



NOVELSGURU.COM

For daily latest books please visit <https://novelsguru.com/>

And also visit my Facebook page, and like and share it

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3345453369055623>

Thank you guys for downloading this book from my site please keep visiting <https://novelsguru.com/> for supporting me and also don't forget to share it with your friends. Dear Friends please download these books direct from <https://novelsguru.com/> bookmark this site for latest African books, and also supporting me Thanks.

THE FUTURE IS KING 1

[ONE WEEK EARLIER]

BOKAMOSO

What's the use of going to university and obtaining degrees if they're just going to be accolades hidden under the mattress? How is it fair that I shed my blood, sweat and tears for the whole 4 years but I can't even find a job? I keep hearing people say 'education is the key to success' and I think I might be holding the wrong key. Every single day of my life I have to witness my peers making it big and here I am, still in my mother's house struggling to make ends meet.

I knew it wasn't going to be smooth sailing but I never thought it'll be this worse even with my brains. At least some light at the end of the tunnel would have given me hope but at this point I don't think I'm anywhere near the tunnel. Doors have been shut in my face and sometimes I think I'm cursed.

Mom: Are you decent? I'm coming in

That's my mom on the other side of my bedroom door

Me: Yes mommy I'm decent

I sit up straight on my bed, closing the novel I've been reading for a few weeks now. She sits next to me, taking a glimpse of the book cover

Mom: 'To Prove A Dead Man Wrong'

Me: I couldn't stop reading it once I started. It's a great book I must say

Mom: I know. Your father loved it and I didn't understand why. I'm not much of a reader so don't blame me. I realise how committed you are finishing it

Me: No offense but I took my dad's brains

Mom: I know but hey I'm not dumb

Me: I didn't say you are, mommy. What I meant was that daddy and I shared the same passion for reading

Mom: Your aunt called and she wanted to know if you'll take the job or not. A lot of people would jump at the opportunity regardless and you know we need the money sweetheart

I sigh. I never thought I'd settle for this. I would understand if I had to be a cleaner at a certain company or a tea lady but not

being a servant of that family. How am I supposed to settle for a job that requires me to clean after someone who doesn't even respect me?

Mom: Boka? What have you decided sweetheart?

Me: I don't know Mom but what other choice do I have? The job I thought I'd get was a scam anyway and we need to put food on the table so yeah

Mom: You know I'd have gone but I'm unwell

Me: I'll go. I know I have to make sacrifices mama and I really wish papa was here

Mom: Everything will work out in the end sweetheart I promise you. It might take long but eventually it'll work out

Me: I know

Mom: Alright I'll tell her but you'll have to pack tonight. She'll come pick you up early in the morning since you'll be staying with her

She pats my shoulder and walks out. I lie on my back, imagining the worst case scenarios of working for that family. Everyone knows how self centered and stubborn Mrs Twala is. Who am I to handle such a drama queen who is never wrong?

Just a few days ago, I went for an interview at a company I had applied to for a job. I was excited when I received the email but...

[AT THE INTERVIEW THAT DAY]

Him: I've went through your resume and I must say I'm impressed. My company is looking for someone like yourself. Young, smart, qualified and good looking

Good looking? That should have been a red flag but I chose to turn a blind eye.

Me: Thank you, sir. Getting this job would mean everything to me and I believe my knowledge would bring positive change in this company. With my fresh ideas, we'd really turn it around in a couple of months.

Him: I have no doubt you would. I believe having someone like you around would do me good. I mean look at yourself, you're exactly what I need

He gets on his feet and walks to my side of the desk. His potbelly doesn't even fit in his oversized shirt, he can barely tuck in. I realize he's getting too close for my liking so I shift back with my chair.

Him: Don't worry, I'll make sure you get the job with a little bit extra on the salary stated on your contract

Me: I'm not sure I follow, sir

Him: You scratch my back, I scratch yours

Me: I'm sorry I cannot do that

I get on my feet, securing my bag in my hand ready to sprint out.

Him: Boka, don't act all holy. All girls get the jobs this way and who do you think you are? Give me what I want and I'll give you the job on a silver platter, simple.

Me: I'm sorry but I don't want the job on a silver platter. I'm qualified and I deserve it fair and square

Him: You think you're the only girl who's qualified? Hundreds of girls out there are qualified and are still unemployed. I'm offering you a good paying job in return for a good time but you're beating around the bush

Me: I'm sorry you can keep your job

I turn to walk but he grabs and pulls me back with aggression. His disgusting hand with thick fingers slide under my skirt. I try to push him away but he's big. He tosses me on top of his desk like I have no weight at all

covering my mouth with his giant hand. My legs kick the air as I try to break free. He holds my palms together with his one hand, the other still covering my mouth.

Him: This office is sound proof, it's only that your screams irritate me. No one will hear you scream in here so you're wasting your time, sweetie.

He's holding my body flat on the desk, my back hurts from the uncomfortable position he's holding me in.

Him: I don't want to force myself on you. Spread those beautiful legs on your own free will and we won't have a problem, kid. Spread those legs for big daddy now come on

He frees my hands and then grabs my neck, making it hard for me to scream. I watch him unbuckle his belt and unzip his pants. His tiny dick shoots out under the huge potbelly. I'd be damned! I grab an ornament from the desk and hit him on the head. He falls back, giving me a chance to grab my bag and make a run for it. As I descend on the stairs, my heel comes off, I have no time to pick it up so I leave it there and continue to run. As I exit, I take the other shoe off and run barefoot. What the hell just happened?

I run down the street, panting. As I reach the next street, I slow down trying to catch my breath. Tears roll down my face as I have to face yet another disappointment in my life.

Voice: Sweetheart, o sharp?

I turn my head to see who this person is. It's yet another man old enough to be my father inside quantum. I decide to give him the benefit of the doubt and answer

Me: I'm okay I just want to cool down for a moment

Him: Jump in I'll take you home, sweetie

Me: No thank you

Him: OK suit yourself

He drives off. I wipe the tears off my face and walk slowly towards the taxi rank. My feet burn from the heat on the pavement, I'm sure the weather is above 35°C today.

Him: Sisters ugrand?

The voice comes from the right side, turning my head, I find a guy who has all the qualities of a nyaope boy. I nod, continuing to walk.

I feel my handback pulling away from my shoulder, the guy had snatched it and bolted away.

Me: Thusang!! Thusang!! (Help)

I scream my lungs out but no one comes to my aid. Instead they just watch as the guy disappears into the crowded stalls on the other side of the road. My money and phone are gone, now I



have no plan of going back home. I'm stranded in the middle of the streets of Pretoria.

## THE FUTURE IS KING 2

### BOKAMOSO

The sun is setting and surprisingly no one wants to help me now. I've been walking street by street trying to get help and even asking for some money for the taxi fare but it's like no one actually sees me.

I mean I'm clean and presentable except of course I'm barefoot so there's no need for them to treat me this way. I guess people in this country have been scammed way too many times to trust anyone. Even an elderly person can scam you these days so a part of me actually gets it.

A charcoal Golf 7 pulls over on my side and the passenger window slides down. As much as I want nothing to do with men who drive these type of cars for obvious stereotypical reason, I feel like I'm left with no choice but to attend to them.

Guy1: Are you okay?

The passenger asks me. If circumstances were different I would have continued to walk but the desperation in me won't let this opportunity to get home pass.

Me: No I've been mugged and I don't know how I'll get home

Guy2: Where do you live?

Me: You can just drop me off at Giant stadium I'll walk home

Guy2: Get in we'll drop you home

At this point I've accepted fate. If these two guys are going to rape me and chop off my parts afterwards then so be it. I guess it's better than being left stranded in the middle of town and getting gang raped by druggies.

Without hesitation, I jump in and at least the interior is warm so my body quickly adjusts. The car moves and I'm quietly sitting at the back while the driver glances at me through the rear view mirror. My heart is about to pop out of my chest and I'm suddenly pressed as my bowel gets full.

Guy2: Relax we won't kidnap you

He addresses the elephant in the room, in this situation the elephant is in the car. His statement doesn't make me feel any better, instead it makes me feel worse.

Guy2: My name is Tebello. Sisters ke mang? (What's your name)

Me: Bo..Bokamoso

I lick my dry lips as they suddenly feel cracked. I don't know if I'm hungry or just thirsty. Maybe it's a bit of both.

Tebello: Okay don't worry I'll get you home safe

I just flick my eyes without saying a word. The other guys turns on the music and I prefer that than holding a conversation.

Upon reaching the stadium, I start preparing myself to get off and it's already dark.

Tebello: I won't leave you in the middle of the street. Just give me directions to your home I'll drop you off at the gate

Me: I don't want to inconvenience you

Tebello: Your safety comes first and I'll never forgive myself if I see your picture all over the news tomorrow saying you're dead

Me: Take a turn on your left

He does as I tell him and we get home. I'm finally at ease because I know they can't kill me outside my home.

Me: Thank you so much. God bless you

Tebello: You're welcome

I open the door to step out

Tebello: Since you're mugged I suppose you don't have a phone

Me: I don't

Tebello: Please take my numbers and you can call anytime

I should have known he'll play this card. I guess he didn't do this out of the goodness of his heart but like all drivers of this type of car

Advertisement

it's the sex they want. No skirt passes them and unfortunately for him I'm not that type of woman. I cannot be rude after what he did for me so I just take the piece of paper with his numbers jotted on it.

Tebello: I'll wait for your call

I smile faintly and step out, watching him drive off. I get into the house and my mother jumps on her feet and takes me into her arms. Her tight hug makes my bowel hot and I break out of the hug and run to the bathroom.

Mom: Boka o sharp? (Are you okay)

Me: I'm pressed that's all

Mom: I was worried sick. Why is your phone not going through

Me: I was mugged

From the toilet I head straight to the couch and rest

Mom: Are you hurt?

Me: No but a lot happened today. I'm hungry mama

Mom: Let me quickly warm your food then you'll narrate for me

[PRESENT DAY]

TEBELLO

Whenever I need to unwind from all the tension of my line of work, Eric is the guy I hang out with. He has been my friend through and through and we've been partners in crime too.

Tebello: I haven't seen you in a minute, what's up?

Eric: I've been trying to mend things with my girl but it's not working

Tebello: Maybe now is the time to focus more on the gigs

Eric: I know but I haven't found someone yet. Your side?

Tebello: Not yet but...

My eyes fall on someone I think I recognize as she passes by

Tebello: Bokamoso?

I make my voice loud enough for her to hear me. She turns and it's really her

Kamo: Tebello?

Eric: You two know each other?

Kamo: I didn't think I'd see you again

Tebello: Did you want to see me again?

Kamo: Well I lost your numbers and that's the only reason why I didn't reach out

Tebello: What are you doing here?

Kamo: I work here

Eric: Kamo helps around here. She has been around for a week or so

Tebello: Oh I didn't know

Eric: Please get us some snacks

Kamo: Alright

She walks away

Eric: How do you know her?

Tebello: She's the girl I told you about

Eric: What? And you let her walk?

Tebello: It didn't feel right. She needed help for real

Eric: The more vulnerable she is, the easier it is to capture her

Tebello: Well it's too late now

Eric: Says who?

Tebello: She already knows us

Eric: Listen, man. The big boss wants 10 girls ASAP and we're not even close to getting 5

Tebello: I know but not her

Eric: Why not?

Tebello: Look at her, she's calm

Eric: We're taking her

Tebello: How?

Eric: We spike her drink

Tebello: And?

Eric: And we take her

Tebello: One girl won't make a difference

Eric: I get that you might like her but we need to get this done.  
She'll be one of the abducted girls and that's it



## THE FUTURE IS KING 3

### TEBELLO

What I'm about to do is not ideal because usually we go for wild party girls who aim to milk us dry at the groove. Bokamoso didn't show any signs of a wild girl and looking at her, I doubt she even drinks. Eric basically put me in a corner and I know we're on a tight deadline but I didn't want to involve her.

If I'm being honest, I really like her but for the fact that she didn't even call me back, claiming she lost my numbers, that gives me a motive to actually take her. Now I had to stay with Eric until Bokamoso's knock off time because it was a few hours away. Eric suggested I offer her a drive home and maybe convince her to go out for a drink with me.

I doubt she'll agree but if I make her feel like she owes me that much, I might be able to lure her into the trap. As he suggested, I wait outside in my car and soon she comes out, I make my presence know.

Me: Need a ride home?

Kamo: Oh no thanks I'll just catch a taxi but thanks for the offer

Me: Come on Boka I insist. I promise I won't be a pest

Kamo: I never said you are

Me: Get in

She hesitates before getting in. My car is suddenly filled with her sweet scent. I don't know how to explain it but whatever it is, I would eat it.

Me: Relax I just want to take you home and maybe get to know you a little bit

Kamo: Alright but I'm staying with my aunt now. I'll give you directions

Me: That's okay

I start the car and drive. She's not the talkative type and I don't even know how I'll do this. She looks like a really nice woman and doesn't deserve any of what I'm about to put her through

Me: I didn't know you work for the Twalas

Kamo: I started a week ago

Me: Okay. Are they giving you trouble?

Kamo: Eric is okay but his mom is something else. Don't tell her though

Me: I won't. I mean I don't understand her too

Kamo: Thank you so much for the other day

Me: I did what anyone could have done

Kamo: That's not true. I spent hours trying to get help and if you hadn't showed up, I don't know what would have happened to me

Me: I'm really sorry for what happened. The world is not safe anymore and you cannot trust anyone

Look at me trying to warn her while I'm plotting some evil plans. Somehow I hope she could just jump off the car and decide she's no longer interested in the ride or something. I want to stop, I really do but a part of me is thinking about what's at stake here. My boss doesn't really play games and we have about 5 days to find 10 girls and right now we have 3 and Boka could be the 4th.

I know I told Eric that one girl won't make much of a difference but time flies and I don't want to get on the boss' bad side. I keep glancing at her and I must say she's beautiful, one of a kind. I can tell she's not a fan of makeup because right now she's in her natural form in every way, even her hair is shaved off

Advertisement

she's bald.

Me: Why did you shave off your hair. You look gorgeous by the way but I'm really curious

Kamo: I was trying to give my mom moral support. She has cancer and had to shave off her hair so I did the same

Me: Wow that's amazing. Your mother is really blessed to have a daughter like you

Kamo: I know. My hair is my pride and I loved it so much. It was rich and afro-like. It pained me to shave it off but anyway it'll grow back again.

Me: I believe you'll look beautiful in anything

Kamo: Thank you

She blushes a little bit, I'm seeing her smile for the first time. At least that's the closest thing to a smile.

Me: Do you want something to drink?

Kamo: I'm just tired and want to eat first

Me: We can grab something to eat

Kamo: I'm sure my aunt already cooked and she hates it when I don't eat

Me: Alright

She's giving me a hard time and I really have to come up with plan B. I stop at the petrol station to refuel and lucky me, she goes to the toilet. That gives me a chance to sprinkle the cloth

with ethanol. I've been doing this for a while but my hands suddenly tremble and I'm not comfortable with this.

She returns a while later and I drive out of the petrol station. Reaching a quiet street, I stop the car.

Kamo: Why are we stopping? Is there something wrong?

Me: I'm sorry, Boka

Kamo: You're sorry for what?

Me: For this

Kamo: What are you on about?

Me: I didn't want to do it but.. I don't have a choice, Boka. When I first saw you I thought you and we could be something. I got attracted to you even before I could see your face. The way you were walking just turned me on and when I heard your voice for the first time, it just drove me insane. I didn't want to come across as insensitive because you were going through a lot but now I just feel like it's time I told you how I feel.

Kamo: Tebello please

Me: I like you, Boka. I really have to tell you this before things get out of hand. Whatever happens, I need you to know that I didn't have a choice

Kamo: Okay I'm not sure I follow. What are you really talking about?

Her eyes flick to all directions while she wiggles her thick eyebrows. She's confused and it's just a matter of time before I put her out of her misery. I grab the cloth and cover her mouth and nose, she inhales. Within seconds, she's out of it and her and quickly check her pulse.

She's still alive and that's a good thing, at least I didn't overdose. I lower the passenger seat and her unconscious body lies still waiting to be taken to the location known by only a few people under the boss' payroll.

Me: I'm sorry, Boka. I'm sorry that you had to fall victim to this but I had to do it. I'm really sorry for everything but it was either your head or mine on the chopping block and I'm looking out for number one

## THE FUTURE IS KING 4

### BOKAMOSO

The voices in my ear seem to come from a far distance and I can't clearly make out much from them. Did I hit my head or something because it really hurts and I'm really struggling to focus. I force my painful eyes to open and I didn't know opening eyes could be so difficult. I'm not familiar with my surroundings and my mind is still unclear to how I got here.

The bed I'm lying on is beside the wall and I know it cannot be the only bed here because this room is huge. I turn my head first before my body follows and my eyes are met with a bunch of other girls my age. Some look younger and now the questions in my head keep on piling up but not a single answer comes.

They look comfortable and clearly I'm the only one who was in deep sleep and I seem to be the only one feeling pain. I get my feet on the ground and try to familiarize myself with anything but I can't. I'm surrounded by strangers in a strange place and I cannot even find my voice to start asking questions.

The lump in my throat gets bigger by every swallow and my mouth gets dry really quickly. I trail my eyes around hoping I'd spot a bathroom or somewhere I can relieve myself because my bladder is full and I need to do something about it fast. As much

as I'm scared about being here, I gather the guts and walk up to the closets girl I can get to and fire the question.

Me: Do you know where the toilet is?

Puffing on a cigarette, she points at a direction without saying a single word. I don't even have time to thank her so I bolt to the direction and fortunately find it empty. I relieve myself then walk back to the room or should I say hall? Before I could ask questions, the door opens and two men come in. I'm intimidated by their size so I hold my position and keep still. One guy guards the door while the other takes a step towards the center and everyone gets on their feet to pay attention.

I'm trying not to imagine the worst. Maybe there's some kind of explanation and maybe it's not what I think it is. As much as I want to keep still, my fingers flick uncontrollably, so much to my irritation. The last thing I remember is being in a car with Tebello but how did I end up here?

Him: Are you all here?

A baritone booming and rumbling voice escapes this big man's mouth

making me shake in my boots. Again I seem to be the only one who doesn't have any idea what is going on here and that cannot be good.

Him: Count yourselves



One girl stand to face us as everyone else falls in a straight line. I take the tail as she starts moving from person to person counting until she got me me.

Her: 35. We're 35

Him: Good. Where's the new girl?

Everyone slips out of the straight line leaving me out in the open. Fear escalates and all eyes are on me. I have no idea what this man is going to do to me and I wouldn't want to know.

Him: Follow me

I hesitate before tailing him. The guy who guarded the door takes a firm grip at my arm and it's really uncomfortable.

Me: Where are you taking me? Why am I here?

My voice breaks and tears escape my eyes as my worst fear of being kidnapped comes to life. Why would they even take me because it's not like I have rich parents who'll pay ransom in exchange for my safe return. My questions fall on deaf ears and they keep moving until we get to a room that's rather small but interesting. Something like an office but not per se.

He dumps my body on the couch, leaving my arm swollen and itchy. I cannot see the face of the the man seated on the chair behind the desk but judging by the silence in the room, I can

tell he's the captain of the ship. I rub my arm gently, glancing at the two big men standing beside me.

Guy: As per your request, boss

He rotates his chair to face us. He doesn't look as scary as I had imagined him.

Him: You're excused

They leave the room and shut the door behind them. He gets on his feet and walks closer to where I'm sitting.

Me: Why am I here?

Him: Why are you jumping the gun? How about we start with the introductions first?

Me: Please don't hurt me. I did nothing wrong and if you let me go I won't breathe a word to anybody

He bursts in laughter, kind of like to spite me.

Him: You're not going anywhere sweetheart. There's no way out of here even if you try. So what's your name?

I just stare at him without saying a word. He crouches in front of me and I can almost feel his breath on my bare skin.

Him: Well it doesn't really matter what your name is because I'm going to give you a name that I think suits you. How about Skyy? Do you like it?

Tears just roll out of my eyes and I can't piece out the words to speak.

Him: This is your new home Skyy and get used to it. Put a smile on your pretty face because the clients like happy girls

I don't even need to crack my skull to understand that this is a sex ring. My feet get cold immediately as he says those words and this is not how I imagined my life to end.

Him: If the clients are happy then the boss is happy. If the boss is happy then I'll get paid good so don't you dare mess this up for me.

Me: Please don't make me do this. Please let me go I won't say anything

Him: Too late. Put this on after taking a shower

He throws a black zip up plastic on my lap as he stands up. I have no idea what is inside and his stare indicates that I should find out. My trembling fingers fiddle with the zip until it opens and I grab what's inside. My eyes widen when I take a closer look at the lingerie that's too revealing for me. It's that type that women at strip clubs wear. There's only a strip that covers the nipples and I'm scared to even check what I'll wear at the bottom.

Him: You're going to wear that tonight. Don't try anything stupid because the consequences in The House of King are

brutal. We don't hesitate to put you in line and it'll really work in your favour to as the other girls how it works around here

Wiping the tears that blur my vision, he pulls my chin up so my eyes could even out with his.

Him: Where are my manners? My name is Bruno and welcome to The House Of of King

## THE FUTURE IS KING 5

BRUNO

I'm picking up my brother at the airport and it's been a while since I last saw him. I can spot him from a distance with his bright colorful shirt. He takes off his shades as he spots me, a smile growing on his face.

King: Mfanaka!

Me: Grotman

He lets go of the suitcase to give me a hug

Me: Wow look at you. I almost didn't recognize you you're looking good

King: Stop playing with me I always look good

We share another hug, this time it's brief. I help him with the suitcase as we walk to my car

Me: How was the flight?

King: I can never get used to it. A 15hr flight is no joke

Me: Yet you'll be leaving for Canada again soon

King: Not really mfanaka this time I'm staying for a little longer. Damn I miss my wife

Me: What about me?

King: Of course I missed you too, little brother

He pats my back

Me: We should definitely go out to catch up. I want to hear everything

King: Yeah we'll definitely do. How's the business going?

Me: Smooth! Just like you left it

King: Are you sure?

Me: The money is coming in so best believe it I'm handling things

King: Alright we'll talk business tomorrow. Right now I just need to get home and rest

Me: Rest? I doubt Onika will let you rest. You've been away for two months and you know the consequences of lack of action

King: But I'll still rest eventually. I didn't tell her that I'm coming so I'm going to surprise her

Me: I didn't say anything too

King: I hope not coz I know you can't keep your pipe shut

We get to my car and I drive him home. I drop him off at the gate

King: I'll see you tomorrow

Me: We're on

King: Take care

He gets the suitcase out of the boot and I drive off.

ONIKA

Me: We should definitely take a shower

Alex: Are you trying to kick me out?

Me: You should go. I'm meeting with the girls in two hours

Alex: Oh I thought I'd be spending the night

Me: Not tonight

Alex: I really don't like how you treat me these days. You're cold

Me: Get off my bed I have to tidy up

Alex: OK at least give me one last round

Me: No, Alex. You don't get to tell me what to do in my own house. Shouldn't you be at work?

Alex: Bruno gave me the day off

Me: Listen I don't want you to take this the wrong way but I feel like you're getting attached to me

I get off the bed and put on my wedding ring. I always take it off whenever I get up to no good with Alex because I feel like it's wrong to cheat on King with the wedding ring on.

Alex: Do you blame me?

Me: I'm a married woman

Alex: Yet you call me almost every night

Me: Get off my bed

I throw a towel at him and slip into my robe.

Voice: Honey!!

I stop at my tracks after hearing that voice. Could my husband be back already? I peep through the window and I see Bruno's car driving off.

Me: Shit! King is here

Alex: What?

He jumps off bed gathering all his clothes into his arms and he heads for the door. I pull him back roughly

Me: Are you out of your fucken mind? He's coming into the bedroom and you want to meet him halfway naked

Alex: What am I supposed to do?

Me: Jump out the window or something



Alex: Are you insane? How the hell am I supposed to get to the ground without breaking my neck?

Me: Get into the closet, quick

I push him into my closet and quickly fix the bed, kicking the used condom under the bed. The door swings open and my heart is still pounding faster than Alex thrusting when he's about to cum.

King: Surprise!!

Me: Baby

I run into his arms to give him a tight hug. He doesn't let go, instead he initiates a kiss which I quickly break

Me: Wow baby why didn't you tell me that you're coming?

King: I wanted to surprise you

Me: I'm surprised

King: I missed you so much baby

Me: I missed you too. How was your trip?

King: All that can wait for later. Right now I just want to focus on my beautiful wife

I can see where all this is going. He wants sex and I can't have that because I still smell of another man. He gets my back on the wall, pinning my arms too.

King: Forgive me if I'm being too rough. I haven't done thing in a long time I miss you

He lies through his teeth. There's no way an attractive man like my husband can spend 2 months in a different country without hooking up with a few skanks. I break free from his grip and gently push him away

King: What's wrong now?

Me: I was actually about to go take a shower. Why don't you join me?

King: We can do that after a quick session right here

He presses his lips on my neck, making me shiver. Alex drained me and I have no stamina left to show my husband flames.

Me: Please, baby. I'm sweating

King: It doesn't matter. In fact I have a much better idea

He lifts me up and throws me on the bed, parting my legs. He pulls my body to the edge of the bed and gets on this knees.

King: Let me kiss it

Me: No!

I jump backwards

covering every possible bit of my legs with the robe

King: What's wrong, Onika?

He gets on his feet annoyed.

Me: Can we not do this now?

King: Why the hell not?

Me: I want to shower first

King: I don't want you showered

Me: Why?

King: Because I said so

I get on my feet and head for the door. He doesn't stop me nor follow me.

Me: Are you just going to stand there?

King: Go shower I'll wait here

Me: Aren't you joining me?

King: No

He sits on the bed with a serious face. King ain't stupid and he knows something is beating the waters. I turn back to the bedroom trying to convince him but Alex sneezes inside the closet.

King: What the fuck was that?

Me: I...baby listen

I stand in front of him attempting to block his way but how am I supposed to handle such a buff man? He effortlessly sways me out of the way heading to the closet. My hand tremble, covering my head. He pulls the door open and Alex stands naked with his clothes coveting his privates.

King: Alex?

Alex: Boss'aka? (My boss)

He stands akimbo with his eyes shifting constantly between the both of us. I press my palms together begging him

Me: I can explain

King: Yeah I'm listening

Now that was unexpected. I was hoping he'd shout and not want to hear any of what I'm about to say but now I have no idea what's going on in his mind. That scares me because it's better to deal with an angry person who reacts than the one who hides it.

Alex: Boss K...

King: Ey fotsek it's not yet turn to speak

He turns to me and if I'm not going to pee on myself now I'm never going to.

King: Bolela mamas (speak baby)

Me: Alex and I have been having sex for a while now

I blatantly spit out, regretting my choice of words instantly

He chuckles, rubbing his nose to snort

Me: I was lonely, King

King: In my house, Onika?

Me: I'm sorry

Tears escape my eyes and I find myself kneeling beside him, grabbing on his pants. He turns to Alex who's shaking in his boots

King: Etswa ka daar (get out of there)

He steps out like a chicken that has been soaked. King snatches the clothes out of his hands and throws them on the bed

King: Get out of my house

Alex: Naked?

King: You didn't mind being naked when you fucked my wife so yes

Alex: Kao washa boss K. At least underwear geh (I'm begging you boss K)

King: I said get out before I throw you out through that window

Alex: I can't go out like this, please. Nicky please...

He slaps Alex that his petite body collides with the doors of the closet.

King: You even gave her a nick name. It must be nice huh?

He drags him to the window and sticks his head out. I cry out, begging him to stop.

Me: Baby please don't kill him. Please baby I'm begging you

King: Give me one good reason why I shouldn't throw you out

Alex: I have a family to feed, please. Don't kill me

He pulls him back in, tossing him to the floor

King: Get out

I throw a towel at him and he sprints out before King could even say anything. He turns to me

King: Wena (you)

Me: I'm sorry

I mumble my words behind the sob

King: Leave my sight

I run out without looking back

## BOKAMOSO

I cry until my tummy hurts. There's really no use to feel sorry for myself instead I should be trying to sneak out through the window or something. The bathroom window is clearly too small to fit my body and there's no way I could get past the front door. I stand in front of the mirror and fix myself. I adjust the strips covering my nipples and I cannot believe I've been walking half naked in a room full of strange men.

I get back to the club and Bruno isn't there anymore. I pass by the guy who was sitting with Bruno earlier and he stops me at my tracks.

Him: Skyy!

I pause for a bit, taking a much needed deep breath before I turn to him

Me: Yes?

Him: Are you okay?

Me: Except being clumsy tonight yes I'm okay

Him: Have you been crying? Your eyes are different

Me: A little bit

Him: Is my brother that much of a bad boss?

Me: Your brother?

I step closer, interested in whatever he has to say

Him: Yes Bruno is my younger brother. I noticed how he treated you and I'm not sure if he's stressed or that's how he usually treats all the girls

Me: Well I'm new here and if you ask me I'd say this is the everyday Bruno

Him: Alright I'll have a chat with him and I'll fix this

Me: Okay

Bruno: You're still here? Aren't you supposed to be serving customers?

Him: I'm the one who stopped her

Bruno: Boela spaneng (get back to work)

I turn away and return to my duties.

He comes to the bar and pulls me aside

Bruno: If you ever breathe a word to anyone about me being a bad boss or anything I'll end you

Me: I didn't say anything

Bruno: Keep it that way. I don't ever want to hear nonsense about me around here. Stay in your lane



Me: Okay

He gives me a perverted look before walking away. Most of the men I'm serving are perverted but I wear a brave face and continue like nothing is wrong. After long hours of going back and forth, the club finally closes. The bus returns and like the first time we're blindfolded until we reach our destination.

My feet hurt from walking in heels for hours so the first thing I do is take them off. We take a shower and they give us sleep wear and food. After all that I feel my body giving in so I doze off.

KING

I get home at dawn and all I want is to sleep. I'm struggling to get the key into the keyhole because I'm drunk. The door opens, it's my wife on the other side. I get in without saying anything to her and I hear the door shut.

Onika: King can we talk?

Me: Not now Onika I'm tired

Onika: I'm tired too because I've been waiting all night

Me: Nobody asked you to wait

Onika: King please tuu

I ignore her and head straight to the bedroom and she follows. I take off my T-shirt and throw it on the corner sofa.

Onika: Please motho waka are bolele (please my love let's talk)

Me: Re bolele ka eng, Onika? (Talk about what)

Onika: Us

I chuckle, turning to face her. She has her arms folded and a frown settles on her face.

Me: Onkirile snay, Onika (you made me a fool)

Onika: It was never intentional. I just got lonely during your absence

Me: You know I would understand if you chose someone who matches my caliber and did your nonsense away from my house. Instead you chose someone who works for me, Onika. Someone I feed every single day

Onika: Yes I was wrong and I take full responsibility

Me: You were beyond wrong, Onika. Ke ire byang ka wena? (What should I do about you)

Onika: Whatever you do please don't leave me. I love you King. Forever wena

Me: So what am I supposed to do now?

Onika: I don't want to lose you, King

Me: I'm going to sleep in the guest room

Onika: Why?

Me: What stupid question is that? You slept with another man on our bed. Do you expect me to use the same bed?

Onika: No

Me: I need you to wash the sheets and blankets in the morning. In fact change the bed

Onika: Whatever you say, King

I grab my charger and go sleep in the other room

BOKAMOSO

We get woken up harshly like we're in prison or something. Arg what am I saying because we are in prison. A loud siren blows up in my ears and I try to cover up with the pillow but it doesn't help. I turn to face the roof, lying on my back. The other girls get out of bed and head to the shower. I get my feet on the ground, stretching my tired arms and painful neck.

Lebo: Good morning

Me: There's nothing good about this morning

Lebo: We should hit the shower. Breakfast is in about 2 hours

Me: Can't we just stay in bed?

Lebo: It's not everyday where we get a full day rest

Me: What was your task last night? I didn't see you

Lebo: I was working in the basement

Me: The basement?

Lebo: Yes that's where the men pay to have a good time

Me: You mean sex?

Lebo: Yes

Me: I'm sorry

Lebo: For what?

Me: For what you went through

Lebo: It doesn't bother me anymore

Me: I was waiting the tables

Lebo: That's how we all started

Me: So I'll be assigned to...the basement?

Lebo: We all have to get there and they'll be happy for a new face or should I say new body

I keep quiet trying to digest everything

Lebo: Let's go freshen up

She gets on her feet and takes my hand. We shower then we get clothes for the day. We get to the dining hall for breakfast then everyone washes their dishes. We are then taken to another room where we wait for minutes

Me: What are we doing here?

Lebo: We're here for our morning jab

Me: What morning jab?

Lebo: Our fix

Me: They're going to drug us?

Lebo: There's a lot you have to learn around here, Boka. Once you get your third shot then you'll fall into addiction like the rest us. By then you'll do anything and I mean anything for a fix. Sometimes if you mess up they don't jab you and you'll suffer for that day. It's hard Boka that's why I told you to play by the rules and keep your head down

The guards come in and Bruno tags behind. Everyone falls in a straight line and rolls up their sleeves. I'm still in shock and I don't roll up mine. He gets to me with the injection and I resist

Lebo: Give up your arm, Boka

Bruno: Listen to your friend. You don't want to get into trouble

Me: I don't want the shot

Bruno: I don't remember giving an option not to take the shot

Me: Well I don't want it

I fold my arms and break off from the queue. He breaks out into laughter and skips me. After giving everyone the shot but me, he instructs us to leave.

Bruno: Skyy stay behind

Me: Why?

Bruno: You and I have to talk

I hold my position as everyone else leaves. It's only the two of us left in the room

Bruno: Who do you think you are?

