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## **Prologue**

I am the oldest son my parents have followed by two girls who are twins Phumzile and Phindile, life was good when my father was still alive we had most of the things we needed I wouldn't say I was born with a silver spoon in my mouth but my father did provide for us.

When they say death is a thief that comes unannounced I didn't believe it until a sudden death took my father away from us, his family took everything we had from the car to the house we had to start everything from scratch and that took a toll on my mother who can't even accept her husband death she still believes that my father will come back let's say she has mental problems.

I dropped out of varsity to take care of my family I worked odd jobs then found a job as a taxi driver

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I don't have that much but I try to provide for my family including my beautiful wife Boniswa .

Me: ngenani belungu iskhathi si hambile.(get in people time is not on our side)

Passenger: usheshe ke mshayeli (you better hurry up driver)

Me: don't worry you will be in town before you know it.

This is my routine everyday transporting people from Emadadeni to town. Passengers kept complaining about their change guess taxi maths is not for everyone.

My name is Mlungisi Buthezi

>>>>

They say education is a key to success we can't deny it but what has education done for me but landing me in poverty, I thought

after getting my degree I will be working in a corporate company be a marketing director or something but here I am stuck in the streets of Newcastle looking after my mother in-law.

"You will regret marrying that Buthezi boy" my uncle's wife words rang in my head."you should have agreed on marrying Mabutho he has money he will give you the world" I clicked my tongue at the thought of it Mabutho is nothing but a piece of shit he never loved me he enjoyed treating like a trophy girlfriend in front of his friends behind closed doors he was shit everything he said or did smelled of shit.

"Mlungisi is poor he has nothing Boniswa" no one will ever understand why I love Mlungisi Buthezi he may not have everything but he is a man compared to Mabutho which is why I asked him that we should elope that was the only thing that was going to chase Mabutho away.

Behind I left my grandmother with my younger sister , Malome Zitha and his wife Gcebile I wish I could have taken my sister with but there's no space here we living in a small house that has kitchen combined with a dining room and two bedrooms

the girls sleep in the dining room while me and Mlu occupy the other room.

Phindile: sis Boniswa hurry up Mama had fell we can't get her up.

I placed my business plan and degree certificate on top of my bed and rushed out .

My name is Boniswa Buthelezi

>>>>

The sun was blazing hot I felt like am melting can't wait to get home and bath in cold water I can't take this heat. I swallowed my last piece of ice(take 5) and threw the plastic away.

I wish my mother was around but she left with a rich white man to start a new life in America, leaving me with my sister who also left me after she married Mlungisi now am stuck with my grandmother and uncle and her annoying wife sigh those two women can give hell especially Gcebile the thought of her makes my stomach turn.

I stopped and watched him playing soccer with some boys younger than me my heart broke again gosh please tell me why do I have to torture myself like this I never learn that's my problem he looked at me and waved at him he didn't wave back you must be wondering who is the person am waving at that is my father Menzi Ngobese he wants nothing to do with me he swore that he will never do anything for me even if Jesus Christ comes back he won't sadly that I don't know what happened to him and my mother no one will give me answers .

I hurried home immediately when I got in I took the Zink basin and poured cold water stripped my uniform and took my deserved bath.

My name is Thulisile Xaba

1

Boniswa

I woke early to prepare breakfast for my husband and his sisters I don't want anyone to go to work or school on an empty stomach breakfast is the most important meal of the day. After everyone has ate and left I cleaned the house and took the laundry outside I washed everyone's clothes my mother inlaw was sitting under a tree lost in her own thoughts it pains me seeing her like this she doesn't speak that much unless if she is hungry otherwise she doesn't speak.

Me:mama would you love something to eat?

Her:yes please can you cook spinach with pap

Me:no problem let me prepare a bath for you so that your body can cool off it is very hot today.

Her: ingabe uyeza uButhelezi namhlanje?(is my husband coming today)

Me: no ma he is not coming

Her:kanjani uthe uzofika(but ho w he said he is coming)

Me:Ma uButhelezi akasekho usishiyile(your husband is nomore he passed away)

Her:no no you don't want him to come see me I miss him please don't be like this

She started crying very loud gosh what am I going to do with this woman why can't reality kick in she needs to stop being like this. The way she was crying our neighbours came they were helping me to calm her down.

>>>>>>

Thulisile

The teacher kept on explain what does Ceteris paribus mean and my mind was far away I was in the world of my own where I had everything I needed where my father loved me and my mother was around. I heard someone clearing his throat next to me shit its Mr Nyathi he hates people who are day dreaming.

MrNyathi: what is ceteris paribus?



Me:uhm ..uhm

Him:kumnyama la kuwe Thulisile(it is dark in your eyes) you don't know the answer right?

Me:yes sir.

Him: Thulisile Xaba do you think you going to pass your matric?

Me:I believe so sir

Him: I doubt you will.please see me in my office after class and stop day dreaming while am teaching.

The other learners laughed at me I hate Mr Nyathi who talks like that in front of other pupils? Now am the joke of the whole week its no lie that am failing my tests the truth is I can't concentrate anymore I fail dismally all that shine I once had is all gone and on top of that my family don't even bother to ask if am coping well maybe I should go visit Boniswa after school she might give me the best advise on how to pull my socks up.

>>>>

Boniswa

MaButhelezi has been crying the whole afternoon I tried to bath her and feed her but she refused I decided to leave her in the house and go sit outside I can't stand it anymore the girls better be home soon they need to deal with their mother this is too much."his mother is a lunatic how are you going to deal with her" Gcebile words pierced my heart I felt a tear escaping " Mabutho is the right guy for you did you see the car that he drives" I clicked my tounge who needs Mabutho when being loved by Mlungisi feels right? The gate opened and it was Gcebile what is she doing here?

Her: Boniswa

Me:aunty Gcebile

Her: I thought I should come and see you,how is marriage treating you?

Me:so far so good

Her: you don't have to lie my child I can see you not happy you even lost weight. You don't eat properly angithi

Me:everything is alright here.how is gogo?

Her:she is alright besides her ankle giving her problems.

Me:I see can I get you something to drink?

Her:no my child but we need money for groceries we running out.

Me:what? but I gave you money last week what happened?

Her:you mean that R500 we used it for our neccesities of course so we need more .

I sighed I give them money every week and I don't know what they doing to it now I have cough out money when I don't even have a 10 cents in my pocket.

Me:I will send it later.

Her:OK.if you married Mabutho you wouldn't say this and we wouldn't ask for money all the time he would have taken care of us.

Me:I think you should leave

Her:don't worry am leaving and nangu uhlanya ulubiza umamezala(here's your crazy mother in law.

She got up and left I took the towel that was around my waist and covered MaButhelezi with it she was in her bra and panties some people were already looking at her.

\*\*\*

Mlungisi

It was almost time to go home and I was transporting my last load going back home this was the longest day ever. I passed by the garage to buy chocolate for Boniswa and 2 liter cold drink for the twins what's a meal without a glass of coke.

I stopped by my boss house to give him the money I made for the day I hate working for this guy but I had no choice I had to take the job to provide for my family after that I went home.

Me:thembalami unjani

Her:am good my love.your food is in the oven.

Me:thank you I will eat later.

Her:can I pour you water so you can bath?

Me:yes but after you tell me how was your day.

She sighed and rolled her eyes I know she had a tough day once she starts rolling her eyes she told me everything and my heart broke when she told me about what my mother did I know she deeply cares about her but she

doesn't deserve what my mother is putting her through it is too much for one person.

Me: maybe we should take her to an old age home

Her: she is not that bad

Me: I know but thembalami you struggling here especially when she has this episodes.

Her: sthandwa Sam I will survive this don't take her away think about the girls how are they going to feel when you taking their mother away from them?

Me: I wish we can hire a live in nurse for her but we don't even have money we living from hand to mouth.

Her: I know but things will be better one day.

She played with the robe that was on her T-shirt there's something bothering her and knowing her she won't even speak about it she rather bottle things up than speak.

Me:what's bothering you?

Her: I need money Gcebile said they ran out of groceries.

Me:alright will give you money in the morning let me go bath or you can come and watch me if you know what I mean.

I winked at her and she blushed making me hard I picked her up bridal style and we went to our bedroom exchanging saliva our hearts making promises to love and honour each other everyday.

2

Mlungisi

I don't know what will I do without Boniswa this girl right here is a blessing and I don't even regret making her my wife, she always makes sure that I eat before going to work and I have clean clothes everyday I don't repeat jeans or t-shirts let alone my briefs the word "mageza empompini" doest apply to me, after taking a bath I went to eat my breakfast with her the time was 06:30am she has her breakfast with me everyday.

Me:thank you thembalami for the food it was delicious.

Her:kodwa sthandwa you always have sour porridge in the morning nothing has changed.

Me: am showing my gratitude here.

Her: I know sthandwa but thank you .

She got up and hands me my cap and jacket with a beautiful smile on her face I kissed her lips passionately then I gave her one thousand.

Me:I think it will be enough for your family groceries. We will go shopping for our groceries tomorrow.

Her:that's a lot of money Mlu can't we split it?

Me:no I don't want Gcebile coming here next week so give it to her or better yet give it to your grandmother.

We kissed again then I said my goodbyes to my mother and the girls. I hurried to fetch my taxi at my boss's house he told me that we have a special today since its Saturday I have to transport some stokvel ladies to Pine Town which means I will be back home later than my usual time.

>>>>

Thulisile

I heard someone screaming my name it was Gcebile I opened my one eye and looked at her

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she had both her hands on her waist. I know she will scream at me like she always does.



Her:you still sleeping?the time is half past seven.if you sleeping like this who is going to clean the windows?

Me:didn't we do that last weekend?

Her:yey wena sbhozi wake up.

Me:alright I will please close the door on your way out.

She exist my room leaving the door wide open. I got up and changed mg night dress into leggings and the ANC tshirt yeah I know what you thinking of me this are the most comfortable clothes I have. I served my elders tea and scones then carried on cleaning.

I saw my father passing by I stopped what I was doing and went to him,when he saw that I was approaching him he .kept on walking.

Me:baba can I talk to you?

Him:who is your father ?am not your father

Me:but when will you start treating me like your child? Why do you keel ignoring me like am not existing?

Him:cause you don't exist to me. You are not my child I told you and your family that I want nothing to do with you.

I felt my heart breaking how can a father not want his child when his child needs a fatherly love?what have I done to him?whatever he had with my mother doesn't mean he should punish me .

>>>>

Boniswa

I went home to visit my grandmother I needed to give them money for groceries. When I saw my grandmother I felt happy her smile warms my heart this woman has sacrificed a lot of things for me she used her pansion money to send to college and she never complained one bit.

Her:what a lovely surprise how are you my child.

Me:am well gogo its good to see you.

Her:same here and how is your mother in law

I took a deep breath and told her everything that was happening the past weeks. Her eyes filled with so much sympathy you can tell that she wants to say something but she is holding back.

Her:send her to the old age home.

Me:and what about the girls they love their mother gogo how are they going to feel?

Her:they will understand they grown now beside their mother needs professional help and you can't give her that.

Me:kodwa gogo..

I saw aunt Gcebile carrying a lot of bags and accompanied by Mabutho my stomach turned I was close to vomiting. I don't know why he keeps coming to my house when we broke up long time ago.

Mlungisi

I got home very late and everyone was already in bed. The girls slept without switching the TV off,I switched it off then went to check on my mother she was sitting on a chair next to her bed

rocking herself back and forth. She smiled at me while singing she has a very beautiful voice her voice takes all your troubles away.

Her:you look just like your father.

Me:I know mama

Her:uzo fika yena uButhelezi?(is he going to come)

Me: yes I called him he said he will come after 3 days.

