don't care who will be inside"

She disappeared.

Me: "Gogo no" Lucia:

"Is he crazy?" Me:

"Out"

Khule: "What does she say?"

Me: "Get out!!!"

Yet again. I am put in a position where I have to control things that can't be controlled...

[2/26, 10:56] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

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[Quinton]

I tossed the shovel over the top of the soil we've dug up. I wiped the sweat off with the sleeve of my overall.

Me: "Mfana I am shit tired. We'll have to continue again tonight" I was panting, I drank water and the panting became better. "Fuck!"

Bonga stopped digging too.

Bonga: "How deep should we go? Mkhulu must've dug this with a machine"

Me: "He probably did." We had dug up to my toso. If there was anything there we would've found it already. "Let's go"

Bonga: "Let's dig for an hour more. We might be close"

Me: "Hell no. Dig alone. I'm going home, I am tired, hungry and very sleepy"

Bonga: "Baba please. We don't have time"

Me: "Dig up for 30 minutes then I'll do my 30 minutes after you."

He nodded and started digging again. I sat in the car, doors open watching him trying by all means to stop myself from falling asleep. I popped out a cigarette and lit it. I checked the time. It was a few minutes after 4.

Me: "Get in the car"

Bonga: "Wait...I think I see something"

I got out of the car and went to see. Mphangiseni was a very shady man. I took my shovel and jumped in. We dug till I couldn't handle it anymore. I might have killed a couple of times but I'm fucking scared of ghosts.

Bonga: "Haw baba. Help take it out"

Me: "Why aren't you scared?"

Bonga: "He's dead. Bones" he laughed.

Me: "The hairs on my back just stood up. Jesus don't open it!"

Bonga: "I know you've seen dead people"

Me: "Yes, fresh ones. How long has this one been dead?"

Bonga: "Only Mkhulu knows. Come" Oh Lord. This is Khule's type of thing, not me.

We carried it to the boot of the car. Whew!

We drove off to burn it and put the ashes into the river. We arrived home at 10am. We found Katlego and Khethelo cooking.

Us: "Morning"

Katlego: "Where were you guys?"

Me: "Went to take care of something. Is Yoli upstairs?"

Khethelo: "Yes. She went to pee, probably standing in front of the mirror looking at her belly now" we laughed.

Me: "Is there something to eat left?"

Katlego: "Yes. I'll warm it just now. In the mean time you both can go bath" I smelled my armpits.

Bonga: "You're very polite ma thank you" we laughed

and followed each other to our respectful bedrooms.

She was not in the room. I connected my phone to the charger and planted my clothes on the floor as I headed to the bathroom. We had a weird moment of "hhah!" I suppose we scared each other.

Me: "Hey" I said after taking a deep breath. Yoli:

"You scared me. Why didn't you knock?" Me:

"You scared me too"

Yoli: "Where were you?"

Me: "Out?"

Yoli: "Out where Quinton?"

Me: "Out out" I couldn't really think of anything with sense.

Yoli: "Are you cheating on me?"

Me: "What? No. What do you take me for?"

Yoli: "Do you even know what date is it today?" I

shook my head slowly. "23rd. I have a Drs appointment"

Me: "I'm so sorry. I got held up. Let me bath and we'll go afterwards"

She sighed and shook her head and then walked out. When did we get here? Who shouts at a butt naked poor man who just dug up a ghost?

She came back as I stepped under the shower.

Yoli: "It still won't position itself right so we didn't get the gender again."

My heart just melted like chocolate in the sun when she played the video. She paused as I was still watching.

Me: "What is wrong with you? I'm still watching"

Yoli: "Then maybe you should've went with me. Did you bring ulusu that I asked you to bring?"

Me: "Yes. Its downstairs" I said for the sake of peace. I figured I was the least of people she wanted to see today. She walked out. She wasn't scared of me at all today.

I showered as fast as I could. I wasn't sleepy anymore. My happiness was short lived. Yoli is

naturally dramatic, had she not been sick right now I would be a street adult due to pregnancy drama. Seems like I didn't really dodge the bullet...

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[Bonga]

After eating I asked mam Khethelo to come help me with something outside.

Me: "You have to go back to Durban, today before this meeting mam Katlego asked"

Khethelo: "Why?"

Me: "Because gogo said so. You being here is a very high risk, already baba is suspicious of you always wearing a coat"

Khethelo: "But..."

Me: "No buts ma. Tell me when you're ready, I will drive you to the airport"

I left her standing there mad or whatever and went inside, all the way up to mam Yoli's bedroom. I knocked, baba said I may come in. I went in, they were cuddling. Didn't they just almost throw each

other out the window because of mogodu?

Me: "Ma can I have a word with you?"

She laughed.

Yoli: "I'll never get used to that. Yeah we can have a word"

Me: "Privately"

Quinton: "I will be at the tv room playing fifa." He took his phone and walked out.

Me: "Baba I know you're there" he laughed.

Quinton: "Tsek san. I'm leaving now"

Me: "Leave madala"

I opened the door to check if he's really gone. Before we left yesterday to dig up those bones I gave her some concoction that the leaf suggested when I consulted. My spirit did not feel okay for me to take her to Bab Cele.

I closed the door and went to sit on a single couch near the mirror.

Me: "How are you?"

Yoli: "I'm good. Actually I am perfect Bonga. I can't wait to tell him"

Me: "Its working?"