Me: I'm Bokamoso Modise and I refuse to take the shot

Bruno: And you think you're special?

Me: You will not force me to participate in something I'm not comfortable in

Bruno: I think you're getting too big for your shoes and it's time I taught you a little lesson

He unbuckles his belt and wraps it around his wrist. I take steps back as he takes steps forward. I get my back against the wall and slide down. He flocks me multiple times while I cry for help.

He drops the belt and pins my body on the cold floor, sitting on me.

Bruno: You will take the shot

Me: I'd rather die

Bruno: Not yet. Not until I get a taste of your sweet peach

He forces his hand in between my thigh and I squeal. He calls for the guard and they force the shot in my veins. After a moment I feel my body drifting away.

Bruno: I could have you right here right now and ask the guard to join in on the fun but I'm not feeling evil today. Once your beautiful body gets used to this shot, you'll be running to me for more and there'll be a price to pay. You will voluntarily lick my balls and gag on my dick for this shot

All I can do is breathe because my body has weakened. He licks the side of my face and leaves me lying on the cold floor. I hear the metal door shut and everything goes quiet.

## BOKAMOSO

I'm woken up by a bucket of cold water all over my body. I gasp while raising my head so I don't take any more water through my nose.

Bruno: Get up!

His booming voice makes me tremble. I quickly get on my feet before he does the unthinkable. I cough out my lungs trying to get as much air inside of me.

Bruno: It's time for lunch

Me: How long have I been out for?

Bruno: Who cares? Get dressed

He throws a dress at me and stares

Me: Please I need some privacy

Bruno: How many times must I explain to you that you don't get any favors around here?

I sigh and take off my wet dress. He stares at my body like he's going to devour me so I make sure I quickly put on the other dress.

Bruno: Follow me



I keep a safe distance while walking behind him. We get to the dining hall and I take my seat next to Lebo

Lebo: Thank God you're okay. I thought he'd do something to you

Me: I knocked out

Lebo: Your body must be too weak then

Me: I feel sick

Lebo: You'll be fine

Me: How long have I been out for?

Lebo: A while but I can't be sure because we don't have access to a time clock

I grab a plate and dish up for myself.

Me: Did Bruno ever touch you?

Lebo: He has touched every single one of us here and if you're unlucky the guards take advantage of you too

Me: This is hell

Lebo: Brace yourself, Boka

KING

After getting dressed I grab my car keys and head to the kitchen to get some fruit.

Onika: I'm making lunch

Me: I'm heading out

Onika: You didn't eat dinner last night and you didn't have breakfast this morning. I feel like I'm wasting food because you're not going to have lunch now

Me: Then stop cooking for two

Onika: Where are you going?

Me: To the club

Onika: Why?

Me: I didn't know I need a reason to go check on my businesses

Onika: I thought maybe you're going to see Alex

Me: What if I am?

Onika: What are you going to do to him?

Me: He's your boyfriend I'm sure he'll give you an update during pillow talk

Onika: King don't be like this. Alex is not my boyfriend

Me: Whatever he is to you

Onika: Baby please I feel like you and I have to talk. This silence is really getting to me and I need to know how you feel

Me: If you really cared about my feelings you would have been a loyal wife

Onika: What about my feelings? You're always away for months and months and I'm supposed to just suck it up. I hardly ever have time with you and how do you think that makes me feel?

Me: You married me knowing exactly how I live. I'm a very busy man and you didn't complain before and you're very expensive, Onika. The limited time that I spend in the country I make sure that we're together but you're never satisfied. If you're not happy anymore then there's the door

Onika: Are you telling me to leave our marriage?

Me: Clearly I don't make you happy anymore so why not?

Onika: I love you, King. You know I love you but I get lonely

Me: I don't have time for this

She pushes me back and stands in front of the door

Me: Move over

Onika: No

Me: I do not have time for this

Onika: You are not breaking up with me

Me: I don't think a grown man like myself needs to be told what to do

Onika: For better or worse, 'till death do us part

Me: Are you done?

Onika: I love you

Advertisement

King

Me: Get away from the door, Onika

Onika: Why do you act like you never cheated?

Me: I didn't say I never cheated, did I?

Onika: So you did cheat?

Me: I didn't do it in our house and on our bed. I never did it with someone you know and I didn't do it right under your nose because I respect you. I'm not angry because you cheated I'm angry because you disrespected me and everything that symbolizes our marriage

Onika: I know that

Me: Then you should know that I'm not going to let it slide

Onika: What now?

Me: I'm the captain of the ship so you'll sway in whichever direction I choose or else just pack and go

Onika: Just like that?

Me: Limpopo is around the corner Onika so yes

I push her away and walk out. I drive to the club and coincidentally I bump into Alex at the door. He's a cleaner in the club and at the moment I don't think I still need him around.

Alex: Boss K

Me: My office, now

He follows me and shuts the door as he steps in. I take a seat while he stands there like a lost puppy. He pulls out a chair and attempts to sit

Me: Who said you could sit?

Alex: Hade boss K (I'm sorry boss K)

Me: So what do you have to say for yourself?

Alex: Eish!

He takes off his cap and fiddles with it nervously

Me: You have only one chance to talk and if you mess it up you won't get another. Why did you sleep with my wife?

Alex: Ke flopile (I messed up)

Me: I know that

Alex: I was stupid

Me: You're still stupid but what I need to know is how you plan to get out of the pit you got yourself into

Alex: I will do whatever you want me to do, boss K. Please don't fire me I have a family to feed. I have a crazy baby mama and if I lose this job I won't be able to feed my son

Me: Why are you making your problems mine? Do you know how much I love my wife?

Alex: I know that. Kao washa boss K (I'm begging you)

Me: You know that I can easily replace you, right? There are a lot of people who need this job and I don't have a reason to keep you

Alex: I will forever be indebted to you if you don't fire me

Me: How long has it been going on?

Alex: A little over 3 months

Me: 3 months?

I get on my feet and and smash the desk with my fists. I thought he was going to say at least a month but clearly I've been a fool.

Alex: It was her who initiated the whole thing

Me: I don't care who started who

Alex: Please boss K I need this job

Me: From today until the next three months you'll get half of your salary. Report to duty 7 days a week 2 hours early than everyone else and knock off 2 hours later. You're only allowed 15mins lunch time and no day offs nor sick leaves.

Alex: So you're not firing me?

Me: I can change my mind

Alex: No please I accept the terms of my punishment. Thank you

He quickly turns and leaves the office.

8

BOKAMOSO

Lebo: What are you wearing tonight? Look what I have

She shows me a fish net white dress that's just below the butt cheeks

Me: What are you going to wear underneath?

Lebo: Just a thong

Me: Just a thong? What about your boobs?

Lebo: Usually I tape my nipples

I feel my body shiver. I check my bag and I'm given a white open back short dress and a pair of heels.

Lebo: Oh! At least you're covered up tonight

Me: Did you know that Bruno has a brother?

Lebo: No

Me: I saw him last night at the club but I didn't get his name

Lebo: Is he as bad?

Me: He was actually quite nice and I don't think he knows what Bruno does

Lebo: You lie



He takes my hand and we sit on the bed.

Lebo: If that's the case then you can tell him

Me: Bruno told me that he'd end me if I blew his cover

Lebo: And you care?

Me: Of course not. I know I have to tell him but I don't know if I'll see him again. Bruno won't let me see him again that's for sure

Lebo: Dammit!

Me: He might be our only way out and believe me, if I get another opportunity to be near him I'll blow Bruno's cover

Lebo: Bloody bastard

Me: Why is he even doing this because a lot of women won't mind working at the strip club especially with jobs being so scarce

Lebo: I don't know

Me: I wonder how my mother is coping

Lebo: You have a mother?

Me: Yes. She's sick though

Lebo: I'm really sorry. Do you have siblings?

Me: No I'm the only child

Lebo: I have a sister

Me: Do you think they eventually stopped searching for you?

Lebo: They probably think I'm dead

Me: Or maybe they didn't stop

Lebo: I don't know

Me: We should get dressed

We get ready and they they give us the shot yet again. I don't fight them this time because I realized it's no use. They take us to the club and I get sent somewhere different from last night. I'm in a room full of men and women who are gambling. The other four girls are wearing the same dress as mine but just a different color. It's like each of us has a table to serve because there was five sections.

The first hour goes well and the men seem to be focused on throwing their money away than on us. That's a good thing because I cannot afford to deal with perverts tonight and I'm trying so hard to stay away from trouble.

ONIKA

I have been sulking for a long time now and it's time I stopped feeling sorry for myself and went out to have some fun. I call my girls out and we hit the club. King isn't back yet so maybe I'll

bump into him at the club and that way he can give me his attention.

We get there and head to the VIP section. I spot Bruno in the mix so I walk up to him

Me: Sbilò (in law)

Bruno: Hey, Nicky

Me: I haven't seen you in a while. How have you been?

Bruno: I'm okay. What are you doing here?

Me: I came with the girls

Bruno: Oh that's nice

Me: Is my husband still here?

Bruno: Was he here?

Me: He said he was coming here earlier today

Bruno: I don't usually come during the day so I don't know

Me: Oh!

Bruno: He told me about your shenanigans

Me: Do you blame me? I was lonely, Bruno

Bruno: Yes I blame you, Nicky. You shouldn't have done it in the house especially with Alex

Me: I'm not here for a lecture I'm here to have fun. Is the casino open? Perhaps the girls and I can stretch our luck before we party the night away

Bruno: Stretch my brother's card of course knock yourself out

Me: Why do you have to be such a mood killer, Bruno? It's not like I'm wasting money because it'll circulate back into his pocket so chill

Bruno: It's open

Me: Good

I take the girls to the casino upstairs. I'm a poker girl so I join on the fun and I win twice in a row. That calls for a celebratory drink so I snap my fingers for the waitress and she takes her time to come.

Me: Is there something wrong with your feet?

Her: Not that I know of

Me: Then why did you take forever to get here?

Her: I was...

Me: Shush! Get us a bottle of champagne

Her: Which one?

Me: The one I like

Her: And which one is that?

Me: Do you even work here?

Her: I'm sorry ma'am I'm new

Me: Go let the barman know that the first lady wants champagne

BOKAMOSO

The first lady? Could this be Bruno's wife? I haven't seen a ring on Bruno's finger but I've seen one on his brother. This could be his wife but there's only one way of finding out. I get to the barman and ...

Me: Who's that woman?

Barman: That's the boss lady Onika

Me: Bruno's wife?

Barman: No not Bruno, his brother King

Me: Oh! She says she wants champagne

Barman: She always drinks this one

He grabs a bottle from the shelves and places it inside an ice bucket. I take it to them with the glasses

Onika: That took forever

Me: I'm sorry

Onika: Your sorry won't pay your bills

girl

Me: You said you're the boss's wife, right?

Onika: Yeah so?

Me: Maybe you can help me

Onika: Help you with what?

I bend over to whisper in her ear

Me: Bruno is keeping us here against our will. Please you have to help us

Onika: What did you say?

Me: We were trafficked. All the girls in the club were trafficked and we don't know how to get out of this place

Onika: Follow me

She takes her bag and we walk out. We get to a quiet room and she tells me to sit down. She makes a call and in my head I'm thinking she's talking to her husband and I have so much hope in me. My world comes crashing down when I see Bruno coming in. I jump to my feet in confusion

Bruno: Sister boss

Onika: You're doing a very sloppy job, Bruno. I thought you told your subjects to keep their mouths shut

Bruno: I did

Onika: Then why did she sing? What if she had blurted it out to King? That would have been the end of us, Bruno

Bruno: I'm sorry I'll fix it

I stand there with my hands on my chest, my eyes wide open

Onika: You'll get us into trouble, Bruno. Put your dogs on a leash or I will find someone else to do your job if it's too much for you

She walks out and Bruno locks the door

Bruno: You've been a very naughty girl, Skyy. I've been trying to be nice to you but I guess I'll have to take drastic measures right now

## BOKAMOSO

At this point all hope is gone. I sit on the couch and just close my eyes, waiting for whatever brutality coming my way. The drawers open then shut like he's looking for something.

Bruno: I guess I'll have to pump your system up with this coz you're a loose end

Me: What is that?

I ask softly opening my eyes

Bruno: What do you think this is?

Me: What's going to happen to me?

Bruno: That's entirely up to you, sweetheart. If you want to be a hero then I'll show you what I do to fallen heros

Me: All I want is to go home

Bruno: Shut up!

He gets the injection ready then crouches in front of me. He grabs my arm and I grind my teeth as the needle goes deep in. What I experience after that is unexplainable but it's different from what I felt from the other shot. I feel my head spin for a while then my body heats up. Bruno's voice just echoes in my ears and I cannot make out clearly what he's saying.



He picks me up and my arms just dangle in the air as he takes me to another room. He places me on a bed and then pulls off my shoes. For a second I thought he'd force himself on me but then he leaves and I hear the door shut.

BRUNO

After taking Skyy to the room I make it a point to find Onika. After what seems like forever I finally find her and I convince her to talk to me in a less crowded space.

Me: I fixed it

Onika: You fixed it how?

Me: The only way to keep her mouth shut is to make her an addict. What I gave her will speed up the process

Onika: I don't think that's good enough

Me: What do you want me to do, Onika?

Onika: Hey!

She grabs me by my belt and pulls me to her. This woman is so disrespectful and I wonder what my brother saw in her

Onika: Have you suddenly forgotten who I am?

Me: Of course not

Onika: Don't you ever think you're irreplaceable. One more f\*ck up and you're out

Me: You need me as much as I need you, Onika

Onika: Are you trying to say something?

Me: I'm the heart of this business and I run it every day. All you do is handle the paperwork to cook the books and I don't think that counts for much

Onika: Excuse me? I'm your boss, Bruno

Me: Alright sharp

She let's me go and I fix myself, looking from all directions in case someone saw that

Onika: I cannot afford to lose money or get my cover blown up just because of one girl. There are thousands of girls out there and if she's giving you a problem then eliminate her. She's not special

Me: I hear you

sister boss

Onika: I already have marital problems and I don't need money problems. Now get out of my sight

[THE FOLLOWING DAY]

KING

Being away for so long made me put all my trust in Bruno and Onika regarding my businesses. With what has been happening

I decide to check if everything is still running smoothly so I ask Bruno to email me all the documents needed so I can make sure everything is fine. I order a drink and take my laptop upstairs.

Bruno: Is everything okay?

Me: I'm still going through the paperwork

Bruno: Don't you trust me?

Me: Of course I trust you but it's only right to double check

Bruno: I get it

Me: I was thinking of going home this weekend. Do you want to come with me?

Bruno: This weekend is going to be busy so no I'll pass

Me: Katlego has been flooding my WhatsApp with voice notes and I know she wants money

Bruno: She always wants money you know her

Katlego is our little sister and every time I'm in the country I make sure to spend time with her.

Me: That girl, Skyy. What's going on?

Bruno: Who?

Me: That pretty clumsy woman you gave hell the other night

Bruno: Nothing is going on I don't know what you're talking about

Me: I really don't like how you treated her the other night

Bruno: I get that I was harsh and I apologized to her

Me: Really?

Bruno: Yeah you can ask her the next time you see her

Me: I noticed there are new faces so how about you gather the staff so I can familiarize myself with them

Bruno: I don't think that's necessary

Me: Why not?

Bruno: The girls don't last anyway. The job gets overwhelming for them and they quit so I don't think you should waste your time getting to know people who probably won't be here for long

Me: Are you mistreating my staff?

Bruno: I wouldn't do that. O ntseya byang? (What do you take me for)

Me: OK that's fine. I'm back now so maybe you should take a break and go on a vacation or something

Bruno: I love my job and I don't need a vacation

Me: I insist. I need to keep busy so I can get my mind off Onika so let me take over for a few weeks

Bruno: I don't need you to relieve me I'm fine

Me: It's not a request, Bruno. I'm telling you to take leave and go blow off some steam or something. What kind of a big brother will I be if I don't look after my little brother? Finish up for the week and go rest, I'll take it from here

Bruno: Agona flop (there's no problem)

Me: Get me something to eat I think I'll need some strength coz I have a lot to go through

Bruno: On it, boss

BRUNO

I get on my feet and go downstairs. I reach for my phone in my pocket and dial Onika

Onika: What do you want, Bruno? I'm still sleeping

Me: Gonale flop (there's a problem)

Onika: Then fix it. Isn't that what you get paid for?

Me: Your husband insists on managing the businesses while he forces me to take leave

Onika: What?

Me: If this happens then we're in deep sh\*t. How are we supposed to continue with our side hustle if he steps in?

Onika: Dammit King. Why is he suddenly so interested? When is he leaving?

Me: He didn't sound like he'll leave soon. He said something like getting away from you or something. You need to fix your marriage and divert his attention coz we're in deep sh\*t

Onika: How the hell am I supposed to do that if I hardly get closer to him. He won't even let me touch him

Me: I don't know seduce him or something. Make him focus elsewhere except on the businesses

Onika: I have an idea

Me: Whatever works

Onika: Get him a girl that'll keep him busy

Me: What?

Onika: If you find him a temporary girlfriend then he'll lose focus

Me: Are you hearing yourself right now? You're pushing your husband into another woman's arms?

Onika: It's better that than having our cover blown. Do you want to go to prison? You know King won't have mercy if he finds out what we're doing, right?

Me: Of course I know the risks

Onika: Then get him a woman

10

BRUNO

After about an hour he calls for me and I'm no longer comfortable because I don't know what he found in the documents.

Me: Bra K, dintshang? (Brother what's up)

King: Listen man ke fraeza roster (listen man can you give the roster)

Me: For?

King: I need to see who works when and make a few changes. I was serious when I told you I want to be hands on so I need to know that I'm not overworking anyone coz someone might complain

Me: But then the roster is fine the way it is. I can assure you that it's perfect

King: Why does it seem like you're not happy with me being here and running things?

Me: How because this is your place? It's just that it kind of hurts to realise that my brother is not trusting my managerial skills



King: It's not that I don't trust you it's just that I need to make changes of my own. Onale flopo le daedeng? (Do you have a problem with that)

Me: Byang, bra K? (How, brother)

King: Ake jaje wena segela nna gore flopo yagao keng ( I don't know, you tell me what your problem is)

Me: I don't know what you're talking about

King: Alright then get me that roster I can't be here all day

Me: I was thinking you and I could go out tonight coz since you came back we haven't hung out

King: Yeah I'm game but I'll have to go home first and freshen up

Me: Of course

King: Will it be you and I only?

Me: Yeah I just need to catch up with you

King: I'll see you later then

I let him be and make a call. I'm really hoping that she's available tonight or else I'm out of options

Sindi: Hey Bruno. What's up?

Me: Ah mamas. I thought you wouldn't answer

Sindi: Why not?

Me: I know you're busy these days

Sindi: What can I do for you?

Me: I wanted to know if you're free tonight

Sindi: It depends

Me: On?

Sindi: On why you're asking

Me: Well King is going through a lot so I'm trying to cheer him up but I thought it'd make him happy to see you

Sindi: Your brother is a married man now

Me: Yeah but the marriage is his source of stress. Just put a smile on his face that's all I ask

Sindi: Alright where?

Me: Are you in?

Sindi: Don't make me regret this, Bruno

Me: Trust me you wont

ONIKA

King arrives home earlier than expected. I thought he would stay out until late since I asked Bruno for that little favour. He

throws his car keys on the table and takes off his jacket. I'm in my sexy grey nightwear hoping he'll notice me and maybe we would put everything past us.

Me: You're back early

King: I didn't know I should be home at a certain time

Me: It's not like that. I thought you'd have a lot of things to attend to since you went back to work

King: How do you know that I went back to work?

Me: Well Bruno told me

King: Mmh

Me: So umm...are you still going to sleep in the guest room? I changed the sheets

King: I need my space, Onika

Me: I get it

King: Then leave me alone

Me: I'd totally understand if you found someone

King: And who said I need someone?

Me: You're a man who has needs

King: You know nothing about my needs.

Me: Will you be coming down for dinner?

King: No. Oh and don't bother doing regular checks at the club I'm taking over whatever you were handling

Me: So what am I supposed to do with my time?

King: I don't know maybe you can find something to do

Me: I love my job, King. You can't just tell me to stop working out of the blue. I know I wronged you but I'm damn good at my job and you know it

King: Well I don't trust you with my businesses anymore

Me: When have I given you a reason to doubt my expertise?

King: Since you started cheating on me

Me: Baby please don't do this

King: I've already decided and there's nothing you can do to change my mind

**KING**

I get to the pub and I'm a bit late. I run my eyes around the seats and finally spot Bruno. I approach him and he's with two other ladies. One is sitting beside him and the other opposite him. I can't help but notice how familiar the woman who's sitting opposite Bruno is. I can't see her face but everything

about how she sits and crossed her legs gives me an idea. As I get closer

Advertisement

her laughter gives her away and my heart bounces

Me: Sindi?

She turns, still holding a bottle of Savannah on her hand. She has been drinking this for years and I honestly thought she would have upgraded by now but she's still the no nonsense ghetto girl I was head over heels with. Her dark skin glows under the light and a smile grows on her face. She stands up, putting the bottle on the table

Sindi: King

Me: No ways

Sindi: Come lana (come here)

We share a brief hug but damn it felt like a long one. She had kept her slim body in shape and I can tell she's eating right.

Me: How did you get here?

Sindi: It's a small world

Bruno: I called her

Me: You called her?

Bruno: I figured it'd be fun if we were more

Me: That's okay I'm really happy to see you

Sindi: You look good. Onika must be really taking good care of you

Me: Sure

I take a seat and grab a beer

Sindi: How have you been?

Me: I've been okay. What about you?

Sindi: You know me I keep moving forward

Me: So did you finally become a nurse?

She laughs a bit before taking a sip from the beer.

Me: Ska tshega kgante dintshang? (Don't laugh what's the problem?)

Sindi: You wouldn't believe me if I told you how I shifted my focus from nursing

Me: You know I'd believe you even if you told me you moved a mountain

Sindi: Stop it, King

She punches my shoulder teasingly. Our breakup was really peaceful and that's why we're able to sit next to each other and

laugh. Sindi was everything but the only problem with our relationship was that we were both too busy with something that we never had time for each other.

Me: Mpotse geh (tell me then)

Sindi: Take a guess

Me: You went into modelling?

Sindi: You're really far from it

Me: Ah come on Sindiswa just tell me

Sindi: One more guess and I promise I'll tell you

Me: Okay let me see. You're a dancer

Sindi: You're so bad a this, K. Okay ithi ngik' tshele ke (okay let me tell you then)

Me: Ngitshele phela Si (tell me, Si)

Sindi: Alright so I graduated, neh. But then I thought no man why don't I try something else since I'm not really in a rush to get this job. So I'm a private investigator

Bruno chokes on his beer and some of it comes out through his nose

Me: Are you okay?

Bruno: Yeah it must have went in the wrong pipe

Me: That's a huge turn but I love it for you

Sindi: Yeah and there's this case I'm working on neh, the guy is paying guys. Like really he's paying coz he wants to find his daughter

Me: What happened to his daughter?

Sindi: She went missing and the guy believes he got kidnapped but what worries him is that there hasn't been any call for ransom

Bruno: So how far are you with the case?

Sindi: I'm not discussing my case with you guys I could face a lawsuit. One thing though I'm determined to find this girl and I know I'll find her. Dead or alive



11

ONIKA

This is the second time King is coming home at dawn and even though I asked for it, somehow it pains me. I close the book I've been reading and focus on him. He smells like a brewery and I don't even know how I'll start talking to him in this state.

Me: You haven't been sleeping lately

King: Why do you care?

Me: I'm your wife so I should care

King: I was out with Bruno

Me: Mmh

King: I didn't think you'd still be awake

Me: I couldn't sleep

King: I just came to get my sleeping clothes I'll be out of your hair

Me: Please King come to bed. This room has been cold lately

King: Oh and how did you warm it up while I was away?

Me: Can we not start?

King: Why not?

Me: How are we supposed to fix things if you keep doing this?

King: And who said I want to fix things?

Me: What does that mean for our marriage?

King: What marriage, Onika?

Me: What's that supposed to mean?

King: Can I breathe, please?

Me: Oh please King we cannot keep on going in circles

King: Maybe I should move out for a while. Give you some space

Me: Who is she?

King: Excuse me?

Me: It's clear that there's another woman in the picture so who is she?

King: I don't have time for this

He grabs whatever he needs in the closet and walks out.

BRUNO

Today is my last day as a manager since King insisted on taking over. I don't know how we'll move forward from this and Onika isn't helping at all. We're supposed to meet here in 30mins and

hopefully we can find a way to keep the girls coming here without him noticing anything strange.

Out of the blue, King shows up and I didn't expect to see him here after a blast he had last night. I left him with Sindi and I don't know what they got up to in my absence.

Me: Grootman, I didn't think I'd see you here today

King: Why not?

Me: I mean you stayed up till late and I thought you'd still be sleeping

King: There's no way to sleep with Onika breathing down my neck. I needed to get out of the house

Me: So can I get you something to drink?

King: Not yet I think I need to catch up on work

Me: But I'm still handling things. At least for one more day

King: I know that

Me: So what went down last night after I left? Did you and Sindi take the party somewhere else?

King: No we went our separate ways actually. It was nice to see her again and I didn't know how much I missed her

Me: Oh so you're planning on seeing her again?

King: Sindi is good company but I need to focus on work and I don't think spending time with her is right. I'm married after all

Me: Yeah I get it but I could see the spark last night

King: Spark or not

Advertisement

I'm not going to pursue her

Me: So what are you going to focus on today?

King: The finances

Me: Oh!

King: It's okay you can carry on the day as usual I'll not be in your way

Me: Alright

King: I don't remember you sending me the roster

Me: Yeah about that..umm...

King: What's wrong?

King: I was hoping I could sort it out coz they love the way I placed them. You'll just mess up their schedule coz they've already adjusted to the way they work.

King: Okay fine I'll be in the office if you need me

## BOKAMOSO

It's that time of the night again and we're getting ready to leave. They jab us once again and this time it seems like the dose has been increased coz I'm feeling different. We get on the bus and it drops us at the club. I'm sent to the basement and I never thought this might would come anytime soon.

I go there regardless and each and every one of us is given a room where we're awaiting our clients. I sit on the huge bed with my half naked body and shiver even though the room is warm. I guess it's the nerves coz I have no idea who is coming my way. It could be an ugly old man or someone younger but it doesn't matter because I'm not ready to sleep with a stranger.

I pour myself a glass of water and before I could finish drinking, the door opens and a tall man walks in. He doesn't look old but definitely he's older than me. He takes off his jacket and hangs in around the armchair by the door. I stand still and wait for him to speak or do something.

Him: I didn't believe it when they told me that this room has a beauty waiting for me. I think I'm going to be here most nights

I stand quietly as he walks up to me and places his cold hands on my shoulders. He's so tall and I have to lift up my head to look at him. He pulls my body to his and presses his hands on

me. Like a pervert that he is, he smells my body and makes funny sounds with his mouth like he's about to literally eat me.

Him: How do you like it? I'm a man of foreplay

Me: I'm sorry I don't think I want to do this

Him: What's that supposed to mean? Do you know how much I paid to spend this hour with you?

He plays with my weave and then pushes me to the bed. I move back until I fall to the other side and almost hurt my leg.

Him: Oh is this how you want to play this? It's okay I love playing games as long as it'll not waste this hour that we have together

Me: I'm not playing games. I just don't want to be here with you

I get on my feet and and run to the door. He grabs me and pulls me back harshly. I try to fight him off but he's too strong and my bra ends up coming off. Now my boobs are out in the open and covering them is not a priority right now. He pushes me back to the center of the room and takes out an injection from his pocket. He takes the cap off with his teeth and spits it out before jabbing my neck. I groan in pain as I feel it circulating in my blood. I kick his nuts with my knee and make a run for it. The stairs going up seem to be endless but my goal is to get there no matter what. I finally get to the top and kick the door

open. I'm still trying to catch my breath and I'm hoping to find a safe spot where I can hide for the time being but I accidentally run into someone.

The collision is painful to my naked body and I end up on the floor. The size of this man matches Bruno's and I know if it's him, I'm dead. I move backwards with my butt while still keeping my eyes on the floor.

Him: Is everything okay?

The voice is definitely not Bruno's and lifting up my eyes, I see King. He crouches in front of me and balances my head in his arms.

King: Skyy, talk to me

I try to speak but whatever that man injected me with is starting to work and I can't seem to find my voice. Everything just goes black

12

KING

She just went quiet and I think she fainted. I pat the side of her face multiple times but she just won't wake up. A man comes running in from the basement and he stops on his tracks when my eyes land on him. His shirt is untucked and his belt is off with the zip down.

Him: King

Me: Yeah sure that's me

Him: Sh\*t! I didn't mean to scare her off

Me: Wirileng die kent joe? (What have you done to this girl?)

Him: Nex I think na tshogile fela (Nothing I think she was just scared)

Me: Byang byanong? (How so)

He just shrugs while placing his hand on his head. I cover her with my jacket since she's naked and pick her up. I rush out with her and bump into Bruno on my way out. I ignore him and rush to the parking lot

Bruno: Bra K dintshang? (What's going on)

Me: I don't know Skyy is unconscious

Bruno: Where did you find her?



Me: Please stop asking me questions and open the door for me.  
The key is in my pocket

He slips his hand in my pocket and unlocks the door. I place her at the backseat and Bruno jumps in

Me: And then wena oya kae byanong? (And then where are you going?)

Bruno: Skyy is our employee I'm as worried as you are

I start the car and we drive to the hospital. As soon as we walk into the hospital, the porter brings the stretcher and they take her.

Bruno: Ejo ore dintshitseng? (What did you say happened)

Me: Ake jaje Bruno she just fell at my feet( I don't know Bruno)

Bruno: And then?

Me: And then what?

Bruno: What did she say?

Me: How the f\*ck am I supposed to know?

Bruno: Alright let's wait for the doctor then

We wait for an hour or two before the doctor comes.

Doc: Good evening, gentlemen

Me: Yes doctor

Doc: I have the results for the young lady you brought in

Me: What's wrong with her?

Doc: We ran blood tests and we fast tracked the process so we can be able to get them tomorrow

Me: So now we can't be sure what happened?

Doc: Unfortunately we have to wait for the results

Me: Alright we'll wait then

Doc: Are there any family members we can put on the next of kin?

Me: Well...

I turn to Bruno whose eyes are wide open

Me: Bruno?

Bruno: Yeah I...I can get that information by morning

Me: Alright get it quickly coz her family needs to know she's hospitalized

Bruno: Of course

Me: Right now there's nothing you can do for her because she's still unconscious so you can come back tomorrow

Me: Thank you doc

Doc: You're welcome

We drive back to the club and Bruno is tailing me like my pet

Me: Get the next of kin info ready

Bruno: I'll get on it

BRUNO

Everything just took a bad turn really quickly. I take my phone and call Onika

Onika: Bruno

Me: We have a problem

Onika: Again?

Me: We're compromised

Onika: How?

Me: Skyy fainted I don't know how and King found her

Onika: What?

Me: She's in hospital and now I'm supposed to provide info for the next of kin. How the hell am I supposed to get that and when she wakes up she'll tell on us

Onika: Then make sure she doesn't wake up

Me: What? You want me to kill her?

Onika: Do you have a better idea? If my husband finds out we're dead, Bruno

Me: You think I don't know that?

Onika: Then man up and act, Bruno

Me: I guess I shouldn't have called you coz you're useless

Onika: Excuse me?

Me: I didn't stutter, did I?

Onika: You better take your words back or else I'll kick your balls when I see you

Me: F\*ck off, Onika

I cut the call and make a few calls to people who owe me favours. I manage to get a man to pose as Skyy's brother in the meantime until I figure a way out of this mess.

I couldn't sleep that night thinking about this misfortune and the next day King and I make our way to the hospital. I brought the fake brother along and King doesn't suspect a thing, at least not yet. We get to her ward and she's still unconscious. The doctor comes and I'm really scared of what he'll say coz I know I was pumping drugs in her system.

King: At last, doctor. What happened to her?

Doc: Well we ran the tests and we discovered that her bloodstream is filled with cocaine and Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate

King: Doc please speak English. What the hell is Gamma...whatever you said?

I clear my throat

Advertisement

glancing at the guy who poses to be her brother.

Doc: Gamma-hydroxybutyrate, or GHB, is an illegal drug that is sometimes used as a party drug. A lot of people may know it as a date rape drug. It produces feelings of euphoria, relaxation and sociability, and an increased sex drive. Because there was already a higher dose of cocaine in her bloodstream, the GHB became too strong for her. We managed to drain the drugs but I'm not certain that she'll wake up soon

Bruno: Are you saying she might die?

Doc: We can't know for sure

King: Thank you doc

KING

I grab Bruno's arm and drag him outside

Bruno: Wankgobatsa kgante dintshang? (You're hurting me, what's up)

King: I left you in charge of my club because I trust you. How the f\*ck did you let drugs into my club?

Bruno: I don't know how this happened but I'm sure there's an explanation

King: There's better be an explanation because I'm not going to face a lawsuit because of your negligence. I want answers, Bruno

Bruno: Sure

King: I need to know the name of the client who was with Sky last night

Bruno: Why?

King: Because he needs to give me answers. I know he's the one who gave her the party drug

Bruno: You can't be sure of that

King: I said I want to know who it was

Bruno: Okay I'll get him

King: I worked hard for this club to get where it is today and I'll not let anyone else ruin it for me. Not even your, brother

Bruno: I know that

King: You better pray Skyy lives or else you and I will have a serious problem. Now get me the guy's info coz him and I need to have a man to man talk

Bruno: Okay I'm on it

King: Why does this guy look strange?