Lying to her hurts me and her not accepting his death also hurts more.I crouched next her with my head on her lap.She brushed my face and tear fell on my face she was crying.

Her: ♪dade wethu woza uzongithwesa umthwalo

Uyangi sinda ngcela ungisize Dade wethu

Umthwalo wam uya sinda ngilekelele Dade wethu

Uma ukhona phambi kwam ngeke ungishiye

Woza Dade wethu woza uzongi thwesa umthwalo wam.♪

When she sings all my troubles disappeared I felt like I don't have to worry about anything.

3

Mlungisi

I woke up with a sore body must be that uncomfortable position I slept in when I fell asleep on my mother's lap, poor woman must have slept on the chair I got up and stretched my arms and walked out to my bedroom Boniswa was still asleep I kissed her soft lips and she moaned.

Me:Thembalami ulele(are you asleep)

Her:no am only pretending to be asleep

Me:you dumb yazi

Her: I miss you sthandwa Sam

Me:I miss you more and am sorry for not coming to bed I fell asleep in mamas bedroom.

Her:I know but you here now.

I pull her closer and she rest her head on my chest listening to my heart beat singing all the love I have for her if there's one thing God has done right for me is bringing Boniswa into my life.

>>>

Thulisile

We sat around the table having breakfast soft porridge with milk I wasn't enjoying my food not because it tasted bad but because my mind was stuck on yesterday encounter with my father hell I hardly slept I tossed and turned the whole night. Malome Zitha was making remarks about Boniswa and Mlungisi.

Zitha: if there's anyone who brought shame in our family is Boniswa who eloped with that Buthelezi boy.

Gcebile: he is even broke. Did you see how she lost weight? I tell you that house smells of hunger.

Zitha: she was always thin

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when they say an apple doesn't fall far from the tree they mean Boniswa and that sister of mine Nonjabulo. She left with a rich man and Boniswa eloped our ancestors are mad at them.

Gcebile: you can say that again. Thulisile don't ever walk in your sisters footsteps nothing worked out for her even her degree is gathering dust.

Me: I hear you.

Zitha: matter of fact if you have a boyfriend bring him here we must know if he comes from a family that has money or not.

My grandmother shook her head and got up taking her bag leaving for church. It is a norm here that we go to church every Sunday we don't miss any service no matter what we all followed suit to Zitha's car going to church.

>>>

Boniswa

While I was making breakfast for everyone MaButhelezi came out of her bedroom wearing a very beautiful dress she greeted me and walked out of the house, I followed her just to see where she is going , she stood by the gate.

Me: ma are you alright?

Her: yes am alright. are we going to church?

Me: church?

Her: yes it's Sunday right? I think we should go and by the time we get back Buthelezi will be home.

Me: alright let me go bath then but come and have your breakfast.

She came and kissed my hand with a tear escaping her eyes.

Her: you have a beautiful heart my child.

Me: thank you ma

We had our breakfast and we went to church I have never seen her singing like that I was in disbelief even her children were amazed of how she sings. We went home after church.

Her: Kanti uphi Buthelezi (where is my husband)

Phindile: mama he is not coming today or any time soon.

Mlu: ma after 3days he will come.



Her: let me go lye down a bit .

I don't understand why do they have to lie to her she has to accept her husband death of she doesn't she will forever waiting for her late husband to come back.

>>>

Thulisile

I was walking around the neighborhood just clearing my head and making decisions of I will not force my father into my life and I need to pull up my socks and focus on getting my matric certificate. I passed a group of guys the whistled and I pretended like I didn't hear anything yes am beautiful like my mother but boys are not in the list of my worries.

I saw some handsome light skinned guy walking besides me holding an umbrella.

Him: hello ntokazi unjani

Me: am good thank you

Him: may I walk with you? I know it's hot and looks like you need an umbrella.

Me: no thanks I will be fine besides am almost home.

Him: alright then my name is Baxolele Xhasa but my friend call me X.

Me: Thulisile.

Him: alright see you around Thuli

The way he said my name left my stomach with butterflies playing around shuu Waze wamuhle ubutiza wonder where has he been all this years.

4

Boniswa

I heard someone shouting my name outside I slowly opened my eyes damn I must have fallen asleep on the couch after cleaning, I walked outside and my neighbour told me that my mother in law has left the yard she saw her walking down the street. I ran as fast as I could with my doek falling off. I yelled her name and she stopped in the middle of the road a car almost ran her over, my heart almost stopped gosh why would MaButhelezi put me through this. Mabutho came out his car gosh the devil in suits.

Him: am really sorry I didn't see her.

Me: its fine Mabutho

Him: let me give you a ride home

He grabbed MaButhelezi's hand and led her to the passengers sit I followed suit. The car seats were very comfortable made of leather and it smelled so sweet.

Him: so you left me for a taxi driver Boniswa.

Me:that taxi driver has a name.yes I left you for him

Him:but why?I thought we had a good thing going on here I mean I spoiled you ,gave you the world right now you could have been driving the car you always wanted.

Me:Mlungisi is a man more than you,he is the world I always wanted.he might not have everything but he is everything.

He chuckled this guy right here has a big ego no guy is better than him,in his tiny head he feels like he is the king he is God. He stopped the car and we got off. I texted Mlungisi and he replied said he will be home in no time.

>>>>

Thulisile

It has been a very long day at school and I have two assignments I must submit tomorrow, I need to get all my research from the library since am not using any smart phone my phone is MTN zte,I passed by the library I made all the

copies I needed. I wish I could stay until the library gets closed but then my phone couldn't stop vibrating Gcebile was blowing my phone with call me backs.

On my way home a golf velocity stopped next to me oh my gosh oh my lord it was Baxolele. He smiled at me I smiled at him

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he really has a beautiful smile and that gold those two gold tooth stood out.

Him: nkosazana enhle

Me:butiza unjani

Him:am cool jump in let me take you home.

Me:I don't mind walking.

Him:come on Thuli I don't bite

I got in the car and he drove off he saved my legs from walking a long distance,his hand was on the steering wheel gosh he has beautiful fingers. He switched on the radio Nasty C and

Maphorisa particular was playing we were both singing along to it.

Him: I have never seen such a beautiful girl since I got here..umuhle sisi.

Me:thank you Bhuti.so where are you from?

Him:am from Kwa Mashu I came here to visit my family and I needed a break from Mashu.

Me:I see so how long will you be here?

Him:I don't know maybe few weeks or so or maybe I can stay for good that's if I will see your pretty face everyday.

Me:I think you should stay for weeks cause you won't be seeing this face everyday.

Him:wow ave uqhosha sisi.can I have your phone numbers maybe we can chat on what's app later.

Me:I don't have a what's app my phone is not a smart one.

Him:oh I see but we can talk on the phone.manje uthini?

He gives me his iPhone and I punch in my numbers and save them under"Thuli". This guy is a serious temptation and I don't need it I need to focus on my school work. He dropped me off

three houses away from home then promised to call me back,I walked home with butterflies playing on my stomach and my legs feeling wobbly like jelly.

>>>>

Boniswa

Mlungisi came late and my heart has been beating very fast I couldn't get what happened earlier out of my head,if anything bad happened to his mother what will I say to him?tell him that I fell asleep and his mother got a chance to wonder off the street? MaButhelezi is old she is in her late 60 and her illness makes her look very old and we must always keep an eye on her.

Mlu:how did she get out of the yard on your watch?

Me:I was asleep and MaZondi called me.

Him:you fell asleep? You didn't lock the gate?

Me:I thought it was locked sthandwa.

Him:Boniswa that is very careless of you. How do you sleep when you know that you must keep a close eye on mama.

Me:I was tired Mlungisi.you know I do most of the things here all by myself.

Him:I also get tired but I never complain.I wake up everyday to go to work but you never heard me complaining.

Me:ngiya xolisa Mlungisi(am very sorry)

Him:did you give her pills?

I shook my head no in total embarrassment how did I even forget to give her medication? I never forget this but today I forgot. Mlungisi is very mad at me.

Him:wow Boniswa you forgot to give her pills?you know that she is not supposed to skip her dosage.

Me:I forgot am sorry.

Him:today you forgot everything what's wrong with you?

Me:ngithe ngiya xolisa nje(I said am sorry)

Him: no you not you did that on purpose then you going to pull the sorry card and I was tired card. I also get tired but you will never hear me saying I fell asleep on the couch. If looking after mama is hard you should say so.



Me:it wouldn't be hard if she accepted her husband death and if you told her the truth instead of lying to her.

Him:what?

Me:yes you need to tell her the truth and stop lying to her. Are you also in denial that's why you keep lying to her?

Him:Boniswa you know..

Me:yes it is easy to tell her the truth and stop being in denial.

Him:yazin Boniswa when you talk to me don't raise your voice at me. I need some fresh air before I say something I will regret.

He walked out with sadness written on his eyes. I mist have said something that hurt him cause he never walks out on me when we argue.

>>>

Mlungisi

What Boniswa said has cut me deep,its not easy to make mama accept Baba's death I mean I tried everything even when the

Buthelezi took everything from us I begged her to fight for us but she didn't want too in her head she thought my father will fight for us. Death is a mother of all thieves sigh why can't God answer my prayers? maybe I should take her to the old age home this is too much work for Boniswa and top of it all I can't imagine my life without seeing mama everyday.

I was sitting on top of the bridge throwing stones on the river this place is peaceful at this time of the night. I heard a group of people singing the voices came under the bridge. I listened carefully whatever they were singing sounded foreign and disturbing, I saw three of them walking on water holding red candles and wearing long black robes they walked while singing is this some type of a cult? They stood in the middle of the river and resited something that was foreign three times and the river had bubbles, my body got very cold and the hair on my skin pulled up my bald head got cramps and so did my lips something came out of the water I couldn't see it properly due to the long hair it had, my pants suddenly got wet flip I pissed on myself. I ran home as fast as I could what I saw is very disturbing.

5

Thulisile

My phone rang I took it out of my pocket and checked the caller ID it was a number I didn't know. I placed the phone on my ear and took a deep breath before speaking.

Me: hello

Voice: ntokazi unjani?

Me: am good and yourself

Him: am good ntokazi. I miss you

Me: wow you only spent 20 minutes with me now you miss me?

Him: yes 20 minutes it's enough to make me miss you.

Me: Bax... Baxolele you crazy

Him: crazy about you.(singing) ntokazi I think you make me crazy

Me:and do you like being crazy?

Him: yebo ngyikhanda lokho.(I love that)

My Lord who is this guy who has me blushing like a reatard I could see his beautiful smile .we talked for a while and we said our goodbyes gosh this is going to be one beautiful night, ahhh Baxolele ka Thulisile this sound so crazy.

>>>

Mlungisi

I couldn't sleep I had nightmares about what I saw last night and that song was stuck on my head. I said a little prayer and went to the kitchen. Boniswa was already preparing breakfast.

Me: MaXaba can I talk to you.

Her: yes you may.

Me: am really sorry about last night and the way I talked to you I shouldn't have. Boniswa you doing a great job by taking care of my mother and the twins and thank you for that.

Her:am sorry too for shouting at you I shouldn't have.

Me: Thembalami I think we should take her to a home. You need to find a job like you always say and you can't do that when my mother is around, atleast at the old age home they will take care of her.

Her:what about the girls? You know how much they love her

Me: leave the girls to me.

The girls walked in and they didn't look happy I think they heard our conversation, I tried talking to them and they gave me a cold shoulder. I decided to leave and go to work .

>>>

Boniswa

MaButhelezi had an appointment with the doctor today and it was very hard to convince her that we should go to the clinic

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I had to lie and say we going to see her husband that put her smile on her face.