Yoli: "Yes. When I woke up I jumped out bed and rushed to bath thinking I'm going to work and then I recognized Katlego. A lot is still in the dark but it is working"

Me: "Thank you Lord. I will give you something else again tonight"

Yoli: "Thank you"

Me: "Anytime mama."

We laughed. My phone rang.

Me: "You recall that you have grandchildren?"

Yoli: "You have kids?"

Me: "Yes. Quads. 6 months" she gasped and thought hard.

Yoli: "Will the memory come back in order or?"

Me: "I would be lying if I said I knew"

Yoli: "Please bring them over. Maybe it might boost me in any way"

Me: "I will. Let me go call the mama back"

Yoli: "Thank you so much Bonga"

Me: "I'm just doing my job"

She smiled. I walked out...

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[Calvin]

Mpendulo ran to me and hugged my knees. I put letgo the luggage and picked him up.

Me: "Hey little man. Where's mommy?" He responded in Mandarin. "Babe?" I shouted.

Lelo: "Storerroom!" She shouted back.

She appeared with a beautiful smile. We hugged and shared a kiss.

Lelo: "Oh my God I missed you"

Me: "Not more than I did. Where are the twins?"

Lelo: "They left for the school trip this morning. I emailed you"

Me: "Oh. I haven't read my emails today"

Lelo: "You look hungry"

Me: "I am my love." She pulled me to the kitchen.

Lelo: "Hell is breaking loose in Jo'burg. Khule tried to put that woman into the company"

Me: "Yeah I heard. I will put an end to this madness, once and for all"

Lelo: "I miss them so much"

Me: "We're going there tonight. They are probably thinking I ditched them"

Lelo: "Fantastic. Yoli is also there"

Me: "Quinton hates me wherever he is. But he'll have to understand that I did this for all of us" she served me food. I missed her food. "Thank you"

Lelo: "I'll go pack"

Me: "Yezwe and Dolly are coming this weekend. I am so not in the mood for eating all those funny foods"

Dolly cooks" she laughed.

Lelo: "He said he'll be serving us African Cuisine this time around Mr Father inlaw" I laughed.

Me: "Be warned Mrs Dube. There were some hotties there at Mozambique, I should've snatched one and made her my second wife"

Lelo: "It is very mature to ask your wife nicely to kill you, not suggest second wives"

Me: "You love me too much to kill me"

Lelo: "And I love you too much to share you." She winked and vanished.

Me: "Your mama is crazy boy. Are you excited to see your siblings? I'm sure they miss you"

He put his filthy hand into my food. "Let's just hope there's no poop in that hand or else you and I will have a big trouble" he giggled and we ate.

That Lucia woman won't know what hit her.

...

We drove into Khule's home around 5pm. Women

and always needing something from the mall. We left home early but walked around the mall buying 'afew things' that turned out to be the whole of Heidelberg mall.

He didn't look so well. He was coughing and sneezing.

Khule: "You sure as hell know how to hide"

Me: "I was not hiding. I was busy. Have you seen a Dr?"

Khule: "No. I was hoping it's something small"

Me: "Then I can't request a meeting if you're like this"

Khule: "What is going on? Katlego requested one too"

Me: "Is it? Then let's drive there. I have a flu mixture in my car, I was also dying a week ago"

Khule: "Ok I'll find you outside. Let me call Lucia and inform her"

Me: "Okay"

I was never the type to believe in traditional healers but when Mathebula, the Mozambique best known healer called me and told me to pay him a visit or else we will watch all that we worked hard for vanish into thin air, I took the next available flight. I stayed there for 3 weeks, getting cleansed and everything.

And then he gave me more cleansing mixtures for everyone and then the special one for Khule. That woman is wicked, who bewitch someone to be with them, to rob them off of everything they have? She saw Khule and saw a freakin jackpot. The fact that she's trying to turn him against us made me me even sick.

I got in the car and waited for him...

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[Khule]

It rang for a while before she answered.

Lucia: "I'm in the middle of the meeting Khulekani, what is it? Are you dying?" I coughed.

Me: "I am going to Chris's. There is a meeting"

Lucia: "What meeting? How are you gonna drive in that state?"

Me: "I'll go with Calvin"

Lucia: "Are you kidding me? That witch is the reason you're sick. Is he there in my house?"

Me: "Not today Lucia please. You will drive straight to Chris's after work" I hung up.

I locked and went to hop on the car. I greeted Lelo and Calvin handed me the mixture.

Calvin: "It's bitter. Just close your eyes and gulp it all down"

I did.

Me: "Yeses! Do you have sweets?"

Calvin: "Lie down it will get better"

I felt sicker than I was. I lied down...

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[Tyler]

I was never ready for this part of raising a child a

child. He screamed from the creche until we got to his mother's office. We were on the way to Chris's, he hadn't stopped screaming.

Khethiwe: "Finally we will know what is happening." Me: "I think they are getting divorced"

Khethiwe: "Then I wouldn't blame them. One's happiness and well being matters. If marital problems is what made Katlego look like that then she's better off single"

Me: "True but this family will never be the same"

Khethiwe: "We'll just have to adjust to any changes" Me: "As long as she won't divorce us all"

She eyed me. "What?"

Khethiwe: "You guys are good but sometimes you fail how to treat people you love good"

Me: "True but..."