Bruno: Which guy?

King: Skyy's supposed brother. I know that I have no info about her family but that man in there is acting strange. I mean he hasn't even said a word since we got here and we're more worried than he is

Bruno: I don't know

I pin him on the wall, I'm frustrated.

King: For your sake mfanaka I really hope you don't have a hand in any of this. If not then I can promise you otlo nyela (I'll f\*ck you up)

ONIKA

I'm waiting in my car outside Bruno's house since he isn't taking any of my calls nor replying my text messages. I see his car approaching from across the road, he pulls over in front of my car. I step out and lean against my car, he's definitely not pleased to see me. I notice there's a woman in the passenger seat and it's probably his booty call.

Bruno: You didn't have to come all the way

Me: What did you expect me to do coz wang blofa (coz you're ignoring me)

Bruno: I have every right. You decided to not help me when I needed help the most

Me: What did you do about the situation?

Bruno: I didn't do anything

Me: You didn't do anything?

Bruno: Am I the only one in this mess? If I remember correctly you're the one who came up with this stupid idea so forgive me if I don't have a plan to get you out of this mess

Me: I never put a gun on your head you willingly decided to work with me



Bruno: You mean work for you, madam boss?

Me: Oh please you love the money so don't pretend to be a victim in this

Bruno: Khopela o mpethise ka moya I have a guest as you can see (Please give me some space)

Me: A guest? I don't care about that b\*tch in the car we have a serious matter at hand

Bruno: A serious matter you can fix at home with your husband. What kind of a woman are you coz you don't have a plan at all. Always it has to be Bruno fix this, Bruno fix that. I'm up to here, Onika. I think it'd be better if you brought solutions on the table instead of a pretty face. No wonder my brother is no longer interested in the sham of your marriage

Me: Excuse me?

Bruno: He deserves better than you coz you're nothing but a blood sucking gold digger. I really hope he goes ahead and pursues Sindiswa coz she's a much better woman than you'll ever be

Me: Did you say Sindiswa? The same Sindiswa he dated before me?

Bruno: They should have never split up

Me: King is a hypocrite

Bruno: So what if he's a hypocrite? You're the one who started opening your legs for a low life man that King feeds. No wonder my mother isn't fond of you coz she saw right through you

Me: I don't give a damn about your mother

Bruno: Can you please leave my premises I don't have time for this

Me: So what am I supposed to do in the meantime? Wait for King to find the truth and end me?

Bruno: End us. Akere o ntsentshitse kamo gare ga masepa a gao (you put me in a this nonsense of yours)

Me: Oh please

Bruno: Get lost

He gets back into his car and drives in.

KING

Bruno gave me that guy's contact details so I got hold of him. He agreed to meet with me in the club the next morning so here I am waiting in my office. He knocks twice before I let him in.

Him: King

King: Sit

Him: Am I in trouble?

He makes a silly laugh before grabbing a chair to sit

Him: Why am I here, King?

King: You know exactly why you're here. What did you do to her?

Him: I don't understand. I was a client so I paid for her services and she panicked and decided to run. I think it was the first time doing this job so it might have overwhelmed her

King: You know there's a thin line between being overwhelmed and being terrified

Him: I don't know what you're talking about

King: You know we can either do this the hard way or the easy way

Him: I don't know what you want me to say

King: They found drugs in her system. The last time I checked

Advertisement

my club was a no drug area

Him: I only gave her a party drug shot

King: And cocaine

Him: Cocaine? I know nothing about that and I can assure you I don't know what it looks like

King: Cut the crap. Then how did it end up in her system?

Him: Maybe she's using. It's not like I know how she leads her life

King: I could lose my license, you know that?

Him: I know but I didn't mean any harm. Skyy was reluctant to have sex with me and I just don't understand why. I paid a fortune for an hour with her and even now I haven't received my money back

King: A woman could die, for heavens sake. All you care about is money?

Him: You're a business man and I know you understand that every cent counts.

King: I don't give a f\*ck about money. What am I supposed to say to her family if she doesn't make it? Do you understand how much trouble I'll be in?

Him: I wouldn't have been forced to use the shot if she had just complied

King: My employees are not objects. Do you understand?

Him: I'm really sorry bra K I didn't mean to cause any trouble

King: Listen I don't ever want to see you at my club

Him: What? I'm one of your loyal customers, King. You cannot do this to me

King: I'm not going to repeat what I said. Now get out

He doesn't say anything instead he gets up and leaves.

BRUNO

Even though I'm no longer managing the club, I can't seem to stay away. After confirming that Skyy is still unconscious, I decide to go to the club and figure out what my brother is up to.

Me: Bra K

King: What are you doing here, Bruno?

Me: I wanted to check if everything is okay. You seem stressed how about we go out for lunch later?

King: I can't I'm busy

Me: Busy with what?

King: A lot of things plus I'm waiting for test results from the hospital

Me: For?

King: I got all the girls tested last night and I need to know if their all using drugs or not

Me: What? Why would you do that?

King: If Skyy isn't the only one using then we're in for a ride

Me: When are you expecting the results?

King: Anytime from now

A notification pops in and he checks his laptop. I step closer interested in what he is looking at

Bruno: Are those the results?

Me: Yes

Bruno: What are they saying?

Me: Just a minute

I lean on the table panicking

Bruno: What are they saying?

Me: No ways

Bruno: And?

Me: All the girls are intoxicated with cocaine

Bruno: All of them?

Me: Gather all the girls I need to have a talk with them

Bruno: All the girls?

Me: Kgante ake utlwagale geke bolela Bruno? (Am I not clear enough)

Bruno: I don't get why you need the girls coz they probably took the drugs willingly

Me: I'll get them myself then

Bruno: Okay okay I'll get them here ASAP

I leave the office. I need to have a talk with them before my brother does or else I'm in trouble. Before I could go anywhere, he rushes out of the office and I stop him on his tracks

Bruno: K what's going on now?

King: I'm rushing to the hospital

Bruno: For what?

King: Skyy woke up

14

KING

I called Sindi to come and assist me with the matter at hand. I thought I'd be best to kill two birds with one stone so I take her out for lunch.

Sindi: I didn't think I'd get your call

Me: Why not?

Sindi: It's been days so I thought you don't want to talk to me

Me: A lot has been happening and I didn't have time

Sindi: You sounded worried over the phone

Me: I need you to help me track down a family

Sindi: Whose family?

Me: There's this lady who works at my club and she got into some kind of accident now she has amnesia. I need to find her family soon coz she really needs them. And then again I need you to find out what my brother is up to. He has been acting out of character since I came back and I can't put my finger on it

Sindi: Bruno?

Me: Yes. I don't know what it is but I know something is definitely up with him



Sindi: Alright I'll see what I can do. I really don't like seeing you this stressed

Me: I haven't had time to relax since I came back. Honestly I came home to rest and spend time with my family but now all I ever do is go back and forth trying to find out what the hell is going on

Sindi: And your wife?

Me: I'd rather not talk about her. That's another form of stress in my life and I'll deal with it after everything has cleared up

Sindi: You know that you could have told me all this over the phone or sent me a text

Me: I know but I needed to see you. I needed some cheering up

Sindi: Oh!

Me: Come on you know that you wanted to see me too

Sindi: How sure are you?

Me: I can see the smile on your face

Sindi: King stop flirting with me you're married

Me: To be honest that was the biggest mistake I made in my life. I married the wrong woman because it should have been you

Sindi: You know it didn't work out

Me: The only challenge in our relationship was time. Everything else was perfect and you know it. I just wish you could have given us a chance

Sindi: Whatever happened, happened

Me: Is it too late to fix things?

Sindi: It's too late, King. You have a ring on your finger and I think I could consider this if you took it off permanently. Until then you and I can never be

BOKAMOSO

Doc: Good morning miss. How are you feeling today?

Me: I'm much better doctor. Thank you so much for saving my life

Doc: It's my job you don't have to thank me. I have good news

Me: Oh!

Doc: You're getting discharged today

Me: That's music to my ears

Doc: I called Mr Khumalo he'll be here to pick you up

Me: Mr Khumalo?

I frown my eyebrows, puzzled.

Doc: King

Me: Oh!

Doc: I'll leave you to rest a bit before you leave

Me: Thank you

I place a pillow behind my neck and rest. An hour later or so

Advertisement

the door opens and it's King. He has a medium bag with him and I'm guessing it's clothes for me to wear.

King: Hi

Me: Hi

King: I brought you a few things you might need. I'm not sure if they'll fit you properly coz I don't know your size but I just used my eyes

Used his eyes? Does this mean he has been scanning my body all this time?

Me: Thank you. Let's hope your eyes took the right measurements

King: I hope so too but it's only for now coz you'll get to choose your own clothes when you leave this place

Me: Where will I go because I have nowhere else to go?

King: I'll take you to a place where I've rented for you. It's temporary until you can remember the important bits of your life

Me: Thank you you're really kind

King: You should go get dressed so we can leave

I get off the bed and take the bag to the bathroom. I change and then we collect my medication at the pharmacy then leave.

King: Can I get you something to eat?

Me: No thank you. I don't really have appetite

King: Please feel comfortable around me. All I'm doing is try to help and I'm really worried about you

I nod without saying a single word. He stops at a food corner and buys sandwiches regardless of what I said to him.

Me: Thanks I'll just eat this later. Can I ask?

King: Feel free to ask anything. Anything that can help you remember something

Me: Where's the club? I mean the club that you said I'm working at

King: It's in Stellenbosch

Me: Stellenbosch as in Cape Town?

King: Yes

Me: Oh! And what do I do there?

King: Well it's a strip club so...

Me: Alright

King: Do you remember anything?

Me: No. At least not yet

King: It's okay we'll take it one day at a time. Oh and I got you a cellphone coz I figured you'll need it plus we'll need to communicate

Me: Thank you I'll definitely need it

We drive in silence and we get to my place. It's fully furnished and it's small and cozy, perfect for one or two people. He places the new cellphone on the table together with the house keys.

King: There's food in the fridge and I don't know what you love eating. You can make a list of the things you'll need I'll have then delivered tomorrow

Me: Okay

King: I'll come check on you tomorrow. For now you can rest and hopefully remember something

I nod and sit on the couch. The last time I said something to someone I got into trouble and I am not willing to risk it all

again. He walks out and as soon as he drives off, I switch on the phone and call the cops. My heart bounces and I don't know if I'm making a grave mistake or not. I only want to save myself and the other girls, the rest I'll deal with them later.

Voice: This is the emergency number what is your emergency?

Me: I want to report a crime

Voice: What kind of crime are you reporting?

Me: A hostage situation at The House of King. It's a club in Stellenbosch and there are about 30 or more women held there against their will and I was one of them

## BOKAMOSO

After the call, I immediately feel bad about my decision. What if something goes horribly wrong and lands me into trouble once more? I pace up and down then the first thing that comes to mind is to alert King. He said the phone is for our communication so I'm hoping he already saved his numbers since the phone was already set up, only switched off. I go through the call log and only his number appears. I know he's not far so he can quickly turn back so we can talk. I call but there's no airtime, why the hell didn't he load airtime? I send him a call-back and he doesn't waste time getting back to me.

King: Skyy is everything okay? Did I forget something?

Me: Please you have to turn back now

King: What's wrong? Did something happen?

Me: Yes

King: I'm making a U-turn right now. Stay put

I pace back and forth the room with my heart bouncing on my chest. If King is one of them then I'll have to attack but if he isn't then I would have saved all the girls. I dig into the kitchen cabinet drawer for a weapon I take out a knife, hiding it under my jeans. A few minutes later he kicks the door open and

rushes to me. I'm in panick mode and his cold hands on my arms drags me back to reality. I didn't even realize that tears were falling from my eyes until he wiped them with his thumbs.

King: Skyy what's wrong? Did something happen in the few minutes that was out?

Me: I lied

I burst into tears and he doesn't hesitate to take me into his arms. With the knife poking him, he pulls back and his eyes fall on my waist. I wipe my tears and step back

King: Skyy what's going on?

Me: Are you in on it?

King: Am I in on what? You're not making any sense, Skyy

Me: Are you in on the kidnapping with your brother and wife?

King: Kidnapping?

He frowns his eyebrows, puzzled. His expressions seem genuine and I'm slowly letting my guard down, I hope it doesn't backfire. He might be in the dark or just playing his game really well.

King: What are you talking about? Do you remember something? Please tell me if you remember something

Me: I remember everything



I sniff and continue stepping back while taking out the knife. I hold a tight grip on it with both hands and I'm ready to rip his chest open if he dare tries to be smart with me.

King: What the hell is wrong with you? Have I given you a reason to attack me?

Me: At this point I trust no one but myself. Do you know about this?

King: I don't know what you're talking about, skyy. Please put the knife down and explain what's going on. I swear I'm not a threat to you and I wouldn't hurt you. Okay I'll step back and you can explain from a distance

He takes a few steps back but that doesn't take me off the edge.

Me: I have no amnesia. I faked it because I was scared Bruno would hurt me again

King: Hurt you again?

Me: Bruno and your wife are holding people hostage and I was one of them. In fact all the girls working at the club at night are there against their will. I was lucky to end up in hospital but that doesn't mean I'm safe. I already called the cops so even if you kill me now

they'll still raid your place.

Without saying a single word, he rushes out and I quickly run to the door to lock. I have no idea where he's going but I know for sure he had no idea what was happening. If I had money I'd be taking the bus out of Cape Town without thinking twice but at this point all I can do is hope that King will take me out of this hell hole.

I don't know who to trust and right now King could be on his way to cover his tracks and he might come back to finish me off. But still why didn't he finish me off at the hospital if he was in on this? I wish I had airtime because I would do anything to hear my mother's voice and let her know that I'm okay and safe, at least for the time being.

Hours and hours pass and King doesn't return. I fall asleep on the couch and I keep waking up every 15mins because I'm so uncomfortable. The sun comes up and I take the blanket back to the bedroom and take a bath. There is nothing to wear so I am forced to put on the same clothes I wore the previous day. My stomach is in knots and I don't think I'll be able to eat. I go outside to the sun and it's bright and hot, exactly what I needed. I cannot believe I haven't felt the sun in a while because we were kept indoors and it's only now that I'm appreciating the smallest things.

[THE PREVIOUS DAY]

BRUNO

Her: Come back to bed, Bruno. You didn't bring me here just to give me a single round

Me: I need something to snack I'll be back. Give me a few minutes

I put on my short and head to the kitchen. I take out a packet of biscuits from the kitchen cabinet and place them on the plate. The doorbell interrupts my moment of peace and I'm hoping Onika isn't back to give me a lecture. I open the door and he points a gun on my face. I can feel it's coldness when it touches my neck and he steps in. I raise my arms in surrender, I can bet my life on this that he finally found out.

Me: You don't have to use that, you know

King: You're in no position to tell me what to do

Me: You should have began with your wife

King: I would have understood if she did this alone but you..

Me: Put the gun down, brother

King: For what? Give me a reason not to end you right now?

Me: Blood is thicker than water. We're brothers I'm sure we can find common ground

King: I told you I'd end you if I found out you're stabbing me in the back

Me: Are you going to kill your own flesh and blood?

King: Where are you keeping the girls?

Me: Somewhere in town

King: Release them

Me: Put the gun down, King

King: If you give me one good reason then maybe I'll consider it

Me: It was your wife's idea

He pushes me against the wall and I can feel his tight grip on me. He cocks the gun and even with the patience he has, King is my brother and I know he doesn't bluff.

King: Take me to the girls then you and I will end this like men

16

BRUNO

Me: I'll take you there. Let me go get dressed but please lower the gun

King: Move

He pokes my back with the gun as we walk to my bedroom.

Her: Bruno what's going on?

She jumps off bed in fear, holding the towel so close to her body

Me: It's okay please get dressed and leave. I'll call you later

Her: Who's this guy?

Me: Just do what I say and stop asking me questions

She picks up her clothes from the floor and runs out. I put on my pants with the gun still pointed at me.

Me: You don't have to do this. Do you want to give our mother a heart attack?

King: Oska tsentsha mamazala mo tabeng e (don't involve mom in this matter)

Me: What would happen to her if I die from your hands?

King: She doesn't have to know

Me: Go on and kill me then

King: Get dressed I don't have all day

I put on my shoes and we leave. I'm the one driving coz he doesn't trust me one bit. We get there and I punch in my access code. The guards are surprised to see King here because he has never been here. We make our way to their room where they're locked up. I push the door open and they turn to focus on us.

Me: There you go

King: So many girls?

Me: What now?

King: Why?

Me: It was easy money. Onika came up with this idea to make them work for free so all the money meant for their salary will be in our pockets

King: You let Onika drag you into this?

Me: The offer was good and you can't blame me. Money makes the world go round

King: Tell all your dogs to get the fuck out of here

Me: Why?

King: Don't make me ask twice

Me: And the girls? What makes you think they won't go to the cops?

King: That's for you to make sure

Me: And how am I supposed to do that?

King: Don't ask me stupid questions. I'm not going to lose my license because of this and your life depends on it. Now tell the guards to leave

I summe them and explain that the operation is over. They leave their weapons and access cards in my office and now it's only me and my brother left apart from the girls of course. He tells me to remain in the office and he takes away my phone and keys, whatever I could use to get out. I remain there for about 30mins and he finally returns

King: Get up

Me: What have you decided? If you're going to kill me then kill me now

King: I'm not going to kill you

Me: Then what are you going to do to me coz I know you won't involve the cops?

He pulls me up with my T-shirt and drags me out. He takes me to the girls' room and puts me in the middle

Me: And then? If you want me to apologize then forget it

King: I don't think an apology will make up for the sh\*t you put them through. Ladies, he's all yours

Me: Wait what are you doing? King don't you dare leave me in here

They jump on me like a swarm of bees. I hear the metal door shut and I get a beating of a lifetime.

BOKAMOSO

The door opens while I'm about to drift into sleep on the couch. I jump off the couch, preparing myself for whatever might happen.

Me: King

King: We're leaving

Me: Leaving for where?

King: For home

Me: My home?

King: Would you like me to take you somewhere else?

Me: No

King: Then what are you waiting for?



Me: How am I supposed to know if you're not going to kidnap me?

King: I've had a long day and if you don't want to go then say so. I have a lot of things I still need to take care of

Me: What happened to the other girls?

King: They're fine

Me: Can I see them?

King: You know what? I'll get you a bus ticket because I'm not doing this. I cannot be dealing with my brother, my wife, the cops and then you

He takes a seat on the couch and goes through his phone. I stand behind him and he's on the ticket website. After a few minutes he gets up and asks me to close all the windows.

King: Let's go

I do as he says and we get into his car. Along the way we collect the ticket and he takes me to the bus station. He reaches for his wallet and takes out a few notes

King: This should be enough for the Uber when you get to Pretoria and for a few things you might need

Me: Just like that? Are you for real?

King: Is there something you want to do?

Me: You honestly want me to keep quiet about this?

King: If you go to the cops then this will implicate me. Please go home and don't tell anyone what happened. At least not the whole story. I'll deal with this my own way and I promise I'll get you and the other girls justice but I can't do it while you're still around. The cops are already sniffing around and I need to fix this

I jump off the car frustrated and slam the door. I catch the bus and it's a long ride home, hours and hours. We get to Pretoria in the wee hours the next day and I check into a BnB to rest for a few hours. In the morning I request an Uber.

We're a street away from home and how I'm feeling right now is not exactly how I had anticipated. I feel like my insides are moving up to my chest all at once and I can sense something bad.

Driver: We're almost there

I keep quiet and stare out the window

Driver: Are you okay? You've been awfully quiet

Me: What can I say? I'll only have a sense of relief when I get home

Driver: Did something happen?

He takes a turn and I can't help but notice a lot of cars parking across the street and a bus too. Usually in the township when it's like this, we know there's a funeral.

Driver: How am I supposed to pass now?

Me: Why does it look like all these people are at my place?  
What's going on?

I open the door while the car is still moving  
forcing the driver to come to an abrupt break.

Driver: Lady, wait. My money

He jumps off the car following me. My jackets is falling off my shoulders as I run, fear and confusion take over. I push everybody out of the way until I eventually get to the tent where my already teary eyes are met with a coffin at the front. It's all eyes on me with my grand entrance and there's a lot of murmuring. My aunt who's at the front row gets on her feet, shocked to see me.

Aunty: Bokamoso!!

I run into her arms and cry.

Aunty: You're alive

Me: Aunty what's going on? Okae mama? (Where's mom)

Her eyes fall on the gown and I turn to the coffin. I don't want to overthink because she hasn't confirmed it yet so I hold on to the tiny bit of faith left in me.

Me: Aunty talk to me. Where's my mother? Mama!! Mama!!

I shout as loud as my voice allows me, running into the house. My aunt and the others run after me with a mission to hold me back.

Aunty: Bokamoso stop. Your mother is gone

I continue searching for her room by room with tears falling from my eyes. She tries to hold me but I pull away from her grip, running back outside. I fall to my knees next to the coffin, bursting into tears. They hold me and take me back inside. With all the resistance and efforts of trying to pull away, I lose all my power and drift away. It becomes difficult to inhale the much needed oxygen into my lungs and all I seem to do is exhale.

Aunty: Tlisang metsi (bring water)

I could hear my aunt's words from a distance even though she's right here beside me.

Aunty: Bokamoso don't die on me. Please nana open your eyes

She pats the side of my face but I can't seem to recover my breathing. I grab on to her dress tightly, gasping for air until I can't anymore.

KING

I'm taking out all of Onika's clothes from the closet. I don't want a single thing that will remind me of her in this house. She just got back from wherever and she finds her clothes scattered on the bed and on the floor with suitcases wide open. She places her handbag on the dresser and keeps quiet for a moment. She probably thinks this is a joke and I'm just upset like most days but right now it's really over.

Onika: Are we going somewhere?

Me: We're not but you are

Onika: What's that supposed to mean?

Me: I know you're not stupid so read between the lines. Unless of course you've gotten stupid in my absence

Onika: I'm not a seer so just talk. Wetsalang? (What's happening)

Me: I want you out of my house

Onika: Your house? The last time I checked we were married and this house is ours

I laugh

Me: Ema pele sesi stena ke bokae? (Wait a minute sis how much is a brick)

Onika: How's that relevant?

Me: It's funny coz I don't remember you paying for a single brick to build this house. In fact you never paid for anything in this house not even the underwear you're wearing. Not even the towel you let your boyfriend leave here with the other day

Onika: You can't kick me out

Me: I just did. You thought I'd never find out about your schemes with Bruno?

Onika: A woman needs backup. A side hustle

Me: A side hustle at the expense of my hard work and other women's pain? If you wanted back up you could have went to college or something. Other women are furthering their studies and you're busy terrorizing people

Onika: So where am I supposed to go?

Me: You have a wide range of options. You could go back to your parents' house, move in with your business partner Bruno or go stay with your boyfriend. As a matter of fact I don't care I just want you out of my life and house

Onika: King I'm your wife

Me: Was

I take the ring off and throw it at her

Me: Get the f\*ck out. You and I are done

Onika: Please, King

Me: I'm giving you 1hr to pack all your stuff and leave. If you don't then I'll be forced to throw you out myself and you won't have the privilege to leave here with anything. You'll leave as you came in, empty handed

BOKAMOSO

I can tell that I'm in hospital by my surroundings and the smell just gives it up. My aunt's smile makes me feel a bit better from the headache that is pounding.

Aunty: Welcome back sweetheart. You had us worried

Me: How long have I been here for?

Aunty: Since yesterday

Me: Yesterday? Is mama...

Aunty: Shhh! It's okay baby we don't have to talk about that now

Tears fill my eyes once more. I thought it'd be a dream and that I'd wake up from it but no, it's all real. My mother is gone and I didn't even get to say my final goodbyes.

Aunty: Please Boka stop crying too much. This is the same reason you fainted yesterday

Me: How can I not cry, aunty? I didn't see her off and I know I'm the reason why she didn't survive

Aunty: You know your mother was sick so don't blame yourself

Me: How am I supposed to carry on life like nothing happened?

Aunty: What really happened?

Me: I don't want to talk about it yet but it was hell. My mother is the only person that kept me strong and sane but now that she's gone...

Aunty: I'm here for you, baby. I promised her that I'd take care of you

Me: How did she die? Was it peaceful or a struggle?

Aunty: She was hurt by your disappearance and I think her body just gave up

Me: Can you take me to her grave?

Aunty: Yes

Me: There are a lot of things I wanted to tell her but now I don't know what to do

Aunty: We all thought you were dead



Advertisement

Boka

Me: I thought I'd die too. Had I known mama is dead I probably wouldn't have survived

Aunty: Just know that I love you and I'm here for you always

I got discharged the next day and she took me to the gravesite where my mother is.

[A WEEK LATER]

TEBELLO

Eric is hosting a house party and he has invited a few of his rich friends. The week had been quite busy and it's a good thing that we're letting our hair down.

Me: Have you heard anything from the boss?

Eric: Not yet. I wonder why he's so quiet

Me: I've been overspending hoping a job will come up but nothing. I'm running low on cash

Eric: Chill I'm sure he'll call

Me: I heard Bokamoso's mother passed. Eish I really feel bad about what I did to her

Eric: iJob iJob bade (a job is a job, bro)

Me: Still, I feel like I should have given us a chance. I really liked her for real

Eric: You think your feelings for her will put food on the table?

Me: Look at the tragedy I caused

Eric: Her mother was suffering from cancer so she was gonna die either way. Stop beating yourself up

Me: Yeah sure

Eric: Grab a drink and stop whining. In this life it's either you eat or be eaten

Me: I'll be back I need to use the bathroom

I put my drink on the table and head to the toilet. I relieve myself, closing my eyes. Zipping my pants, I hear the door shut and I jump startled. My whole body freezes when my eyes land on Boka.

Me: Boka?

Boka: Don't look so shocked

Me: But how?

Boka: I would tell you but I don't have time

Me: How did you even get in here?

Boka: I worked here, remember

Me: You got out?

Boka: Everyone got out

Me: I was under pressure. I never really wanted to hurt you

Boka: But you did. You made me trust you and I let my guard down. My mother died of heartache and it was all because of you

Me: I'm sorry

Boka: Will your sorry bring my mother back?

Me: No but...

Boka: But nothing. People in this world just keep on taking away from me and I never get anything. Well tonight it all ends  
She reaches inside her bag and takes out a spray can. I don't know what it is really but before I can find out, she sprays all over my face. My face burns and it suddenly hits me that it's pepper spray. While I'm still recovering from all that, I feel a r\*pe around my n""k. I try to grab it but my body gets weak and I fall to the floor. She's holding on tight to the r"pe and I can't breathe.

Boka: I want you to die and pay for your sins when you get to hell

## BOKAMOSO

I've held the r\*pe tight enough and long enough for him to die. I never thought I'd do something like this but pain can sometimes turn you into someone you're not. He isn't kicking and fighting like he did a minute ago so I let him go. Tears roll down my face when I realise I've actually killed him. With fear kicking in, I jump out through the bathroom window because it doesn't have burglar bars. I leave unnoticed and run across the street with tears in my eyes.

I get to the next street and sit under a tree and just burst into tears. After I've calmed down a bit, I request an Uber to take me home. I get home a couple of minutes later and sneak in. My aunt thinks I'm in bed but no I was out doing crazy stuff. I carefully shut the door without making a sound but I guess she was still up because the kitchen light goes on.

Me: Aunty, you scared me

Aunty: Bokamoso what's wrong with you?

Me: I was out clearing my head

Aunty: Clearing your head at this time of the night? Do you want to get abducted again?

Me: I was abducted during the day aunty so we can never be say either way

Aunty: Is that how you talk to me these days?

Me: I'm sorry

I sit on the couch and take off my shoes.

Aunty: I worry about you. I promised your mother that I'd take care of you and should anything happen I'll never forgive myself

Me: I won't do it again

Aunty: Have you been crying?

Me: A little bit

Aunty: If you want to talk I'm here

Me: Thanks. I'm going to bed now

I get to my bedroom and lock the door. Tebello's lifeless body is still in my mind and I don't think I'll get rid of it anytime soon.

BRUNO

I can hardly go anywhere, the girls gave me a harsh beating that day. The loud knock on the door forces me to get my painful body off the couch to get the door. Onika's countless suitcases forces me out of the way.

Me: Woah woah! Nicky dintshang byanong (What's going on now)

Onika: King kicked me out

Me: Byanong nna ke tsena kae, Onika? (How's that my business)

Onika: I'll find a place while I'm here. Unless you have a problem with that

Me: Of course I have a problem. I cannot accommodate you not after what happened. Look at me, I can hardly open my left eye and it's not fair that you got out scott free

Onika: GBV, Bruno you. He wouldn't dare lay his hand on me

Me: Why are you making your problems mine?

Onika: We're in this together, Bruno

Me: We're in this together when it suits you?

Onika: Stop whining and help me with the bags. This isn't how you treat your guests

BOKAMOSO

Me: Is everything okay aunty?

I ask her immediately when she gets off the intense phone call with Mrs Twala.

Aunty: That was Mrs Twala. She says they found a dead body last night at her house while her son hosted a party

Me: What?

I act all surprised but deep down I'm really scared. Who knew that these tiny hands could take someone's life?

Aunty: This world is cruel and indeed coming to an end

Me: Yoh!

Aunty: It was someone's son

I focus on the TV and my mind drifts back to last night. A knock on the door snaps me out if it

Advertisement

my aunt gets it. I cannot see the person on the other side of the door but I can hear the voice and it's definitely familiar

Aunty: Boka there's someone here for you?

Me: For me?

I get confused and place the cup of tea on the table, getting to my feet. I am surprised to see King on the other side of the door

Aunty: Do you know him?

Me: Yes aunty it's okay. King is...a friend

Aunty: Alright I'll be in my bedroom if you need me. Just shout I'll come running

She gives King one last death stare before walking away. My manners fly out of the window as I stare at him without saying a word.

King: Can I come in? It's kind of chilly outside

Me: Of course

I move out the way and he comes in.

Me: Please sit

King: Thanks

Me: I didn't think I'd see you again. What's the purpose of your visit?

King: Well...I wanted to check on you

Me: You have my numbers, King. I don't think it was necessary to come all the way

King: I needed to leave that place for a while

Me: How did you even know I live here?

He laughs a bit

King: The world is a small place, Boka

Me: No I'm being for real



King: Aren't you going to offer me a drink at least?

Me: What kind of a visitor are you? Shouldn't you be waiting for me to offer you?

King: You're dragging your feet and I'm thirsty. The drive was quite long you know

Me: I have tea, is it fine?

King: Are you fine?

Me: Mm ke sharp (I'm fine)

My eyes fall to the ground and I head to the kitchen, hoping I don't burst into tears once more. I didn't know he was following coz his shoes didn't even make a sound. All I felt were his hands on my arms and I shivered, startled. He quickly lets go of me

King: I'm sorry I didn't mean to startle you. I know all this is partially my fault because I was too busy with other things and neglected the club. None of this would have happened if I was hands on

Me: You cannot hold yourself accountable for other people's actions

King: You need therapy

Me: Ke sharp, King (I'm fine, King)

King: No you're not

Me: Still it's not like I have money lying around to pay for that. Things are difficult as is and we barely make ends meet

King: Ketla gafa (I'll pay for it)

Me: No King I don't want to be your charity case. It's not like I'm the only one who has been scarred by this

King: I know but you're the reason everyone else got free. Please allow me to take care of your mental health. It's the least I can do at this point

Me: And what do you want in return?

King: What makes you think I'll want something in return?

Me: I've learnt that nothing in this world is free so I'm not going to be naive

King: I guess you've been spending time around the wrong people all your life. I'm only trying to help and I don't expect anything. Allow me

I cover my teary eyes with my palms and he takes me into his arms

19

KING

I knew that she's not okay but I didn't think it was this bad. She can't even hide her pain but I think it's okay that she's letting it all out. I rub her back, trying to calm her down.

Boka: I'm sorry for being such a mess

She pulls away and wipes her tears, turning her back on me in embarrassment

Me: What's your full name? I know Skyy isn't your real name and I've heard your aunt calling you Boka

Boka: Bokamoso

Me: It's a beautiful name. I think it's just perfect for a lady like yourself

Boka: Except my future isn't bright

She laughs in between her sobs. It's actually the first time I'm seeing a smile on her face. Her arched natural brows frown after the smile fades. Sadness swallow her and I can see the pain in her beautiful black eyes.

Me: So what do you say about the therapy?

Boka: If you insist. I know you won't let this go even if I say no

Me: Alright I'll book a session then I'll call you. She's the best in the game and I can assure you that you'll feel much better

Boka: So your brother will just walk free? After everything that he did to the girls, King

Me: This is kind of difficult for me, Boka. I just don't know what I can say to make you understand

Boka: Dont say anything. Blood is thicker than water after all

Me: It's not even like that

Advertisement

Boka. You know I can't involve the cops it'll get messy

She throws the teabag inside a cup and turns to me

Boka: How many sugars?

Me: Just two

Boka: We don't have milk I'm sorry

Me: I like it black

A sweat rolls down her forehead but it's weird coz it's cold outside, even in the house

Me: Boka o sharp? (Are you okay)

I remove her hand from her forehead as she continuously wipes the sweat with the back of her hand. Her body is heating up badly

Boka: I'm a bit sick but I'll be fine

Me: You don't look fine to me. Bolela lenna Boka flopo keng?  
(Talk to me Boka what's the problem)

Boka: I don't need you to baby me, King. Kitse ke sharp so please etswa mo yona (I said I'm okay so please let it go)

She sighs and hands over the cup. I follow her back to the lounge

Boka: How long are you going to be here?

Me: A while

Boka: Won't you be wasting money on accommodation?