When we got to the clinic she showed me a mother of all flames at this very moment I wished Mlungisi was with us he is the only person who knows how to calm her down.

Her: uya bona ke Boniswa you said my husband is here and you lied where is he?

Me: we missed him ma, am sure he will come later.

Her: no no no . Boniswa kodwa yini? Why you keep playing with me?

Me: ngiya xolisa mama kodwa uza fika.

Her: Nkosi Yami ngifuna umyeni wam uphi umyeni wam

She cried rolling herself on the floor everyone was starting at us, Lord where is Mlungisi he said he will come after I texted him. The doctor examined her and gave us her medication just as we were about to leave my husband arrived and she ran up to him .

Her: ufikile Buthelezi I thought you won't come.

Him: am here now let's go home.

Her: why are you driving a taxi where is your car?

Him:at home come let's go now.

My heart was breaking by the minute Mlungisi is right we need to take her to the old age home.

>>>>

Mlungisi

The way my mother was convinced that am her husband broke me dear God if you out there please make my mother well this is too much this illness is taking her life slowly.

Me: maButhelezi

Her: Mlungisi.

Me: mama I found you a new home where there will be people who will take care of you.

Her: so you chasing me away?

Me: no mama I need you to get help.uya Gula mama ugula nge ngqondo.(you are mentally ill)

Her: usho ukuthi ngiya ya mina?Angi hlanyi Mlungisi.

Me: I know mama

Her: angihlanyi.. angihlanyi

She got up from her chair and started crying repeating the same words over and over again, the girls stood at the door crying they never see our mother like this I held our mother and hugged her the girls also came and hugged her.

Ma:Dade wethu woza Uzo ngithwesa umthalo. Uyangi sinda ngizo Dade wethu🎵🎵

I heard hiccups coming out of my mouth due to crying she was wiping our tears while singing with tears in her eyes.



6

The week went on very fast and today its Friday half day at school and the day of class tests I studied hard the past days so I can shut Mr Nyathi up I need to remind my classmates who is queen of economics and business studies am not in that matric class for nothing I earned those final marks last year.

We wrote the tests and all I can sag its I did my best. After school as I was walking home I saw my father and his "wife" coming from the mall every time I see him I feel like crying and apologizing for my mothers mistakes and I don't even know what my mother did to him. I greeted them and his wife replied,maybe his wife doesn't know about me but how can she not know am his daughter when everyone knows about it and we all know how news travel here in the townships. WhenI got home I changed my shirt left my school skirt on,my phone rang and it was Baxolele the grin on my face.

Me:Hey you

Him:Ntokazi yam are you busy?

Me:no am not

Him:cool come to the shops now

Me:why?

Him:I just bought fries and I need someone I can share them with and you the first person who came on my mind.

Me:alright give me few minutes I will be there

Him:hurry up before they get cold.

I jumped up really fast to put my shoes on and rushed to the shop who says no to fries?

>>>

Mlungisi

I was sitting under a tree shade while my taxi was been fixed,my mind was somewhelse the thiughtbof my mother being away from us hurts me no child should be separated from their parents am old but my sisters need her,you should see them when they sitting next to her telling her about their day at school. I have to sit with them down land explain why our mother has to go away..sigh I hope they will understand.

Someone caught my attention when he cleared his throat it was my boss Mr Mgoma

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he looked like he has a lot to say.

Me:Mhlonishwa wam

Him:Buthelezi yini indaba was hlala wedwa?(what's the problem,why you sitting alone)

Me:I just have a lot on my mind Baba.

Him:khuluma .

Me:you know my mother is not well so am planning to take to the old age home but the problem is my sisters I don't know if they will understand or not.

Him:you just talk to them they are good kids am sure they will understand.

Me:and the home thing will add more on my financial problems I feed two home on my own and its too much work.

Him:uya funa ukudla izambane lika pondo?

Me:I don't understand.

Him: what did you see the other day at the bridge?

Me:what?

Him:I saw you son and you saw me too.

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

He chuckled and asked me to come to his office no one ever gets in his office if you want to talk to him we go to the main house his office is a no go place. I looked around his office while he poured a glass of whiskey, his office was beautiful like his house and he had big black spiders alright who keeps spiders as pets?

Him:you know that other day I saw you at the bridge,you were watching us me and my brothers of darkness.

Me:am really sorry and I swear I didn't tell anyone about it

Him:that's very good.Buthelezi you think being rich is easy?I didn't get in this industry very easy I worked hard but that wasn't enough some people were stealing my taxis so I had to do something so I can be respected and feared in this community.

Me:so you joined the cult?

Him:smart boy..yes I did see this spiders here they protecting my all the wealth that I have.

Me:so you didn't make any human sacrifices?

Him: I did I killed my last son...yena ke ungiapha amandla.

Me:yoh that's hectic.

Him:I know but a man has to do something to survive.

Me:and your wife?is she happy with what you did?

Him:she was tired of poverty of course she knows and she is also part of us but I don't know what did she sacrifice with cause you know women and secrets

Me:I see.

Him:since you want out of poverty I think you should meet with Baba Zombotha he is very powerful no one and anything can stand before him.that day we were making another sacrifice to our river goddess Nomanzi.

Me:what??

I won't lie I was getting scared and listening to his story was really a torture on me and the horrific picture of that thing played in my head.I got up and headed to the door and he spoke to me.

Him:don't tell anyone about this or I will personally sacrifice with you.

He laughed really hard and it scared me even more.

Him:anyway think about what I just said son. Now go back to work.

>>>>>

Thulisils

I was really having a good time with Baxolele his one sweet guy I ever met we were sitting in his car listening to music while enjoying fries with stoney.

Him:Thuli I really like you. I won't beat around the Bush but can you be my girlfriend?

Me:I don't know Baxolele I mean I have never dated anyone before and I don't know anything about relationships.

Him:what does your heart tell you?do you like being around me?

Me:yes I do.

Him: then follow your heart.am going to do something to you if your heart doesn't agree with it you can stop me.

He came closer and our lips met my butterflies started playing and the world stopped rotating he led the kiss and I followed my leader goah this is so wrong but I don't want it to stop am enjoying myself,we kissed until we were both running out of breath.

Him:so you now my girlfriend?

Me:yes I am

He beat on his chest very hard and whistled it was so funny I couldn't stop myself from laughing.he kissed me again then gave me his bracelet.

Him: this is for you so you can know that am with you everyday.I love you

Me:I love you too.

Gosh am now someone's girlfriend.

7

Boniswa

I went passed the mall just to buy few things we forgot to buy when we were doing our groceries I hope the little amount I have in my card will be enough. I shopped around then went to pay for my stuff to my surprise the money wasn't enough I searched my purse and I only have money to go back home shit might aswell use it and walk home or call my husband to come pick me up...a familiar voice spoke behind me.

Mabutho: don't worry I will pay for them.

Me:what? I will be..

Him: I insist Boniswa.

Why does he have to be everywhere ? If he is not at my house he is in the mall with me I think he is stalking me now. He paid for my groceries and helped me carry them.

Him: can we pass by chicken licken if you don't mind I feel hungry.



Me: you go ahead I will be fine with this.

Him: please Boniswa just for old times sake I will buy you hot wings.

He pouted gosh he is so stupid and I don't even know why I agreed to have lunch with him. Mabutho has always been a spoilt kid he doesn't know what house chores is he grew up in a house full of maids perks of being born in a rich family his father had multiple business and when he retired everything went to him. He became more arrogant than he was before he thought throwing money and showing me off like a new toy is part of love when I needed more than just money, he spoke anyhow he wanted them throw money to make me happy. The bedroom business he failed dismally men's clinic was needed.

Him: you still look beautiful I can't believe I lost you over Mlungisi.

Me: you wouldn't lose me if you paid more attention to me.

Him: but I gave you everything you needed money to spoil yourself and family.

Me: that's a thing about you, you thought we are a charity case.

Him: you had nothing Boniswa .am pretty sure your husband is feeding your family too.

Me: don't talk like that.

Him:he earns peanuts to support his family and yours. Wait until he gets tired and you will run back to me.

Me: what makes you think I will come back to you? Mabutho you and I are done

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you failed to be a good man to me .. I love my husband very much.

Him: you love your husband?one who couldn't even buy you a ring or pay lobola for you? Yaz uzifake endlaleni Sisi.

I was close to slapping him I took my shopping bags and left him calling out my name gosh I regret this.

>>>

Thulisile

My heart was dancing and singing gosh am inlove with Baxolele Xhasa , I started on cooking while singing along to Lasauce and Amanda Black I do now I understand the lyrics of the song more than anything. Aunt Gcebile and Malome Zitha and my grandmother came in.

Zitha:kudliwani la ekhaya?(what are we going to eat)

Me: mince with pap

Him: one could do with some juicy steak and a cold beer.

Me: you can buy them if you have money.

Him: Thulisile call your sister we need money to buy meat.

Gogo: haibo Zitha didn't you say you won a jackpot on that horse race?use that money to buy meat we can't be busy sponging off on her like that.

Him: she left a burden behind she must buy that meat.

Gogo: but she gave us money not so long ago. Let us stop milking her she is not working Bantu.

Him:gogo Wena uhlezi umukhulumela njalo(you always siding with her)

She shook her head and went to the bedroom leaving me with Gcebile and Zitha they kept on complaining about how Boniswa gives them little money they just don't know how to appreciate.

>>>>

Mlungisi

Babu Mgoma's words have been ringing in my head how can someone be so heartless by sacrificing your own flesh just to be rich. My mind had alot of things I watched my sisters eating and talking infront of the TV and Boniswa playing with her food, something is bothering her.

Me: Thembalami are you alright?

Her; yes am fine.

Me: do you want to talk about it?

Her: no it's nothing serious.

Me: Boniswa I know this is not the kind of life you have imagined but we will be fine I promise you.

Her: I know we will.

Me: I found mama the new home it's a little expensive

Her: then how are we going to pay for it?

Me: I don't know but a plan will come.

She nodded the girls came to the table flip they heard our conversation now I must sit and talk to them. how do you tell 15 year olds that they won't see their mother everyday? This is a mess honestly. "They will understand they good kids" those words came back to me.

8

Mlungisi

Talking with the girls was very hard I tried coming up with the right words but I was hurting them, Boniswa didn't want to get involved she went to bed leaving me with them and harsh words were exchanged between us not my entire life have I imagined Phindile and Phumzile talking back at me and they both called me a monster and selfish dog, I pretended like I didn't hear anything cause they were really mad at me.

After my morning rounds of transporting people to town I passed at St Helena old age home and made enquiries of when should I bring my mother in and they said I can bring her today. I called Boniswa and asked her to pack my mother's stuff I will be picking her up very soon.

Her:kodwa Buthelezi you don't have to do this I mean the girls are not happy.

Me:I know Boniswa but this must be done

Her: so what do I have to tell her?

Me:nothing just pack her bags and I will talk to her when I get there.

Her:alright let me pack then.

Me:I love you maXaba

Her:I love you too .

This is going to be a tough one on the girls.

>>>

Thulisile

I woke up feeling happy than I usually do let's just say its because am in love if love feels like this then am surely holding on to it. I cleaned up the house and made breakfast for my family and as usual Boniswa was the topic.I don't know why they always talking about her and Gcebile always wanted Boniswa to marry Mabutho the township rich guy sure he is handsome and monied but I don't think my sister was happy with him.

My phone rang and I excused myself from the fable and went outside to answer it.

Me:Baxolele unjani

Him:ngyaphila Ntokazi...are you busy today.

Me:no am not busy just have some studying to do.