Khethiwe: "No but babe. If Katlego wants to cut ties with all of you then so be it"

Me: "Yes ma'am"

She turned up the volume.

...

I smiled when I saw Calvin's car. I carried Banzi inside.

Me: "Kush kush kush"

Calvin: "Mbuyazi. Is this you? I thought you'd be arrested, Mpanza doesn't play"

Me: "When you have a queen in your life, Mpanza is just a game"

Calvin: "You don't say. Mama ka Banzi" they hugged.

Khethiwe: "For a moment I thought we'd never see you again"

Calvin: "It's a pleasure to be missed" we laughed.

Khethiwe: "I'll go check on the ladies"

Me: "Is Khule coming?" I said to Chris. He was somewhere far away from here.

Calvin: "He's sleeping upstairs. What a mess this family has become"

Me: "Its that demon he brought into our lives"

Calvin: "That call he had with her was the last one. When he wakes up he will be the old Khule we all know"

Me: "Did you make him puke?"

Calvin: "Eww no"

Me: "Whatever it is that you gave him I want it too. Mpanza sent me nudes, guess what I did?"

Calvin: "She what? Do you still have the pictures?"

Me: "Shh. No stupid, I damn showed them to Khethiwe, does that sound normal to you?"

Calvin: "No but I'm glad you're now grown and loyal"

Me: "Hell no I'm bewitched. Khethiwe has a grandma and you know how those old women get" he laughed. "Okay stay here and laugh. I'll go see the better version of Khule"

Calvin: "That one is dog tired. Yoli and her hormones are sending him all over Jo'burg" I laughed.

Me: "Even better."

I went upstairs.

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[Katlego]

Its like dejavu. 5 years back I sat amongst my family and Pitso's to tell them the very same thing I am about to say to these Dube people. The only thing that was different today: My family wasn't here.

Me: "I'll be very brief about this since everyone has to go and prepare for work tomorrow."

Calvin: "Take all the time you need"

Lucia got in, clicking her stilettos on my floor like she owns it. Everyone sighed in some kind of way.

Lucia: "Greetings. Sorry for being late"

Calvin: "Khule is upstairs"

Lucia: "Oh"

Calvin: "Yes"

She rushed up the stairs. "Maka ka Hawu"

Me: "Chris and I have been going through some

things. We've been trying our best to make this marriage work but instead things got worse. I will be brief because I do not want to talk about this. Chris got physical with me for the first time ever in March. He turned into a complete animal..

" my mind revisited that night. My eyes instantly became wet. He was looking at me the whole time. He begged me not to tell his family about this but I couldn't do that. They needed to know why we were getting a divorce.

"This home turned into a complete battle field. He told me to quit church, I went to church when I was in my mother's house, he found out....I have never experienced that kind of beating in my life. He beat me in front of the kids, not even their little crying could stop him, he beat me until I bled. I ended up in hospital where I found out I had lost a baby"

Khethiwe moved closer to me and hugged me as we cried into each other's arms.

Me: "I have been trying to forgive but I'm failing. I have been avoiding everyone. My health, I am not

recovering. So we reached an agreement that we will be getting a divorce"

Quinton got up.

Quinton: "Follow me Christian"

Chris kept glued on his sofa. Quinton swung onto him and slapped him across the face.

Quinton: "Need I repeat myself?" He shook his head and followed him. I needed to see more of that.

Calvin followed.

I could hear him groan as Quinton shouted at him, saying how much he's gonna kill him.

"Yes we've done horrible mistakes. Why do you always follow in those wicked steps!"

We heard a sharp scream from upstairs. We rushed up.

"Khule please!" She could barely speak. The door was half open. He had her pinned down, his both hands on her neck.

Tyler rushed in and pushed him off her.

I rushed back down stairs.

I peeped through. He was on the floor crying as Quinton said: "Get up and fight a man your own size.stop bitching Chris. You're a beater right? Get up andbeat me"

Calvin: "Talking about you can't control that fuckingcoco. Why don't you get into boxing. You see what you've cost us? Another wife gone and we can't stopher you asshole" he kicked him. "Get up you fucking douche. Get up!"

I sighed. I haven't been this happy since that day hetried to kill me....

[2/26, 10:58] Zoaness: Beauty Lies In The Eyes of A Beholder

The final chapter

56

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[Quinton]

I knocked once again.

Me: "Khulekani! I will kick it down" he did not seem to care about that. He kept groaning in frustration breaking whatever it is that he was breaking. "You will buy all of that you fool." Calvin walked down the hallway towards me.

Cal: "Let him be." A glass clattered.

Me: "He's breaking things"

Cal: "He's mad at himself"

Me: "Why don't he break himself then? What did glasses do to him?"

Cal: "Come. We need to talk to Lucia"

Me: "No. I'm not talking to that witch. Hhey wena, don't break the bathroom mirror. I love that mirror"

Cal: "Let's go"

I hesitantly followed him all the way down to the basement. So much wine. I opened a bottle hoping it's not Katlego's favorite.

Tyler: "Ok another question. What inspired you to be

a witch?" I chuckled.

Me: "Get out"

Tyler: "No way. She's like a robot. She answers every question" he said laughing. Trudy him to find humor in everything.

Cal: "Lucia!" He sighed. "You really thought you would get away with this?" She nodded.