Me: Do you want to accommodate me?

Boka: Why would I accommodate you?

Me: I'm just asking since you're so concerned about how much money I spend

Boka: No I'm not

She folds her arms and sits back on the couch

Me: My cousin lives in Centurion so I'll be staying with him.

Boka: Okay. Where's your ring? I thought I saw it on your finger a few times

Me: Yeah that was before I knew I was sleeping with a snake

Her aunt shows up and takes a seat. The room suddenly becomes awkward and I can tell from her face that she's a no nonsense kind of woman.

Boka: Aunty this is King. He's the one that saved me

Aunty: It's lovely to meet you

I nod and continue sipping on my tea. I feel like I'm overstaying my welcome so after the tea I ask to leave. Boka walk me to my car

Me: I'll call you about the therapy session

Boka: Okay. Thanks for coming to check on me

Me: I'll be a regular here so you better get used to this face

I take her into my arms for a hug before I leave.

BOKAMOSO

I return to the house where my aunt is waiting for an explanation

Me: I'll be in my room

Aunty: In your room for what? Not until you tell me what's going on

Me: What's going on, aunty?

Aunty: Your mother isn't even comfortable in her grave and already you're with men

Me: Aunty I'm not with men. King just came to see if I'm okay and that's all

Aunty: From Cape Town to Pretoria just to see if you're okay?  
Bokamoso ake ngwana tuu (I'm not a child)

Me: Kgante mamogolo onyaka kereng? (What do you want me to say aunty)

Aunty: Mmh! But he seems like a good man, hopefully he won't play with your golden heart

Me: What? How did we even get there? King and I are not anywhere near that

Aunty: Yet. I saw the way he looks at you

Me: I didn't see anything

Aunty: But he must know that you don't come cheap. I want those cows

Me: Aunty can we not have this conversation right now?

Aunty: Are you okay? You're sweating

Me: Oh! I think I'm catching a cold

Aunty: Baby are you sure those men didn't touch you?

Me: I'm sure aunty

Aunty: If I had money I'd take you to the doctor for a check up but...

Me: It's okay I'll take a flu mixture I'm sure I'll be better tomorrow. I just want to lie down for a while

Aunty: Alright sweetheart go and rest. You need it after everything that happened to you

I get into my room and lock the door. My body is feeling hot and my intestines feel like they're turning. My head is pounding and I'm feeling dizzy. I regret taking the drugs last night but how else was I going to gather the strength to do what I did? I sit on the floor hoping the pain will go away but it intensifies by the minute. I groan and moan in pain, at this point I have no choice but to inject myself once more to ease the pain.

I throw my body on the bed after the shot and I'm slowly getting to my normal self. The room spins for a minute before I gather myself together. All the pain vanishes and I feel like I'm thinking straight.

Me: I'm so sorry mama this is not the woman I had hoped to be. But life is a b\*\*ch and I feel lost. At least this way I'll forget



a little bit about how you were taken away from me so soon and hopefully I can avenge your death slowly. Every single one who hurt us will pay dearly. I swear on your grave

KING

I haven't been able to get Boka out of my mind since yesterday. I don't know what it is about her but I'm definitely feeling drawn to that woman.

Andile: I was hoping we could go watch the game at the stadium today but I can see you're not yourself

Me: I'm okay we can go

Andile: You seem to forget that I know you. I've spent years with you to know when something is wrong. Is it your wife?

Me: What makes you think I'd waste my time worrying about someone who doesn't care about me?

Andile: Then flopo keng? Gape ko bone from 13 pos gore ao monate (Then what's the problem? I could see from a distance that you're not okay)

Me: When did you start being so nosy?

Andile: Bolela lenna K waitse di advice ke dilo tsaka (Talk to me K you know advices are my thing)

He sits on the couch armrest, his gaze forcing me to come clean.

Me: Gonale ane kent (there's this girl)

Andile: Ah there we go. I should have known

He suddenly seems interested and a smile grows on my face

Andile: So what's with her?

Me: She's going through a lot and I'm not sure if this is a good time to tell her how I feel

Andile: There's never a good time to tell. Unless you want someone to come and take her first

Me: I doubt that. Yes she's beautiful but I don't think her mind is focused on a romantic relationship at this point

Andile: So how is she like?

Me: Yena ke chipi jo (she's really gorgeous, man)

Andile: When am I seeing her?

Me: See her for what? I just told you that she's dealing with a lot

Andile: That could work to your advantage

Me: How?

Andile: She's distracted and probably needs a friend right now. If you can be there for her and show her that she can confide in you then it'll be easy to get her to love you

Me: You're right but I don't want to be too much for her

Andile: Can I at least see her picture?

Me: I don't have it

Andile: So what's going to happen to your marriage?

Me: Ever heard of something called divorce?

Andile: So you're going through with this?

My phone interrupts. My cousin is really nosy and his eyes always pry

Andile: Kemang Sindi byanong? (Who's Sindi now?)

I pick up my phone

Me: Brayaka, brayaka (my friend)

Sindi: Hey you

Me: What's up?

Sindi: I called to let you know that I'm in town

Me; Omo Pitori? (Are you in Pretoria?)

Sindi: Yeah I landed last night. I came to see my mother

Me: If I didn't know any better I'd say you're following me

Sindi: Oh please. Anyway I wanted to know if you're available for a meet up. I need to go out my mom talks a lot

Me: My cousin and I were actually planning to go watch a soccer match at the stadium

Sindi: Oh okay can I tag along?

Me: Yeah sure. I don't think he'll mind actually

Sindi: Okay tell me where to meet you guys I'll be there

Me: I'll WhatsApp you.

Sindi: Okay sharp

I disconnect the call

Andile: If confusion was a person

Me: What's that supposed to mean? Sindi and I are just friends. She made it clear that she doesn't do married men

Andile; Yeah but you'll be divorced soon

Me: Gwa tshwana I have my eyes on someone else. Sindi can wait

Andile: Wait? You can't be having a substitute bro it doesn't work like that

Me: Who said anything about substitutes?

Andile: No I'm just saying coz the way I see it, onyako phusha le Sindi ontse o shela the depressed girl (you want to push with Sindi while you're asking the depressed girl out)

Me: She's not depressed. Anyway I'm going to see her now I'll be back in time

I grab my car keys and walk out. I get to her place and call, I don't want to go inside coz her aunt seems like a nosy person and I'm avoiding unnecessary chit chat. After what seemed like a minute she comes out

Advertisement

still in her sleepwear. She's wearing a grey onesie with its cap on and I can hardly see her beautiful face. She gets into the car and wipes her face with her palms.

Me: Sho (hi)

Boka: Hi

She smiles faintly, I can see that she hardly slept a wink and she looks exhausted.

Me: You don't look good. How are you holding up?

Boka: I'm not

Her response is followed by a shrug

Me: Your session is on Monday at 11:00am. I can come pick you up if you want or I can get a driver to take you there. Whatever you prefer

Boka: Okay

Me: Okay..Okay what?

Boka: You can send someone

My heart aches. I was hoping she'd go for the other suggestion coz I wouldn't mind seeing her a lot and right now I need good excuses to be next to her.

Me: So were you sleeping?

Boka: I was in bed just chilling

Me: You really need to go out and see people. What you're doing is not healthy

Boka: I don't need to go out to be healthy

Me: I know what I'm talking about. Locking yourself up won't do you any good

Boka: And you're an expert since when?

Me: I'm not

Boka: I appreciate your concern but I'm fine

Me: Bona how about kaosane re bethe slolo ko Menlyn? (Look how about tomorrow we go to Menlyn?)

Boka: What's happening at Menlyn?

Me: Just for a breather

Boka: Mmh

Me: Byanong oreng? (So what do you say?)

Boka: I'll see

Me: Please, Boka

Boka: Okay fine. We can go yoh just chill

Me: You made me beg so give me a break

Boka: Onyakang mo vele? (What are you doing here anyway?)

Me: Kgante gonale flopo ge ko cheka? (Is there a problem when I check on you?)

Boka: I'm not your girlfriend you don't have to check on me this much

Me: So you'll only allow me to check on you if I make you my girlfriend?

Boka: What? No that's not what I meant

Me: What's the worst that could happen if you become my girlfriend?

Boka: A lot

Me: Like what?

She pulls back the onesie cap and starts fanning her face with her hand

Me: What's wrong?



Boka: I'm feeling a bit hot, I'm sorry

I turn on the aircon

Me: Better?

She nods

Me: Why don't you go change so we can go grab a drink?

Boka: I promised my aunt I'd help her with.. umm...the laundry

Me: At this time?

I glance at my wristwatch and call her bluff

Boka: Thanks for popping by. I'll see you tomorrow then

Me: What's the rush?

Boka: I'm sure you can find something else to keep you busy,  
King. Bye bye

Me: Mara jo ema nyana (Wait a minute)

Boka: Why?

Me: Give me a chance

Boka: A chance at what?

Me: Nna lwena baby girl (you and I)

She chuckles and gets off the car, going back into the house.

21

KING

After the game we grab a few drinks and catch up. Andile leaves after an hour and since we came with my car, he takes a cab home. Sindi and I continue to drink and we know what that does to someone's sexual feelings. We start getting touchy touchy and it's clear that we both want each so badly.

Sindi: Why don't we get the bill and leave

Me: What do you have in mind?

Sindi: You can drop me off at home and then we can quickly relieve the sexual tension. F\*ck I'm so wet

She takes my hand and slides it in between her thighs, my middle finger rubs on her lacy underwear and it's wet

Me: I almost forgot how naughty you are

Sindi: And that's why you loved me

Me: Okay let's get one thing straight. We can f\*ck but no strings attached

Sindi: Are you seeing someone coz you said you ended things with Onika

Me: Something like that

Sindi: I'm cool with that. As long as you and I can give each other a good time

Me: You know good times are my thing

Sindi: Make it worth my while

Me: When have I disappointed you?

Sindi: Never

She plays with my goatee, pecking my cheek. I get the bill and we leave. I'm lucky I didn't get a speeding ticket coz I was driving beyond the speed limit.

Immediately when we reach the door, feelings are high. I shut the door with my foot and clothes fly. I pick her up, place her on the dresser and work my tongue around her neck. She's wrapping her arms around my neck, her legs around my waist.

Sindi: Give it to me my King. I've long wanted this so badly

She breathes out the words louder than I thought she would.

Me: Shh! Your mom is in the house

Sindi: She won't hear

Her hands drop to my zip, pulling it down. I can feel her warm hands on my d\*ck and I lose myself when she starts rubbing it in a fist. Placing both my hands on her butt, I lift her up taking her to the bed. I'm still in between her thighs and she's holding

my body so closely to hers. Her tiny boobs are rubbing on my chest, I suddenly don't know what to play with coz she's so petite and over the years I've gotten used to bigger body sizes after our breakup. It's funny coz I didn't have a problem when I was still with her, I guess my mind just adjusted

I don't want to break her so without making her feel inferior, I flip her over and make her come on top. She takes both my hands and places them on her boobs

Sindi: Play with me

I do as she asks even though both her boobs could fit in my one hand. I never had a problem with them when we were still together but now I've gotten used to other stuff, I'm turned off a bit. She ties her hair back and moves down to my dick, playing with it. After getting my feelings high up the roof

she grabs a condom in the drawer. Judging by the larger size, I can tell it's a female condom.

I've never been with a woman who uses it but I'm glad she's really taking her health really serious. She sits on it, sliding it in. After all the stress for the past few weeks, this is exactly what I needed. The warmth of her cookie drives me crazy and she starts moving back and forth and around it.

Sindi: I'm going to give it to you. All of it

She whispers in my ear, biting my earlobe. I hold on to her waist and my mind drifts into the satisfying moment of my d\*ck thrusting in her. She falls back with me still inside of her, I get on to and thrust faster and harder. Her moans intensify and I'm no longer concerned about the noise coz I'm in cloud 9.

Sindi: F\*ck I'm gonna cum. Hold me tighter I'm gonna cum, sh\*t King I want you more

My phone vibration interrupts and I wasn't going to attend to it even though it's right beside me. With the caller ID so bold, the sex becomes the last thing on my mind even though I'm at the verge of my climax.

Sindi: Ungayi bambi my King (Don't answer it, my King)

She holds on to me tighter but I pull away

Me: Just a minute

I roll to the side and answer

Me: Boka

Boka: King I'm sorry for calling you this late. I just didn't know who to call

Her sobs get me out of the mood and my d\*ck dies down. I sit at the edge on the bed, giving her all my attention. Sindi rubs my back and kisses my neck, I yank her hands off me and get on my feet

Boka: Is this a bad time?

She continues to sob

Me: Everything can wait. Bolela lenna Boka (Talk to me, Boka)

Sindi: Haibo King ungijwaela kabi manje. Manyala mani lawo owayenzayo? (King you're really disrespecting me. What nonsense are you doing?)

Placing the call on hold...

Me: Ema nyana Sindi (Wait a bit, Sindi)

I reconnect

Me: It's never a bad time for you, Boka. What's going on?

Boka: I feel like I'm going crazy. I don't know what to do and I don't know who to talk to

Me: Where are you?

Boka: I'm home

Me: Kemo tseleng (I'm on my way)

Sindi grabs my pants and hides them behind her

Sindi: Ngiya vivinywa boh (I'm being tested)

Me: Sindi please I need to go. Give me my pants

Sindi: So basically you're leaving me at the verge of a climax to go attend to another woman?

I'm afraid I'd say something wrong and hurt her feelings so I choose to keep quiet.

Sindi: At least make me cum. That's the least you can do after making me feel this way

Me: Are you serious right now?

She throws the pants at my face and jumps off bed, picking up my T-shirt and shoes tossing them to the door

Sindi: Voetsek King

KING

I get to her house and knock twice. The door swings open and she stands at the other side of the door with her eyes swollen from crying. I don't ask anything, I pull her into my arms and embrace her. She bursts into tears once more and I close the door, taking her to the couch. I let her cry until she eventually calms down. I wipe her tears with my thumbs and give her a chance to talk.

Boka: You probably think I'm too much. I'm sorry

Me: You can never be too much. What happened?

Boka: I'm hallucinating or maybe I'm just losing it. I keep seeing him and...I don't know what to do

Me: Keep seeing who?

Boka: You'll probably judge me for this

Me: I won't judge you Boka. Everyone makes mistakes and I'm sure we can find a way to fix it. Where's your aunt?

Boka: She went to her house for tonight. She'll be back tomorrow. I'm scared, King

Me: Alright I'm here now and you don't have to be scared anymore. Bolela lenna Boka (Talk to me Boka)



Boka: The day I came back was the day my mother was laid to rest

Me: I didn't know your mother passed away. I'm so sorry

Boka: She died of heartache

Me: I didn't know. Why didn't you tell me sooner?

Boka: I thought I'd be able to deal with the pain but clearly I was fooling myself. I knew the guy who kidnapped me and I confronted him the other day. I wanted to understand why he did it but his excuse was lame so I.. I killed him

The statement takes me aback but I cannot afford to lose it and judge. That could make her distance herself from me and right now I need her closer

Me: Was it a mistake?

She shakes her head no, tears rolling down her face again.

Boka: It was intentional but I was under the influence

Me: Were you drunk?

Boka: No. I did drugs

Me: Drugs? Bokamoso you do drugs?

I snap. She moves a bit from the couch, away from me.

Boka: It was your brother and wife who forced me into this so don't you dare judge me for falling easily into the pit

Me: I'm sorry I didn't mean to snap. I just worry coz you know this won't end well

Boka: I keep seeing him whenever I close my eyes and when I open them it's even worse. I don't want to end up in prison or in a mental institution because I can see it's heading to that direction

Me: Not on my watch. I'll make sure that it doesn't even get there

Boka: How? I don't want to be a burden to you and I'm sorry for calling, I didn't know what else to do. I can't come clean to my aunt that's why I couldn't call her. I withdrew the last cash I had in my card and bought my fix

Advertisement

I couldn't resist. I thought it'd make me stop seeing things but I'm worse and I can't even switch off the light. I cannot be alone tonight King please stay with me

Me: Alright

Boka: We can stay here I'll get a fleece as long as I won't be alone. You can leave in the morning I'm sure my aunt will be back during the day

Me: Gaona flopo Boka anything you need. I'm partially to blame for your messed up life so I owe you this much

Boka: Thank you

Me: Anything you need

She gets her fleece and mine then turns on the heater in the lounge. I put my phone on flight mode, I'd hate to be interrupted.

Boka: I haven't been able to sleep for two days now and I'm tired, King

Me: I can see it in your eyes. Okano gidla (you can sleep)

Boka: I'm sorry for putting you in this position

Me: It's okay. Come

I place the cushion on my lap, letting her rest her head on it. I turn the TV volume down and we both drift into sleep.

BOKA

I lose my sleep in the middle of night and King is deep in his sleep even though he doesn't look comfortable. I carefully and quietly get off the couch to get a glass of water. My head is pounding and I don't think the two hours of sleep I had is actually enough to get me to my old self.

He wakes up, probably because his neck is starting to hurt. He notices I'm not there and I make myself heard.

Me: I'm in the kitchen

King: Oh!

Me: Does your neck hurt?

King: I'm okay

Me: It wouldn't be fair for me to sleep in the bedroom while you sleep on the couch

King: It's okay I'll just move to the other double couch I'll probably feel comfortable

Me: Okay

King: Did you lose your sleep?

Me: Something like that

King: We can talk about it if you want

I return to the lounge and throw my body on the couch

King: We can watch a movie then

Me: At 02:00am?

King: Do you have a better idea?

Me: I don't think TV is a good idea. My eyes hurt

King: Okay we can chat then. We can talk about anything to pass time

Me: I'd rather try to sleep again

I take my fleece to the other couch and force myself to sleep. The sun eventually comes up and he has to leave. He won't accept my breakfast so I just let him be. He goes to the bathroom while I fold the fleece and take them back to my room.

King: Are we still on for today later? We can cancel if you're not feeling okay

Me: You were right. I need to get out of the house

King: Alright I'll come pick you up at 2

Me: Okay

King: Obe sharp (be okay)

He gives me a hug, my pajama pants moving up leaving my butt cheeks in the open. Letting go, I lean for a kiss without thinking straight. Our lips brush a few times before he kisses me only for a split second without shoving his tongue in me. He pulls away and I immediately feel embarrassed

## NARRATED

King only comes home in the morning around 09:00am. Andile is really curious to what happened the previous night so he's waiting impatiently by the door as his car drives in.

Andile: I have all day so nsegele alas (tell me everything)

King: Everything about what?

Andile: About you and Sindi last night. Did you at least have a good time?

He punches his shoulder teasingly, following him to the bedroom. King ignores the question and takes off his shoes, sitting on the bed.

Andile: So otlo mblofa ke ova lwena? (So you're going to ignore me when I talk to you?)

King: What makes you think I was with Sindi all night?

Andile: This isn't rocket science. I left you with her last night and you didn't sleep here so that can only mean one thing

King: I was with Boka last night

He laughs with a bit of shock on his face, covering his dropped jaw with his hand

King: Before you ask a lot of things, no it's not what you think

Andile: I wasn't going to ask anything but I definitely have a comment

King: Keep it to yourself I'm not interested

He goes into the bathroom and still Andile tails him

King: Stop following me. Are you trying to bathe me now?

Andile: I wouldn't have to coz you have two women eating at the palm of your hands

King: You got the wrong end of the stick

Andile: No you can't be this lucky while I don't even have a girlfriend. You better hook me up with your traditional doctor coz he's doing the things

King: You're being ridiculous and you know it

Andile: Actually you have three women coz your wife sent me a DM earlier

King: For what now?

Andile: She was hoping I could convince you to talk to her

King: Convince me then

Andile: Come on King you know your marital problems are none of my business. I just thought you should know that she contacted me coz tomorrow you'd think I went behind your back

King: Onika can go jump from the highest cliff I wouldn't care

Andile: So ke kopana le makoti neng? When am I meeting the wife?)

King: Can you mind your own business for a change?

Andile: I'll only let you be until you finish bathing but you have to tell me everything afterwards

He leaves the bathroom and King takes his time to bathe, trying to avoid Andile.

**\*\*BOKAMOSO\*\***

I don't know what to wear. I haven't been out on a date in ages, I've probably lost my touch. It's been years since I felt this way about a man coz my ex was really abusing me emotionally and I ended up not knowing what affection is really. Most of the time I was just focused on my school work then after I graduated I focused on job hunting so dating was at the bottom of my to do list.

I feel like I can safely confide in King and last night I was an open book, I even surprised myself. I'm hoping today will be a wonderful day and I won't hallucinate like usual. I'm officially broke coz I have the last R50 in my hand from my savings and there's only one thing on my mind right now

Advertisement



a fix. I go buy from the guy who sells veggies across the street as a front so that the cops wouldn't notice.

I hide it then take my bath. I still have an hour so I do my make up and decide on what to wear. It's just lunch so I'm not going to be too much. The weather is pleasant today so I'll just go for my thin strapped body hugging black dress and a pair of heels. My aunt stands by the door watching me glue on my frontal weave

Aunty: Is he coming to pick you up?

Me: Mm!

Aunty: I thought you said you're just friends

Me: We are

Aunty: So why are you dressed up for him?

Me: It's not for him but for me. Can't I look beautiful for myself?

Aunty: I was just...

There's silence for a while and she gives up and walks away. I comb my hair and do final touch ups. He calls that he's outside so I take my fix. I don't have a needle this time so I snort then grab my bag and leave.

KING

If life had a remote control then I'd press pause, rewind and slo-mo. I could watch her walk all day long and right now I feel like turning her back to do that walk for me once more.

\*Kaba utlwa majita bare chipi ke chipi mara bona ema nyana die kent wa fisa\*

She struggles to open the door so I open it for her. I don't get why women have to put on these long nails if it's going to be a problem to do mundane activities.

Boka: Thank you. Hi

Me: Hi

She flips her hair to the side then plays with her phone

Me: I'm hurt that your phone is getting more attention than me

Boka: No I was replying a text I'm sorry

She places it face down on her lap and faces me, giving me a gentle smile.

Me: You look beautiful

Boka: Dankie (thanks)

I drive and along the way we just hold an ordinary conversation. We get to Menlyn and get lunch at a restaurant of her choice. We talk a lot and she tells me about her dreams and aspirations and I get to find out that she actually holds a

degree in Petroleum Engineering, such beauty with brains. I realize that she's getting a little bit too talkative and hyper so I suggest we go grab a drink or two at Ayepyep Menlyn.

She's unsettled and I'm scared to raise my concerns coz I might rub her the wrong way but still I can't sit and do nothing. I grab her arm and pull her closer to me

Boka: Ke eng? (What is it)

Me: Boka o tsubile? (Did you take drugs)

Boka: Wang judge King? (Are you judging me?)

Me: Why wira dai deng? (Why are you doing that)

Boka: I can't help myself

Me: Then let me help you

Boka: How?

Me: Ake jaje Boka but I'll figure it out (I don't know Boka)

Boka: I'm a mess look

She shows me her constant jerking arm and she's trying to pull herself together.

Me: Maybe we should go

Boka: I just need a glass of water

Me: Water won't get this off your system

Boka: You think I don't know that?

She gets on her feet and goes to the restroom.

Sindi: Mmh it's nice neh

Me: What are you doing here?

Sindi: The same thing you came to do

Me: What do you want I'm with my woman

Sindi: So you're not even going to apologize?

Me: Harde jo (I'm sorry)

Sindi: Really?

Me: We can't be arguing over orgasms Sindi come on

She laughs and folds her arms. I wouldn't want Boka to find her here

Sindi: Don't talk about orgasms coz you didn't give me any

Me: I had to attend to her and I don't owe you any explanation

Sindi: Ya no you've changed for real, King

Me: I'm sorry things took a wrong turn. It was really unintentional to hurt your feelings

Sindi: Ditching me in the middle of a steamy session, King

Me: Can we not do this?

Boka returns and everything just becomes awkward.

Sindi: If not now then when?

Boka: And then?

Me: Nex (nothing)

Boka: Really?

They stare at each other for a while

Me; Boka this is Sindi. Sindi, Boka

Sindi: I'll see you around

She walks away

Boka: This voice is the same as the woman I heard over the phone last night

Me: Yeah

Boka: King you can't be pursuing me while you're busy with another woman. What do you take me for?

Me: It's not even like that

Boka: Then what is it like? I hate men who like to keep their options open and claim to be serious

Me: I'm not keeping my options open

Boka: I'm leaving

Me: Wait for me at least

She grabs her bag and walks out. I first have to get the bill so I guess she'll wait outside. My phone rings and it's my little sister, Katlego. What could she want this late

Me: Kat

Katlego: Abuti oko kae (Brother where are you)

Her sobs make my heart bounce at a faster pace

Me: Keko Pitori Kat dintshang? O llelang? (I'm I'm Pretoria Kat what's wrong? Why are you crying?)

Katlego: Ke mama..she..ga tsoge, King (it's mom she won't wake up)

I drop the money on the table and dash out. Boka is nowhere near my car and I look around but can't see her. I don't have time for her games so I jump into my car and drive off heading back to Cape Town.

## BOKAMOSO

My tummy is acting up, probably because of the alcohol I drank on top of my drug intoxication. After throwing up at the back, I return to the parking lot but King's car isn't there anymore. I panic and a lot of things are going through my mind. I call him but it takes me straight to voicemail. I cannot believe the guts of this man. Even after what I went through, he decides to leave me stranded at a club in the middle of the night. I don't even have a cent and I wouldn't be able to get home.

I should have just stayed at home coz now I'm stranded all alone. What if I get kidnapped again? At this point I wouldn't even take a ride if someone offered. I can't go back inside coz I'm sure he already paid the bill and they cleared the table. I have only one option and that's to give my aunt a call.

Aunty: Boka

She sounds like she was deep into her sleep. It's almost midnight after all

Me: Aunty can you please send me some money into my account or cash send? I'm stranded I want to come home

Aunty: Stranded how coz you left with King?

Me: Akitsi aunty o tshabile (I don't know aunty he ran away)

Aunty: O tshabile? (He ran away?)

Me: O ndochitse (he left me)

Aunty: Boka did you see the time? Where are you now? I don't have your account number I'll just transfer the funds to your number. Is there an Absa ATM nearby?

Me: There is one here

Aunty: Okay let me...

Tuu tuu!! There goes my phone. It's off even though the battery was on 39%. I try to switch it on but it's now on zero and there's nothing I can do. I guess I'm sleeping at the club tonight

KING

My signal decided to act up once I left the club. I need to call Boka and explain that I had to leave and get her a ride home, that's if she's not on her way already. It was really childish of her to pull that stunt even after what she went through. I can only hope she's okay coz with no signal, I can't do anything. My main focus is on my mother and if Boka wants to play games, she can play on her own right now. After hours and hours of driving, I eventually get to Cape Town and by now I'm exhausted.

I don't find anyone at home except the house helper and she tells me that they left for the hospital. I drive there with my



exhaustion and hunger, hoping for the best. I get there and both Katlego and Bruno are at the waiting area. She runs into my arms and without saying anything I comfort her

Katlego: You came

Me: Of course I came, Katlego. How's mom?

Katlego: I don't know

She wipes her tears and goes back to the bench. I remain on my feet coz I don't want to sit next to Bruno

Me: What happened?

Bruno: She just collapsed and wouldn't wake up

Me: Katlego talk to me. What happened?

Katlego: Mara King akere abuti o tlhalositse (but King my brother just explained)

I lean against the wall and we all keep the silence for a while

Bruno: Go get some coffee at the cafeteria and something to eat

Katlego: I'm not hungry but I do need some coffee

Advertisement

I'm exhausted

She leaves us and everything just becomes tense

Bruno: Ka Jaja gore o kwatile mara are naganele mamazala (I know you're angry but let's think about our mother)

Me: Ska ova lenna please (don't talk to me please)

Bruno: King please can we put our differences aside for the time being?

Me: No we can't. It's bad enough that we're in the same room

Bruno: We're of the same blood you can't stay angry at me forever

Me: Wanna bet?

Bruno: Tlogela go ikira ngwana King you're the oldest (stop acting like a child King you're the oldest)

Me: Oreng? (What are you saying)

I was going to grab him off the bench had the doctor not interrupted us.

Doctor: Gentlemen

Bruno: Yes doctor. What do you have for us?

Doctor: Your mother will be okay. She has type 1 diabetes but with proper diet, rest and medication, she'll be okay

Me: Thank God!

Bruno: Can we see her?

Doctor: Yes please follow me

We tail the doctor to my mom's ward. She's awake but frail. I can see a faint smile on her face when she sees us walking in

Me: Mommy, We stand on either side of her bed, giving her cheek kisses and hugs.

Mom: King, Obakeng

Yes, Obakeng is Bruno's real name. He got the nick name when he was still a teenager coz he loved getting into fights and everytime he'd bite his opponent and they said he bites like a dog, hence Bruno coz it's a dog name.

Me: We're relieved to see you awake, mama

Bruno: You gave us a fright

Mom: I'm okay. Where's your sister?

Bruno: She went to get coffee

Mom: Okay. I'm happy to see both of you together. Why are you fighting?

Me: Don't stress yourself about that mama focus on regaining your health

Mom: How do you expect me to regain my health while my sons are like cat and mouse? King what's going on? Obakeng?

Bruno: A se nex mama (it's nothing mama)

Mom: You two are hiding a lot of things from me. Especially you King because I heard Katlego saying you left Onika

King: Mama please let me handle my affairs. I'm a man I can handle my own so there's no need to tell you every time I have a fight with Onika

Mom: Whatever it is between you boys please fix it

Bruno: We will, mama I eye him and chuckle. My phone interrupts me so I leave the ward to answer it. It's Boka and I know she's going to give me hell

Me: Sho (hi)

Boka: Sho? After ditching me otlore sho? Sho ya masepa King waitse ontlwaele gampe mara wena (Hi? After ditching me you're saying hi? Hi my foot you're taking me for a fool)

Me: Can you calm down?

Boka: Calm down for what? What do you have to say for yourself?

Me: Where were you?

Boka: I was at the back. Why did you leave me stranded like that after you told me that you care? Do you know where I slept? Do you have any idea how scared I was?

Me: Boka please listen

Boka: Onkira stlaela King. O tsamaile le yena akere? (You're making me a fool King. You left with her, right?)

Me: Left with who?

Boka: The lady from the club

Me: What makes you think I left with her?

Boka: I'm so done with you, King

Me: Can you please listen?

Boka: Where the hell are you?

Me: I'm in Cape Town

Boka: Cape Town? So you went back home without saying anything?

Me: Where was I supposed to find you coz you were playing games?

Boka: Playing games? I'm so done

Me: Boka!

Boka: Dont ever call me again

Me: Let me explain at least

She cuts the call without giving me a chance to explain. I'm not in the mood for her moods I have a mother to take care of

## BRUNO

We have returned to visit mom again and this time we brought her flowers and fruits. Even though King and I don't talk, he agreed to come with us maybe because Katlego was driving us. She's much better today and hopefully she can get discharged soon.

Mom: Oh my babies. I'm so happy to see all of you here

Katlego: We're happy that you're getting better mama

Mom: Did you get me my favorite chocolate?

Me: No more chocolate mama you have to watch what you eat. I'll have to rewrite your grocery list

Katlego: No way. Mama can have her own list and we'll continue buying things like usual. I'm not diabetic so please

Mom: King are you okay? You don't look fine my baby

She takes his hand and even though mom treats us equally, sometimes I feel like King is his favorite.

King: I'm okay mama

Mom: Did you and your brother fix your issues?

King: Can we focus on your well-being?

Mom: Katli please talk to your brothers tuu

Katlego: What will I say, mama? You know these two are hard headed

The door opens and Onika walks in. I know King will snap coz he hates me while we share blood so what is Onika?

Onika: Hi family. Don't mind me I'm just going to put these here  
She places the basket of goodies on the bedside counter

Katlego: Sis Onika mama has diabetes and you brought all the things that will only kill her

King laughs frustrated. I bet if mom wasn't here he was going to do something drastic

Onika: I'm sorry skwiza but Bruno didn't tell me what's wrong with mama. I'm so sorry I thought maybe it's just high high

Bruno: What are you even doing here?

Onika: The same reason why you're all here. To check on mama  
She stands beside King who's at the verge of losing his cool.

Onika: Daddy

King: I think it's best if I go outside until she leaves. Kat you'll call me when she's gone

Onika: King don't be like this

King: Onika don't start with me please. I'm out of your way so please return the favor I don't want to lose it

Bruno: Onika maybe you should leave. Akere wabona monna gao o jele dipekere (you can see your man is angry)

Mom: Can you all just stop this nonsense? If you're not going to get along then it's best if you all just leave

BOKAMOSO

I've been locked up in my room fighting the pain of not feeding my addiction for the day. I'm broke and I cannot ask my aunt for money once more coz she's not working and every cent she has she has to take care of the household needs. She doesn't have kids of her own so that's why she's mostly here and I appreciate her so much for her efforts. I haven't been able to eat and that's the least of my worries. I'm hurt by what King did and I really thought he was different. I was willing to give him a chance to get closer to me and I was somehow having growing feelings for him.

I've ran out of data and I can't pass time on social medial so the only thing I can do is watch TV but that would mean I have to hold a conversation with my aunt. I take my fleece to the lounge and join her

Aunty: Can I make you something to eat?

Me: I'm still okay



Aunty: You haven't eaten for the day Boka I'm worried about you

Me: I'm okay aunty I'll eat later I promise. Can you hotspot me for a minute I need to check my WhatsApp messages

Aunty: Okay as long as you don't use too much of my data. It needs to last me for the whole week I don't have money anymore. I'll only get cash month end so we have to hang in there baby. The money I sent you was my last

Me: I won't waste it

She hands me her phone and I hotspot. My social media notifications pop up but I first check my emails. Most of them are ads but one gets my attention. I open it and realise it's from a company I once applied for a few months ago.