Him:alright listen take a bath I will come pick you up a bit later.

Me:I have to study Baxolele

Him:you can do that tomorrow come on I miss you hey.

Me:fine then let me finish up my food then will see you later.

I finished up eating the took a proper bath I need to look clean I wore my long mixed color maxi dress with black pumps I tied my afro in a bun then texted him that am ready. We met at the shop gosh he looked so good in black skinny jeans and a blue check shirt underneath he was wearing a white T-shirt.

Him:come let's go.

Me:where are we going?



Him:to a braai my friend from Mashu is around and he is hosting it .

Me:oh?

Him:relax it will be fun and I will take you home before 7pm.your bae here is a DJ...

I was impressed am dating a future DJ wow this is good am hoping to have fun.

>>>

Mlungisi

When I got home the mood was very sour the girls gave me a nasty look I took my mothers bags and put them in my taxi

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this is it I will never see my mother everyday.

Me:Phindile and Phumzile please help me with the bags.

Phindi:carry them yourself angithi uxosha umama(you chasing our mother away.

Me:am not Phindile.you know mama needs help

Phumzi: why can't you hire a nurse for her then? Please don't take her away.

Me:we talked about this and they expecting her today.

I looked at Boniswa she shrugged her shoulders and helped me with the bags. I helped my mother up and we got in the taxi. Everyone was very upset and it broke my heart I wish there was a better plan for this but then my mother has to so that Boniswa could also look for a job .

Thulisile.

The place was packed with lot of people drinking and dancing,I must say the girls were slaying and me on the other hand I didn't look the part. Baxolele introduced me to few people he knew and he gave me a can of Brutal8 I never drank alcohol before.

Him:welcome to my world Ntokazi.sit here let me go grab you a plate of food.

Me:alright.

I sat with some girls they looked very proper this are the slay queens of Madadeni.they kept stealing glances at me I heard one of them saying"did we come to a funeral phela usisiza looks like she came to a funeral" I wanted to cry so bad why didn't Baxolele tell me I would have tried to look good even though I wouldn't reach the level of slaying.He came back with my food and we shared the plate.

Me: why didn't you tell me I should dress up.look at all of this girls.

Him:you look perfectly fine .look its my turn to hit the decks I will see you later and if you need anything the girls will sort you out.

Why did he have to leave me with this girls we exchanged greetings and talked,we danced and had fun I loosened up a bit and drank some more I was already drunk and I couldn't walk straight my grandmother is going to kill me.

9

Thulisile

I was so drunk that I even drew attention on Baxolele and I the poor guy was so embarrassed he carried me bridal style to his car.

Him:am taking you home wena

Me:why?I don't want to go home Baxolele

Him:Thuli you drunk and you can't even walk I think you should go home.

Me:my grandmother will kill me.please let me sleep at your house.

Him:what?you going home Thuli .

We drove home in silence I was even falling asleep right now I wish I wasn't going home maybe I can sleep at Boniswa's house. Baxolele dropped me at my gate my uncle Zitha was outside.the struggle to walk happened I fell before I even reached the gate.

Zitha:haibo Thulisile are you drunk?soyaphuza wena?

Me:malome help me up please.

Him:hee mihlola yam Lena..Thulisile

He came and helped me up I don't know what happened to Baxolele but am sure he ran for his life when he saw Zitha. We walked into the house my grandmother and Gcebile were shocked to see me in that state.

Zitha:yabona ke gogo ingane ka Nonjabulo injan(look at Nonjabulo's child) ibudlile strong(she is drunk)

Gogo:Thulisile uphuzeni khona ubuya phi?(what did you drink and where do you come from)

Zitha:she was dropped off by some boy. That boy looks like he comes from the city.

Me:no he is from Kwa Mashu.

Gogo:nkosi yam kwenzekani(my God what is happening)

Zitha: asazi..Thulisile go sleep we will talk in the morning. You must tell us about this boy of yours.

I went to my bedroom and I got a black out.

>>>

Mlungisi

The atmosphere was still sour in the house everyone was minding her business I even regret taking my mother away. It is Sunday and usually on Sundays I don't work but today I felt like going to work just to give my girls some time to cool off.

Me: see you guys later am going to work.

Boniswa: see you later then.

Me: twins see you later.

They gave me a deadly stare if looks could kill someone I would be dead by now. I did what was good for my mother and for everyone else.

Phindi: ngathi unga gubuda nge moto nxa.

Boniswa:Phindile! I get that you are angry but you can't talk to my husband like that.if you have nothing better to say shut your mouth.

Phindi: uyangi nyanyisa Mlungisi how can you take her away.

Me:Phindile I told why and if you can't deal with that angazi ngithini.see you later.

I walked out with a heavy heart what Phindile said really cut deep she wishes death upon me. I took my taxi and drove to town while listening to Sjava kulomhlaba

,♪kulomhlaba esiphila kuwo

Izinto Mani kwenzeka

Amanya amadoda aya phumelela

Amanye amadoda awu phumeleli

Thola thola baba

Amandla endoda away pheli

Ngiphakamisa amehlo Ami entabani

Usizo lwam usizo lwam luvelaphi na ?

Luvela kuwe

Eloi eloi nkulunkulu wam ungisheyelani na?

Sengcela ukubona ngathi lempilo engiyi philayo

Akuyona eyam mhlambe khona ukuncono ongibekele khona♪

The song was hitting home sigh I wish my situation can change but "uya funa ukudla izambane lika pondo" no no this is wrong am not going to take that route.

>>>

Thulisile

I woke up with a painful headache I couldn't even keep my eyes open for long I walked to the kitchen and my family was already up and waiting for their breakfast.

Gcebile: silambile Ntombi

Me: when will you make your own food? am sick

Her: wena never sent you to a drinking spree sisi



Me:yoh Gcebile you have hands use them.

I felt a hot slap right on my face she slapped me so hard that the headache stopped. I looked at her and my grandmother shook her head. I got up and walked outside leaving her screaming my name she can go to hell if she thinks I will make that damn breakfast.

>>>>

Boniswa

The time was 3am when I heard voices outside singing

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I woke up and went to the kitchen I thought the girls didnt switch the tv off. A group of people kept on singing,the song was foreign or lets just say I didnt hear the song properly.

I peeped through the window and I saw a group of women walking half naked outside they were walking in line holding red candles,the one who was leading the group had a bird on her shoulder oh no thats an owl sitting on her shoulder. I

always heard people talking about witchcraft before but I never thought I will see it with my two eyes.

They walked slowly taking the direction to the bridge I tried moving from the window my legs couldnt move its like someone used glue on my feet Lord what is this.I screamed for Mlungisi my voice wasnt coming out I pray that this is a dream.I looked through the window again and one women looked at me our eyes locked for sometime then she smiled at me and it was light outs for me.

10

Boniswa

When I woke up I felt a little disoriented I don't know what was happening to me. My husband was sitting next to me busy scrolling on his phone.

Me:sthandwa sam unjani?

Him:am good thembalami.

Me:my head is so sore I have to tell you something

Him:what's that?

I told him everything I saw when I peeped through the window. He looked like he doesn't believe me, he made me feel like am crazy and probably a lot of people will think so too.

Me:do you believe me Mlungisi?

Him:no. you were dreaming.

Me:no I wasn't dreaming I saw those evil things.

Him:thembalami you were dreaming I mean if you did faint then how did you get to bed cause I didn't wake up last night.

Me: OK what about my sore head then?

Him:you dehydrated you need to drink lots of water.

He got up to put his T-shirt on then he left for work.I know what I saw was real and I wasn't dreaming and it hurts that my own husband doesn't believe me.

>>>>

Mlungisi

What Boniswa told me was true I do believe her but I couldn't tell her that I found her passed out on the floor.The voices she heard I also heard them. This is witchcraft and I don't think I want to do it if I have to be this poor then I will work hard until I get out of poverty.

Mr Mgoma asked me to drive him somewhere well I always drive him to his taxi association meetings and some board members think am his inkabi(hitman) I don't know why most of

them even have inkabi. He gave me directions to the place we going to.

Him:mfo ka Buthelezi ngidinga uhlale emotweni ungaphumi(Buthelezi I need you to stay in this car and don't leave)

Me: ngiyazwa Mhlonishwa(yes sir)

Him:good and before I forget my wife has invited you and your family for dinner tomorrow night.

Me:oh!! I didn't think your wife can invite me or anyone for that matter.no offence but she looks like she doesn't like visitors.

Him: ah she has her days deep inside she has a beautiful heart. And we here please don't leave this car.

Me:yes sir.

He got off and disappeared inside of this yard that had a huge wall made out of ceramic tiles and the gate was also tall like the wall, the person who lives here doesn't have neighbours his yard is huge it could be half of the stadium.

I looked around and I was astonished from what I was seeing in my whole life I have never seen so many beautiful cars I am not

talking about your golf gti and kia picantos. I am talking about your Amgs,mazarati,Lamborghini imishini yo mgwaqo

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I felt like I was dreaming.

People were coming in and going out wearing expensive suits,expensive dresses and shoes. This people really have style I got tempted to go and peep through the gate,when I stepped outside the car my whole body felt numb the hair pulled up and I suddenly felt light headed.I hurried back to the car and locked myself in.

>>>>

Thulisile

Test scripts came back and I failed and I thought I did well,my heart sinked right to my stomach in all honesty this is not me. Mr nyathi called me to his office.

Him: why do you keep failing?

Me:I don't know sir I tried my best and lookslike its not enough.

Him:yes its not enough.if you keep perfoming like this you will not pass. I know I sound harsh but its the truth.

Me:I know sir and I will try harder.

Him: your classmates have study group they meet up with Mr Phiri our student teacher I think you should join them.

Me:I will try sir.

Him: Thulisile you are a very smart child and it will hurt me to see you fail. I asked Mr Phiri to take you in I need you to pass.

Me:thank you sir I will pull up my socks.

If I pass my matric that means I will go to DUT that means I will get a bursary and that means my whole family will be proud of me including my so called father.

>>>

Boniswa

Gcebisile came to visit me and we know once she comes to my house she wants money nothing more I think am close to burning her from coming to my house this woman is toxic and I dont know how does my uncle sleeps next to her but then again the they are the same.

Me: what do you want here?

Her:how no tea and scones?oh I forgot this is a house of starvation.

Me: why do you keep coming to my house if you going to insult me?

Her:am not insulting you am only telling the truth.if you married Mabutho sisi you would be rich.

Me:why dont you marry him yourself since you love him so much? Gcebile I told you many times that he is not the right guy for me.

Her:the right one is Mlungisi?the one who doesnt have money always wants you to wear a doek bheka umpunga kanjani

Me: I wouldnt be in this state if he was not feeding you aswell wena and Zitha go to bed with full stomach and yet you have the ordesity to insult my husband?Gcebile hamba kwam.



Her: oh no sisi am not leaving as yet.gogo needs money to go to the clinic her leg is giving her problems.

Me:Jehova wam.you live next to the clinic it doesnt even take you 30 minutez to get there. I will not cough out any money Gcebile am not a bloody bank and so is my husband now please leave.

Her:you will regret marrying Mlungisi am telling you.enjoy poverty while you still can.

She left I was livid my blood was boiling like water on the stove,if she wasnt my elder I would have strangled her thin neck right away. Gcebile is a blood sucker I dont know why my grandmothed doesnt chass them away they nothing but trouble sigh Nonjabulo please comd back for your children.

11

Thulisile

I decided on joining the study group I had to tell my grandmother about so that she doesn't worry about me, she worries a lot about me well I have this thing of disappearing when things become too much for me but I do return home maybe midnight. The study group comes in very handy I can see some little light.