Me: "We will sit here and listen to you confess everything you've done then we'll let you go"

She looked like one screw in her head had suddenly got lost. She was no longer the feisty Lucia that would tell us where to get off. I really respect Calvin's witch doctor. We took seats and waited.

Lucia: "My brother helped me do it."

Tyler: "Which one? The one who has a crush on you?" She frowned for a bit and then said:

Lucia: "Khumbulani. I paid him lots of money, bought him a car and an apartment for him to help me"

Me: "Why?"

Lucia: "I was jealous of how he loved his wife and never really acknowledged me and what I felt for him"

Cal: "Okay. Continue"

Lucia: "So I met this woman called Glade. I befriended her, to fish out information about Khulekani. Because Mtho wouldn't share anything with me. When Glade told me they once had sex back in time, I saw my chance to chase Khethelo away. I told Glade to go to their home and seek shelter, so she could seduce him but unfortunately they gave her the old house. We had to come up with plan B..."

Me: "Wait, what the f..."

Cal: "Let her finish. Continue ma'am"

Lucia: "I also paid her lots of money. I then started having Khule followed and then one night you all went to drink in that bar, all of you were drunk, I told Glade to show up and offer to him a ride home, can I please have water?"

Cal: "No! Keep talking. Did he sleep with her or not?"

She shook her head scared. "And then you killed Glade?"
She nodded. "Fucking bitch! I could kill you right now but you aren't worth getting my hands dirty for. I will drive you to the police station, and you will tell them all that"

She nodded. "Let's go"

They climbed back up. Tyler and I sat there looking at each like wtf????

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[Khethiwe]

I took my bag and rushed downstairs. I found Katlego humming a song while she fried russians. I was confused a bit before kissing the little ones on their feeding chairs and then Sikelela and her hypercrew.

Me: "I thought you wouldn't be here when we wake up"

Kat: "Me too. Hungry?"

Me: "Yes and late. Lelo said I can leave Banzi. She'll take care of them"

Kat: "Ofcourse she will. After that disappearance" we laughed. "here don't starve" she gave me a lunchbox.

Me: "Thank you mami" I bid them goodbye.

My heart almost stopped when I saw a figure leaning against my car. She laughed.

Yoli: "I'm sorry. I didn't mean to scare you"

Me: "Mosadi you almost killed me. What's up?"

Yoli: "Nothing. Can I come with you?"

Me: "I'm going to work"

Yoli: "I know. Can I?"

Me: "Quinton will..." she cut me off.

Yoli: "He agreed. I promise you, you won't even notice that I'm there"

Me: "Well, hop on then. I'm 30 minutes late"

She clapped her hands excitedly and got in. I noticed a picnic basket full of goodies at the back seat. And a baby bag!

Me: "Uhm...Yoli, are you in pain?"

Yoli: "Nope. Why?"

Me: "The baby bag"

Yoli: "Oh no. The Dr told me to take it anywhere with me. Babies can pop out anytime"

She reached for an apple at the back and started munching on it. She is so pregnant!

I chuckled and shook my head.

Yoli: "I feel like I was dead" she said after a while. I glanced at her then back on the road.

Me: "What do you mean?"

Yoli: "My memory loss. Now that I've gained my old self back I-"

I screamed and hit the steering as she shouted my name telling me to be careful. Fuck being careful!!! Fuck it!!! Just fucking fuck it!!

I pulled up at the side of the road and hugged the shit out of her, crying and laughing.

Me: "I love you so much! I am so happy"

I finally let go realizing she's pregnant and I'm

probably putting pressure on her belly with my tight squeeze. I sat back on my seat and exhaled sharply while fanning my eyes. She was laughing with glossy eyes.

Me: "Let's go get drunk...ugh fuck. Let's go to the park and drink oros"

Yoli: "Oh my God Mrs CEO you have a company to run"

Me: "Ahh Boss lady. I haven't been absent since the year began so may I please go celebrate?"

Yoli: "Let's go to that pub and grill"

Me: "Oh my God you're really back. I can't believe this."

Yoli: "You're the second person to know"

Me: "I'm sure he's over the moon"

Yoli: "He doesn't know. Only Bonga and You. I want to surprise him"

Me: "How?"

Yoli: "Throw him a baby shower or whatever"

Me: "Let's throw him a wedding"

Yoli: "What?"

Me: "No, engagement party would do. Yes engagement party. You never did it"

Yoli: "That sounds like a good idea. Let me start looking for a best designer in town...oh why bother, we have Yezwe"

Me: "This is gonna be so much fun. I can't wait" Yoli:

"Can it stay between us?"

Me: "Ofcourse babes. Ofcourse."

Yoli: "Thank you."

Finally I was gonna get married. I told her that we cancelled the wedding. She felt bad. I kept looking at her amused. Quinton was yet to receive the biggest surprise of his life...

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[Katlego]

I did not want to arrive a second late so I arrived an hour early and waited on the waiting area.

The nurse came to tell me I can now go in. I fixed myself, the 6 inch strapy heels I was wearing were abit challenging to walk on but I couldn't afford to come here looking like a dry house wife. Chris needed to die of my of look before of anything else. I had to make him see he's lost me, forever.

I wore a short jean skirt, not too short just short anda red boob tube and 6 inch red strapy heels. I had a tiny black sling bag hanging on my shoulder. I looked all types of single, oh I forgot my face. I went to a make up artist and she made the things that needed to be done, she topped it up with 6D lashes and a red lip. I couldn't look any hotter with my deep curl 8 inch lace wig. I looked like the Katlego I hadn't seen in months. In my hand I carried a bag with fruits and mageu.