"Dear Ms B Modise. You're are hereby invited for an interview..."

I jump up and down in excitement without reading the whole thing. Calming myself down

Advertisement

I return to the email and read the whole thing. The interview is tomorrow, how will I get my broke ass there? I won't call King and boost his ego coz he'll think I need him that much. Who am

I foolish? I need him right now. What's a mere R200 when he paid the other night's bill?

After telling my aunt that I scored an interview, I return to my bedroom to call King but my phone doesn't have airtime. I'm forced to use my aunt's phone so I ask her and she agrees. It rings a few times before...

Her: Hello

I keep quiet trying to analyze the voice. This is definitely a woman and a lot of things start running through my mind.

Her: Is anyone there?

Me: Hi can I talk to King?

Her: He's still busy at the moment showering but I can take the message

Me: Showering?

Her: Yes that's what I said

Me: It's okay you don't have to take any message. Thanks

I cut the call and immediately a message pops up, the free minutes have been depleted. I throw the phone on the bed in frustration. How can King tell me that he wants to court me while he's busy with women in Cape Town? Ya no batlao hurda bafana the boys 🤔

KING

Me: I thought I heard my phone ring?

I ask my sister who's holding my phone in her hands

Katlego: Yeah it was ringing

Me: Ke mang? (Who is it?)

Katlego: Arg some weird woman she didn't say

Me: Weird woman? How weird?

She shrugs and leaves. I check the call log and I don't recognize the numbers so I don't return the call

26

KING

I've settled in my bedroom so I go through my phone and dial the numbers that called earlier.

Her: Hello

Me: Hi. I got a call from this number earlier who am I talking to?

Her: A call? I don't remember calling anyone maybe it was a pocket dial

Me: I doubt it coz the person wanted to speak to me specifically

Her: Who are you?

Me: I'm King

Her: Ooh King. I'm sure it was Boka who called earlier

Me: Aunty?

Her: I'm sorry I didn't recognize your voice. Boka borrowed my phone earlier

Me: Oh okay thanks I'll just call her phone

Her: Alright

I hang up and call Boka. It's clear she doesn't want to talk to me coz she lets it ring for a long time before answering.

Boka: Onyakang, King? (What do you want, King)

Me: Boka please will you give me a minute?

Boka: I was already sleeping what is it?

Me: I heard you called earlier

Boka: Yeah I did but I didn't think your girlfriend would tell you

Me: Girlfriend efeng byanong? (Which girlfriend now?)

Boka: The one that answered your phone or was it your wife?

Are you back with your wife, King? Gosh I'm so stupid of course you're married. Who falls in love with a married man?

I laugh after realizing that she's upset because my sister answered my phone

Boka: Am I a joke? Actually King I shouldn't have answered coz clearly you don't take me serious

Me: It was my sister Katlego who answered my phone while I was in the bathroom

Boka: Mxm

Me: I'm telling you the truth Bokamoso why don't you believe me?

Boka: Why would I believe you when you left me stranded the other night?

Me: My sister called saying my mother is unconscious that's why I had to leave abruptly. I'm sorry that things happened the way they did but when I couldn't find you at the parking lot I thought you had left or just trying to spite me. I was really stressed about my mother so I had to leave. I'm sorry that I didn't put your safety first but you have to understand the situation I was in. Put yourself in my shoes for once, Boka

Boka: Is she okay?

Me: She's better now but still at the hospital. She has been diagnosed with diabetes

Boka: I'm sorry I didn't know. I know how stressful it can be to have a sick mother and I'm sorry I was adding more stress unnecessary

Me: You didn't want to give me a chance to explain myself that's why things escalated to this point

Boka: I guess I've been a piece of work lately and I am truly sorry for that

Me: It's okay we both made mistakes and I think we can start afresh

Boka: I guess

Me: So you're in love with me?

Boka: I didn't say that

Me: I'm pretty sure you did

Boka: What does it matter anyway?

Me: Boka I was being truthful when I said I want to give us a chance to explore a romantic relationship. I get that it might be too much for you at this point in time so we can take it slow. We can be friends and we'll see where it takes us coz I don't want to pressure you. Already we fought because of assumptions and misunderstandings so I don't want to stress you I know you're going through a lot

Boka: Thanks for calling to explain. To be honest I was hurt and I thought you're just like the rest of them

Me: I wouldn't intentionally hurt you Boka I really care about you. Trust me I was really worried it's just that my mind was preoccupied

Boka: It's okay King I forgive you

Me: Thank you. At least I'll sleep peacefully tonight knowing my mother is getting better and that a woman that's close to my heart has forgiven me

Boka: Close to your heart?

Me: Yes

Boka: I scored a job interview

The tone of her voice changes and she sounds more relaxed now. I can tell she's happy

Me: Wow that's amazing. I know you'll kill it

Boka: Yeah but I have a small hiccup

Me: What's wrong?

Boka: I don't have money to get there. I don't know where I'll get it so that's why I called earlier, to borrow from you. I promise I'll pay you but once I get it

Me: You don't have to pay anything back. I'll gladly help you

Boka: Really?

Me: I told you I want to help and I meant it

Boka: Thank you so much you're a lifesaver. I was really stressed coz this interview could change my life for the better

Me: Just send me your account number on WhatsApp

Boka: I don't have data

Me: Can't you just read out your account number then?

Boka: Okay give me a minute

After a while she reads it out and I save it in my phone.

Me: Alright I'll make the transfer just now



Boka: Thanks King I appreciate this

Me: Ska bala (don't worry)

Boka: If I get this job I promise I'll take you out for lunch

Me: When you get this job

Advertisement

not if. You've got to believe in yourself Boka because no one else will. I'm just worried about your habits

Boka: I know and I'm worried too but I'll be fine. I cannot mess up this opportunity

Me: I'll call you tomorrow to check on you

Boka: Thanks

Me: Alright goodnight

Boka: Night

**\*\*NEXT DAY\*\***

**BOKAMOSO**

I'm all dressed up and ready for my interview. My black formal pants fit me perfectly now coz the last time I tried them on they wouldn't fit, I guess I've dropped some weight. I match it with a plain white long sleeve T-shirt and my green blazer. I can never

go wrong with a pair of heels and since my hair has grown a little, I just brush it and leave the wig this time.

I wouldn't want to have withdrawal symptoms in the middle of the interview so since King sent enough money I decide to feed my addiction just for the morning. The therapy session can wait coz I have an important job interview. I take a few photos before leaving. I'm hoping everything goes well this time coz the last time was a disaster. If I experience the same thing I swear I'll kill someone coz I'm sick and tired of people doing their will on me.

KING

I haven't been to my club since I came back and I think it's time I went. I wouldn't want a repeat of what happened but this time I'd kill someone if it happened. The new manager knows his job but still I need to see things through. I slept at my house and I need to go check on my mother at the hospital before going to the club.

I'm lazy to make breakfast so after bathing I make cereal to regain the strength. My doorbell interrupts the peaceful breakfast. I immediately lose my appetite when I see Onika at the door

Me: Yoh Onika don't you get tired? I swear I'm going to get a protection order against you if you don't stop this nonsense

Onika: Can we talk?

Me: Agona nthwe ko e ovang lwena e chaile ya rona (There's nothing to talk about. It's over between us)

Onika: Yeah I get that and I've accepted it but please hear me out

Me: Talk

Onika: Can I come in?

Me: If I wanted you in I would have let you

Onika: You changed the locks King

Me: So you drove all the way just to tell me something I already know?

Onika: This is still my house you know

Me: I don't have time for this. Onsenyetsa nako Onika kgopela o vaye (you're wasting my time please leave)

I push the door but she blocks it with her arm

Me: I'm warning you for the last time, Onika. If you don't leave I'll hurt you and I'll regret it later

Onika: You wouldn't want to hurt your baby

Me: What are you talking about

She rubs her stomach and smiles

Onika: We're pregnant, King. You're going to be a father finally. I know how much you've waited for this moment

I laugh hysterically and stand akimbo

Me: You must be sick in the head. Go tell that to Alex coz he's the one who was in our bed every single night

Onika: Alex and I always used a condom but you and I didn't. I'm three months pregnant King and I did the math. I got pregnant a week before you left for Canada

Me: So ge o ntebeletse o bona snay? O serious vele o nyako ntshwarile handsball? (When you look at me do you see a fool? Do you seriously want to pin on me a pregnancy that I'm not responsible for?)

Onika: Handsball? (Illegible pregnancy?)

Me: Omfebetse Onika what do you expect me to say? (You cheated)

Onika: If you had time for me nkebe kesa lebella banna ba batho (I wouldn't have looked at other men) This is all your fault, King

Me: Eban o romile kenna gore o feba? (Did I send you to cheat?)

Onika: Yoh deputy Jesus I'm sick of you acting like a saint.

Me: Onika I don't have time for your games. If this is your way of trying to worm yourself back into my life then it won't work

Onika: King I admit I'm a lot of things but I wouldn't pin a pregnancy on you

Me: I'm not that naive, Onika

Onika: Then do a DNA test then. One thing I'm sure of is that you're the father even if you deny it. We're going to be parents finally

ONICA

With that said, I move him out of the way and get into the house. I've cheated yes but this baby is King's and I've never been sure of anything like I am with this right now.

Me: Get your doctor and make an appointment. I know you don't trust me and you don't have to but one thing I won't allow is for you to punish our baby for our mistakes

King: Our baby? I admire your confidence Onika

Me: Are you seeing someone already?

King: Ao tlhakane daar (it's none of your business)

Me: Yeah it's none of my business but once the baby is here I'll need you to commit

King: Commit? What are you trying to say coz I'm never getting back with you

Me: I don't need you to get back with me to commit to your child

King: I'll contact my doctor and I'll let you know so please leave  
I take out the test results from my bag and throw them on the table.

King: What's this?

Me: You probably don't even believe that I'm pregnant so those are the results

King: I don't need to see any results they could be fake anyway. Please leave

Me: You're going to have to ditch that attitude when the baby arrives, daddy

BOKAMOSO

The interview went well but now I'm anxious about what will happen. What if they don't call me back? What if I didn't give my all and someone else was better?

A lot of things are going through my mind and if I won't go crazy then I'd be lucky. The phone vibrating under my pillow snaps me out of my thoughts. I wipe the tears I didn't know were out before answering the WhatsApp video call from King.

Me: Hi

King: Future

Me: King

King: I thought you'd call me for an update about the interview

Me: I was going to call

King: You don't have to lie

Me: Alright let me be honest. I wasn't going to call because I'm anxious

King: That's more reason to call and vent

Me: I don't wanna be a burden

King: Trust me if you're being too much then I'll just tell you

Me: How's your mother?

King: She's better now and I think I'll be there in two or three days

Me: Oh okay

King: Can you please try to stay clean? I don't think the addiction will do you any favours when you get the job

Me: It's not easy, King

King: I know that but please try, Boka

I remain quiet and take deep breaths

King: Do you think your mother would have been proud of the woman you're turning out to be?

I shake my head no and shed tears

King: I didn't mean to upset you but sometimes you need to hear the painful truth

Me: This isn't how I imagined my life to turn out



King: I know but you can fight this if you're willing. I'll come see you and we'll find a way forward. I promise I won't give up on you

Me: Thanks

King: Get your beauty sleep I'll check you in the morning, sweetheart

The lump on my throat blocks my ability to speak so I just nod and wipe the tears

BRUNO

With Onika in the house, I haven't been comfortable and she's not willing to leave. I've made peace with her around but mostly I avoid her whenever I can.

Onika: Oh there you are. Dinner is almost ready but we're changing the menu tonight

Me: I'm not really hungry

Onika: I've bought some healthy stuff and we're going to go on a balanced diet now

Me: Who gave you the right to change the menu in my house? You're a guest here and you need to know your place

Onika: The diet is important coz I'm pregnant

She seems excited and I already know it's King who's responsible

Advertisement

or at least she thinks so

Me: You know he won't believe it's him

Onika: He doesn't have to believe me he just needs to take tests and trust me I'll have my husband back soon

Me: Wa off-rampa nou (you're out of line now)

Onika: You're one to talk coz he's your brother but you still back stabbed him

Me: Is the baby really his or you're just going to extreme lengths to get his attention?

Onika: Aka betha top go fitlha koo (I'm not that crazy)

Me: Oh so you admit that you're crazy?

Onika: Mfologe Bruno I'm not in the mood (leave me alone)

Me: I really hope you're not playing games coz he'll kill you this time.

Onika: Mxm

Me: Gape brayaka ase snay and if o mmetha kadi patla otlo lla  
(My brother is not stupid and if you're making a fool of him he'll deal with you)

Onika: If you don't have anything positive to say then just shut up. I'm not even continuing with this dinner anymore

Me: Nobody asked you to cook in the first place. O apeya masepa anyway (you cook rubbish anyway)

Onika: Excuse me?

Me: How do you cook with such long nails? You can't even chop an onion properly so yes I'm good with your food I'll order in

Onika: Order in everyday coz you won't even get breakfast

Me: I wonder what my brother saw in you?

Onika: My cooking skills may be bad but my sex game is top notch. I can tame any man

Me: Tame but fail to keep

Onika: I won't stand here and listen to you disrespecting me

Me: You can always leave, the door is open

Onika: And if I don't what will you do? You're weak, Bruno. You can never be like your brother in anything

I grab her arm and twist it, forcing her to turn her back on me to ease the pain.

Me: I dare you to repeat what you just said and I'll show you what I am

Onika: Bruno you're hurting me. Stop!

Me: Or what?

She moans in pain but all that pain gradually becomes satisfaction for lust. I pin her face on the kitchen counter top and pull her dress up. I pull her thong and shift it to the side of her butt. Unzipping my pants, I enter her roughly and thrust. She bites her bottom lip and stands upright, flipping her head back on my shoulder. I turn her body around and start kissing her neck. She wraps her arms around my neck and jumps on the counter, spreading her legs wide.

Onika: F\*ck me harder than King. Make me forget about him for a moment

28

BRUNO

We ended up in my bedroom and I must say, Onika is wild.

Me: Now I might need the food because you've drained me

Onika: After your insults I'm not sure I'm ready to cook for you

Me: We shouldn't be doing this it's wrong

Onika: This isn't the worst thing we've done so please

Me: King is still my brother and I'm willing to reconcile with him. How will I do that while I'm ruining my chances?

Onika: I don't care how you reconcile with your brother and as a matter of fact I don't care. It's not like King will know what we're doing

Me: I don't want any slip ups so that's why I think it's better if you leave my house

Onika: You must be insane. I'm not going anywhere unless you throw me out which I doubt you'd do

Me: Just leave my room I need to think

Onika: Suit yourself

She gets dressed and walks out

ALEX

Things have been really difficult for me ever since my pay was cut down. I was already struggling with my full pay and now it's worse. I have a girlfriend and two kids aged 5 and 7 months. The working hours are stressful and I hardly ever get time to rest so my body is close to giving up. I haven't spoken to Onika in a long time and right now I'm thinking of swallowing my pride and ask her for cash. My girlfriend walks in with my 7 months old son in her arms, I know we're going to fight because I've since promised her money which I knew I wouldn't be able to provide. I cannot tell her the truth because it'll make things worse than they already are.

Dudu: You know how to lie these days

Me: Hello to you too, Duduzile

Dudu: I had to come all the way because you're not taking my calls. What's wrong with you, Alex?

Me: I was going to return the call

Dudu: When because you're lying on your bed doing nothing?

Me: I needed to think

Dudu: Think about what? I'm here to fetch the money

Me: I don't have it yet, Dudu

I get off bed and finish the beer I've been drinking

Dudu: Awuna mali yama pampers kodwa ye beer unayo? (You don't have money for diapers but you have for a beer?)

Me: Beng'phethe R20 Duduzile. iR20 angeke ithenge ama pampers angisho (I had R20 Duduzile. R20 won't buy diapers)

Dudu: Yesterday was month end, Alex. What's going on?

Me: I paid off debts

Dudu: Which debts made you stop providing for your kids? I paid off the creche for the month but that's all I could do. I really need the money, Alex

Me: I'll make a plan

Dudu: Are you cheating on me and giving your side chick all your salary?

Me: You're being ridiculous now

Dudu: So what must I do now because your son needs diapers?

Me: I said I'll make a plan Dudu are you deaf? Why must I repeat myself because I told you

Dudu: Manje why ungi thethisa? (Why are you shouting at me?)

Me: I'm not I'm just frustrated. You're not giving me any break and I feel like all the weight is on my shoulders

Dudu: A break? A break to do what?

Me: To think

Dudu: Well in that case I'll be out of your hair but I'm leaving your son here. You'll see what to do with him

Me: You can't do that

Dudu: I didn't conceive him by myself

She leaves the baby on my bed and storms out. I have to be at work in three hours time so I need to make a plan and get the money. I have no choice but to give Onika a call

Onika: Hello

Alex: Onika, hi

Onika: Alex?

Alex: Yeah it's me. Why are you surprised coz you have my numbers?

Onika: Not anymore. I deleted them after King found us

Alex: Oh

Onika: What do you want?

Onika has been cold from the beginning and I don't when know how I agreed to get into bed with her. She's forever bossy and wants things in her own time and terms. Now I'm in this mess all alone



Alex: I need a favour

Onika: Okay

Alex: I need some cash ASAP but I'll pay you back

Onika: Cash? I didn't know I look like an ATM these days

Alex: Onika I'm begging you. Your husband cut down my salary and I'm stranded. My kids needs this and that and I don't know what to do

Onika: What makes you think I'll give you the money?

Alex: I don't have anyone else to call plus you're the one who got me into this mess

Onika: So you're blaming me now? I didn't force you to sleep with me

Alex: You should have never seduced me

Onika: It's not my fault that I'm irresistible and you're weak

Alex: Onika I'm begging you. I need the money seriously

Onika: I'm sorry I can't help you. I shouldn't even be talking to you coz it'll make my husband angry. Delete my numbers

Alex

She ends the call, leaving me stranded. I have no choice but to take the baby to my mother's house for the day and hopefully

Dudu will come to her senses. I get ready for work and right now I'm stressed I doubt I'll focus. I have only one option left and that's to talk to King man to man, hopefully he'll understand my pain despite my betrayal. I knock on his office door and he lets me in. He's not pleased to see me and I don't blame him. I take off my hat to humble myself, he shows me the chair with a hand indication.

Me: Boss

King: What can I do for you, Alex?

He doesn't look at me but at his laptop. I can see he's busy so I don't want to waste any more of his time

Me: I have a request, boss

King: I won't lift your punishment nor ease it

Me: No I'm not here for that

King: Then why are you here?

Me: Eish!

I scratch my head as the cat gets my tongue. This man is intimidating I won't lie

King: Alex onsenyetsa nako bolela (Alex you're wasting my time, talk)

Me: Ke fraeza advance boss K (I'm asking for an advance)

He slightly closes his laptop and looks at me, hoping I'd retreat on my request

Me: Flopo mfanaka gana selo this month because of..waitse (The problem is that my son doesn't have anything this month because of..you know)

King: So byanong nna ketsena kae daar? (How's that my concern?)

Me: I need the money and I wouldn't be asking if I wasn't desperate

King: An advance would mean next month you don't get your salary at all

Me: I understand

He doesn't say anything

Me: Please boss K I need the money. I don't even know what I'm going to eat this week because my pockets are dry and I paid off my transport for the whole month. I'm really desperate and I know you understand as a man how difficult it is to not be able to provide for your family

King: No I don't understand because I don't have a family to provide for. All thanks to you for ruining my marriage

Me: I'm not proud of it and I regret it

King: I'm busy at the moment

Me: So are you agreeing?

King: I didn't say that

Me: Even if it means I have to do extra work it's fine. My son doesn't even have diapers

King: Too bad coz you have another child on the way

Me: What? I don't understand

King: Didn't your girlfriend tell you that she's pregnant? I mean my wife...soon to be ex wife

Me: Onika is pregnant?

King: I thought you two talk

Me: Not anymore

My heart nearly stops. I'm taken aback because Onika and I have always been safe, I made sure of it

Me: But it can't be mine

King: It's not mine either. I guess she was cheating on you. How typical of her

Me: I swear the baby is not mine

King: I wouldn't care either way

I get off the chair and head to the door

King: I'll transfer the money once I'm done here

Me: Thank you, boss K. I appreciate it

King: Close the door on your way out and wipe that tear off your face. Toughen up and be a man

## KING

After seeing my mother at her house, I drive to Bruno's place since Onika lives there now. It's late now, around 7 in the evening and I'm exhausted from the day's work at the club. I was hoping Bruno gets the door and that I'd not get to see Onika but unfortunately she's the other who gets the door. She's standing on the other side with an oversized T-shirt only and my mind suddenly runs wild to why she'd parade naked in my brother's presence.

Onika: Hey baby. I wasn't expecting you

Me: Why would you expect me because this isn't your house?

I make my way in and she follows me

Onika: Why do you always have to be sour around me?

Me: I'm not here for chit chat. I came to give you...

Bruno comes into the kitchen with only his shorts and no shirt on. I put 2 and 2 together and get 9.

Bruno: What a pleasant surprise my brother

Me: I'm sure my visit isn't the only thing that's pleasant to you

Bruno: Ako tshware (I don't understand)

Me: Nkebe ke jampile nthwe blaene nakwe atlo nna lwena  
(From the time she moved in I should have noticed)

Bruno: Noticed what?

Me: Gore gonale nthwe shiyanang (that something is fishy)

Bruno: Why o re byao? (Why do you say that?)

Me: Ake bari Bruno you're both practically naked (I'm not stupid)

Onika: You've got the wrong end of the stick

Me: I don't have to get any end of the stick to know that you two are f\*cking behind my back

Bruno: That's not true

Me: Ya no Onika o mpaletse (Onika I've failed with you)

Onika: Are you insulting me, King? Are you saying I'm loose?

Me: Aren't you? Who else is on the list, huh? Clearly you can't keep your legs closed

Bruno: Ara ira selo (We didn't do anything)

Onika: Bruno o bolela nnete ga nkhoma mafra nyammao  
(Bruno is telling the truth he didn't touch me I swear)

Me: Onika oreng? Mamazala wirang? (What did you say about my mother?)

Stepping towards her, Bruno gets in between

Bruno: Ao nyako ichuna dai deng waitse vrou yagao ke mongolo  
(You don't want to do that you know your wife is mental case)

Onika: Bruno ore ke mongolo nna? (Are you saying I'm a mental case?)

Bruno: Just shut up

Advertisement

Onika

Me: It doesn't really matter anymore coz I'm done with this woman. In fact I'm done with the both of you

I throw the envelope on the table

Onika: And then what's this?

Me: Wena geo nagana keng? (What do you think it is?)

Onika: Zaka? (Money)

I'm lost for words by her response. This woman is not even remorseful and even today all she thinks about is money

Me: I'm sure you can read so you'll go through that and sign at the bottom. I'm giving you one week to read and understand or you can both go through it during pillow talk

Onika: King wa ntlhala? (Are you leaving me)



Me: Ko tlhadile kgale I'm just making it official by the law (I've long left you)

Onika: King I don't need stress in my condition. Have you suddenly forgotten that I'm carrying your first child?

Me: Let me leave you two to enjoy each other's nakedness. Clearly you deserve each other

BOKAMOSO

To keep myself busy and my mind off drugs, I wash my blankets and the curtains. I know it'll take hours and that's a good thing because I'm trying to push time. When my aunt tells me that my phone is ringing, I rush inside the house hoping it's a call back from the company I applied to. My excitement drops a little bit when I realise it's not them but King

Me: Hey

King: Good morning

Me: It is a morning but I'm not sure if it's good

King: What's going on?

Me: I'm just feeling under the weather and a bit sick coz I haven't taken the poison today

King: That's a good thing. I know it's not easy that's why I was thinking you should go to rehab

Me: King...

King: I'll pay for it

Me: Of course you will. Do you think I have money lying around for such things?

King: Of course not. I'll be in Pretoria tomorrow. I was hoping we could meet

Me: Where?

King: Or maybe I could come pick you up

Me: As long as you promise not to ditch me like last time

King: I promise

Me: Okay

King: I'll tell you when I'm there but our plans are for evening

Me: Where are you taking me?

King: I don't know yet

Me: Alright I'll see you tomorrow

King: O te tlhokomele (look after yourself)

Me: I will

KING[NEXT DAY]

I'm driving to Boka's house to pick her up for our date night. I pull over at the gate and call her

Boka: Hi

Me: Hi, I'm outside are you done?

Boka: Almost. Please come in my aunt says it's rude for you to wait outside

Me: Okay I'm coming

I go into the house even though I didn't want to. Her aunt's eyes are fixed on me, making me uncomfortable. I greet her and sit down

Aunty: So you're here to pick her up again only to leave her stranded out there?

Me: No aunty the last time was a misunderstanding. We spoke about it and I apologized

Aunty: Mmh

Me: I wouldn't hurt her intentionally

Aunty: What are your plans with her? She has been through a lot and I don't think you need to add heartbreak on top of her problems

Me: I'm not going to break her heart and I really like her. I care so much about your niece

Aunty: Mmh

Me: I promise to take care of her

Aunty: I hope so or else you'll deal with me

Boka comes into the room still putting on her earrings. I can't get my eyes off her, she doesn't notice I'm staring. I love how her body fits perfectly into the jeans and how she decided to just be all natural tonight with no make up on. She had dyed her short hair blonde and it's complementing her complexion perfectly.

Boka: I'm almost done

Me: Take your time

Aunty: What time are you bringing her back? I don't want to stress like last time

Me: I'm not sure aunty but I'll definitely bring her back safe I promise

Boka: It's okay aunty he won't ditch me again

Aunty: For his sake I hope so

Boka: Let me go grab my bag

I get on my feet and prepare to leave. A minute later she comes back and we leave.

Me: You look beautiful

Boka: Thank you. So where are you taking me?

Me: I don't know

Boka: You don't know? King are you serious?

Me: Retla bona ko pele (we'll see as we go)

Boka: Okay

Me: An old friend of mine is hosting a party and we're invited

Boka: Where? Me: Ka mo Flakka ka mo (In Mamelodi)

Boka: If you leave me I swear I'll kill you

Me: Relax, Boka: I was hoping you don't take me to those uptown restaurants where we wine and dine. I'm not wearing the part

Me: Ska wara nna ke mfana kasi ake ipethe ka dilo tse byao (Don't worry I'm from the hood I'm not into those stuff)

Boka: Oh really?

Me: Stick with me you'll see. Although I'm a bit romantic I don't really do the cliché stuff

Boka: Well I'm up for it let's go. Plus I need a distraction

Being a gentleman that I am, I get the door for her and we drive off.

## BOKAMOSO

The more we approach the destination is the more I get more confused because I know this place. I've been walking these streets for a long time while I was still in a relationship with my ex boyfriend. He lives around here and right now my mind is running wild because we're heading towards his place. I haven't asked King what his friend's name is because I'd lose it if I were to find out we're attending his party. The reason why I have all these thoughts is because his birthday was a few days ago and could it be a coincidence that we're attending a party around his place?

King: Are you okay?

Me: I'm fine

King: We're almost there

Me: Who did you say your friend was?

King: I didn't say

Me: So who's this friend of yours? Does he have a name?

King: Of course he has a name

He laughs

King: Vusi

Me: Vusi?

I frown my eyebrows and hope for a miracle. We're headed to my ex's party and I had hoped to never see this bastard again. He broke my heart and stomped on it countless times, lied to me and made me a fool.

King: Do you know him?

His phone interrupts so I don't have to respond. We get there while he's still on his phone so I get off the car, slam the door and lean on it. I'm outside my ex's house and had I known, I wouldn't have agreed. How does King even know this son of b\*tch anyway?

King: Are you coming?

I nod and follow him. We go inside and he greets a few people before going to meet the host. I can recognize him even though he has his back turned on us. He's still loud and I don't think he'll lose that habit even though it's annoying. He turns around with a smile on his face but it quickly fades when his eyes fall on me. He's shocked and I am too. I keep my gaze on him so he can see I'm no longer the naive and stupid girl he used back then.

King: Birthday boy

Vusi: King, fede? (What's up?)

King: All is good. Thanks for the invite

Vusi: You know I can never host anything without letting you know

King: I know

Vusi: Mm kao bona o vaya le sestere (I can see you're with your lady)

King: Ya ake nyake flopo mo (yeah I don't want a problem here)

Vusi: Long time no see, Bokamoso

King: You know each other?

Vusi: We do actually

Me: Vusi

Vusi: It's good to see you again

King: How do you know each other anyway?

Vusi: She'll tell you

King turns to me

Advertisement

waiting for a response so I change the topic

Me: Can we get a drink?

King: Sure



Vusi: Let's drink and be merry. The night is still young

We sit a few meters away from Vusi and King gets us drinks. Because of everything that is happening and the entertainment, he doesn't ask me about Vusi and that's a good thing. Soon the alcohol starts doing the things and I feel the need to go pee so I leave my bag with King and head to the toilet to relieve myself.

I'm halfway pulling my pants up to leave when the door opens. I jump backwards and quickly get dressed. The toilet is at the back outside but everyone else is at the tent enjoying the party so right now it's just me and this guy.

Me: What are you doing here? Can't you see I'm busy?

Vusi: I didn't know you're in here I'm sorry

Me: Stop lying and stop following me

Vusi: It's funny how you're covering up like I haven't seen all parts of your body. I can recognize you with my eyes closed

Me: F\*ck off, Vusi

Vusi: I didn't know King is your man

Me: Had I known we're coming here I would have stayed at home and watched TV

Vusi: It's fate. You and I were meant to cross paths again

Me: Move over

I push him and walk out of the toilet. He grabs my arm, pulling me back

Vusi: Can we talk?

Me: About what?

Vusi: I believe I owe you an apology for the way things ended between us

Me: I'm over that

Vusi: I know I hurt you and I'm sorry. You didn't deserve it at all because you've been so good to me

Me: It was long ago so let it go. You can see I've moved on

Vusi: Ya King ke authi e sharp otlogo tshwara wete (Yes King is a good guy he'll treat you right)

Me: I don't doubt that

Vusi: Ya and even today I still blame myself for the baby we lost. It was all my fault the stress that you experienced

Me: Can we not talk about that? I don't want to talk about that

Vusi: Did you graduate?

Me: I did

Vusi: I'm not surprised coz you're smart and I'm happy for you

Me: Happy for me?

Vusi: I'm sorry for everything, Boka

Me: It's okay it's not like the pain broke me. I'm still me and doing okay

Vusi: Yeah you've grown too

Me: Wasn't I supposed to grow?

Vusi: I didn't mean it like that

Me: If you could just stay out of my way tonight I'd be a happy woman

Vusi: Aena wrong (it's okay)

Some guy shows up and hands Vusi something then leaves. He's holding it in his hand and I cannot see what it is. I wash my hands and as I'm about to leave, I notice he's doing drugs too. He's facing the other way snorting the powder with a tiny straw and I wish I hadn't seen that. I'm trying so hard not to think about this but it's difficult.

Vusi: What?

Me: It's nothing

Vusi: F\*ck I feel like I'm on top of the world. Now let the party begin

I leave him there and return to where I was sitting

King: I almost came to check on you

Me: I'm okay

King: Are you sure?

Me: Yeah

He kisses my cheek but my mind is not even on him. Am I being tested coz it seems like I'm headed for failure. Temptation is staring me in the face

Me: King Let's go

King: Why we haven't been here for 2hrs?

Me: I'm not feeling okay

King: Okay

I grab my back and we get inside the car

King: What happened? I know you can't just want to go home without a reason

Me: I saw drugs and I'm scared I'll fall into the trap. I'm even starting to feel sick

King: It's okay we can leave

Me: Maybe we could find something else to do since it's still early

King: Something like what?

Me: I'm hungry so we can go eat

King: That's okay. So how do you know Vusi?

Me: He's my ex

King: Your ex?

Me: It was a long time ago

King: Vusi is your ex?

Me: That's what I said, King

He chuckles and steps on the accelerator

Me: What's wrong? Do you know something I don't?

King: Something like what?

Me: You tell me. It's not a crime to have an ex it's just unfortunate that you two know each other. We dated when I was still in varsity

King: How did you even get involved with this guy. He has kids all over with different women. I'm surprised he didn't give you a baby. But I guess you're smarter than I think you are. That's why I love you

I remain quiet. I don't think I want to talk about how I lost a baby during birth 3 years ago.

31

KING

We got food at an open restaurant around Mamelodi but since they didn't allow sit ins at this time of the night, we had no choice but to eat in the car.

Me: So what now? Do I take you home?

Boka: Do you want to take me home?

Me: You're the one who's feeling under the weather so you tell me

Boka: Maybe we could get a drink or two somewhere else. I just wanted to leave that place not to necessarily go home

Me: Had I know your history with him I wouldn't have honored the invite

Boka: There was no way you would have known

Me: Still I'm sorry

Boka: So where are we going now? I want to continue partying

Me: Kutlwa bare sa kgaoga kamo Jackbudha vandag (I heard it's going down at Jackbudha tonight)

Boka: Let's go then I want to get my mind off things

Me: But you know alcohol won't solve anything

Boka: Dr Phil, please

Me: Alright we can go but I don't want to take you home late

Boka: Who said I want to go home?

Me: What do you mean?