My phone rang and I excused myself from the group I don't want them to eavesdrop on my conversation with my man.

Me:baby.

Him:ntokazi enhle.what are you up to?

Me:am in the study group we about to start.

Him:can I see you tonight.

Me:alright we meeting at our usual sport.

Him:yes am taking you to my house its time you see where I live.

Me:that will be great I can't wait.

We talked for a while and said our goodbyes,am glad he is inviting me to his house I mean I can go there whenever I want to I don't have to wait for him to come by just to see me.

>>>

Mlungisi

We went to visit our mother at the old age home the girls have been sour lately so I thought one visit will do them good our mother may not be staying with us but she is very important.

Ma:am so happy to see you my children.

Me:we happy too mama how are you.

Her:am much better than the other days.hee Mlungisi where is Boniswa?

Me:she stayed behind she has some family issues to take care of.

Her:alright I hope they not asking for money phela that family is full of blood suckers.

Me:how do you know that we give them money?

Her:uku thula kwam akusho ukuthi angiboni lutho I know everything.

Me:I see the doctor said you doing good.

Her:that's because he told me about your father.

Me:he did?and you have accepted it?

She shrugged her shoulders and brushed the girls hair,seeing her this happy and alive makes me happy I believe that she is finally accepting reality. I sat next to her as she sang her favourite song my heart is at peace now.

>>>>

Thulisile

Baxolele:phuma ngila ngaphandle(come am outside)

Me:alright give me two minutes.

Him:shesha phela(hurry up)

I sneaked out through the window I can't risk my uncle finding out that I went out I made sure my bedroom is locked so that no one goes in. I found Baxolele leaning against his car I hugged him and kissed his tasty lips.

We drove off to his place I never seen such a beautiful house here in Madadeni except Mabutho's house this one took the cup,it was 5 room house the walls inside were made out of gamazine this house was a little paradise. I looked around I saw family pictures but one caught my attention.

Me:how do you know this man?

Him:oh you mean Mabutho?he is my uncle

Me:and this house belongs to who?

Him:everyone who wishes to come here.

Me:I don't understand

He made me peep through the window that's when I saw Mabuthos mansion so this is a guest house .

Me:Babe you never told me exactly what brought you here.

Him:I told you I came to visit my family nothing more.

Me:so you don't have classes to attend or anything?

Him:so many questions babe come on. I need you.

He pulled me closer and we started kissing he moved his hands slowly on my thighs and massaged my breast I swear the room was spinning and the sensation that was happening between my legs was foreign I never felt like this before every feeling that was happening to my body was foreign. Our breathing was slowly changing and he unbuttoned my dress I was left with my panties I don't wear any bras. He looked at me his eyes were small and red my eyes moved to his pants the machine was big.

Him:do you want us to stop.

Me:yes am not ready.

Him:I won't hurt you I will be gentle with you.

He kissed me again and pushed me on the couch he shifted my panties to the side and played with my bean oh my word this is so good he pushed two fingers in and fiddled with my Nana...I screamed his name so loud and my legs were shaking he directed my hand to his pants.

Him:play with it Thuli..come on babe move your hand up and down.

I played with it while he moaned on my lips and fiddled with my Nana my heart beat was fast it was hard not to scream am sure people who are walking on the streets can hear me. He groaned and I thought he was in pain.

Him:Shit Thuli am coming fuck fuck fuck.

Sperms were on my hand some jumped on my stomach he smiled at me while taking his breath back.

>>>

Boniswa

The Mgoma household looked very beautiful my eyes couldn't keep still they moved around looking at the house it is clear that this people are monied. Mrs Mgoma and her husband were dressed beautifully their clothes are very expensive this clothes you don't find them at Jet or Trueworths this are clothes from an online boutique. We were served food the cutlery was gold something we not used too.

Phumi: sike sidle ka mnandi nathi (finally we having a delicious meal)

Phindi: sa phumula wu phuthu namasi (we getting a break from braai pap and milk)

Everyone on the table laughed Mlungisi was a bit embarrassed he faked his smile my poor husband can't even look at his boss in the eye.

MrMgoma: idlani bantwana bam kuni ukudla lana endlini (eat my children there's plenty of food in this house)

Phumi: Thank you sir uhm Mrs Mgoma can we take a lunch box.



Her:yes babies you will don't worry.

We ate our food over a conversation listening to the Mgoma stories of how they met and how they got into the taxi business his wife is also a co owner of the taxis and she has a filling station talking about people who swim in money. I helped Mrs Mgoma with the dishes once we were done eating the girls were watching TV while Mlungisi and his boss sat outside

Me:you have a beautiful home I must say.

Her:thank you.it was not that easy to make it beautiful I worked hard.

Me:I can imagine.wish I could get my house this beautiful.

Her:what do you mean?

I told her how we living from hand to mouth how my husband has to feed my family it is embarrassing I know he gets tired of coughing out money but he won't say it.

Her: well the is some way of getting out of poverty.

Me:I don't understand.

Her:my love this didn't come any easy so many things had to be done.you are young and fresh and you don't have any children.

Me:what's that got to do with anything.

Her:I can hook you up with the person who made me rich. You can have all the money you want.tell me where do you want to stay I mean the plans you had as a kid.

Me:I wanted to have a mansion in Durban drive the latest cars I mean have everything those slay queens have.

Her:you can have all that my child.

Me:but how?I mean I can't even get a job.

Her: let me tell you something.

She hummed a song that I heard the other day and my body felt cold she stood behind me and sang I felt somemething heavy weighing on me fear crippled me.

Her:when you ready to become rich let me know.

## **Baxolele Xhasa Pov**

I grew up in KwaMashu am the only child, I was born with a silver spoon in my mouth my parents are wealthy I can say money runs in our veins. I am a DJ by profession I make people dance every party you will find me there and when am on the decks I make sure people dance if no one come to shake my hand that means I didn't do a good job.

My parents don't like this whole DJ thing they say it doesn't have money and people who are DJ relay on drugs which is no true I don't relay on them if I feel tired I drink energy drinks.

The last time when I was at Mashu things didn't end well between me and my parents some girl who happened to be my one night stand came to my house claiming that I made her pregnant i know am a catch and the ladies throw themselves at me but that doesn't mean am careless when it comes to the sheets. That girl made a big mistake by pinning the pregnancy on me I told her that am not the father and my parents believed her shit that happens when you give a girl some good dick she becomes obsessed with you. I fought with my father and I spent a night in a jail cell the following day I came to Madadeni.

The relationship I have with Thulisile is nothing serious she is someone I want to pass time with until the whole dust in Mashu settles down sure she is pretty but not my kind of girl, in this day and age where have you seen a girl in long skirts and natural hair I date slay queens girls with long hair

make up on fleek ,nails on some other level,she is a good kid no lie but not my cup of coffee if I can get in her panties then I have to move on with life and return to Mashu.

Me: how many times must I tell you to stop calling me wena Lihle.

Her: I miss you X I know I should have warned you about my pregnancy but my family couldn't wait.

Me: nxai I told you thats not my child you know who the father of your child is.

Her:X it's your child please believe me.

Me: Lihle you are crazy and stop calling me .

I hanged up and threw my phone on the couch ,this girl is insane she needs medical attention.

12

Thulisile

Last night when I went back home I found my uncle standing outside the house it was difficult for me to go in because he was going to ask a lot of questions so I had to come up with a lie Like I was meeting up with my father he asked to talk to me about something well he could see that I was lying to him but he chose to ignore me.

A knock came in it was my grandmother she limped her way inside of my bedroom,it hurts me when she is in pain I got off my bed and took the rubbing ointment that was in her hand.

Me:let me rub your leg gogo.

Her:thank you Thulisile what will I be without you.

Me:nothing.

#silence

Me:gogo can I ask yiu something?

Her:go ahead my baby.

Me:why doesnt my father love me the way he loves his children?

Her:I dont know why .

Me:what happend between him and my mother?

Her: your mother loved your father so much she would die for him. The problem came when she was introduced to the Ngobese family,your grandmother hated my child with passion she called her names infront of his relatives,it didnt make anything easy for her cause she already had Boniswa and she was pregnant with you. Your grandmother said you are not a Ngobese which means your father believed her the day you were born thats when your father saw that you are his blood,Thuli you look like your father its just that you have your mother complexion.

Me:so why did the break up gogo?

Her: you should ask your father he has the right answers for you.

Me:is it because my mother chose the white man over him?

Her:it could be that. Thulisile dont worry yourself about Ngobese or Nonjabulo focus on yourself,I know you need a

mothers love but you have me I raised you from the day you were born just like I raised Boniswa.

Me:I hear you gogo but I need answers

Her:ask your father even though he wont answer you and he wants nothing to do with you.

He might not want me but one day he is going to need me.

>>>>

Mlungisi

I have been thinking about what my boss said the other day and what I saw when I went with him ka Zombotha

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those cars are beautiful and you can tell that those people live a lavish life something I always yearned for. I wish it was that easy to join in the cult or whatever that is but if I have to sacrifice someone then I don't know.

I sat next to my wife who was also lost in her thoughts whatever she is thinking about must be serious because she doesn't even blink when I wave my hand one her face. I shook her a little .

Me:Boniswa?

Her:oh sorry what was that?

Me:I want to talk to you about something.

Her:alright am listening

Me:where are the twins first?

Her:they went out why?

Me:because this is not something they have to hear.

I got up and locked the door. I told her everything that Mr Mgoma has told me and what I saw at Zombotha. I couldn't read her facial expression she didn't look shocked or confused her face was too blank.

Me:did you hear anything I have said.

Her:I did.tell me you also want to join them?



Me:no maybe I don't know Boniswa I mean this life is tempting and the life we living its not nice.

Her:what do you mean?

Me:Boniswa if we join it we could have everything we both want.

Her:we? Am not joining those evil things,am a woman of God a praying woman.

Me:I know that but how long have you been praying?  
Thembalami we living from hand to mouth we have nothing ontop of that I have to feed your family.

Her:are you tired of feeding my family

Me:hell yes I am tired of feeding grown ups.

She didn't say anything her eyes were getting glossy I must have said something that pierced her heart flip I didn't mean to hurt her feelings not this way even.

>>>>

Thulisile

The whole day I have been thinking about what my grandmother said I still don't understand why my father hates me this much. I saw my father passing by I ran after him like I always do.

Me:can we talk please

Him:you don't listen right?how many times must I tell you to stay away from me? Thulisile I want nothing to do with you.

Me:please baba I need some answers here what have I done to you?

Him:what have you done to me?sisi wee leave me alone please.

Me:does your wife know that am your child?

Him:she doesn't know that .

Me:I think its time I tell her maybe that will show you how much I need you.

Him:bheka if you tell her I promise you I will cut your throat you stay away from me and my family. Now go away go to that dirty boyfriend of yours.

A tear fell out how could my own father say such words to me? Am his daughter for crying out loud he didn't have to be harsh few answers would have helped me a lot,I walked back home with tears blinding me I wish a car can hit me and die right on the spot.

>>>

Boniswa

Mlungisi is crazy if he thinks I will join in witchcraft I know he is tired of feeding my family but witchcraft is not a way to go.I need to find a job as soon as possible even if it means cleaning the toilets I will do it.I took a pen and paper and started writing my résumé I will go to the internet cafe later on.

"He will get tired of feeding your family and you will run back to me" arg who the hell he think he is?I will never go back to Mabutho. "If only you married Mabutho you wouldn't starve,bheka umpunga njani". I got up and looked myself in the mirror gosh I do need a make over. I removed my doek and

combed my hair out changed my long dress into a shorter summer dress.

Me:am beautiful and my husband loves me. I don't need anyone telling me that my husband can't take care of me.