I slowly opened the door. I was hoping they'll take him to a public hospital but he has money he would've asked to be moved to a private one anyway.

I closed the door and clicked my heels towards the bed. He frowned and his face turned to pissed.

Chris: "What..." he coughed, his hand rushed to his stomach. He reached for water and drank up then recovered. The sight was very amusing to me. I knew they beat him up but I had no idea it was this bad, even better. I wished they'd popped his balls and broke his penis.

Me: "I brought you these. My mother insisted I pass by. I hope you get better" I put the bag next to his jug of water and motioned towards the door.

Chris: "Katlego" I turned. "Where are you going wearing like that?" To a club. Its Friday darling. I pushed that thought back and said:

Me: "To look for a house and then meeting up with Mr Dlamini my lawyer, why?" I removed the hair in my mouth.

Chris: "You took off your ring?"

Me: "That's no longer mine. I put it in your jewellery box. I'm running late, see ya"

I walked out, leaving him call out my name.

I texted Lulama that I will come to her hotel room

instead of the restaurant. My mother told her, she can't keep a secret.

...

I arrived at the hotel. I found her busy on her laptop wearing pyjamas.

Me: "Are you kidding me?"

Luh: "I changed back into them after you texted" Me:

"Ohh"

Luh: "You look good."

Me: "I feel naked"

I took out my jeans and tee from my bag and changed.

Luh: "Where were you?"

Me: "Hospital"

Luh: "To do what?"

Me: "To see Chris. His brothers beat him up"

Luh: "Good riddance. I just don't understand why did you go to see him"

Me: "Uhm...because he's my husband"

Luh: "Soon to be ex-husband" she exclaimed.Me:

"No. He's my husband"

Luh: "Katlego"

Me: "No Lulu. I will move out of the house while he goes for help. I am not divorcing him"

Luh: "Oh, you want him to kill you?"

Me: "He won't"

Luh: "He killed your baby though" I felt my insides knot.

"Are you also gonna be those women who stay in abusive relationships for the kids? He's an asshole and isn't worthy of your love or your loyalty. Divorce him!"

I picked my bag and headed to the door. "Katlego!"

I upped my pace until the parking lot where she reached me.

Me: "I love him and as much as he hurt me, it was not him. I will help him deal with this, not as a couple but I won't divorce him either."

Luh: "You aren't making any sense"

Me: "Then let me be. My marriage is none of anyone's concern really."

Luh: "We care about Katli"

Me: "Then support every decision I make. When it backfires I will take the responsibility of being irresponsible"

Luh: "Fine! Have it your way just know I will not come to your funeral"

Me: "Fine!"

I got in my car and sped away crying...

•••

[Khethelo]

When I left Joburg Yoli gave me keys to her apartment when I complained about boredom in mine.

I told the cab driver to take me straight to Yoli's. I found it clean and fresh. It was beautiful. Ben came to check up on me in that evening, he came again

yesterday he drank until he passed out on the couch, enjoying his freaky Friday.

When I woke up this morning he was No where in sight. I went to lock the door and took off the damncoat. I made breakfast and sat down in the lounge and watched TV. Saturdays are the worst. I took myphone to call Nhlelo.

The key moved on the door. I froze for a while thinking who could it be. Maybe someone trying to break in? I ran to the bedroom and took out a gun from my bag and tiptoed back to the lounge with mygun pointing out and ready to kill.

I pulled the trigger soon as I saw the perpetrator.

"Khethelo! Khethelo!" I threw the gun down and froze.Oh my God Yoli is gonna kill me.

Khule: "Oh my fucking goodness you psycho! You almost killed me!"

Me: "ugh its you. Why on earth did I miss?" I groaned while rolling my eyes. "I thought you were Quinton. What are you doing here?" I said picking up the gun,heading back to the bedroom.

I turned to him when I turned to walk back to the lounge.

Khule: "Whose is it?" I shrugged. He pointed at my belly. Shit I totally forgot I had a bump. I gulped.

Me: "My boyfriend's. Move out of my way" I said trying to sound as proud as possible.

I pushed him aside and walked out.

Khule: "What boyfriend?"

Me: "My boyfriend. The one who has a nice dick. Why are you here? Did magogo chase you out or you ran away from the wrinkled vajayjay?" I chuckled as I sat on the high chair continuing with my greasy breakfast.

Khule: "Khethelo"

Me: "Yah?"

Khule: "How far are you?"

Me: "None of your business" he was different. He didn't look at me with hatred and disgust as he usually does.

Khule: "Where are my kids?"

Me: "At home with their grandma"

He headed towards the door. He banged it behind him. I let out a breath I didn't even know I was holding. I went and took my phone from the couch and called Bonga. He picked up after a while.

Me: "He knows"

Bonga: "Who?"

Me: "Khule. He...he came in here and I-"

Bonga: "Calm down. Lucia is out of our lives now. She handed herself into the police for killing Glade"

Me: "What?" I felt anger well up inside me. "Tell me I did not hear you right"

Bonga: "You did. I just got off the call with Bab Calvin. Don't put the Glade issues into your head, we'll talk after the meeting. I love you"

He hung up. I sat on the couch defeated. I needed answers.