Boka: Ko betha slala ke nyako thula block (I'm staying up all night I want to get drunk)

Me: And then I'm the one who'll have to answer to your aunt

Boka: King I'm 25, I don't need you or her to baby me

Me: That's not what I'm doing. I'm just looking out for you

Boka: I'm fine

Me: I'm sorry

Boka: You can either apologize all night or drive to Jackbudha

BOKAMOSO

We only arrive at his cousin's house at wee hours. I'm so drunk and I don't remember the last time I drank this much. My sneakers felt too tight and hot so I took them off and held them in my hands and walked with my socks on. I know my voice is loud when I'm drunk and right now King is trying everything he can to keep me quiet but he's failing dismally. I'm missing a few steps so he has to hold me so I don't fall.

King: Watch your step. I wouldn't want you to hurt yourself

Me: I think I'm going to throw up. I've had way too much to drink

King: Don't throw up on my doorstep

He helps me into the house and switches on the light. I lean against the kitchen cabinet and throw my head back. I somehow feel happy, I haven't had so much fun in the longest time. My life has been faced with problem after problem lately.

King: Are you okay? We should go to bed

Me: What do you want to do in bed?

King: Come

He takes my hand and we head to the bedroom. I sit on the edge of the bed and throw my shoes on the floor. He's avoiding me and I know he wants this as much as I do but he's just trying to be a gentleman.

King: Nna ka gidla jo (I'm sleeping)

Me: King are you serious? Ere wa dlala (tell me you're joking)

King: I'm exhausted

Me: You should have just taken me home don't you think?

King: What? Kgante gonale flopo? (Is there a problem)



Me: A re bana King kaitse wang feela (we're not kids I know you're feeling me)

King: Ya kao feela mara o thutsi block (Yes I'm feeling you but you're drunk)

Me: When has that ever stopped people from having sex?

King: Gidla jo (Sleep)

Me: No ake nyake and okase mfoste (I don't want to and you can't force me)

I stand and pull his arm, standing on my toes to kiss his neck. He turns around and holds my waist, his eyes are shining under the light and he wants this so much. I wrap my arms around his neck and rest my head on his chest, laughing at myself for being this brave to initiate sex

King: Ake nyako chechella (I don't want to go to jail)

Me: I'm permitting you so this won't be rape at all

King: Boka stop. Otlo nkirisa di flopo (I'll make mistakes because of you)

Me: You should have never let me drink this much then. Maybe then I wouldn't be this horny

He pushes me back and goes to the other side of the bed. I'm not a quitter so I climb the bed and continue bugging him. My

clit is twitching right now and there's nothing I'd rather be doing than have sex right now. I pull my top up and sit on him, he doesn't resist anymore. He unbuttons my bra and squeezes both my boobs while kissing and sucking them. I've been masturbating for a long time now and it's time I got a feel of the real thing.

King: I hope you don't regret this and blame me in the morning

Me: Just shut up

I shut him up with a kiss and it goes on until he flips me over and pulls my jeans down. Starting from my feet, he kisses me going up until he reaches my p\*ssy and stops. I grab on the bed covers and lift up my head to see my he stopped.

Me: Ke eng? (What is it?)

King: There's no going back after this, Boka

Me: I know and I don't want to go back

He pulls my panty down and buries his head between my thighs and my toes curl. The pleasure! Gosh!

He moves up to my belly bottom and up to my boobs.

Me: Don't do that to me. Don't tease me

King: Don't moan too loud

Me: I can't help it

He slides his finger inside me

my voice fails me and pitches up, letting out a loud, slutty moan. I cover my mouth with my hands and muffle the moans as his finger continues to work like magic.

Me: King I want this

King: I'll give it to you

He pulls out and reaches for the condom inside the drawer and slits it open with his teeth. This guy! Who does that?

Anyway now is not the time to question him about why he uses his teeth and not his hands because my mind, body soul are craving a d\*ck. His d\*ck.

He takes his pants off, I love what I see. Immediately when he jumps on the bed I climb him with an aim to ride that d\*ck like there's no tomorrow. I pin his arms on the bed, squat and start moving in all directions, enjoying the pleasure of the moment. But ladies let's be honest, woman on top is tiring at some point I give up and let him take over.

He doesn't even give me a chance to cool off my burning thighs, he gets down to business. He thrusts harder by the minute and I can't control myself anymore, I let out my loud moans and he's in the moment so he doesn't shut me up.

King: Look at me

I open my eyes and stare into his eyes. The pleasure is overwhelming so my eyes involuntary close. He pats my cheeks once more, holding my chin so I don't shift my face again.

King: F\*ck Boka look at me

Me: Yes baby

His eyes weaken, I can hear him mumbling my name in between his pleasurable groans until he cums and falls on top of me.

## BOKAMOSO

The morning pee burns me and I can't hold it in anymore even though I don't want to leave the bed. Without waking up King, I find his shorts in the wardrobe and put them on and wear my top. I look for the bathroom and fortunately the house isn't big so I don't struggle. I wash my face with tap water after that to stay awake because I need to get home. I'm sure my aunt is worried because I didn't call to let her know that I won't be coming home.

I return to the bedroom to check my phone but turns out my battery is dead. I pick up my jeans from the floor and hang them on the single sofa.

King: You're awake

Me: I need to go home my aunt is probably worried

King: I thought we'd have breakfast first

Me: Maybe next time

King: What's the rush? You can just call her

Me: My phone is off

King: Use mine

I sit on the bed and he hands me his phone. I charge mine for the time being and switch it on so I don't miss any calls

Me: Password

King: KING0909 with capital letters and no space

Me: 0909?

King: That's my birthday

Me: Oh!

I punch in the password and it goes through. I once called my aunt with his phone so he saved the numbers. I know she's going to lecture me for not sleeping at home but at least she'll be at ease to know I'm safe.

Aunty: Hello

Me: Aunty it's me

Aunty: Right now I'm convinced that you like seeing me stressed

Me: That's not true. My battery died

Aunty: Where are you?

Me: I'm...I'm at King's

Aunty: Orobala malunde Boka? (You're sleeping out, Boka)

Me: Aunty I'm sorry it's just that we had too much to drink and it was a risk to drive all the way to Soshanguve from Mamelodi. So King lives here in Town

Aunty: Alright it's fine as long you're safe

Me: I'll see you later. I love you

Aunty: I love you too

I hand him his phone and attempt to get off bed but he pulls me back.

Me: And then?

King: Are you serious?

Me: About what?

King: You can't force me into drunk sex and not make up for it in the morning

I feel embarrassed by my behavior and I don't know how to explain myself.

Me: I'm sorry I got carried away

King: I'm giving you a chance to show me that wild side on a sober mind

Me: King no

King: Why not?

Me: I'm shy

King: So what now we'll have sex only when we're drunk?

Me: That's not what I said

King: Then show me

Me: Let it slide

He pulls me closer to him and makes me sit on him. I can't even look him in the eye but a few hours ago I was taking charge

King: I want to hear you scream like you did hours ago

Me: I'm embarrassed right now

King: You're stuck with me forever so I suggest you stop being embarrassed and ride your man like you did the first time

Me: No

I jump off bed and make a run for it but he catches up with me at the door and shuts it. My laughter is too loud coz his hands are tickling me.

Me: King stop

King: Make me stop

I give in and let him carry me to the bed. He pulls the shorts down gets in between my thighs. His hard d\*ck rubs in between them, teasing me. He slides it in and thrusts once, making me



lose my morals. He pulls out and takes a condom inside the drawer and wears it.

We kiss for a few seconds then he enters me once more. This round feels better than the first one and I don't know if it's because I'm more focused now or because it'll get better every time.

King: Don't break eye contact. I want you to look at me

Me: It's not easy

Advertisement

King

I breathe out the words, biting my bottom lip. He places my legs on his shoulders and f\*cks the life out of me. He moves my feet against his chest and spreads my thighs. I won't lie, I'm feeling so much pleasure but this position is making me uncomfortable but I can't tell him without looking incompetent so I let him do whatever he wants with me.

He continues to flip me like he owns me until I get tired. He slows down his pace and starts kissing me passionately. I hold on tight to him and I can feel him slowly reaching his climax. He bites my earlobe then stares into my eyes

King: I love you

Me: I love you too

He closes his eyes and buries his head between my boobs and cums. We stay in bed for a few minutes before he goes to bath. I bath after him then join them in the kitchen for breakfast

King: Baby this is my cousin, Andile

Me: Hi

Andile: Hi

King: Breakfast is almost ready

Andile: You two came in late

King: Yeah I think it was around 4

Andile: I wouldn't have heard you if you had kept your session quiet

King: Next time just put on your earphones and blast music

Andile: I'll remember that

Me: I'm sorry for being loud

Andile: Ska bala makoti (it's okay in-law)

King: Once I've officially ended things with Onika I'll take you to my mother. I'm sure she'll love you

Me: It's too early for that

King: How because I've already met your aunt. I think it's only fair that you meet my mom too. It's not like we're getting

married tomorrow or something. I just want her to know the woman that makes me happy

Me: Fair enough

King: I want us to work

Me: Me too

Andile: You guys can dish up I'm going to bath

He leaves the kitchen and King dishes up

Me: I don't want too much

King: I don't want you to tell your aunt that I'm starving you

Me: You know I won't finish that

King: Why not?

Me: Ka phathoga (I'm having withdrawal symptoms)

King: I can get you into rehab anytime. Just tell me when you're ready coz I hate seeing you like this

Me: I'm just putting on a brave face but I'm in pain actually

King: Baby look at me. You're not alone in this

Me: I know

My phone rings in the bedroom so I quickly go get it. It's a landline and I'm suddenly very hopeful

Me: Hello

Her: Hi. Can I please speak to Ms Bokamoso Modise?

Me: It's her

Her: How are you, ma'am?

Me: I'm well thanks and you?

Her: I'm good. I'm calling to let you know that you got the job

I freeze. I don't know what to say but I'm happy

Her: Ma'am?

Me: Yes I'm still here. I..I'm just shocked

Her: Congratulations. You'll receive an email shortly with all the details

Me: Thank you so much

Her: Have a wonderful day

Me: You too

I return to the kitchen with tears in my eyes

King: Is everything okay baby? Talk to me. Did anything happen?

I rush into his arms and he hugs me. Things are finally coming together

ONIKA

I haven't been feeling okay for the past two days now. The doctor said it's stress and how am I supposed to keep calm when King served me with the divorce papers? I never thought this day would come even though I've wronged him. The only good thing in my life right now is the baby I'm carrying even though King is denying the responsibility.

I went to check him at the club hoping we could talk but the manager told me that he left for Pretoria. I just don't understand what he's doing there these days and I'm suspecting that he found a girlfriend. I wasted my time coming here, I should have just stayed and home and watched TV. Alex stops me at the parking lot, I even forgot he still works here after what happened between us.

Alex: Onika wait. I've been calling out your name before you walked out. Why are you ignoring me?

Me: You don't deserve my attention

Alex: Since when?

Me: Since I realized I no longer need your services

Alex: Services? Is that what you call it?

Me: Do you have a better term?

Alex: I'm in deep sh\*t because of you. Do you know the struggles I have to go through?

Me: Look at me twice and see if I give a damn

Alex: You're wicked, Onika

Me: Tell me something I don't know

Alex: Your husband has a kind heart. If it was someone else I would be unemployed right now

Me: I have problems of my own. I don't have time to listen to your sob stories. Man up and stop whining

Alex: Are you pregnant?

Me: How's that your concern?

Alex: Your husband accuses me of being responsible

Me: You? Oh please Alex you're the last man I'd choose to have a baby with. How do you think you'll support us? The peanuts you earn here are for my pair of heels

Alex: I'm glad you're not trying to pin this on me but unfortunately for you King is denying too

Me: This is none of your business really. Stay out of my marital affairs if you still value your life

Alex: Are you making threats?

Me: No

Alex: I'm just glad King saw through you. I just don't understand why he married you in the first place

Me: The same reason why you were in my bed most nights. Get a life, Alex. Stop talking to me and focus on your kids and your low life girlfriend with no future

Alex: I dare you to say that again about my girlfriend

Me: What will you do? You're both pathetic and I'm sorry to burst your bubble but you're nothing. Thanks for the good time you gave me but I'm no longer interested. Get out of my way

I push him aside and get into my car.

BOKAMOSO

It's my first day at work and King insisted to buy me new clothes so I can look professional all the time. I didn't want to bother him with things like these because I believe a woman needs to do things for herself and not necessarily depend on a man. Since he was doing it for the right reasons, I agreed and we went shopping yesterday and I got carried away at the store.

I look like a boss lady right now and I don't want to over do it but at the same time I want to impress my bosses. I get there 10mins early and I'd rather wait than let them wait for me. I

check my phone messages and read texts from King wishing me well. I give him a call to pass time

King: Hey baby

Me: Hey

King: I hope you're not late on your first day

Me: I'm already at work. I have a few minutes to spare actually

King: I really believe you'll kill it. Just have fun

Me: I'm tense, baby

King: I'll come over later to ease your tension

I laugh out loud and quickly cover my mouth

Me: Stop with your dirty thoughts I'm at work

King: You're the one with a dirty mind. I was talking about a massage

Me: Oh!

King: Did you take your pills to ease the nausea?

Me: I did. They worked but I'm still feeling woozy every now and then

King: Just remember the trick. Keep busy at all times until we can find a permanent solution



Me: Okay

King: You'll do good. I love you

Me: I love you too

....

....

Receptionist: Ms Modise

Me: Yes?

I stand, feeling more nervous than when I walked in

Receptionist: They're ready for you

Me: Thank you

I grab my back and enter the elevator taking me to the 3rd floor. It takes me straight to the bosses' office and I somehow feel much better because she's a woman. She's on her phone so I just stand there until she's done.

Her: I'm sorry about that. Please take a seat

Me: Thank you

Her: I cannot wait to see what you have to offer in this company. This job is really stressful and difficult but from what the interviewers told me

Advertisement

you're perfect for it

Me: My qualifications speak volumes and even though this is my first job, I believe I'll do more than I think I would

Her: I have no doubt about that. We need more young people like yourself, especially women. I know that it's a male dominated field that's why I'm so excited to have you on board

Me: I'm grateful for this opportunity, ma'am

Her: Where are my manners. My name is Jackie Gumede. I'm the CEO of this company but you can call me Jackie. I don't really like this 'boss' title

Me: It's a pleasure, miss Jackie

Jackie: You're so modest

The elevator opens and I turn to see who is joining us.

Jackie: Just in time, Nkosi. Please meet our newest engineer, Bokamoso. This is my one and only son, Nkosi. He's our COO

Nkosi: Hi. Welcome aboard

He extends his arm to greet me. I zone out still trying to make sense of how this man standing beside me is King's namesake just in a different language and still has similar features as him. That smile screams 'King' and even the way he flicks his left eyebrow when confused it's the same.

Nkosi: Are you okay? You look zoned out

I pull my hand out of his and tear my gaze away

Me: I'm fine

Jackie: Nkosi will take it from here. I think you two will work well together

## BOKAMOSO

King came to see me after work and I'm already exhausted on my first day. I guess it's because I was mostly on my feet doing this and that and the heels didn't help at all. After my aunt has offered us juice, she gives us some privacy to talk.

He steals a kiss on my cheek and holds my hand.

King: So how was your first day?

Me: Amazing, just like our first time

King: That amazing?

I nod with a smile

King: I'm jealous. I thought I had no competition

Me: Stop being silly

King: Really baby I'm happy for you and I'm much more happy that you're trying everything to stay clean

Me: Can we not talk about that

King: Okay. Tell me all about your day and your colleagues

Me: Colleagues. Actually something odd happened today

King: What happened?

He becomes more interested and flicks his eyebrow exactly the same way Nkosi did.

Me: I met someone

King: Met someone?

He lets go of my hand

Me: No no I don't mean it like that. Baby come on I'd be really stupid and ungrateful don't you think?

King: Explain then

Me: I met a guy, his name is Nkosi. It was odd because he has your name and he has similar features as you. I mean you both laugh the same way and I swear he's you

King: Oh!

Me: King do you have a twin?

King: No I don't but I have a brother

Me: So you know about him?

King: I didn't know he's back in the country

Me: Wait, you have another brother I know nothing about?

King: Baby you and I haven't really talked about a lot of things. Besides, Nkosi and I aren't close and the last time I spoke to

him was 8 years ago on the phone when he was going abroad to study

Me: So...I don't know what to say

King: You work together?

Me: He's my boss. His mother is the CEO

King: We share a father. His mother almost ruined my mother's marriage, at least that's what I heard.

Me: What happened?

King: My dad cheated on my mother hence Nkosi was conceived. We're born in the same year just months apart

Me: Do you get along?

King: Well I don't know. We haven't talked in a long time and even back then we just spoke if we bumped into each other. It was never really a tight relationship or anything

Me: Do you regret not knowing him? I mean he looks so much like you so it doesn't make sense that you guys never bothered to have a relationship

King: It's complicated. Our mothers were always at loggerheads and you know everyone has to protect their own. Their differences caused a lot of tension and friction so it wasn't ideal to bond. We mostly disagreed

Me: Well he's back now and your mothers are nowhere near each other. Maybe this is the perfect time to have a relationship with your brother

King: I guess

Me: I love you, King

King: I love you more

NARRATED [30 YEARS AGO]

Dinah throws all her clothes on the bed and drags her suitcase out of the closet. She has had enough of her husband's lies and this is the last straw. With tears blurring her vision, she randomly forces the clothes into the suitcase. Raymond tries to hold her but what could you possibly do to calm a scorned woman? Dinah: You don't dare touch me, Raymond

Raymond: Sweetheart let's talk about this please don't leave

Dinah: I am done, Raymond. I've watched you lie your way into my heart but I'm enough now. I shouldn't have married you

Raymond: You don't mean that. We love each other, Dinah. Think about our son, think about King

Dinah: Don't you dare bring King into this. I'm taking my son with me and I'll make sure you never see him again

Raymond: I know I made a mistake but we can fix this

Dinah: Fix this? She chuckles and continues to pack. He pulls the suitcase forcefully off the bed, clothes scattering all over the floor

Raymond: I'm not losing you, my love. I'm not losing my family. You and King mean the world to me and I'll not lose you for a one night stand

Dinah: You should have thought about that before you went out and made another woman pregnant. The nerve, Raymond.

Raymond: I never meant to get her pregnant

Dinah: I'm not a fool, Raymond. What else were you expecting when you got between her thighs without protection?

Raymond: I don't know how it happened baby it was once

Dinah: So you just tripped and fell on top of her?

Raymond: I'll be nothing without you and King

Dinah: I don't care what you'll be. I want out of this marriage

Raymond: I don't love MaGumede I love you and you know that

Dinah: She's 7 months pregnant. That means you were cheating on me while I was still pregnant because King is 2 months old

Raymond: It happened that day when we fought. I was so angry and I went to grab a few drinks which led to the one night stand. It meant nothing baby you have to believe me



Dinah: You gave her power to disrespect me. Do you know how painful that is? To be disrespected in your own house,  
Raymond

Raymond: All I will do is maintain the child and nothing more. Please give me another chance to prove to you that I'm a good husband and father.

Dinah: So King won't get all the attention now? He'll have to share it with his brother

Raymond: My love for King won't change and you know it. I'll love both King and Nkosi equally

Dinah: Nkosi? She laughs and sits on the bed, tears still flowing

Raymond: Since they're from the same year I think they deserve the same name. To me it seems like they're twins. Four months apart won't make much of a difference

Dinah: I don't ever want to see that woman in my house again

Raymond: Say no more. So are you staying?

Dinah: This is your last chance. I swear if you mess it up I'm taking King and we're leaving

## BOKAMOSO

I wasn't expecting King to visit his brother so soon after our conversation last night. He brought me lunch and he really saved the day coz hey your girl is broke. I open the foam plate to see what he bought, it's chicken stew, veggies and creamy samp.

Me: I really needed this

King: Don't you think it's a tick for me that I know exactly what my woman needs?

Me: Well we could tick that box

King: What else are we ticking?

He leans over the desk for a kiss but I push him away

Me: King stop! What if someone walks in?

King: Alright let me get going then

Me: Are you going to see your brother?

King: I came here for you not for him

Me: Baby please. It won't hurt to try, you know

King: Are you trying to score points with your boss because you're family?

Me: I'm not family

King: Down the line you'll be his sister in law

Me: When did we get there now?

King: Alright I'll see him if you tell me where his office is

Me: The second floor

King: Okay wish me luck

Me: What for?

He smiles and walks out.

KING

I knock on his office before walking in. I didn't think I'd find him with his mother but anyway I was going to see her one way or the other. Nkosi gets on his feet in awe. His mother on the other hand, looks rather pissed off than surprised.

Nkosi: Abuti (brother)

Me: Boyzen (young man)

Nkosi: What a surprise

He comes to the other side to give me a hug. His mother is still standing there with her arms folded

Nkosi: Man!!

Me: I'm happy to see you

Nkosi: Not as happy as I am

Me: Oh look at you. You're the one who didn't get into contact with me when you returned

Nkosi: I've been back for 2 years now and I'm sorry for being quiet. You really can't blame because you know we never really got that close

Me: I know but all that can change

Jackie: King

Me: MaGumede

Jackie: I never thought I'd see you again. Especially not here

Me: Me too

Jackie: How's your mother?

Me: She's fine

I reply cold. Why would she be concerned about my mother all of a sudden?

Jackie: Let me leave you two. I'll see you later honey

Nkosi: Alright ma

Me: You look good

Nkosi: I do? Thank you I mean I've been eating right

Me: I can tell

Nkosi: Please take a seat. How did you find me?

Me: You sound like a person who was in hiding

Nkosi: No I didn't mean it like that. Wa jaja gore ke nyako reng mos (you know what I'm trying to say

Advertisement

right?)

Me: Bokamoso told me about you

Nkosi: Bokamoso?

Me: Yeah she told me that you look like me so I thought I should come see my lookalike

Nkosi: How do you know her?

Me: Ke medie yaka (she's my girlfriend)

Nkosi: Oh! So wena le Nicky di vaya size mang? (So you and Nicky what's really happening?)

I laugh and get pissed at the same time

Nkosi: Dintshang? Ke bone dinepe tsa lenyalo ko Instagram that's why ke make maketse (What's wrong? I saw wedding pics on Instagram that's why I'm surprised)

Me: I'd rather not talk about her just yet. I'm with Bokamoso now and she makes me happy

Nkosi: Bao hurtile mfana? (Did they break your heart, boy?)

Me: You could say that

Nkosi: I heard you moved to Cape Town

Me: Yeah mom bought a house there and I ended studying at UCT. Pretoria is my home though

Nkosi: How about we go grab lunch so you tell me how everything is going? We have a lot to catch up on and my one hour lunch won't be enough

Me: We have time

[ONE WEEK LATER]

BOKAMOSO

I woke up feeling so down today, thinking about my baby. I buy flowers on the way to the cemetery and some candles. I haven't been here for the whole year because it just breaks my heart every time I think about it. All these years I thought I had healed but actually I haven't. I dust up the tombstone and place the flowers then light up the candle before saying a short prayer.

Vusi: Amen

Me: What the hell? Wahlanya? (Are you crazy?)

Vusi: I didn't mean to startle you

Me: What are you doing here? Are you stalking me?

Vusi: I'd love to but unfortunately I don't have enough time

Me: What are you doing here, Vusi?

Vusi: It's our baby's 3rd birthday

Me: Yeah so?

Vusi: I brought flowers just like you did

Me: Since when?

Vusi: I come here at least once in three months

Me: Mmh!

Vusi: Do you think she would have looked a lot like me or you?

Me: A lot like me

I smile

Vusi: I don't doubt that. She would have been so lucky to be as gorgeous as you

Me: I was just leaving

Vusi: I can drop you off

Me: I'm okay

Vusi: Boka please. Today would have been her birthday and I don't think she would have been happy to see us at loggerheads. Can we put our differences aside just for today?

Me: You never do anything out of a good heart. What is it that you want?

Vusi: Nothing. Boka I've changed

Me: Changed? Says a man who has kids that could fill a bus

Vusi: Alright that's not fair

Me: Do you know what isn't fair? That you made me a fool all these years we were together

Vusi: You finally found a good man, Boka. Do you think it's right to crucify me for my past mistakes?

Me: It is. Had you not been a jerk I would have had the baby and she would have been 3 now. Because of you the doctor told me that i wouldn't be able to have children in the future. How's that fair on the man who will want to build a future with me? How do I begin to tell him that I'm barren?

Vusi: You're not barren. Doctors make mistakes all the time you can't just give up

Me: Mistakes? Just like you hit me when I was pregnant?

Vusi: Boka I'm really sorry



Me: If you're really sorry then stay out of my way because I really don't want to see your face. Especially not today

Vusi: Does King know about our baby girl?

Me: How's that your business?

Vusi: I just think maybe you could use his support since you don't need mine

Me: You know I curse the day I met you

Vusi: You don't mean that

Me: Trust me I mean every word. Vusi I hate you for ruining my life and for that I'll never forgive you

ONIKA

I get to my mother in law's 55th birthday party dressed like a goddess that I am. I'm pretty sure King won't be able to take his eyes off me once he see all of the effort I made. I get off my car and make my way to where Ma is to greet her.

Ma: Are you sure you didn't mean to take away the spotlight?  
You look really amazing

Me: Not at all but thank you. I try

Ma: You've gained weight

Me: Well...I'll tell you just not today

Ma: Wait! Are you and King expecting?

I nod with a huge smile on my face

Ma: Finally I'm going to be a grandma. King!! King!!

She calls out to him

King: Ma?

He steps out of the house looking really sexy and he definitely smells good. He buttoned up with grey golfer T-shirt to the neck and it's the perfect fit. He only glances at me and I actually thought he'd glare.

Ma: Why didn't you tell me the good news?

King: Good news?

Ma: That I'm going to be a grandmother

King: Oh that

Ma: Yes, that. What's going on with you these days?

King: Can we hold this conversation some other time?

Ma: When because after this you'll run back to Pretoria. What's really happening there because your life is here?

King: The woman I love is in Pretoria

Ma: What?

King: You heard me, Ma. Onika and I are getting a divorce

Ma: King!

King: Please excuse me

I run after him until we both get into the house. I grab his arm

Me: King what was that?

King: What was what?

Me: King please

King: Leave me alone. Tomorrow we'll go do the DNA tests so we can get over this madness

Me: But you know it's dangerous to do the test while I'm still pregnant. Why don't we wait until the baby is born?

King: I want to do it tomorrow. If you don't want to then we're never doing it

Me: Okay it's fine

King: Excuse me

Me: King why won't you even compliment me?

He walks away and my heart breaks

KING

Ma: King!

She grabs my arm and pulls me to the side

Me: Ma what's wrong now?

Ma: What is he doing here?

Me: Mang? (Who?)

Ma: Nkosikhona. Did you invite him here?

Me: Yes mama he's my brother. Do you have a problem with that?

Ma: Why did you bring him here? This is my party, not yours

Me: Mama please can we not...

I step away as soon as Nkosi walks into the room. I don't want him to feel unwelcome because I wouldn't want to lose him once more.

Nkosi: Mamzo (Ma)

Ma: Hi

Nkosi: Happy birthday. I got you something I hope you'll like it

Ma: Oh thank you so much but you didn't have to

Nkosi: I couldn't come empty handed

Ma: I'm sure I'll love it. Please excuse me

Me: Thanks for coming I actually thought you wouldn't honor the invite

Nkosi: Why not?

Me: Considering how are mothers don't get along and wouldn't want to see us together

Nkosi: I get that but we're grown men now and not kids. Gone are the days where they told us what to do and when to do it. One day they'll pass on and what's going to happen to us? We weren't there when our parents fought and we don't know what caused all of this but bottom line is we were conceived. My mother never had another child and you, Bruno and Katlego are the only siblings I have.

Bruno: I thought I heard my name

Nkosi: My brother

Bruno: Wow this is a surprise

Nkosi: It is

The hug they share pisses me off

Bruno: Considering all the brothers are under one roof today I guess we can have a boy's night out

Nkosi: Yeah I'm game. It'll be amazing to spend time with you two actually. What do you think, King?

Me: Count me out. You two can go if you want I don't have a problem

Nkosi: Why? I thought you'd want to hang out with me

Me: With you I would but not with him around

Nkosi: Enden kgante go shiyanang mo? (What's going on here?)

Me: Ask your brother I'm sure he'll give you the full details

Bruno: King come on this is our mother's birthday party I don't think you want to ruin it with our differences

Me: Differences? You call f\*cking my wife 'differences'?

Nkosi gets in between us before I could rough him up. He pushes me back

Nkosi: Gents come on this day isn't about you so please behave. You two can fight afterwards somewhere else I'll be the referee but now let's just pretend

Advertisement

yeah? King, Obakeng, no gents this is totally wrong

Bruno: Bra yagao o ikirile Rambo nna ke theositse moyo (It's your brother who's violent I'm calm)

Me: Ketlo betha Bruno ake thaka ya gao (I'll beat you I'm not your mate)

Bruno: What have I done wrong? You're the one who jumped into conclusions you never found us having sex

Me: So you think I'm this angry only because you f\*cked Onika? You know why I'm mad at you stop being Mr goody two shoes

Bruno: You don't want to give me a chance gore ke kobolle di flopo tsaka (to fix my mistakes)

Me: Stay out of my sight Bruno kao khala (I'm warning you)

Bruno: Ka utlwa (understood)

He raises his hands in surrender

Nkosi: Okay sharp Bruno vaya (Bruno leave)

The way I'm so angry right now I'm sure the veins are showing on my face

Nkosi: Calm down, King. I know you're angry and I'd also feel the same way if I were in your shoes but please think about your mother. You and Bruno don't want to take away her spotlight it wouldn't be fair

Me: Sure

He gives me a beer to calm down

Nkosi: A re botshele mfanaka o tswa mo Onika le Bruno (let's get drunk my brother and let Onika and Bruno be)

Me: As long as they stay out of my way

Nkosi: You have Bokamoso to focus on so why are you stressing about those two? You and Bruno will fix things when the time is right, you're of the same blood. Onika is the one who was stupid coz she's an outsider

Me: Were you serious about organizing a boxing match for Bruno and I?

Nkosi: I never said anything about a boxing match but if it'll help you settle a score, ease the tension and give me my brothers back, I'm sure I can work something out



[THE NEXT DAY]

ONIKA

We're at the doctor's office to do the DNA tests. I have no doubt that this baby is King's because he's the only man I slept with without protection, well except for Bruno but that's out of the question since it happened recently. I'm trying to hold his hand while we wait for the doctor but he's giving me a cold shoulder.

Me: The baby is yours, King

King: Even if it's mine, that won't change how I feel about you. After everything that happened, the lies and the deceit, I won't forgive you

Me: So about the divorce..

King: What about it?

Me: Are you taking everything?

King: I don't have to take anything because everything is already mine. Have you suddenly forgotten that we're not married in community of property?

Me: How can I forget that?

King: I was avoiding things like these. Losing my hard earned money to someone who doesn't appreciate me. You played me

Advertisement

Onika

Me: I get it baby I totally do

King: If the baby is mine maybe I'll let you keep the house. I'm thinking of moving to Pretoria permanently

Me: So you're serious about this woman?

King: What did you think I was doing? Fooling around?

Me: I thought maybe it's a rebound

King: I don't do rebounds I move on

Me: Is she pretty?

King: Don't you think the word 'pretty' is for little girls? Perhaps it applies to you since you have a lot of growing up to do

Me: King that's an insult and I won't allow you

King: How is it an insult when I'm saying you're pretty?

Me: You just said that word is for little girls

King: You're a baby in the mind and you know it so I think it suits you just fine

Me: The same baby you married

King: I just wish I hadn't

Me: Then why did you?

King: Because I loved you, Onika. I loved you so much that I was willing to do anything and everything for you.

Me: I was lonely

I shout at him and immediately regret it. The doctor walks in and we're forced to end the heated conversation

Doc: I'm sorry to keep you waiting

King: It's alright

Doc: Ms Letsoalo could you please come over to this side?

Me: It's Mrs

Doc: Yes of course Mrs Letsoalo

Me: How risky is it?

King: Doctor ira spane sagao akere ke patetse (Doctor just do what you need to do I've already made the payment) Risk or no risk the test is going ahead

Me: Honey stop being insensitive

King: Doctor please proceed

.....

.....

[DAYS LATER]

BOKAMOSO

I get into his car and lean for a kiss. He's not responding like I expected him to.

Me: Are you okay?

King: Not really

Me: Okay talk to me

King: Just promise me that you won't overreact

My mind falls into the gutter and I imagine all sorts of stuff that are a possibility

Me: What did you do, King?

King: Baby calm down

I'm pretty sure the tears in my eyes are coming out. He was in Cape Town for two weeks and now he wants to tell me something. Why do I feel like he's leaving me and probably going back to his wife?

Me: King are you dumping me?

King: No baby why would I do that? I'm the one who's worried that I'll get dumped after what I'm about to say

Me: No don't say it. Protect my heart and just keep it to yourself. I've had an awful day already so please save me the additional heartache

King: Boka listen

I'm sobbing and wiping my tears and mucus, I'm a mess. I'm probably close to having my monthly period hence my emotions are all over the place.

King: Baby look at me

Me: What is it?

King: Look at me

I lock my eyes with his even though my vision is blurred. He wipes my tears with his hand

King: Onika and I are expecting a baby

Me: Wow!

I cover my face with my palms and have a moment

King: She fell pregnant before I even got to know you

Me: So what now?

King: I still love you and I'd hate to lose you

Me: She's your wife

King: She signed the divorce papers a couple of days ago

Me: How am I supposed to compete with her?

King: This isn't a competition. If anything she's the one who should know her place and respect you

Me: Onika and respect in the same sentence? I don't know her that well but our encounter was enough to figure out what type of woman she is and I wouldn't want to spend the rest of my life trying to fight her off. She'd kill me

King: You won't need to fight anyone off. I'm yours baby and it'll never change. One day we'll have our own junior and you won't have to stress about Onika. I only care about the baby she's carrying and not her

I look out the window and just sob

King: Sweetheart I give you my word. I'll not hurt you intentionally.