>>>

Zombotha

I am one of the powerful inyanga around our province I have made alot of people rich using my powers that I get from the mountains of Mozambique, I had turned people to zombies if you want to be rich ngi thebula imiphefumulo yabo(I capture their souls) use them to make people rich.

One of my initiates brought me water to drink I drank from my cup and looked at her such a beautiful girl pity her time is running out I won't be needing her since she is pregnant.

Me:Uzi lungise ngizo fika e gumbini lakho kunge kudala(get ready I will be in your room in no time)

Her: yebo baba

Me:gamba kena

Her:ngabe ubaba ufuna ngi gqoke ingubo ayi thandayo(do you want me to wear the dress you love)

Me: no that won't be necessary.

Her: kulungile baba

She exist my indumba I get up and drink my herb I need some energy before I can get intimate with her. I hear a painful sob coming from the pond it must be Nomanzi I don't know why she cries like this she has become a problem this days always crying.

Me:Nomanzi yini ikinga yakho?I told you that we will get you another sacrifice if you think I will kill my child for you I won't do that.

#silence

Me: yes I know I killed your child and turned you into a river goddess because you couldn't keep your mouth shut .you told everyone that I killed your child and raped you which is not true you wanted me and I gave you what you needed next thing I was chased away from my home town because of you.now you listen here you keep quiet this very instance I won't let you get on my nerves and please stop being jealous you here me Nomanzi?

I tried walking away and I felt her hands on my body moving slowly this what happens when she wants my attention,she started singing hypnotising me with her voice,right there I felt like a fool listening to her voice that keeps me calm.

Me:Silence!!Nomanzi Silence!!

I walked out once she has returned to the pond.

13

Mlungisi

Me:Thembalami wake up

Her:what's going on?

Me:wake up I want us to go somewhere.

Her:why?

Me:there's something I want you to see.wipe your face hurry up my love.

She dragged herself off the bed and wiped her face changing her nightdress into a simple dress. We drove to Zombotha the drive took 1H35 minutes. I was so excited she will see what I was talking about.

Her:what is this place?

Me:the place I told you about.here lives a man who can make all our wishes come true.

Her:you mean this is the place of witchcraft?

Me:you may call it that if it makes sense to you.

Her:my goodness Mlungisi you brought me here ?why?

Me:cant you see this beautiful cars?look at that red machine am sure you would love to drive it.

Her:it is beautiful and that girl who drives is beautiful wow

Her voice came in a whisper. Her eyes were wide open she got off the taxi I followed her we stood there watching people coming in and going out am sure some of them think we are lost or something.

Her: I can't believe my eyes this is something else. You mean if we join this I could drive my own car and live in the house I always wanted?

Me:yes my love everything you wish for it could happen.our genie lives here the person who will grant our wishes lives here.

Her:wow.

We didn't speak for sometime until she looked at me with her beautiful eyes I hope she will agree to this.



Her:am sorry Mlu I can't do this,this is twisted and evil no woman of God can do this. I don't want to be part of this.

Me:Thembalami..

Her:please take me home I beg you Buthelezi take me home.

>>>

Baxolele

I have been invited to some club to play my set and the money I will get is very good so I will be playing for two hours something I never did in Mashu you only given one hour set that's all. I sat in front of my laptop selecting my playlist I want this cats to dance am here to leave a mark in this place. My phone rang and it was Lihle I think I have had enough of this girl its time to block her calls.

Me:yini wena?

Her:its that how you greet the mother of your child?

Me:yazin Lihle am going to block your calls am telling you so please stop calling me.

Her:X I need money to go see a doctor.

Me:doctor?go to the clinic.

Her:no I want a private doctor

Me:uya sebenza yini(are you working)

Her:no but you are the one who is working am sure you can afford a private doctor.

Me:you full of yourself ne.stop calling me and if you need money go ask my father am sure he is the father.

I hanged up and blocked her call this girl is a piece of work maybe I should call one of my friends to deal with her.

>>>>

Thulisile

I found my grandmother and Gcebile arguing the argument was about Boniswa I don't understand why would Gcebile want to live her life through Boniswa if she finds out am dating

Mabutho's nephew she will also want to live her life through mine.

Gcebi: your Boniswa is useless she couldn't give you money to go to the clinic and yet you spent all your pension money on her education.

Gogo: I don't need money to go to the clinic we near the clinic.

Her:worse you have to walk why didn't her husband take you to the clinic then.

Gogo:your husband could have done that also but no he chose to sleep. I don't know what have I done wrong with him .

Her: yaz Boniswa made a big mistake by marrying that Buthelezi boy that marriage is a disaster.

Gogo:yoh Gcebile why do you have to be on her case ?you married Zitha cause you thought he has money little you didn't know that he is poor like that Buthelezi boy.what I like about him is he gives us money unlike your husband who doesn't want to spend a little cent.he rather spend his money on alcohol and buying you clothes.

Gcebi: uzama ini uMlungisi?that money is not enough .

Gogo:it won't be enough cause you use for your personal things even my sassa money you use it for your personal things and as for today I will go by myself eSassa wena uyi nyoka.

She kept quiet finally Gogo has put her in her place this woman is toxic shame.

>>>

Zombotha

I moved around my indumba feeling unsettled I had a feeling that my ancestors are trying to communicate with me they trying to show me something but however something is blocking them.I stood near the mirror that shows me everything when I communicate with them,I have to ways of communicating with him its the bones and the mirror.

Me:khulumani nami Bantu abadala khulumani nami....jei jei  
jei(chanting)khulumani

The mirror showed me a young couple they were standing outside my house they were admiring what they were seeing something tells me that they want to be rich but something is stopping them. The young lady is a believer but she is emotionally tired her family depends on her

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she is not working I think if she joins my cult that's when she will reach her break through.

Me:jei jei abantu bam laba(this are my people) jei jei such a beautiful lady jei uyenza igaz lam ligijime.

I will wait for them to come it makes me happy to see my cult growing everyday. Nomanzi cried again,I looked at her as she makes her way to me,Nomanzi is a marmeid I turned her to a river goddess she is not dead she has been in a coma for a very long time I captured her soul and trapped it into a river sometimes she appears on other peoples homes at midnight to perform her miracles her duties she is also a spiritual wife of other man,with her voice she can hypnotise you and get intimate with you.

14

Thulisile

Baxolele invited me to a party at club at first I didn't want to go but when he mentioned that there will be celebrities there I changed my mind. I spent the whole day doing block braids good thing is I know how to do my hair I need to look good for my man.

Later on I wore my stone washed skinny jeans, red top with lace sleeves and pumps I looked good. When my whole family went to bed I sneaked out, Baxolele was waiting for me at my gate he didn't come alone he came with his friends that I met at the braai we exchanged greetings, he gave me a pair of black stilettos not my kind of shoes but will have to wear them if I want to get in apparently they don't allow flat shoes.

Prince kaybee Banomoya was playing on the background people were already having fun we found a spot to chill and the table was black with all kinds of alcohol this time around they got me something light I was drinking Mainstay pinacollada. This is it it's going to be lit.

>>>

Boniswa

Mlungisi has been trying to communicate with me the whole day but I shut him out I know he wants to talk about us joining this evil people and I don't want to be part of them. He sat next to me after asking his sisters to excuse us.

Him: Thembalami please listen to me. I know what am about to ask you it's wrong but Thembalami we need money.

Me: sthandwa sam I know that but please let's not do this, what if it doesn't work out what then? Sthandwa I will get a job and everything will be fine.

Him: nothing will be fine, how do you know you will get a job? what if you were distant future is to be rich? We deserve the good things my love, you have a degree please my love.

Me: Mlungisi this is wrong you shouldn't have listened to your boss, sthandwa sam please.

Him: Boniswa please think about those cars you saw

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that business plan you have in your file please Thembalami.

Me: Mlungisi Buthelezi I don't want to think about it. if you want to join them then do it alone don't involve me.

He layed back on the chair it is clear that he is disappointed in me but this is for the best I don't want to do things my grandmother never taught me about, she taught me the word of God and it will remain that way.

>>>

Zombotha

My initiates were singing and dancing outside, this is what we do everyday at night they do all that I have taught them.

The moon was half and this means a sacrifice must be done but this time around we won't be doing any sacrifice but to sing and dance make sure that Nomanzi is happy with us. One of my initiates came with a calabash that had water mixed with muti, I drank it and passed it to my initiates.



I walked around the fire singing and dancing when I saw a tail disappearing in one of the female rooms and twasa ntabeni is not with us Nomanzi just went to her room.

I quickly ran to the room I found twasa Ntabeni screaming pinned on the wall Nomanzi is strangling her, she touched her stomach in pain.

Me: Nomanzi stop right now.

I roared loud but she wasn't listening to me I blew my horn that hangs around my neck she didn't stop, I saw blood coming out of Ntabeni shit she has lost her baby Nomanzi killed my child.

Me: Uzo zisola Nomanzi am telling you ,I will make sure I marry you off for good this time and you will stuck in that pond forever now go back to your place now!!!

I felt helpless and angry I quickly ran to my indumba and consulted with my ancestors that child was supposed to get all my gift and powers once I die.

>>>

Mlungisi

I heard my mother's voice singing she looked so happy and young it's like she wasn't sick. I looked at her while she kept on smiling at me.

Me:mam are alright?

She smiled at me again I sat next to her and listened to her beautiful voice, my heart was at peace I let my tears fall, life is not easy for me.

Her: all will be well my son very soon.

I suddenly woke up shit I fell asleep on the couch. I switched the TV off and checked on the girls. I found Boniswa sleeping I kissed her and pulled her closer to me.

15

Thulisile

When I went back home the time was 05:34am the party was lit, good thing my bedroom window is still open so it will be easy to sneak back in. I hurried home when I got a mother of all surprises Gcebile was already up and she was sweeping the yard right there I felt like vanishing immediately because she will give me a hard time.

Her:Bantu Thulisile ubuya phi?ulale e malunde(you slept in a place unknown)

Me:no I was at a friends party.

Her:what friend? Who gave you the permission to go?

Me:no one did now can I go sleep?

Her:sleep? Nayi imihlola. You not going to sleep you going to wash those blankets you see on the stoep.

Me:Gcebile am really tired.

Her:Thulisile you sleep outside then you come and talk back at me usuya delela manje(you now disrespectful)

She screamed my uncles name and my grandmother's they both came in a hurry Zitha had his sjambok in his hand as if he is going to beat up a thief.

Gcebi: look at your sisters child she didn't sleep at home last night its only now that she comes back home.

Gogo:Thulisile ubuya phi?

Gcebi:athi ubuya kwi party yo mgani wakhe(she said she comes from a friends party)

Gogo: nkosi yam Thulisile how did you even get out?

Me:through my window gogo.

Gogo:Jehova kuyenzeka ini ngawe Thulisile(what's happening with you)

Zitha: what a nerve you have Thulisile to tell my mother that you sneaked out. We thought you are sleeping kanti wena uba yisigebengu uphuma ngama window?

Me:am sorry

Him: asi hlali ne tsotsi(we don't live with a thief.) Uzo ngazi kahle(you will know me better)

He whipped me so hard while cursing me calling me names, I screamed for help and hoping my grandmother will help me but she never did she watched Zitha beating me up and his wife cheering him to beat me very hard.

>>>

Boniswa

My heart was very heavy Mlungisi hasn't said one word to me since last night he didn't even have breakfast with us and that bothered me. My husband loves food and for him not to eat it hurt me a lot.

Me:Shenge can we talk?

Him:about what?

Me:Mlungisi I know that you are upset but my love this is not a way to go. I know you want to be rich and have all the good things but our time will come.