I called Calvin...

...

[2 weeks later]

To say things were better would be a less way to describe how well everything was going. Although Khule still believed I was carrying another man's child, which I enjoyed ofcourse. The pain he causedme was nothing compared to me claiming to be impregnated by my nice dick boyfriend.

No one knew about my pregnancy at the Dubes and I knew he was too proud to tell anyone. I was still at Yoli's. I loved it there. I loved even Ben more. I buriedmyself in my coat in his presence ofcourse. The twins didn't like me at all. They came with Nhlelo over the weekend and left, not even a single mncwaaa mommy.

I don't know what I'd do without Nhlelo or mama.

Magogo was clearly the dark cloud hovering over us.She was still behind bars. I planned on visiting her.

Khule was free from her spell. Even though we weren't best of friends he did not stop showing hisugly face here.

I heard a knock as I positioned myself on the highchair to eat.

Me: "Who is it?"

Khule: "Open up" I rolled my eyes.

Me: "Its unlocked"

He pushed it open. At least he remembered there's what we call knocking today.

Me: "How can I help you Khulekani Dube?"

Khule: "I came to tell you I am leaving with the kid tonight"

Me: "You could've texted"

Khule: "I know but I was in the neighborhood so I..." Me:

"Ok safe flight"

I felt something cold and soft rubbing against my leg. I gulped not wanting to think it is what I feel like it is.

Me: "For the love of God please come pick me up" it moved to another leg. "Khulekani!"

He just stood there confused. Tears gushed down

my face. That's when he rushed to me but stopped and smiled when he saw it.

Me: "How big is it?"

Khule: "Quite big"

Me: "Please pick me up Khulekani I am begging you" he chuckled.

Khule: "I'll see you around. You can call your baby daddy to come pick you up" the thing had stopped moving but still resting on my feet. I was shit scared to look at it.

Me: "Wait! Fuck you man. Just get this fucking grand grand grandfather of a snake off of me. I swear to God I'll kill it next time!"

Khule: "Will you take me back?"

Me: "Fuck you"

I kicked the snake off and climbed on top of the counter. He rolled with laughter.

Me: "Get out you fucking moron! Take your snake with you"

Khule: "Oh no that's not mine"

It rolled itself under the chair. Oh God its here to stay. I got off the counter and ran to the bedroom. I grabbed my gown, bag and car keys. I found him eating my food.

Khule: "Where are you going?"

Me: "Home. I will not stay with that anaconda"

Khule: "You know its gonna appear anywhere you are right?"

Me: "What I know is that I will kill it if I see it"

Khule: "Don't be ridiculous. You want my child to die at birth? Come I'll drive you" I rolled my eyes. "You can't drive with that belly"

Me: "Not today Satan! Not today!" I said and rushed out. "Lock!" I shouted as got in the lift.

My phone beeped: No longer leaving. Wanna hang out?

This guy: Futsek!!

responded.

I got in my car, warmed the engine back to life and drove off....

•••

[Katlego]

The new house was now a home. A warm home. The kids seemed to love it, I picked this one because the yard is big enough and has all the playing equipment that the little ones love so much.

The family crowded it the day after we moved in. We had a nice brunch at the patio. It had been only 2 weeks but it felt like months. Have not seen Christian since the day I visited him at the hospital.

He put an order that I should not be allowed into his ward. I wouldn't say I had any problems with that anyway. No one has seen or heard from him. We all knew he is okay wherever he was.

We came to visit at Q's last afternoon. Everyone was there. Our lives are full of bliss. Only laughter and love amongst us. I couldn't be happier. I was more happier about the surprise engagement party happening on Friday. Quinton is as clueless as they

come. Yoli thought she could hide this away from me but she failed. She finally confessed about gaining her memory back.

Emi walked in holding her 'Sbhamu', the new name Calvin and Q gave her baby because her and Jason wouldn't put it down.

Emi: "Lunch is ready"

Me: "Who cooked?" I asked. Khethiwe, Yoli and Lelo weren't home and I had been buried in my school work since after breakfast. And Emi doesn't touch pots unless she has help.

Emi: "Calvin and Quinton"

Me: "Is the kitchen still intact?"

We laughed.

Emi: "Yes and very clean. Let's go. The others are already on the way"

Me: "Let clean up. I'm coming"

She walked out. She literally went from size 30 to 36. Jason is doing well in treating her with love. She's happy and it shows. Soon, Jason will go to finish off

the lobola. Her brothers aren't so happy about that.

...

We all gathered around the table after making fun of our chefs. Tyler whistled as he arrived.

Tyler: "When I heard the you cooked I drove straight there. Can't wait to abuse my taste buds"

Calvin: "Your wives could never cook anything close to this, no offense my loves"

Lelo: "Wow, you're stabbing us and telling us not to bleed" we laughed.

Me: "Please sit down baba ka Banzi I can't contain myself anymore"

Tyler: "God bless this food. No diarrhea formed against us shall prosper. Amen" we said amen and laughed. We dished up.

They stared at us waiting for feedback but none of us had the time to talk. I gave them a thumbs up, they eased up a little and dished up too. Grilled chicken, baby potatoes and salads. They nailed it. I prayed my dress would still fit after this. Yoli was

quiet, scared that she might say something that'll give her away. But just one day left until she can talk.