Me: I know

King: Boka kao rata jo. That's why ke nyaka o bona mamazala next week (Boka I love you. That's why I want you to meet my mother next week)

Me: King ka pele soh? Why? (So soon)

King: Baby I'm serious about us and I want everyone to know that

Me: Yeah but what if she doesn't like me or thinks I'm a homewrecker?

King: Then clearly you don't know my mom

Me: Honestly King I don't think I'm ready to see your brother after what he did to me

King: He doesn't live there so you won't have to see him

Me: King I don't know

King: Baby please. I want to show you that I'm serious for real

Me: Next week when?

King: Friday we'll leave then you can return Sunday

Me: Alone?

King: Baby you know I live in Cape Town

Me: Okay fine we can go

[ONE WEEK LATER]

ONIKA

Katlego and I had planned to go out but now she's not replying my texts. I give her a call

Katlego: Sis Onika this is not a good time to chat

Me: Are you ghosting me? And who said I called to chat? We have a girls night out in case you forgot

Katlego: Eish I'm sorry I was going to call you but mama gave me so much work to do I'm sorry

Me: Are we still going out?

Katlego: I'm not sure coz I haven't even bathed. We have a guest and I still need to set the table

Me: A guest?

Katlego: Yeah abuti King came with his girlfriend so...

Me: Wait, what?

Katlego: Sis Onika I thought you and abuti King were over

Me: So King is already introducing his girlfriend to Ma? We divorced a week ago. The nerve of this man

Katlego: Yeah they're here already and I need to get the dinner ready. Sorry sis Onika but rain check?

Me: How is she?

Katlego: What do you mean?

Me: Is she beautiful?



Katlego: Beautiful is an understatement no offense but you've got a tight competition should you wish to fight for abuti King

Onika: Mxm okay bye

.....

BOKAMOSO

We're at King's home and I must say I'm nervous. I never got to meet my boyfriend's family before so this is completely new to me. His mother looks so much younger than 55 and I can see she's taking good care of herself.

King: Mama

They hug and he pecks her cheek.

Ma: This is her?

King: Yes

Ma: She's much more beautiful than you described her. Come give me a hug

She embraces me and I can smell her sweet perfume

Ma: You're welcome my baby please feel at home

King: That's my sister right there you'll meet her later

Me: Katlego?

King: Yes that's her

Ma: I would have loved to cook but I wasn't feeling okay today so my daughter is the one who handled the kitchen. Should the food taste awful, blame her

Me: The food smells divine though. I believe she outdid herself

Ma: Please help yourselves on the starters while we wait for the main course. I'm diabetic so most of the things here are out of my diet. Katlego only accommodated me on the mail meal so knock yourself out

Me: Thank you

Ma: So tell me a little bit about yourself. Your background and where you're from

Me: Well I'm really a simple person. I'm from...

His phone rings and he glances at it and looks at me. I can tell it's Onika who's calling so I give him a nod of approval

King: I won't be long

He leaves the table to answer.

Me: As I was saying Ma. I'm from Pretoria. I recently got a job where Nkosi happens to be working. In fact his mother owns the company

Ma: Jackie?

Me: Yes

Ma: King never told me this

Me: Maybe it slipped his mind

Ma: That woman is arrogant. How do you manage to work with her?

Me: At the office she's actually professional

A minute later he returns and grabs his jacket together with his car keys

Me: King and then?

King: Onika says there's something wrong with the baby. I'll call you

He pecks my cheek and storms out

ONIKA

I've changed into my sexy nightwear and all I have to do now is make sure I convince King that I'm not feeling okay. Since he still has the keys to the house even though he permanently moved out, he lets himself in. I'm lying on the couch pretending to be in pain. He rushes to my aid and helps me up, his hands on me reawaken all the feelings I've been trying to put to rest.

King: What happened?

Me: I felt a sharp pain in my abdomen and I'm so scared that something might happen to the baby

King: Then go get dressed we're going to the hospital

Me: No!

I blurt out. He looks at me with shock written on his face and I don't blame him. I need to play my cards right if I want him to stay for a few hours.

King: What do you mean? If there's something wrong with the baby we have to know

Me: I'm much better now. I drank water and took the painkillers prescribed by my gynae

King: You're kidding, right? I didn't drive all the way to baby you. I ditched dinner with my woman for you and the baby so you can't tell me you're fine. What the hell am I doing here?

Me: Alright please go get me my clothes in the bedroom so we can go

Without wasting any more time he rushes to the bedroom. I use this opportunity to undress, hoping this would grab his attention. He returns and finds me only in my lacy thong. It's either I'm cursed or he just turned gay because he's not even eyeing me. He dumps my clothes on the couch and heads to the door.

King: Cover up you'll find me in the car

Me: Wait up

King: For what?

Me: I won't be long

King: Be quick I need to go back home Boka is waiting

Me: Boka? You're dating Boka?

King: Is it a shock to you?

Me: Are you doing this to spite me?

King: I don't have time to spite you

Me: Then why her?

King: The heart wants her. What was I supposed to do?

Me: King you've got to be kidding me

King: Onika what do you want from me? I gave you the house but you're still nagging. I should have chosen a better baby mama because you're starting to get on my nerves

Me: I'm pregnant and you can't change that

King: Otlo ntena Onika अपारा रे वये (you'll annoy me Onika get dressed so we can go)

Me: With so many women out there, why her? Don't tell me about the heart sh\*t

King: Would you rather have me call an ambulance? I don't have time for this really

Me: Alright fine

He storms out

**BOKAMOSO**

I only hear the door open very late at night. I check the time on my phone, it's 00:56. I cannot believe this man brought me all the way here just to ditch the dinner and go attend that psycho of a baby mama. He switches on the light and I can hear him making endless movements probably taking off his clothes. I'm

still facing the other way and I'm trying not to move a muscle.  
He gets under the covers and rubs his hand against my arm

Advertisement

kissing my shoulder.

King: Baby

I remain quiet because if I do say something, it'll not be pleasant to his ears.

King: Baby I'm sorry for taking so long

Me: I'm trying to sleep

King: I know you're upset baby talk to me. Tell me exactly how you feel

Me: I'm not feeling anything

King: That can't be true. Baby talk to me, please

Me: It's fine King now I know where your priorities lie

King: Okay that's not fair. This is my baby we're talking about

Me: Just let me be, King

King: Look at me when I'm talking to you

Me: You will not tell me what to do

King: Are we seriously going to fight?

Me: I'm not fighting, I'm just trying to sleep

King: So you're not even going to ask me what was wrong with the baby?

Me: Are Onika and the baby fine?

King: Yes they're fine now

Me: Then I don't think I need to hear more. Just leave me alone I yank his hands off me and cover my head with the blanket.

King: Onika is carrying my baby. You'll have to accept that she's going to be in our lives forever and this jealousy of yours won't so you any favours

I kick off the blanket and turn to him

Me: I'm not jealous. I know Onika is sick in the head and I wouldn't be surprised if she was lying to you

King: Why would she lie to me?

Me: So what she expected you to drive all the way from Pretoria just because she's having pain? She could have just called an ambulance or your brother or mom. Why you?

King: Because I'm the father of the baby

Me: So you're a doctor now?

King: Boka please



Me: Your sister told me that Onika called her and she mentioned that we're here, about to have dinner. Doesn't it surprise you that all of a sudden she's calling and crying of pain?

He keeps quiet, putting 2 and 2 together

Me: She's playing you and you're falling for her tricks. Well I'm not going to be a part of this circus

King: What do you mean?

Me: I want to sleep

King: I love you!

I cover my head again and sleep

KING [MORNING]

I feel bad for ditching dinner last night but what other choice did I have? Boka isn't in bed and I know she's still upset. I put on my slippers and robe before checking her in the bathroom. She's not there and I can only hope she's somewhere in the house. I get to the kitchen where my mom and sister are preparing breakfast

Katlego: Oh good morning brother

Me: Good morning

Ma: I hope you and Boka slept well last night. What time did you come in?

Me: It was after midnight

Ma: After midnight? Is the baby okay?

Me: Yes the doctor said it was bloating and constipation

Ma: Your wife is...your ex wife is dramatic

Katlego: Breakfast is almost ready. Where's Boka?

Me: I was hoping she'd be here with you guys

Katlego: No she's not

Me: Then where could she have went? She doesn't know this place

Katlego: Did you fight?

Me: I'll try to call her

I return to the bedroom to call her but it takes me straight to voicemail

## BOKAMOSO

After taking a long and much needed walk around the neighborhood, I return to the house with a level head. I really want to go home now because clearly King has his focus somewhere else. He's pacing back and forth outside probably trying my phone but I switched to flight mode. He notices me walk in and shoves his cellphone inside the back pocket.

King: Baby I was worried sick. Where have you been?

Me: I was out

King: Oskae ira dai deng mamas neke thula top klaar)Don't ever do that again honey I was losing my mind here)

Me: You thought your brother and your psycho ex wife kidnapped me again?

King: It's not funny, Boka

Me: When are we leaving?

King: Later. I'll drop you off at the airport

Me: I want to leave now

King: Your plane ticket is only for later

Me: Why did you book the ticket without me?

King: Are bolele baby (Baby let's talk)

Me: Ka eng? (About what?)

King: I owe you an apology

Me: For?

King: For the way I spoke to you last night

Me: It's fine

King: No it's not fine

KING

She goes into the house and with my mom there, we're forced to play it cool

Ma: Where have you been? We were worried about you

Boka: I just took a morning walk, I'm sorry

Ma: That's okay

Me: Come let's have breakfast

Without giving her a chance to refuse, I hold her waist and we walk to the table. I dish up and she's so quiet throughout. She goes to the bedroom and I follow her

Me: So baby otlo vaya rese sharp? (you'll leave while we're not okay?)

Boka: We're fine

Me: You can't even look at me, Boka

Boka: Do I have to look at you?

She takes off her dress and kicks off her flip flops the goes into the shower. Taking off my robe, I get in too and pin her body against the wall

Boka: What are you doing?

Me: I haven't showered so...

Boka: I need my privacy

Me: That's something I won't give to you

Boka: King let go of me

I lift up her leg and kiss her neck and shoulder

Me: I want to make love to you

Boka: I'm still angry at you

She speaks softly with her arms around my neck

Me: Then let me apologize

Boka: You think sex will make things better?

Me: Maybe

Boka: You're insane

I lift her up and she lets out a loud, short scream

Me: You're loud

Boka: You'll drop me

Me: Don't you trust me?

Boka: No

Me: I need you to trust me both in life situations and during sex

She giggles, wrapping her legs around my waist. A steamy kiss erupts, and feelings hit the roof. She rubs my d\*ck slightly before directing it inside her wet and warm p\*ssy. She lets out a quiet moan and I could feel her grip tightening.

Boka: F\*ck me

Advertisement

King

Me: How hard?

Boka: So hard and deep that it reaches my guts and womb

I put her down, turning her around to pin her against the wall. I smack her ass a few times before entering her again.

Boka: Yes King just like that. I like it so much

Me: I love you, Boka

Boka: I love you too

She bends over giving it to me good. I grab on to her wrists and pull back her arms and thrust.

Boka: Mmmh baby right there. Yes King ahhh!

I let go of her wrists and grab on to her boobs, squeezing them. Her head falls back, resting on my shoulder. I slide my hand down to rub her clit, she so wet. I make love to her for minutes

Boka: I'm gonna cum. Make me cum, King

I increase my pace and I can feel myself reaching the climax too. She moans harder and her momentum dies down. I hold on tighter to her waist, smacking her ass harder than before as I cum

KING

There's still an hour left before we hit the road so I take this opportunity to spend quality time with her. The tension is thick but I wouldn't want her to leave while she's not okay

Me: How about we go for a swim?

Boka: I didn't bring my swimwear

Me: Okay let's do something fun then

Boka: I think I want to spend this hour in your arms

Me: So re sharp? (So we're good?)

Boka: Yeah

Me: I knew the sex would do the trick

Boka: This isn't about the sex. I'm just glad you apologized genuinely but honestly baby I didn't like how you handled the matter

Me: I was wrong and a man owns up to his mistakes. I love you Boka and there's no better place where my heart would rather be but with you

I kiss her shoulder and hold on to her tight. She's sitting in between my legs, resting her head on my chest. My phone rings and we both glance at it. She pulls away from my grip and sits beside me

Boka: I'll go get ready

Me: No wait

I answer and place the call on speaker

Me: Onika

Onika: Hello papa Lethabo

Me: What?

Onika: Don't mind me. I was just thinking of baby names

Me: What can I assist you with?



Onika: I called to let you know that the baby and I are feeling much better today. I think the tub of ice cream you got us did the trick. Thank you daddy

Me: It's good to know

Onika: Will you come and check on us today?

Boka laughs irritated and tries to get off the bed but I grab her arm

Me: Listen Onika I think it's time I made a few things clear. Until the baby is born I think it's best if you know your boundaries and respect me and my relationship. So from now whatever you need you can tell my woman and she'll pass on the message. I'll text you her number after this call

Onika: What? You want me to put my baby's life in your girlfriend's hands?

Me: I trust her so I trust her with my baby. I don't really care how you take this but I've made my decision

Onika: Gabotse kore wena gao mpone ka selo King. Ke lenyatšo ntwe we dirago (Actually you don't see me as anything, King. What you're doing is disrespect)

Me: If you don't agree with my terms then I guess you'll go through this pregnancy on your own. She'll be our middle woman and I expect you to respect her and whatever she says

goes. I'm sick of you using our baby to spite her. From now on you and I will not talk until the ninth month. Are we clear?

Onika: E re wa raloka, King. Nkase se dire seo (You're not serious. I won't do that)

Me: Then good luck being a single parent

I hung up

[THREE MONTHS LATER]

BOKAMOSO

Dealing with Onika has been really difficult but I've found a way to keep her in control. She thinks she has the upper hand but in a way that's what I want her to think. I haven't forgiven her and Bruno for all the things they've put me through and for that, they'll pay. I might not know how to deal with Bruno at this point in time because we haven't crossed paths but with Onika it's quite easy to plot my revenge. I didn't end Tebello just for nothing, I am going to take all of them down one by one.

I'm settling quite well in my job and King managed to get me into therapy sessions every Saturday and I'm only going because he insists. I'm supposed to be going to Cape Town tomorrow to visit him since we haven't seen each other for two weeks.

....

KING

Nkosi has come to visit me for the weekend and I really hope I can be able to split the attention fairly since Boka is also here. We have planned to go out tonight, just the three of us because Katlego is having other plans with her friends and Bruno is definitely out of the picture even though Nkosi wanted him

around. I'm still waiting for the boxing match he promised to organize and given the opportunity, I'll teach him a lesson he'll never forget.

Me: Are you going somewhere?

Boka: I'm going to get a few things at the mall and your baby mama also wants things. She always wants things

Me: You could just order whatever she needs online

Boka: I'm going there anyway so it's fine

Me: Okay don't take all day you know we have to go out later

Boka: We still have like 7 hours to go. Relax baby I'll be back after 3 hours

Me: You shouldn't be spending your time elsewhere because you know you only have two days to be with me

Boka: That's because you no longer want to come that side

Me: I have a business to run baby and you know it. Once everything is in place I promise I'll get my own space so we can see each other every day

Boka: Okay

Me: A big enough space for us and the baby. Maybe even our own baby

I hold her closer to my body and she pulls back

Me: Did I say something wrong?

Boka: No I just don't want to waste any more time. I'll be back soon

Me: So you're not even going to give me a kiss?

She pecks my lips and rushes out.

BOKAMOSO

I hate having the baby talk, especially with King. Vusi is the only person who knows about my condition since my mother has passed. Even my aunt doesn't know and I'm not comfortable in talking about it because as I grow older

Advertisement

it'll make people see me as less of a woman.

Ma: Where are you rushing to? I was hoping you and I could try the recipes on the new cook book I bought yesterday

Me: I'm sorry ma I'm going out for some shopping. I need a few things but we can definitely try them tomorrow before I leave

Ma: Nkosi can't you give Boka a day off for Monday?

Nkosi: Mondays aren't for day offs mama and I don't want her colleagues to think I'm giving her special treatment since she's family. I'm a fair boss

Me: I promise tomorrow I'll wake up early and we'll cook

Nkosi: Early? With what your boyfriend has planned for tonight I doubt you'll wake up at all

Me: Then you'll have to make sure I don't drink a lot

Nkosi: That's up to King, not me

King: I heard my name

He comes into the kitchen

Me: That's my queue to leave

King: Are you sure you don't want me to go with you?

Me: No I'll be fine

He gives me a look of suspicion so I turn and leave. My plan is to actually get a party outfit and a something sexy to wear underneath for the after party. I mean I haven't been intimate with my man for two weeks now and I miss him so much.

Onika has left a long list of her needs on my WhatsApp just to spite me and a lot of those things are unnecessarily costly. I've once confronted her about it and her answer is always the same.

"It's my baby daddy's money, not yours."

I'm fed up to the core as I move from shelf to shelf, looking for those unnecessary things. Neither me nor King will deliver them

so we have our courier guy to take them to her house. While at it, she calls me

Me: What do you want this time?

Onika: Could you please pass by the pharmacy to get me meds?

Me: I'm already out of the mall, Onika

Onika: Then turn back. Unless of course you want me to call King and explain to him that you don't want to get me the things I need after volunteering to do shopping today

Me: You know you could have ordered these things online. Just because I said I'm going to the mall didn't necessarily mean I'm your errand girl

Onika: If King could give me a bank card then I would order online. Maybe you could order online for me since you're the first lady now handling his cards

Me: I work for my own money I'm not a vulture like you

Onika: Oh please

Me: What do you need?

Onika: Painkillers

Me: Which ones?

Onika: Ask the pharmacist which ones are good for a pregnant woman

Me: Didn't your doctor prescribe painkillers for you?

Onika: Stop asking questions and do as I say

I cut the call and return to the mall. I won't let Onika walk all over me and get away with it. Since she doesn't even know which painkillers she wants, I ask the pharmacist for the best ones and she recommends. I get a packet of wafarin tablets too to swap with the painkillers. I've already done my research and it has come to my attention that wafarin is dangerous for the baby. I dump the painkillers in my bag and replace with the wafarin inside the container. Onika losing the baby would be a good thing to all of us



ONIKA

I've been feeling funny for the past few days but I never thought it's anything serious. It started with abdominal pains and just like my doctor said the last time, I thought it's just constipation and bloating. He gave me pills for that but still it's not working. My back hurts so bad and I'm throwing up so much. I didn't put that into much thought because I thought it's just symptoms for any pregnant woman until I went to the bathroom to pee and discovered that I'm bleeding.

I've never panicked this much in my entire life and should anything happen to my baby, I'd be broken for a very long time. This isn't the time to call Boka so I dial King but it takes me straight to voicemail. I have no other choice but to call Bruno.

Bruno What is it now? Are you tired of playing happy family with King?

Me: (Please Bruno I need you to come to my house quickly)

Bruno: Why?

Me: Ga ke ikwe gabotse (I'm not feeling okay)

Bruno: Shouldn't you be calling your baby daddy?

Me: His phone is off. I'm begging you Bruno I don't want to lose this baby

Bruno: Knowing you, you're just overreacting

Me: Ke tšwa madi, dammit (I'm bleeding, dammit)

The pain intensifies and forces me to groan in pain.

Bruno: Okay I'm on my way stay put

I get up from my bed and notice a large amount of blood stains on my sheet. The last time I checked, the blood didn't cover the whole piece of toilet paper but now it seems like I've been stabbed. I can feel myself drifting away so I drag my body to the kitchen to unlock the door. I know I might lose consciousness due to the bleeding even before Bruno arrives. I don't want to stain anything else so I sit on the floor flat with my back against the kitchen cabinet.

BRUNO

I arrive at her house a few minutes after she called me. Without knocking, I push the door hoping it's not locked and fortunately it opens.

"Onika"

I shout out her name with my eyes following the trail of blood on the tiled floor. I find her unconscious on the floor with a lot of blood on her dress and without wasting any more time, I carry her to my car. I hate being put in such a position and should she die on me

## Advertisement

King will never let me hear the end of it. I get hold of my mother to inform her and she tells me that King is out.

I'm forced to stay there for hours and hope for the best and King only shows up at wee hours drunk. I'm not in the mood to fight with him but I know he'll want to fight with me.

King: Where is she?

Me: Maybe a 'hi my brother, how are you? Where is Onika?' would really do the trick

King: Bruno I don't have time for this

Me: The doctor hasn't returned to me. If you were a responsible father you would have known that your baby is in great danger

King: My phone was off

Me: Oh I forgot that you don't know how to use a charger

King: Watch how you talk to me

Me: Look at the blood on my clothes. I had to ditch my plans and rush to her aid because your were unreachable

King: What happened?

Me: I don't know she just called me crying out in pain

King: But she was fine earlier

Me: I don't know what happened

King: I should have been there when she needed me. If anything happens to my baby I'll never forgive myself

Me: She was bleeding a lot. I don't want to lie to you but it doesn't look good

King: You know how much I've always wanted to be a father. I can't lose the baby now

Me: I know it's really hard for you

BOKAMOSO

I always wake up to King's good morning text so I'm surprised my inbox is dry today. I decide to give him a call

King: Hi

Me: Babe you didn't text me this morning. What's up

King: I have important things to deal with and texts are the last things on my mind

Me: Excuse me?

King: I'm sorry. I'm sorry baby I'm stressed and I didn't pick my words because I spoke

Me: What the hell is wrong with you?

King: Onika is in hospital there's something wrong with the baby

Me: Oh! I'm sorry

King: I really want to be a father, Boka. Is it too much to ask?

Me: Of course not

King: The doctor said something about unprescribed medication that she consumed I don't know what it is. How could she be so irresponsible?

Me: I'm sure there's a plausible explanation to this. Don't panic just yet

King: She could miscarry, Boka. How do we recover from that?

Me: If I could I'd be there with you baby

King: I know sweetheart

Me: Keep me posted on any progress or setback

King: Okay

Me: I love you

King: I love you too

KING

Me: What's wrong with her, doctor?

I ask putting my phone back into my pocket

Doctor: The test results show wafarin in her blood stream.  
That's why she had the complications

Me: Wafarin? What's that?

Doctor: It's medication prescribed as a blood thinner for people with blood clots. According to the results, she doesn't have that condition

Me: Then why would she take them?

Doctor: Did she perhaps try to abort or maybe...harm herself?

Me: She'd never do that. She was so excited about the baby she wouldn't

Doctor: I'm sorry

Me: Will they be okay?

Doctor: I'm going to be honest with you Mr Letsoalo, it's not looking good for the both of them but we're doing everything to save them

Me: I can't lose the baby

Bruno: Have a little faith

Me: Faith?

Bruno: Onika is a fighter she'll pull through. You know her she's a die hard

Me: Yeah but what about my baby?

Bruno: I'll be okay

Me: You don't know that, Bruno

Bruno: King listen to me. Onika and the baby will be fine

I crash my body on the chair and bury my head in my arms

Bruno: They'll pull through

Me: What if the doctor was right? What if she intentionally did this to spite me?

Bruno: Why would she do that?

Me: I chose Boka over her

Bruno: Yeah Onika diya mo shiya nyana mara akase ire dai deng (Yes Onika is crazy but she wouldn't do that)

Me: You know that how?

Bruno: Think about it. She has a fighting chance with the baby around and everything to lose if she has a miscarriage

Me: Okay wena botsa nna gore go iragetseng (okay tell me what happened)

Bruno: Maybe someone else wanted the baby dead

Me: Who would want my baby dead and how did they force the pills down her throat? Come on

Bruno: Maybe she took them unaware

Me: What are you saying, Bruno?

Bruno: I'm saying maybe someone intentionally gave her the pills knowing very well what they'd do to her

Me: Well in that case I suggest we go to the house and figure out what went down. Whoever hurt my baby will regret it



42

KING

Seeing the blood on the kitchen floor gives me shivers. My baby could die at any moment now and I feel helpless and useless.

Bruno: Maybe we should go check in her bedroom. I mean it's where she keeps all her stuff

Me: The blood

Bruno: Snap out of it, King. You need to focus if ever you want to get to the bottom of this

He leads the way to the bedroom and seeing another stain of blood on the bed drives me insane. We search the room until Bruno finds her medication inside one of the drawers.

Bruno: We should go through all of them. Maybe we can find something to work with

We check every single container of tablets but nothing is out of the ordinary, except of course for the empty container of the painkillers

Me: Why would she be taking too much painkillers? This container is empty and I'm surprised she didn't throw it away.

Bruno: Maybe she recently finished the pills

Me: But still, they finished before the other prescribed pills.  
Aren't they all supposed to last for the whole month?

Bruno: What are you thinking?

Me: We take this container to the doctor. Something is just off,  
maybe he'll give us something to work with

I secure the container in my pocket and continue searching. We  
don't find anything else suspicious so we leave.

ONIKA

I never thought I'd wake up to see King by my side. I'm certain  
he hates me so much right now that he'd do anything to keep  
me away from him.

Me: King

King: You're awake? Thank God

Me: How long have I been here?

King: Three days

Me: That long? My back hurts

King: You'll be okay

Me: What happened?

King: You almost lost our baby

Me: I remember bleeding

King: Did you try to harm our baby, Onika?

Me: What?

King: Just answer me

Me: I'd never do that, King. You know how much I want to have this baby and I cannot believe that you'd accuse me of such

King: The doctor said you took wafarin

Me: I don't even know what that is, King

King: Yet you still took it. I found an empty container of painkillers from your drawer and I was wondering why you'd finish the painkillers before date so I asked the doctor to run some tests. Turns out the container of painkillers had wafarin

Me: Like I said

Advertisement

King. I don't know what wafarin is or how it looks like. I only took pills prescribed by my doctor

King: So you're saying your doctor tried to kill you?

Me: He wouldn't do that

King: Then what are you saying?

Me: I'm not saying anything

King: Should I find out that you tried to harm our baby, I swear Onika you'll regret it

Me: If you're going to sit there and accuse me of something I know nothing about, then I suggest you get up and f\*ck off

King: I'm sorry

Me: You should be. If I didn't want this baby I would have aborted without you even know I was pregnant. You're painting me to be a bad mother and that's something I'll never be.

King: I'm just frustrated because I don't know how to explain all this. How did the pills get into your system?

Me: Wait, are you saying the pills were in the container of painkillers?

King: Yes

Me: Well those pills were not prescribed by my doctor but I asked Boka to buy them from the pharmacy

King: I don't like where this is going. I know you hate her but I'll not let you drag her into this

Me: I'm not dragging him into anything. All I'm saying is that she's the one who bought the painkillers so why don't you ask her

King: Wafarin aren't painkillers, Onika

Me: Ask your perfect girlfriend, King. Maybe she'll have a better explanation

King: Now this is nonsense

Me: Doesn't she keep all the receipts of the things she buys for me?

King: She does.

Me: Then go ask for the receipt and specifically ask for the one from the pharmacy that day

King: What will that prove?

Me: If she bought wafarin from the pharmacy it'll show

King: Aren't you supposed to have a prescription for such medication?

Me: Why are you asking me? Why don't you ask her since she's the main suspect?

King: Now that's rubbish

Me: Just get out, King. I almost lost my baby and I don't need you to add more stress

King: Our baby

Me: Please leave. If you're going to protect her and refuse to look into this matter then you have nothing else to say to each other

He storms out of my ward

BOKAMOSO

I've been feeling guilty with Onika in the hospital and if I could turn back and undo things, I'd do it in a blink of an eye. I haven't been able to focus on work with my guilt eating me up and I just wish I could just come clean. At least the baby is still alive and I wouldn't care what happens to Onika. She deserves every pain that's coming her way and I'd really be happy if she didn't make it out alive.

King gives me a call earlier than most days and honestly I feel like he's drifting away.

Me: Hi

King: Hi baby

Me: I wasn't expecting your call before 21:00

King: I came home early

Me: How's the baby?

King: They're fine

Me: I was only asking about the baby only

King: You're being insensitive now

Me: Do you blame me?

King: Can I ask you something?

Me: Sure

King: Did you get Onika painkillers from the pharmacy?

Me: I did

King: I need the receipt

Me: Why?

King: You always give me the receipts to everything you buy for her so what's the matter?

Me: I don't think I kept it

King: Why wouldn't you keep it?

Me: I..I think I got rid of it by mistake

King: Is it so?

Me: Is there something you're accusing me of?

King: Is there something I should accuse you of?

Me: I didn't do anything

King: I never said you did anything but after your responses, now I suspect you actually did something

Me: Something like what?

King: Did you try to hurt them?

Me: King network is breaking off I can't hear you clearly

King: Did you...

Me: Hello? King can you hear me? Hello?

I end the call and throw the phone under my pillow after switching it off



## BOKAMOSO

I've been uneasy for the past few days after my conversation with King. He hasn't contacted me since, apart from the text he sent saying he'll be here on Saturday, which is today.

Aunty: If you didn't want that coffee you should have just said so. It's no use wasting the sugar

Me: I'm sorry I just fell deep into my thoughts

Aunty: Is everything okay at work?

Me: Work is fine. I'm just not sure about King and I

Aunty: What happened?

Me: We had a disagreement

Aunty: So? All couples have disagreements I don't think it's anything you should be worried about

Me: If you knew what we argued about, you wouldn't be saying that

Aunty: Did King cheat on you?

Me: No

Aunty: Then what is it?

I never get a chance to respond with King's car pulling over just outside the house. I push the cup of coffee away from me and meet him outside.

King: I was going to come inside to greet your aunt. You didn't have to meet me halfway

Me: Can we go talk somewhere else?

He looks at me from head to toe, pissed. Without replying, he makes his way into the house. I tail him, hoping he doesn't say anything out of line to my aunt.

King: Aunty

Aunty: Hi. It's been a while since I saw you

King: I've been busy that's why

Aunty: Is everything okay?

King: Everything is fine. I just came to see Boka

Aunty: I see. Can I offer you a drink?

Me: We're on our way out, aunty

Aunty: But...

Me: I'm sure he's fine. Let's go

I take his hand, leading the way back to his car. He drives out and I have no idea where we're going

King: Did you find the receipts?

Me: I told you I don't have them

King: I don't believe you, Boka

Me: That's not my fault

King: How is it not your fault

Me: King what exactly are you accusing me of? Pull over before we go far because I'm not about to walk back to the house after this

He does as I say

King: Did you swap Onika's pills? Did you swap her painkillers for something else?

Me: Is that what she said?

King: I'm asking you to be honest with me. Can you at least be honest with me?

Me: Are you sure you can handle the truth? I will not sugar coat it

King: Bolela

Advertisement

Boka (speak)

Me: What have you done to punish Bruno and Onika for what they did to me and the other girls?

King: Oh so this is what it's all about? Revenge

Me: I did what I had to do to avenge myself. You promised to deal with them but I haven't seen a single punishment from you yet you say you love me

King: She's carrying my baby. Did you think hurting my baby will bring you justice? An innocent baby, Boka. That was so low of you

Me: Why didn't you do anything before you found out she's pregnant? I've realized I'm the fool here

King: That's not true. You know that's not true, baby

Me: Yes I swapped the pills with an intention to harm her and the baby. There I said it

King: I trusted you, Boka. Hurting Onika alone would have been understandable but my baby...I won't forgive you for this

Me: So did I. You were supposed to make sure justice is prevailed since you begged me not to go to the cops. All you did was treat your ex wife like an egg

King: You know how much I want to be a father. How could you?

Me: If dragging you into this was the only way to get revenge then I'm not going to apologize

King: If the baby dies...

Me: Onika should have died and unfortunately the baby would have died to. That was something I was willing to live with although it would have been hard

King: Take that back

Me: I won't rest until those two get what's coming to them. Don't you dare stand in my way because this war isn't about you. If you love me then you'll let me do this

King: I loved you, Boka. After this I don't see a future between us

Me: So you don't love me anymore?

King: How do you expect me to love someone who is willing to go above and beyond to harm my baby? How am I supposed to be with someone I can't trust

Me: It's fine, King. If ending things with me will make your heart at ease then so be it

King: So you actually think this is easy for me? It breaks my heart to say this to you because I actually thought you and I could build something real. Something concrete

Me: None of this is easy for me too but one thing I won't do is apologize for my actions. Do you have any idea how much pain I had to go through? Do you have any idea how hard it was for me to sleep with all the nightmares every night? I lost my mother in the process and for that, I'll not let anyone stand in my way. Especially not you

King: In that case then I guess this is it for us

Me: It's fine. I won't beg to be loved by anyone

King: Kgopela o vaye (please leave)

Me: One day you'll understand why I did this

King: E chaile yaka lwena net soh (Just like this, it's over for you and I)

Me: I will make them pay for what they did and I hope by that time you won't be caught in the crossfire because I won't be merciful

King: Are you making threats?

Me: You've picked your side and I've picked mine. I hope the both of us will be able to live with the consequences of our choices. For what it's worth, I truly loved you, King

KING

I was hoping Boka doesn't have anything to do with this but now that she has confessed, my world is in a tailspin. How do I even begin to switch off my feelings for her? After what Onika did to me, I actually thought I've found happiness again but I guess I was wrong. This whole dating thing is a scam and the sooner we all accept that, the better.

I need a distraction really fast and the only thing I can think of right now is a beer. I make a U-turn to the bar and as early as it is, I drown my sorrows in alcohol. I get home after midnight and I don't even reach the bedroom so I sleep on the couch.

Andile: Wake up

I snap out of my deep sleep when my cousin pours a glass of water on my face. I sit up straight, wiping the water off my face

Me: Did you have to do that?