Him:MaXaba you don't understand I have bills to pay and people to feed and that is not cheap

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your family needs money and the girls need new clothes and food.

Me:I know that believe me I will get a job.

Him: few days ago you were upset cause they asked Mrs Mgoma for leftovers and they now spending time at their house because of all the nice things they saw. Don't you think I should be buying those things for them.

Me:they material things sthandwa sam we will buy them.

Him:with what money?have you heard from the companies you sent your job applications.

Me: no I haven't.

Him:see ?you won't get a job.

He held both my arms and looked at me straight in the eyes. His eyes are pleading with me they begging me to join him in this but my heart is refusing. I saw a tear falling gosh let it be not an emotional blackmail.

Him:ngiyakucenga Thembalami please think about it think about all the things we could do together.

Me:how about I ask Mabutho to give me a job then.

Him:Mabutho your ex boyfriend? Wow Boniswa just wow .

He pushed me aside and walked out banging the door I felt my hear sinking to my knees I shouldn't have brought up Mabuthos name in all of this

>>>

Thulisile

My body was in pain Zitha really did a number on it I had green marks all over, after what happened in the morning I decided that it is best for me to pack up few clothes and leave I am not going to stay in a house full of animals my grandmother included I thought she has my back but turns out she is siding with Zitha and her daughter inlaw.

Me:ouch that hurts babe .

Him:am sorry love but this bath salt will help you.

Me:no it doesnt it makes it itch alot.

Him:relax my love I got you.

Me:nxa I hate my uncle.

Him:maybe I should pay him a visit. He needs to know that you dont beat up a woman.

Me:to him am a child not a woman.

Him:well you are my woman no one has a right to beat you up.

Me:I will be fine I promise.

Him:if you say so but dont be surprised when you hear that he is in hospital.

I looked at him and he smiled at me, something tells me that he will do something horrible what if he shoots him?does he even have a gun? Or he is just joking. After helping me with a bath he rubbed some oinment of my skin and borrowed me his briefs and a tshirt. He cooked for us stir fry vegetables with chicken.

Him:let me feed you ntokazi..open your mouth for me.

>>>>

Mlungisi



What Boniswa said about asking her ex boyfriend to give her a job made me angry who goes and back for a job from his or her ex boyfriend? That will prove to him that I cant take care of her he will belittle me even more.

I walked around our neighbourhood with the letter that came from the old age home I have been meaning to read it but my mind was preoccupied. I rad the letter and bill shit this will leave me broke this means I wont buy the girls new clothes sigh this is expensive than I thought. What am I going to do? Do I ask my boss to borrow me money or do what my heart is yearning for join in the cult? This is going to be difficult.

Mabuthi stopped his car next to me,I looked at him if he is going to disrespect me I will drag him out of his car and beat the shit out of him.

Mabutho:jah mageza empompini?Injani impilo?

Me:ufunani kimi?

Him: nothing but if you can borrow me your wife for one night I can give money to buy new clothes.

Hee this guy is full of shit he doesnt know me very well I leaned over the window and pulled him closer with his tie as livid as I was I forced myself to calm down.

Me:listen to me very well if you ever say my wife name again I swear on my fathers grave I will kill you and feed your body to the river goddes I hope I made myself clear. Now go before I do what I said I will do.

He was very frightened by what I just said he nodded many times and drove off..maybe he is the one I should sacrifice. I rad the letter again "uzonotha uyenze konke okufunayo" I took my phone and called Mgoma he picked up after a while

Him:Buthelezi my boy.

Me:can I have Zombothas phone numbers.

16

Boniswa

My husband was still not talking to me I tried everything to show how sorry I am but he kept on giving me a cold shoulder and it seemed like he was enjoying it.

I woke up very early to prepare myself and go look for a job, I pray this time no one turns me down I pray that all the closed doors should open up for me. When I was about to leave my phone rang.

Me:Boniswa hello

Voice:Hello M'am am I speaking to Boniswa Buthelezi?

Me:yes.

Her:you speaking to Noma from the old age home its about your mother.

Me:what about my mother?

Her:she has been admitted at Emajubeni hospital.

Me:oh my God what happened?

Her: she had a heart attack mem

Me:oh my God this will kill my husband alright then thanks for letting me know I will go to the hospital right away.

Her: have a good day.

I quickly changed my clothes and wore something comfortable I wrote a note for the girls and went to catch a taxi while sending a text to my husband,this is really bad.

>>>>

Thulisile

I spent a night with Baxolele my body was still in pain but I decided that I should go to school I can't afford to miss the economics revision because if I do Mr Nyathi will be on my case.

The hardest thing to do was to go home and change into my school uniform. My grandmother was cooking soft porridge when I walked in I greeted and she didn't reply. I got into my

room and let out a loud sigh while changing my into my uniform after everything was done I called my man to come pick me up and this time he should wait for me by the gate.

Gogo:ubuya phi Thulisile?do you know how worried I was?

Me: no I didn't.

Her:Thulisile please sit so we can talk.

Me:talk about what gogo?I have to go to school or I will be late.

Her:please Thuli I know you mad at me but my child Zitha had to reprimend you if we don't reprimend you who will?

Thulisile you all I have and Boniswa is married she doesn't come here all the time if wena uzongi shiya ngizo sala no bani?

Me:you have Zitha and Gcebile.

Her:kodwa Thulisile this is not how I raised you.

Me:I know gogo am a grown girl now you need to stop treating me like a child please.

Her:Thulisile you still a child.

I didn't say anything I got up and went to the car she was standing by the door shaking her head.My uncle and Gcebile

were standing behind her in total shock what I know is am no longer coming to this house.

>>>

Baxolele

Me:don't break the door ngyeza.

I opened the door for Mabutho he hardly comes in here since I moved in we don't see each other that much. I wonder why is he here.

Me:malume

Him: boy boy how are you

Me:am good.

Him:we need to talk.

Me:did my parents send you to have a talk with me?

Him:I don't know what you talking about. I saw the girl from the Xaba household what is she doing here?

Me:she stays with me but just for a while.

Him: I don't want her here...that family is trouble not to mention her brother in law if he finds out that Thuli is staying here it will be a problem.

Me:malume you don't understand.

Him:what's there to understand? You staying with my ex girlfriend sister

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you impregnated someone then you came here and she will also be pregnant then you will run leaving me to clean your mess. Please tell her to go back home..

He got up and left.

>>>>

Mlungisi

I felt my heart beating very fast and sweat was falling off my forehead with my arms sweating this is it am here to sell my soul to the devil so I can be rich and by the look of things there's no going back. I wiped my forehead while checking if I did switch my phone off. some lady came to me she had some red stuff smeared on her face and she covered her hair with a red doek.

Her:ubaba will be ready for in a while.

Me:alright thank you.

Her:please go to that room and bath yourself baba can't see you while you wearing this clothes and smelling of cologne.

Me:oh thank you.

Her :follow me.

I followed her in the room that was filled with a lot of smoke and some strong substance was burning in a calabash and that is no sage because I know the smell of it. The smoke was making me a bit dizzy.

Me:are you going to give me some privacy?

Her:no I have to make sure you follow babas instructions.



Me:oh what are those instructions

Her:please get in the bath tub.

I got in the bath tub she came scrubbed my back while she was resiting something foreign she asked me to repeat the words with her, something passed between my legs while she was lotioning my body with muti. I looked down to see what it was but I couldn't see anything. She stood aside and nodded her head. I felt something heavy weighing on me it sang so beautiful and brushed my hair.the hair on my skin got up my body started feeling very numb I was getting dizzy by the minute before I knew it something was kissing my feet part of me wanted to look but the other part refused cause I was scared of what I will see.It kissed my legs until my legs were very wet. The lady gave me a red gown with a gold robe and asked me to follow her to the next room,my body was shaking out of fear this is scary than I thought the passage was really dark I couldn't see the person I was following."take your gown off and go in" a little voice said.

Me:what was that?

17

Mlungisi

I walked in a room that had candles burning red and black candles, the man was sitting on a grass mat, his eyes were red as if he was smoking dagga.

Him: Hlala phantsi mfana (sit down boy)

I did what I was told my body was trembling out of fear and this room was very scary and there were disturbing noises around am not sure if it's people screaming.

Him: what can I do for you.

Me: I want you to make me rich, ngifuna uku notha.

Him: how rich do you want to be? do you want money?

Me: yes I want to be very rich so that I can afford all the things I want.

Him: that is going to cost you alot.

Me: how much will it be?

He raised his hand stopping me from saying anything else he then laughed at me.

Him:I don't work with money when people want to become rich. I work with a sacrifice.

Me:an animal sacrifice?

Him: no I need a human sacrifice.

What? This is not real this can't be happening. Who will I kill? I can't kill am not a murderer.

Me:so I must kill anyone I want?

Him:no you must kill someone who is your blood like your mother, sister

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wife or children.

Me:no no I can't do this.

Him:you said you want to become rich,you bathe in my Muti ,you kissed by Nomanzi now you want to walk away? It doesn't

work like that once you get in here you must finish all you started or else you will suffer.

Me:but I can't kill...

Him:you have two options here let me show you your future...khulumani Bantu abadala bonisani nangu umfana isasalake(show this boy his future)

He spoke with a mirror and to me this was just ridiculous how can you speak with mirror? I saw the house I will have,the cars the businesses everything was beautiful and felt real.

Him:see that's your future.

Me:I can see that.

Him: so who will you sacrifice?your mother or your child?

Me:child what child?

Him:am talking about your unborn child your wife is pregnant and she doesn't know it.

Boniswa is pregnant and she doesn't know it? I can't kill my mother I love her so much and if I kill her the girls will never be

happy, if I kill my child will I be a father again? I looked at him and he smiled at me .

Him:who is it going to be?

He spat out something yellow on the ground and he sang some song while chanting and groaning. li

>>>

Thulisile

I sat outside the house waiting for Baxolele to come back he said he had somewhere to go and I was getting hungry and cold. I don't know why he left with the key instead of leaving it behind. I wanted to go home but my heart was against it. I called him and he took time to answer. I left voicemail for him.

Me: Baxolele where are you?I have been waiting for long and you not coming,am hungry and cold please hurry up. .

Sigh of he is not coming might at aswell go home and take all the punches my family will give me.

>>>>

Mlungisi

After I was done at Zombotha I hurried to the hospital. I can't believe that I was busy with him while my mother is on her dying bed. When I saw my wife I hurried to her and gave her a long hug.

Her:where have you been?

Me:work I was really busy .how is she?

Her:not so good .

Me:damn it. Tell me what did the doctor say?

Her: they don't know if she will wake up or she will be in a coma for long Buthelezi kubi.

Me: she can't die not now .

Her: the nurse at the home said your mother was busy screaming saying she saw 3 naked women with owls going through the bushes that are near the old age home.

Me:that's insane Boniswa if they said she saw my father I will believe them but to see naked women?no that's a lie.

Her: I don't know Mlu am just passing the message.

"Who are you going to sacrifice? Your mother or your unborn child?"

18

Boniswa

He was sleeping peacefully like he has no worries something deep inside of me was telling me that he was up to no good he looked like someone who was doing something wrong and the black mark he had on his forehead scared me.

Me:Sthandwa sam vuka.

Him:am up my love I have been watching you..you still enjoy watching me sleeping.

He pulled me closer for a kiss and turned us I was beneath him enjoying the taste of his lips and tounge he moved his finger slowly rubbing my clitoris this feels good but some how his tongue made me neseaous I pushed him and ran to the small bucket we use at night,the food I ate last night forcefully made its way out.

Him:are you alright Thembalami?

Me:I will be fine

Him:do you want to see a doctor?