After the nice lunch I drove to meet up with Khethiweto check if we have everything in place. We told others we are throwing Yoli a baby shower of which is true, we'll surprise her in her own surprise. We invited no outsiders just the Dubes and Yoli's parents.

...

Khethiwe has the tendency of running around like a headless chicken, grabbing and letting go of everything.

Me: "What are PA's for?"

Khethiwe: "That one doesn't take her job seriously...here, found it"

Me: "Why do you part with your purse anyway?"

Khethiwe: "I was hiding it away from Yoli. Did you tell her she has to go to the Dr?"

Me: "I told Q and told him to strictly go to Dr Mhlongo"

Khethiwe: "No. Lelo has to take her. Q will not take her to any Dr other than Zuzo" our family Dr.

Me: "Let me text her. Get your bag we're already late" We left...

○ Narrated●●○

Khethiwe and Katlego were running around with their checklists to make sure every thing was there and in order.

The event was gonna take place at Khule's house since it was bigger and has a huge yard. Mamkhulu, Khanyisani and his fiance, Bab

Ntombenhle walked in into the lounge holding Nkaba, her son.

Ntombi: "Does anyone want a baby?"

Everyone laughed.

Mrs Nzuzza: "Bring my baby here you woman"

Ntombi: "Thank you madam now I can go and show off my sexiness to men my age. You and your old man can stay here. Lelo are gonna help me with that

bottle of Champagne? I can't rally finish it all alone"

Lelo: "Oh no that would be selfish of me to say no.Let's go"

She got up and they left for the kitchen. Khethiwe clicked her heels in. She gulped down the champagne that was on Lelo's hand.

Khethiwe: "Please dress up. We are rolling in anhour"

Ntombi: "Use that hour to rest. where's Katlego?"

Khethiwe: "Marking the deco" she got in looking allkinds of tired.

Ntombi: "Here, this should ease up the fatigue" she handed them each pills. They drank up and everyonewent into their respective rooms to change.

...

[At Q's house]

Quinton got in to Tyler's room. He was dressed up,with an idea that they are attending Khethiwe's surprise wedding.

Tyler: "I picked the perfect size, didn't I?" Q:

"For once yes you did. Are you ready?" Tyler:

"Yes. Where's Calvin?"

Q: "Drinking all my scotch, my bar is almost dry"

Tyler: "What's up with him and scotch anyway"

Q: "Apparently him and Lelo are reliving their young days. You should see the bags of weed in their room"

Tyler: "Thixo, they must embrace old age. I once found them looking guilty as hell in the kitchen. I hope they weren't fucking in the kitchen near our breakfast!" Q laughed.

Q: "They probably were"

Tyler's phone chimed.

Tyler: "Time to go."

Quinton went to fetch Yoli. Yezwe had just finished dressing her up.

Poppy: "Father in bae this is your honey, in case you can't recognize her"

Q: "Thank you. I would've walked past her" Yoli giggled blushing. He kissed her lips and then wiped his lips for any possible lipstick.

Yezwe: "Its Matt baba."

They laughed.

Poppy: "Are we leaving?"

Q: "Yes we are."

Poppy: "I am honored to be your driver my lovely parents"

Yezwe: "Uhm babe..."

Q: "We'd love that actually"

Yezwe sighed in defeat. They followed each other out.

.....

Q: "Tyler you didn't tell me the wedding will be here" he said as Poppy pulled up behind many cars on the drive way.

Tyler: "Well I forgot"

They got off and headed in. Tyler, Yezwe and Poppy disappeared in to thin air letting the couple walk alone all the way to the back yard.

"SURPRISE!!!!!!!" Everyone said in unison while Quinton almost fainted thinking it's the ghost that the bones belong to.

Quinton: "What on earth is going on?" Yoli laughed as she hugged the parents. Khule came to him.

Khule: "You look like you just saw a ghost"

Quinton: "You know how I feel like surprises"

Khule: "Drink this maybe you'll loosen up a bit" he gulped down the brandy in one go and gave Khule his glass back.

Khethiwe came.

Khethiwe: "Bonyamazane. Q can you and Baby mama come this side?"

Q: "Yeah sure"

She led them to their respective chairs, Yoli's chair next the writing 'Mama/Bride to be' and then Q's 'Baba/Groom to be'

Katlego came with slings written like that. She helped them put it on. Khethiwe asked everyone to settle down.

Khethiwe: "Sanibonani bo Mbuyazi"

Crowd: "Yebo"

Khethiwe: "You look beautiful today." Nzuza raised his hand. Quinton chuckled.

Khethiwe: "And a special greeting to OMshazi, Onozishada kamaqhoboza. The people who gave us this beautiful flower who's today carrying us a beautiful flower" Nzuza put his hand down and smiled in satisfaction.

Q: "Your dad is dramatic." He whispered to Yoli. Yoli:

"No he's not"

Khethiwe cleared her throat. They shifted their attention back to her.

Khethiwe: "Well Yolanda, we juggled up your event. We couldn't think of a better time to do you a baby shower. I hope you forgive us" Yoli laughed.

Yoli: "I'm quite mad at you but since I love you guys so much, you're forgiven" they laughed and she Yoli the mic.

She got up and adjusted her dress. Q brushed something off her thigh, the crowd went 'ooooohhhh' Yoli blushed thanking her soon be husband.