Andile: What's wrong with you? It's unlike you to drink this much and even sleep on the couch

Me: I needed a distraction

Andile: A distraction from what?

Me: Can we not talk about it?

Andile: You know I'm not letting this go so tell me

Me: Next time I fall in love, kill me

Andile: What happened between you and Boka? I thought you two were happy

Me: That's what I thought too

Andile: So you thought it's better to go get wasted?

Me: What was I supposed to do? I broke up with the woman I love and do you know how hard that was?

Andile: You can still fix it, can't you?

Me: There's no way to fix this mess

Andile: What happened?

Me: I'm going to bath then I'll hit the road

Andile: Just like that?

Me: Please I don't want to talk about it

ONIKA

Ever since King came back from Pretoria, he has been doing everything in his power to avoid me. He doesn't call to check on me, all he does is send a text every morning and now I've reached a point where I no longer reply. I've been blue ticking him knowing very well that he'll eventually come. I hate that he



still has the keys to the house even though he no longer lives her so he just lets himself in

Me: You should have at least warned me that you're coming

King: How? You don't reply my texts anymore

Me: I read the texts, I just don't reply

King: I've been worried about the baby

Me: Did you confront your girlfriend?

King: I did

Me: And?

King: And what?

Me: You let her get away with it?

King: Boka didn't do anything

Me: She did it. I know she did it

King: What proof do you have?

Me: How else did this happen? I'd never try to harm myself

King: She's innocent. We talked about it and I believed her

Me: Wow! She almost killed your baby yet you're defending her

King: What do you want me to say?

Me: Boka ke moloji (Boka is a witch)

King: You know that because you're the bigger witch

Me: I just don't get you

King: You don't have to get me. Boka didn't do it and that's it. I don't ever want to hear you accusing her like that because it'll not end well for you

Me: Are you threatening the mother of your child?

King: I came here to make sure that you're okay and to ask if there's anything you need

Me: I don't need anything from you or that girlfriend of yours

King: I wouldn't let anyone hurt our baby again, I promise

Me: What about me?

King: I only care about the baby, not you

Me: Are you ever going to forgive me?

King: Forgive you? So you think forgiveness is something that happens overnight?

Me: Think about how we once were. We were happy, King

King: Until you ruined it

Me: I never stopped loving you

I step closer to him, taking his hand and placing it on my tummy. He doesn't yank my hands off like most men when I

try to make a move. I take this opportunity to pull him closer to me

initiating a kiss.

Me: Let me be the woman you loved

King: Our relationship can never be repaired

Me: Let's try

He pushes me to the couch, pulling up my T-shirt. It's been months now since I got intimate with him and this makes the adrenaline rush in my body a bit extra. It actually feels like our first time together and I've never yearned for him more than I do now. I know he loves Boka but he once loved me too and that can't just be avoided. I know his weaknesses and it's not that hard to get him to penetrate me.

[MONTHS LATER]

NARRATED

"You're doing good," says one of the nurse in the labour ward. It's been hours now with Onika having contractions and she can't bear the pain any longer. Sweat rolls down her face and she can feel the pain as her cervix stretches.

"I can't push any harder than this. I don't have any more strength left in me," she cries out, at the verge of giving in.

"You're almost there. Just a few more pushes then it'll all be over. You have to push," the nurse insists.

Onika breathes in and out heavily, pushing her baby boy out harder than she ever thought she'll have to. She can feel his head coming out, the nurse pulling the tiny body out then all the pressure lessens. A piercing cry erupts the ward, she's never been so happy in her entire life. She's exhausted and all she can do is turn her head because lifting it up would be a challenge.

"You did great. Well done," the nurse smiles at Onika as she rubs her shoulder.

She smiles back at her

"Wait a minute, doctor. I think there's something wrong with the baby," the nurse says.

Onika panics and forces her body up, trying to see what is actually wrong with his son

"What's wrong with my baby," she asks in fear

"There's something wrong with the baby's eyes," the nurse says

45

BOKAMOSO

None of them were expecting me and I really love to make a grand entrance. King walks up to me before I could even get to where he was sitting.

King: Boka?

Me: Hi

King: I wasn't expecting to see you here. It's been a while

Me: Happy birthday

I hand him a gift and he leans forward for a hug. I can see Onika eyeing me from a distance and she's holding the baby. If I had a gun right now she would be deaf already.

Me: Congratulations

King: On?

Me: Being a father, of course

King: Thanks. How did you even know I'm having a birthday celebration today?

Me: Nkosi told me and I thought I should come and celebrate it with you. I hope you don't mind

King: It's okay it's just that this was unexpected. We haven't talked for months and I had lost all hope for us.

Me: I really want us to put all this behind us, King.

King: Me too. For months I've tried to contact you but I guess I was too proud. After the doctor told me that the baby will be okay, I wanted us to fix things

Me: Yeah but I don't think it'll ever be fixed, especially after today

King: Why would you say that?

Me: I think I won't be seeing you again after this. I believe you've worked things out with Onika

King: Onika and I can never be together again. We're just co-parenting Lethabo

Me: You know you don't have to lie to me

King: I'm not lying to you. Boka the past few months without you have been tough and I really wish I could have given myself time to deal with your betrayal instead of acting impulsively

Me: To be honest I needed the time to find myself. I wasn't fit for a relationship and I think the break up worked in my favor

King: My son has eye cancer

Me: What? Is it because of me?

King: No it has nothing to do with the pills

Me: I'm really sorry

King: With treatment he'll be fine

Me: Let me go greet Ma

I have to pass by Onika and the looks we're giving each other are as evil as my plans for her.

Me: Ma

Ma: Boka? Wow I never thought I'd see you again

Me: I didn't think I'd come either

Ma: I'm so happy to see you. You look amazing

Me: Thank you

Ma: So does this mean you and King are back together?

Me: No we're not. I just wanted to give him a gift for his birthday

Ma: So you came all the way just to give him a gift?

Me: It's better hand delivered

Ma: I'm sure he's happy

Me: Probably

Onika interrupts our chat

Onika: Could you please hold Lethabo for a moment, I need to attend to something quickly in the house

Ma: Come to grandma my baby

Onika: Plus he loves your arms. It's like he knows he's the first grandchild

Me: It was nice seeing you, Ma

Ma: It was nice seeing you too

The only person I can actually sit with is Nkosi. I cannot believe I actually came because this is the one thing I never thought I'd do after King left me.

....

....

ONIKA

Lethabo is a sweetheart, he doesn't cry that much and that makes me want to hold him in my arms more.

Me: You're the best thing that's ever happened to me, baby. I promise we'll fight this cancer and you'll be able to see mommy very soon. Daddy is doing everything in his power to make you feel better because he loves you. Let's get you into the cute onsie that aunty Katlego got for you



I hear something breaking in the kitchen and I panick because it's only me and Lethabo in the house

Me: Could daddy be here? Maybe he brought the leftover cake from yesterday

I check the corridor but there's no one in sight. On my way to the kitchen

I bump into a man with a balaclava on. Without thinking twice, I take a few steps back before running back to the bedroom. I don't get far, he grabs on my braids and pulls me back, causing my body to fall to the floor.

Onika: Please don't kill me. Take whatever it is that you want but spare me and my son

Him: I don't want anything from you, I just want you

Onika: Please don't hurt me

Him: Shut up and get up

I do exactly as he says because I'm frightened by the gun he has in his hand. I slowly walk to the kitchen and he makes me sit on the chair. He takes out a rope from his backpack and a tape. I can already imagine what he'd do to me and my only concern is my son's safety

Me: What are you going to do to me?

Him: You'll see

As soon as he turns his back on me, I grab the place on the table and aim for his head. I miss and only hit his shoulder. He pulls me forwards and pushes me to the floor, kicking my ribcage.

Him: It wasn't supposed to happen like this but you leave me no choice.

He cocks his gun and I hide my face in my palms. It has a silencer so it doesn't make much noise. I don't feel any pain on my body so I check my chest for any blood but there's nothing.

Me: What did you...

Blood drips out of my thigh, it's only then that I'm feeling the burning sensation on my body.

Him: If you're not going shut up then I'll shut you up.

He gags me with the tape and ties my wrists together with the rope. The door opens and we both turn to see who it is. Tears roll down my face when King walks in unaware of what is going on. His eyes fall on the man with the balaclava and before he could say or do anything, a bullet pierces his chest and he collapses on the floor. I try to scream under the tape but I can't, he hits my head with the gun and my vision become blur.

## NARRATED

The intruder makes a run for it as soon as King drops to the floor. The injury is bad, there's too much blood coming out and there's nothing Onika can do with her body tied to a chair. Baby Lethabo cries his lungs out but neither of his parents are in a state to come to his aid. It's as if he can sense that something isn't right.

All King is able to do is move his fingers and Onika can only watch from a distance. She tries to move the chair but ends up on the floor, causing her thigh to bleed twice as much. After much friction, she manages to free her hands off the rope and tears off the tape from her mouth. It feels like a part of her lips is teared off but now isn't the time to nurse the pain in her body, she needs to toughen up.

On her knees she manages crawl closer to King's half conscious bleeding body and reaches for his phone in the pocket.

Me: Please King don't die on me. I'm calling for help please hang in there a little longer

She calls the emergency line then holds him closer to her.

Me: Please King keep your eyes open. You can't die on me

All he does is blink, blood coming out of his month and nose. He tries to speak but no word comes out of his mouth. She squeezes his hand into hers still trying to avoid the pain on her thigh. The pain intensifies by the minute so she takes off her T-shirt, rips it apart and ties up her thigh.

She turns his head to the side so he doesn't choke on his blood. His body keeps jerking as he painfully coughs out with much struggle. His T-shirt is soaked and there's nothing much she can do except suppressing the wounded area.

[MINUTES LATER]

The paramedics arrive and it's not looking good for King. He has lost too much blood in the past minutes and they can only hope for the best. Onika also needs medical help but who will watch baby Lethabo while both parents are at the hospital. There's no other choice but to ask the neighbor to watch him while grandma quickly makes her way here.

"What happened?" Bruno asks Onika who's still getting used to her painful thigh even though the bullet has been safely removed. Onika: I don't know

Bruno: You don't know? Who would want King dead?

Onika: It's not King they wanted, it was me

Bruno: What for?

Onika: Stop asking stupid questions. If I had the answers I would have told the police when they were here an hour ago

Bruno: I should let Nkosi know about this

Onika: Go ahead and alert the whole world

Bruno: Nkosi is not the whole world, he's my brother and he deserves to know. King needs all his loved ones beside him during this trying time

Onika: His loved ones? For all I know you could have ordered the hit

Bruno: You're speaking rubbish now. Aren't you the one who said King wasn't the target?

Onika: I don't know what to make of this

Bruno: Narrow down your enemy list

Onika: I don't have enemies

Bruno: Who are you fooling? You and I have wronged so many people and I wouldn't be surprised if one of them is after us

Onika: Boka?

Bruno: Boka isn't the only girl we've wronged. Get over your obsession with her and think. Plus I don't think she's capable with such

Onika: She's the one with a motive. King dumped her and she's bitter, Bruno: Maybe, maybe not

Onika: Please you need to help me and the baby go into hiding. At least until King is okay, Bruno: I'll see what I can do

Onika: I wouldn't be able to forgive myself if Lethabo suffers for my sins

BOKAMOSO

I took a day off from work so I can meet up with Lebo later today. When Nkosi calls, I'm halfway through dreamland and I wish I had just put my phone on silent to avoid interruption.

Me: It's my day off, Nkosi. Please don't make me come to work

Nkosi: No I'm not calling because of work

Me: Then what is it? Why are you waking me up so early in the morning? I need my beauty sleep

Nkosi: King is in hospital. He has been shot

Me: What? When?

Nkosi: Yesterday. Bruno called me this morning and he says it doesn't look good

Me: Okay I'll call his mom and find out what happened

Nkosi: Alright I'll also go there because he needs me

I immediately call Lebo after getting off the phone with Nkosi

Lebo: Hi. I was actually about to call you

Me: We have a situation

Lebo: I'm still settling in at the hotel please don't give me bad news I need my sleep. I've been driving all night

Me: King has been shot, Lebo: By who?

Me: I don't know. I don't know what happened

Lebo: So does this mean we're putting our plan on hold?

Me: What else can we do? We can't attack those two while King is in hospital fighting for his life. I'd be insensitive

Lebo: Who would want to hurt King?

Me: Definitely not us. Does this mean there's someone else with a revenge plan?

Lebo: Then we have serious competition

## NARRATED

It's been days now and King still hasn't woken up. No change has been observed and everyone is in panic. They're taking turns in spending time at the hospital hoping that at least when he wakes up, someone he cares about will be by his side. His mom slept at the hospital and it's only when Bruno comes in that she wakes up.

Bruno: Ma, I think it's best you go home and rest. I'll be here for a few hours

Ma: I need to be here when my son wakes up

Bruno: It's okay mama I'll call you if anything changes

Ma: What if something happens and I'm not here

Bruno: Sleeping here won't do your health any good. Please mama you need to go home and rest

Ma: Alright

Bruno: Plus Nkosi said he'll be back here later

Ma: Oh! I thought he left

Bruno: He did but I think he can't focus on work with all the stress. King is stressing all of us

Ma: I'll just take a nap and come back



He gives her a hug before she leaves. He takes a seat beside King, staring at his helpless body on the bed.

Bruno: Harde, grootman (I'm sorry, brother)

He sighs, wiping his face with his palms.

Bruno: I know I haven't been the best brother to you and I've done quite a few disappointing things which I'll never forgive myself for. I should have had your back, I should have been loyal. I'm really, really sorry for backstabbing you and I know you probably don't want me here but how can I stay away? I'm stressed right now because I don't know what might happen next and everyone is just in panic. Onika and I messed up big time and I can't speak for her but on my side, I'm really disappointed for my actions.

The door opens and Bruno probably thinks it's Onika or Katlego coming in but in actual fact it's Bokamoso. Their eyes meet and for the first time in a long time, they're in the same room. Her heart bounces and all the things he once did to her come flashing back at the back of her head. He gets on his feet and tries to find words to justify himself but she doesn't give him a slight chance.

Boka: Don't you even think of opening that filthy mouth of yours. I'll stab you with whatever sharp object I lay my eyes on and I'll make sure it's the last time you speak.

He raises his hands in surrender, his eyes full of shame

Boka: I never thought I'd see you again, at least not now

Tears unexpectedly roll down her face and she hates being vulnerable in front of this monster.

Bruno: I'm sorry

Advertisement

Skyy

Boka: Shut up. Don't ever call me by that filthy name, in fact don't talk to me

Bruno: I know I messed up

Boka: Get out

Bruno: King needs me too

Boka: King doesn't need a backstabbing brother like you

Bruno: Everyone wetsa di flop, Boka (everyone makes mistakes)

Boka: Mistakes? You call kidnapping a mistake?

Bruno: I was greedy. I needed more money and I didn't want things to escalate to where they were

Boka: You should have been the one lying there, not King. He's a good man and he doesn't deserve the pain and the struggle of fighting for his life

Bruno: You're right. If there's anyone who deserves pain it's me, not King

Boka: You ruined me

Bruno: I admit

Boka: I made a promise to myself that the day we cross paths I'll end you and here you are

Bruno: You don't want to do anything that'll land you into trouble

She wipes the tears off her face and steps forward. Bruno isn't sure what Boka is up to so he steps back until there's no space to move. She moves to the other side of the bed and holds his hand. He's cold, almost like a person who's long dead and if it wasn't for the patient monitor showing his vital signs, she probably would have thought otherwise.

Boka: I'm so sorry, King. I'm sorry that I couldn't come sooner and I'm sorry that this happened to you. You don't deserve any of this and I don't know what I would do if you were to lose your life. You can't die because I look into your eyes and tell you that I'm still very much in love you. I know things didn't end well between us but I never wanted to break up with you, it's just that you didn't give me a choice. We're meant to be together King and...

Onika walks in, hoping the 'Get well soon' balloons. She releases them from her hands and charges at Boka even though she's limping. Bruno stops her just in time

Onika: Se dirang mokhi selo se? (What's this thing doing here?)

Bruno: Stop it, Onika. This isn't the time for your cat fights

Onika: King doesn't need the bad energies around him. How is he supposed to recover when the evil spirits are all over his ward?

Boka: I dare you to repeat what you just said and I'll show you

Onika: You'll show me what?

Boka: Ketlo bontsha mmao (I'll show you your mother)

Onika: You think I'm scared of you?

Boka: Bruno step aside

Bruno: Not here, please

Onika pushes Bruno out of the way but he hold her back. He can't stop the both of them at the same time so Boka grabs Onika by the hair and now he can't break them off.

They drag each other across the room until Onika hits the side of the bed and collapses on the floor. Silence suffocates then until they realise there's blood coming out of her head.

Boka: Onika! Onika!

She checks her pulse and realises there isn't any. She covers her mouth with her hands and steps back.

Bruno: What have you done, Boka?

The doctor walks in and sees Onika's unconscious body on the floor.

Doctor: What happened?

Boka: I..it was a mistake

Bruno: It was a mistake, doctor. I didn't mean to push her

They both stare at each other and Boka wonders why Bruno would take the fall for her

## BOKAMOSO

I'm at the verge of peeing myself. Onika is the one bleeding but I think I'm the one feeling pain. I turn my back while the medics attend to her. Bruno's hands on my shoulders gives me shivers and had it been another time under different circumstances, I would have turned to kick his nuts. I just freeze instead, hoping all this is a bad dream that I'll just wake up from.

Bruno: I'll handle this, please let me

Me: Why? Why are you...

I pause when more medics come in

Me: Why are you doing this?

Bruno: This is my way of showing you how sorry I am and perhaps this is how I should pay for my sins

Me: Get your filthy hands off me

I yank his hands off me and walk out of the ward. They push her out in a stretcher and I'm not sure if she's still alive or not. Yes I want her to die but not like this. Not with Bruno as a witness and definitely not in King's ward while he's fighting for his life.

Lebo calls and I wish I could just ignore it but I can't. She came all the way and now I've ditched her to attend to King

Me: Hello

Lebo: Hi. You didn't tell me how you arrived. Is King okay?

Me: No he's still the same

Lebo: When are you coming back?

Me: I don't know

Lebo: You don't know? What the hell am I supposed to do in the meantime?

Me: I might have killed Onika already

Lebo: What? You can't go on a killing spree without me. I should be there watching her die for her sins

Me: It was unintentional. We were fighting and she fell...I don't know if she's still alive. You should have seen the blood coming out of her head

Lebo: You're something else, Boka

Me: Look I have to go I'll keep you posted

I hang up and wait for any update. Bruno comes and sits beside me, I don't even know I'm this calm around him all of a sudden

Bruno: Stay calm. Should Onika not make it, which is expected, I'll take the fall

Me: I don't care whether you take the fall or not but your punishment is still coming. You think I'm just going to let you be after everything you put me through?

Bruno: I don't expect you to let me be. I'm truly sorry

Advertisement

Boka. I'm sorry for everything

His mother walks in and I start to panic. I'm not a good liar and I'm hoping I don't say things that would land me in trouble once she starts asking questions

Mom: Boka, how are you?

Me: I'm okay mama

Mom: I didn't know you're coming

Me: I came not so long ago

Bruno: Ma you left not more than 2hrs ago. I thought I told you to sleep

Mom: How can I sleep while my son is lying there? What kind of mother would I be?

Bruno: King will be alright but we have another problem

Mom: What now?

Bruno: Onika is injured



Mom: What? Where, how?

Bruno: A couple of minutes ago

Mom: Go iragetseng, Obakeng? (What happened)

Me: We were arguing and...I tried to get her away from me but unfortunately she fell

Mom: What am I supposed to say to King and her family? Oh poor Lethabo. That baby has been through a lot in a short period of time I'm telling you

Bruno: It wasn't intentional

Mom: I don't care how it was. The three of you are always at loggerheads and look how things turned out. I don't need the stress because I don't want be on the hospital bed once more

NARRATED

The police arrived to take a statement from Bruno and Boka and just like they had planned, Bruno takes the fall. They had to take him in for more questioning and now his mother is stressed by both her sons and her grandchild. Onika is still alive but barely. The doctors are not confident that she'll make it through the night and that forces King's mother to contact her ex inlaws regarding Onika.

Katlego offered to look after baby Lethabo since she's not a fan of hospitals and it seems like she's be a nanny for quite some time since everyone else is worried about the situation at hand.

KATLEGO

Lethabo just won't stop crying and I don't know what else to do. I've bathed, fed and changed his nappy but it's as if he's doing all this to spite me. I rock him in my arms until they start to hurt so I give up and put her on the bed

Me: Okay that's enough, Lethabo. I need to bath and eat and how am I supposed to do that while you don't stop shouting? No grandma should come back or better yet I should just leave you here

His piercing cry disturbs me and I'm not a mother so I wouldn't know what's wrong with him. This is one of the reasons why I won't fall pregnant because I'm too young for this kind of stress. I've literally done everything my mother told me to do in order for him to get comfortable but nothing is working so far

Me: Do you want your mother? Is that why you're shouting like this? Perhaps you want your father. Well then you're not in luck because both of them are not in good health to look after you so do yourself a favour and adjust baby boy.

My phone rings so I have to leave the room to answer it since Lethabo is too loud

Me: Mama

Mom: My baby

Me: Is abuti King okay?

Mom: Something happened

Me: No mama you can't. You can't tell me and please don't tell me

Tears roll down my face and my heart wouldn't be able to bear the pain of my mother conforming my brother's death

Mom: King is still alive

Me: What? So what is it then? Are you okay?

Mom: How's the baby?

Me: He won't stop crying and I can't do anything

Mom: Maybe he felt his mother's departure that's why

Me: What's that supposed to mean?

Mom: Onika is dead. Please look after Lethabo until I get there

BRUNO

I'm sitting in the interrogation room and I've told them everything they needed to know

Cop: I just got off the phone with the doctor

Me: And?

Cop: She didn't make it. Obakeng Letsoalo, you're under arrest for the murder of Onika Letsoalo. You have a right to remain silent and anything you say or do may be used...

Me: It's okay

I give him my hands so he can handcuff me

Me: I know I'm guilty and I'm not going to beat around the bush. Yes I'm guilty

49

[A WEEK LATER]

KING

My chest feels like it's been ripped apart as I try to move minutes after I open my heavy eyes. I remove the oxygen apparatus from my face and drag the body up on the bed. I would have loved to see my mother here but since I'm alone, I use this opportunity to do some thinking. My son is the one person running laps in my mind and I can't stop wondering how he is. Is Onika giving him the necessary medical attention? Is Onika even alright after the intruder came into her house? Could something have happened while I was unconscious?

Ma: King you're awake?

She rushes to my bedside, squeezing me on her body. I moan in pain

Ma: I'm sorry

Me: I'm so happy to see you, Ma

Ma: Not as happy as I am to see you awake. I've been having sleepless nights ever since you were admitted

Me: You don't have to stay up anymore I'm fine

Ma: How are you feeling?

Me: Awful but I'll be okay as time goes. How's Lethabo?

Ma: He's trying. I'm sure he'll be excited once you take him into your arms

Me: I miss him too. Did Onika get out of the house in one piece? I feel bad for not being able to protect her and our son

Ma: Your brother will be here anytime from now

Me: Ma you know Bruno and I...

Ma: I wasn't talking about Bruno

Me: Oh!

Ma: Boka was also here last week

Me: She was?

Ma: She stayed for 2 days at my house and she was so worried about you. I'm certain she'll be relieved when I tell her you're awake

Me: Ma can you please tell Onika to bring my son?

Ma: I think you should recover first

Me: What is it that you're not telling me, mama?

Ma: I need you to recover, King

Me: I am recovering mama. I need you to tell me where my son is. Is he even okay or you're just trying to buy time? If Lethabo is not okay then I deserve to know

Ma: Lethabo is fine but Onika isn't

Me: Why? What happened? Did she get hurt or what? Is she here in hospital coz I need to see her

Ma: Unfortunately she isn't here

Me: Is she in another hospital?

I try to get up but I'm only hurting my chest more. Ma helps me back to my bed

Ma: Listen to me, King. I need you to stay still because there's something really important that I need to tell you

Me: What's going on?

Nkosi enters and maybe he'll be able to tell me what is going on without beating around the bush coz clearly Ma is failing.

Nkosi: My brother, how are you feeling?

Me: I'll be okay once someone tells me what the hell is going on here. What are you two hiding from me?

They look at each other for a while before turning back to face me

Nkosi: I'll handle this

Advertisement

Ma

She steps out and Nkosi moves closer to my bed

Nkosi: I'm happy to see you awake. We've all been worried about you

Me: Nkosi what's going on? Please my brother just tell me the truth I can handle it. Did something bad happen while I was unconscious?

Nkosi: Unfortunately yes

Me: Just tell me. I'm sure there's no easy way to say it but I'm a man I can handle it

Nkosi: Onika o saatile (Onika is dead)

Me: What?

Nkosi: It was a mistake

Me: A mistake how?

Nkosi: She was pushed and she slipped and hit her head. That was the end of her I'm sorry, King

Me: Who did this?

Nkosi: Look, I don't think now is the time to talk about that now



Me: Nkosi tell me the truth. I don't want to beg for it. Who did this?

Nkosi: Ke bra ya rena (it's our brother)

Me: Bruno?

Nkosi: Yes but it wasn't intentional

Me: Were they up to their shenanigans once more?

Nkosi: I don't know, King

Me: Where is he now?

Nkosi: In a holding cell. I'm sorry King but Onika has already been put to rest

BRUNO

One can never feel settled or comfortable in a holding cell no matter the years they've spent. I've only been here for a week but I already feel like the walls of life are closing in on me. The blankets stink, the bed is uncomfortable and I never have a good night sleep. To sum it up, there's no peace in here. I believe Onika got the easy way out by dying and here I am, paying for my sins by taking the fall for someone else's sins.

Him: What are you looking at?

Asked one man who's sitting opposite me

Me: I wasn't looking at you

Him: Are you saying I'm a liar?

Me: I don't know, are you?

He stands up and approaches me. I wasn't going to flinch until two other men stand to support him. They grab me, pulling my body up by force.

Him: Don't make me mad. You have no idea what I do to people like you so don't test me. I'd either kill you or watch all these men have their way with your asshole. Your choice

**FINAL**

50

[DAYS LATER]

**KING**

I've just put Lethabo in his cot after feeding him. He doesn't cry as much since I got back from the hospital and I'm relieved.

King: I'm really sorry for everything that you've been through. I promise to protect you at all times and even though your mother isn't here, I promise to fill that gap. You're the best thing to ever happen to me in a long time and I'll show you how much I love you. You're my happiness and you'll forever come first no matter what. Just promise that you'll be a good boy while daddy is out. I'll be back before you know it

I kiss his hand and leave

**BRUNO**

Every time I have a visitor, I always think it's my mother but now I'm surprised to see King. I don't know what I'd say to him but the worst has already happened so I can't be getting cold feet just by his presence.

Me: I never thought I'd see you again, brother. I'm happy that you've recovered and back on your feet

King: Were you the one who ordered the hit?

Me: No it wasn't me

King: Did you kill Onika?

Me; It was a mistake

King: My son is without a mother right now all because of you. I don't really care much about her death but I'm worried about my son. What do I tell him when he's old enough to start asking questions?

Me: You just tell him the truth. I deserve whatever punishment coming my way and I've asked forgiveness from Boka

He slams the table with his fists, veins popping out on his face

King: You will not mention her name in my presence. Boka is not the only one you wronged and I'll not let you speak of her. I should have killed you the minute I found out what you were up to. Do you have any idea what you put her through?

Me: I'm well aware of the damage I caused hence I'm ready for my punishment. I'm appearing in court next week for my verdict and since I pleaded guilty, I don't know how long I'll do time

King: Look into my eyes and see if I care

Me: I'm very sorry, my brother. I know I've also caused so much stress for our mother and I'd really hate to see her health deteriorate

King: I hope you feel the pain those girls felt for all those months

Me: I'm already feeling it

King: You haven't felt a thing yet. For the fact that your face is without a scar shows that you're still comfortable on your seat

Me: Why are you here, King?

King: To see with my own eyes that you're going down

Me: I wish you well and I really hope Bo..I really hope she'll be able to get back with you. You deserve to be happy

King: At the end of the day we all get what we deserve, brother

Me: King I'm sorry

King: I don't want to hear it. I hope this is the last time you and I see each other. As far as I'm concerned, you're no longer my brother

BOKAMOSO

King: Can I have a minute of your time?

He stands by the door, holding a plastic with a takeaway inside. I didn't think I'd see him this soon and even though I'm happy, I

cannot just let everything slide. I want to squeeze him into a tight hug but what lesson would he learn if I forgive so easily?

Me: I'm on duty, King

King: I know but I don't think my brother would mind if I steal you for just 10mins

Me: He's your brother not mine. I don't want him on my case for slacking

King: He'll know better than to be on his future sister in-law's case

Me: Stop it, King. I hate that you only want to fix things now that your crazy baby mama is dead

King: That's not true. You know I never stopped loving you. It's only that I was upset and I couldn't be around someone I don't trust

Me: Yet you were always around the biggest scammer

King: Can we not talk about anyone else but us?

Me: Us? There's no us, King

King: I love you so much and my life can never be complete with you away

Me: I'm happy single

King: Baby please. I would do anything at this point to win you back without hesitation. Absolutely anything, Boka

Me: You chose her over me

King: I chose my baby. She was pregnant and to you it seemed like I chose her but that's not the case

Me: Please leave

King: I'll even kneel down if that's the way to beg for your forgiveness. I know you won't trust me overnight but all I'm asking for is a chance to prove to you that I love you

Me: Love sometimes is not enough, King. Relationship is about sacrifice and I doubt you'd be able to do that

King: I won't give up on us

Me: The past few months I've used them to find myself and I've never been happier. I'd hate to have a man in my life who'll disrupt my peace

King: Is that what you think of me?

Me: I don't know what to think of you

King: Alright fine. I'll let you be for now but I promise I'll be back and by then I hope we'll make progress. I brought you lunch

He leaves the takeaway on the desk and walks out.

KING

My heart aches as I walk out. I realise my mistakes and if she doesn't want to forgive, I guess I'll have to just focus on my son.

Nkosi: And?

Me: She wouldn't hear any of it

Nkosi: Do you really expect her to just forgive you and take you into her arms? All women want to see how serious you are and you can't give up now. She was devastated when she saw you helpless on that hospital bed. She still loves you but needs you to work a little harder to win her back. I may be single but I've learnt a thing or two from my past relationships. Boka loves you a lot but she won't show it just yet. Try a little harder you'll see

Me: Maybe I should just go back home and focus on my son. He needs medical attention and since Onika died, at least I should be with him more

Nkosi: I get that but what if Lethabo could find a mother in Boka?

Me: I don't think she'd want to play mommy

Nkosi: Is that what she told you?

Me: She didn't have to

Nkosi: You can't give up on love. If you do then it means you never loved her to begin with. It's too early to back out of the race. Show your woman how much you care and everything



else will just fall into place. Whatever it is that you need just know I'm here and I'm ready to give you the advices you need. You're the only brother I have left and so are you.

BOKAMOSO

I get home to find King chilling with my aunt and they're both laughing, enjoying each other's company

Aunty: At last

Me: What's going on here?

Aunty: King came to see you

Me: For what?

Aunty: I'll leave you two to talk. It was nice seeing you again

King: Likewise

Me: King what the hell is this?

King: Sweetheart

Me: Don't "Sweetheart" me

King: You didn't want to talk at work so I thought we'd have enough time here

Me: I don't have time. I'm tired I want to bath and sleep

King: I'm begging you

Me: Don't beg

King: Okay I only have one question for you. Answer it truthfully and I'll leave

Me: What is it?

King: Do you still love me?

That is the one question I had hoped not to hear from him. I'm being backed in a corner and I can't lie. Lord knows how much I love this man and I don't see myself with anyone else

Me: I do

King: Then why are you holding back?

Me: Because I'm scared

King: Of what?

Me: Of whatever lies ahead

King: Baby I promise to be truthful from now on. I'll take care of all your needs and wants and I'll be the man of your dreams.

Give us a chance, Boka

He gets on his knee and I panic

Me: No no no. I can't marry you just yet

King: I'm not proposing, silly

Me: You're not?

King: Please forgive me. Please give me this one chance to be your future

Me; Get up

King: I don't see myself with anyone else. Let it just be you, me and our son

Me: Our son?

King: Onika was killed and I wouldn't want Lethabo to grow up knowing that. I want him to grow up knowing you as his mother and you only. I want us to be a happy family and I won't rush you into anything.

Me: Can you just give me time?

King: We both need time but one thing that won't change is that we love each other.

Me: You are my future, King. Even so, I still need time to get over everything that happened. Can you give me that?

King: I can give you whatever you need. All we have to do is be honest with each other

Me: I also have something I need to tell you

King: What is it?

Me: Three years ago I fell pregnant and...

His phone interrupts.

King: Just a minute. Katlego is everything okay with mama?

Katlego: Please come home

King: Katlego what's going on? What happened to mama?

I can hear her on the other side of the line since I'm sitting beside him. This is tense and I really hope his mom is okay

Katlego: It's Bruno. He was found dead in his cell this morning.

.....THE END.....

NOVELSGURU.COM

Thank you guys for downloading this book from my site please keep visiting <https://novelsguru.com/> for supporting me and also don't forget to share it with your friends. Dear Friends please download these books direct from <https://novelsguru.com/> bookmark this site for latest African books, and also supporting me Thanks.

For daily latest books please visit <https://novelsguru.com/>

And also visit my Facebook page, and like and share it

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3345453369055623>