Yoli: "He's not doing that for your eyes, this is permanently him" everyone laughed. "I would like to greet my inlaws, my parents, my sisters and my friends and thank you all for availing yourselves to share this special day with us. This was supposed to be an engagement party, but that was before my sisters decided to make this day even more worth it. I have been out of my usual self for months and not once a day had gone by without seeing him. As much as I couldn't remember who he was he never gave up on me. I couldn't think of anything to do for him to him how much I appreciate him, for what he's been. Standing right here, this party doesn't feel like it's enough, I feel like I could've done more to thank him for walking this journey of recovery with me..." She turned to look at Q whose eyes were facing

down avoiding being seen crying. "Mbuyazi. I know you have lost hope. I know you're gonna be mad at me for keeping this away from you for this long but baby...I now remember I first saw you at the police station" he brought his eyes up. "I know I ran away in my pyjamas when I saw you again at the hotel, you called me Caster Semenya after carrying me back to the room, I remember you brought me ice cream in my room when my boyfriend dumped me, you offered me your brand new car to use when we go to your house that I was working on, I remember the teddy bear you bought me on Valentine's day, my mother kept on telling me you liked me but I was in denial because I did not feel like I deserved you. The very first time you kissed me, sorry daddy but it was in my apartment, I remember telling you to jump out the window when my dad called my name from the lounge, I remember all those times you broke into my apartment, I remember hiding our thing from Kylie, I remember running away in only a towel when you confessed your love for me. And in all that s'handwa sami, what I remember the most is that even though my dad had whooped your ass you still

came back to me and loved me like my father had not forbidden you..."

Everyone was emotional. Quinton had his eyes on Yolanda, letting tears gush down as they please.

Nzuza: "You've never declared your love for me. What's special about him?" The crowd laughed.

Quinton got up to hug her for dear life. He kissed her all over the face telling her how much she loves her.

Khethiwe: "Someone better stop chopping the onions. I have another surprise for you parents. Gender reveal!!! Its gonna be a surprise to all of us. Husbands please come forward.

Calvin, Khule, Khanyisani and Tyler came forward. Katlego came and gave them each a balloon. Chris emerged from the crowd. Katlego paused for a while and then continued giving them balloons. Chris was the last one to give it to. He held her hand.

Chris: "I'm taking my meds. I am better now. Please kiss me"

She couldn't help herself. She gave in, right there and then she realized how much she missed him.

Everyone cheered.

Khethiwe: "Ok guys enough. There are kids here" they laughed and let go. "Gentlemen please start popping"

Chris went first, nothing, Tyler followed, Calvin followed, and then Khule popped his, the blue ash popped into his face. He jumped and hugged Tyler while everyone cheered and Quinton squeezing the poor Yoli in a hug while they cried.

The brothers went down to sit next to their partners while Calvin's twins performed a love poem.

Khethelo: "I'm hungry"

Khule: "Food will be served in a minute"

Khethelo: "I'm hungry now not in a minute"

Khule huffed and went inside to her food. He came back to her crying.

Khule: "What's wrong?"

Khethelo: "They are so adorable. Look how happy

Quinton is." Khule smiled.

Khule: "I would give up anything to him that happy,
Here"

Khethelo: "Thank you babes ka magogo"

She kissed his lips. He sighed and looked ahead at the
band performing.

Tyler: "Are you done being MC?"

Khethiwe: "Not quite. Why?"

Tyler: "Remember What that dr said?"

Khethiwe: "What did she say?"

Tyler: "We should be consistent on your ovulation days"

Khethiwe chuckled.

Khethiwe: "Well our surrogate is pregnant and so am I?"

Tyler: "What? How? Babe wait"

Khethiwe: "Shh"

Tyler: "When were you gonna tell me this?"

Khethiwe: "I found out today and your phone was

off"

Tyler: "How far are you?"

Khethiwe: "14 weeks"

Tyler: "And the surrogate?" She chuckled.

Khethiwe: "There's no surrogate, I am the surrogate"

Tyler hugged her tightly.

Tyler: "We gonna have a baby. A beautiful big eyedgirl.
You should go rest now"

Khethiwe: "I'm pregnant not disabled"

Tyler: "Soon enough you will be dying to rest. Is it athing to
hide pregnancy in this home?" He said looking at
Khethelo's direction.

Khethiwe: "Yes" she chuckled and rested her head onhis
shoulder.

Calvin and Lelo pulled each other away to have a blunt.
While Chris and Katlego failed to keep handsoff each
other. Lulama kept rolling her eyes, disgusted by
Katlego's choice of taking him back.

Quinton: "You're the best thing that has ever

happened to me"

Yoli: "You're my everything. I love you so much"

Quinton: "I love you so much"

They shared a slow passionate kiss. Yoli reached for Quinton's hand and placed it on her stomach, the baby kept on moving. He smiled in between the kiss.

Bloodpop by Haile Steinfeld played on the hugespeakers. Everyone got up to dance...

●●●

[At the unknown location]

She groaned out loudly. She threw the tablet across the room. It hit the wall and the glasses of the screen scattered all over the floor. The baby started crying she slapped it. It cried even more

Nkule: "Shut the fuck up! Just shut it! Your precious daddy just married his gold digger. And you're here crying. He doesn't give a shit about you or me! Eat your food and leave me the fuck alone!"

She fed it the dry porridge as it cried. She kept beating it up. He was only 6 months, a crazy mother

is who he found himself on the hands of...

THE END

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