Me: no I will be fine.

Him: let me get you a glass of water then.

I hope am not pregnant because I don't think we both ready to bring a child in this world. We still have a lot of things to do before I fall pregnant.

>>>>

Thulisile.

My phone has been ringing none stop since last night Baxolele doesn't give up I told him that am not ready to talk to him after what he did to me but he still thinks he has a right to call me. I decided to switch my phone off and join my family for breakfast.

The awkwardness that filled the kitched could be cut with a knife no one has said anything to me since I got back,no has even bothered to ask about where I was or if I was safe and to be honest it hurt me a lot its like they nolonger care about me.

Me:gogo can we talk?.

Her:we will talk later I have to go to the Sassa office .

Me:I won't take time.

Her:Thulisile please..we will talk later now take your bag and go to school.

Gcebi:and utshele lo skhotheni wakho anga parking Lana(and tell your boyfriend not to park his car here).

I felt like swearing at her but I chose to ignore her and go to school.

>>>>

Boniswa

I passed by the doctors office before I could see my mother in law I needed to get myself checked I there must be something that will put my my at ease.

He asked me to take pregnancy test that came out positive then then after he did a pregnancy test that showed that am 26 weeks pregnant. I wanted to cry and scream but my heart wouldn't let me my heart was happy that I can give my husband a gift that every married woman can give. I took my vitamins and the baby scan and went to see my mother in law. She looked very pale than yesterday nothing has changed.

Me:Ma I know you can hear me..I know you loved me from the first time you saw me we may have had our difference but you loved me. I felt your love in every way. Ma I need you to wake up and get better Phumzile,Phindile

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Mlungisi and Sibahle need you.

I smiled while brushing my stomach gosh not so long ago I didn't wish to be pregnant but now am happy even have the baby's name Sibahle we are beautiful and in love.

Me:am pregnant mama and her name will be Sibahle.

Mlungisi:what?

I turned and he came and kissed me after spinning me around. You could see how happy he was. I showed him the scan he couldn't keep his lips away from mine.

Him:I love you so much Boniswa Xaba.

>>>>

3 weeks later

Mlunngisi

This is it the deal with the devil has been signed and no one knows about it the only person I need to influence is my wife so that all of this can be successful. I held onto the varse that has a heart and walked into the room with one of the initiates and a small child who was turned into a zombie following me.

Zomboth:finally you are here ...ngyijabula manje.

Me:yebo baba nantsi impahla yakho(your parcel)

Him: Phahluka thatha lento(take this varse)

He then led me to something that looked like a pond they were singing a ritual song,my lips were moving am not sure if I was singing or they were trembling. The water became dark,pitch black and had bubbles something appeared from the water it had long hair and nails. My heart stopped beating it was difficult to breath,it removed its hair and looked at me. My eyes popped out it maybe an evil thing but it looked beautiful.

Zombotha:Nomanzi the river goddess the one who makes miracles here we have your sacrifice. This young man you see here wants to be rich. Nomanzi grant his wishes make a miracle.

He handed the heart to her and took it and swallowed all of it while looking at me,she walked around me singing. Her voice was something that was out of this world she sounded angelic I don't know what happened but I was able to breath again. Our eyes locked something inside of me moved she then returned to the pond she smiled at me then she dissapeared.

Zombotha: your wishes will be granted.you have to bring your wife so Nomanzi can connect with her.

Me:why does she have to connect with her?

Him: Bring your wife Buthelezi..

Nomanzi appeared again she smiled at me and waved me goodbye I waved back there's something strange with her .

Him:she loves you.

Me:what?

19

Thulisile

I am left with 10 days before my exams starts to say am not nervous will be an understatement am nervous as hell. The study group did help a lot and Mr Phiri was kind enough to give us tips of how to study. This time around am focusing on my books hope that won't affect my relationship with Baxolele.

My family has left for town and am on a study leave. After all my house chores were done I took a bath,I heard someone calling out my name I took the towel and wrapped it around my light skin body and went to see who was there I found Baxolele standing at the door.

Me:Baxolele what are you doing here?

Him:ntokazi I came to see you.I miss you.

Me:what if my family was here?

Him:relax I saw them leaving.

Me:But you just...

He kissed me and pushed me inside the house the kiss was slow and passionate he sure did miss me. My back was against the wall and held onto his neck for my dear life

he removed the towel that fell on the floor as he played with my titties that sent me into a frenzy.

He took one nipple in his mouth and I moaned whatever this is it is good. He played with my Nana causing my legs to shake like jelly. He took his pants off and held my hand as he led me to my room. I was laying with my back in the middle of my bed while he was eating my pussy. My whole body was shaking and feeling all foreign to me.

Him:open your legs for me.

Me:it hurts Baxolele

Him:it won't hurt if you open your legs.

I open my legs a bit wider and he went in I screamed my mothers name as he went in and out of me. It was painful and a bit uncomfortable for me but as time went by my body relaxed and I enjoyed myself. He came and he collapsed on top of me.



>>>

Boniswa

If someone has told me that morning sickness will be this horrible I would have prepared myself this is something that I hate vomiting everyday for a good 30 minutes and feeling dizzy its no fun.

I sat on the toilet sit and took a deep breath this is not right at all.I need some bread crumbs to stop all of this I got up and walked outside. We use the long drop toilets. Phumzile came and held my hand as we making our way to the house.

Her: we have made breakfast for you.

Me:oh you did

Her:yes uhm I hope it will help with your morning sickness.we made bread crumbs with banana heard that they help with this.

Me:that's very sweet of you thanks baby.

We sat on the table and ate our food they looked happy. They excited about the baby they even came with other names for the child.

>>>

Mlungisi

It has been difficult to talk to Boniswa about joining me I have no right words to use I mean how do you tell your wife that you want her to join you into witchcraft. I know she won't forgive me if she finds out what I did the sacrifice I did will haunt me for the rest of my life but it had to be done. I have a lot of people to feed and I have a child on the way I don't want my child to suffer

Me:Boniswa can we talk.

Her:yes

Me:I want us to go to Zombotha tomorrow morning.

Her:but why?

Me:you know why.We have things to do and people to feed.

Her:but I told you I don't want to be part of it.I will not associate myself with witchcraft.

Me:its not witchcraft Boniswa its something that people do.

Me:no no no that won't be necessary.

Her:who did you sacrifice with?

Me:I didn't sacrifice with someone I just made an agreement with Zombotha.

Her: I see. We will go tomorrow.

>>>>

Baxolele

I watched her sleeping peacefully the poor girl has given me her virginity and I may not see her again. I have to go back to KwaMashu for few days, I need to sort this whole Lihle thing or else my parents won't allow me in their house. I need her to do the paternity tests I won't a father a child that is not mine.

I tiptoed out of bed and wore my clothes back. I heard a car pulling up and people talking outside. I peeped through the window shit her family is back what am I going to do?

Me:Thuli wake up.

Her:what's wrong?

Me:your family is back how will I get out

Her:what? Shit no no Zitha will kill me.

Her aunt screamed her name she quickly dressed herself and paced up and down. She stopped and looked at me.

Her: am going to open up and you will use the window to get out and please be careful

Me:alright.

Her:I love you.

Me:Hamba kena.

She left I heard them talking in the kitchen while I made my way out and ran for my life.

20

Thulisile

Me: Baxolele please call me when you get this please.

I have been trying to call him since last night but his phone takes me to voicemail am worried about him and we didn't use any protection what if I fall pregnant? No I need to go to the chemist I can't wait for him to call me back or buy me the pill.

I searched my bag and I only have R20 shit this is not enough maybe I should borrow money from my grandmother. I went to her bedroom and she wasn't around the house. Her purse was ontop of the headboard it had R350 so I took R200 and left for the chemist.

>>>

Baxolele

I was at Kwa Madhu waiting outside Lihle's house ,she comes out walking with one of my friends they were both laughing they didn't even see me standing outside my car.

Me: ekse Lihle.

She stopped and my friend froze guess I got the answer of who the father of the child is. I walked closer to them and greeted my friend. Her eyes were already glossy.

Me: who is the father of this child?

Her: it's you.

Me: don't lie to me. Who is the father?

Her: it's you ufuna ngithini?

Me: you want me to believe that? You busy laughing with my friend and you think I will believe you.

Her: X you are the father please believe me.

Me: we going for a paternity test first thing tomorrow morning.

Her: over my dead body uyangizwa? Am not going to allow any doctors to inject me that will kill my child our child.

Me: do you think I care if that thing you carrying lives or dies?I don't give a shit ksasa we doing this test.

Her: we will see Baxolele we will see.

Me: if you ever give me a hard time Uzo khomba umuzi ono tshwala.(hell will break lose).

I got in my car and drove home

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this doesn't make sense if that's my child she is carrying why would she refuse that?.

>>>

Boniswa

My heart was beating very fast I would be lying if I said am not scared I was very scared that I pissed on myself. Some lady instructed me to in some room to take a bath. She washed my back while singing and gave me a white gown with a gold robe.

Her : please go through that passage. There's someone waiting for you.

Why did I even agree to do this? "Come on Boniswa think about the mansion in Durban, the cars you saw outside the business plan in your file" my husband words rang in my head. I wish I can turn back but it's too late now. I walked through the dark passage until I reached the door I held the door knob "turn it to your left" a little voice said am assuming it must be a child maybe at the age of 7.

I walked in the room was very cold my body is trembling. I saw something that looked like a pond and it had something like a fountain. I stepped a little closer gosh the water was clear. "Close your eyes Boniswa and say everything you want Nomanzi to do"

Me: I want to be successful and rich. I want to have a mansion in Durban. May the business am about to start boom and generate alot of money.



I opened my eyes something was standing in front of me. I looked up and our eyes locked it looked angry at me like it was ready to eat me. I stepped back when it stepped closer. It brushed my stomach while smiling I pray that it doesn't kill my child.

Zombotha: relax she won't harm you.

Me: I pray so.

Him: prayer has never worked for you so please don't mention it.

I was given a calabash that had water mixed with herbs I was told that it will give me strength and protect me and the baby from any danger. Nomanzi kissed my legs her tail was flapping around.

I walked out with my legs wobbling all I wanted was to be home sleeping this was torture."see you soon " a little voice said.

21

Boniswa

I tossed and turned all night my mind kept on dating back to what happened earlier today. My husband was sleeping so it will be pointless to wake him up. I got off the bed and went to the kitchen to have some milk heard that it helps if you can't sleep.

When I felt like something was starring me you know that feeling you get when there's someone presence in the room. The light of the fridge showed some shadow on the wall. My heart started beating very fast , urine found its way between my legs. I slowly turned Mlungisi was standing behind me

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the milk container fell when I screamed.

Him: am sorry to scare you.

Me: don't ever ever do that to me. Look what have you done.

Him: am sorry Thembalami. your bladder is now small you urinate yourself. Let me clean you up.

He poured warm water in the Zink basin and cleaned me up after we cuddled that's when I was able to sleep

>>>

Thulisile

Gcebile: first you sleep at your boyfriend house now you still money from us.

Me: I didn't steal it I borrowed it.

Her:from who? Gogo didn't say you can take it so it is clear that you stole it.

Me: I will pay it back.

Her: don't make me laugh. You not working so where will you get the money from?

Me: Boniswa will help me

Her: don't tell me about that broke ass she doesn't have money .Wu Lazarus loyo .

Me: I will pay it back.

My grandmother shook her head she is disappointed in me not even one day has she ever thought that I will steal from her. She got up and went to her room, I followed her and she closed the door right on my face.

>>>

Baxolele

I called Lihle and her phone took me to voicemail this girl is crazy if she thinks that I will let the paternity test go she has to do it whether she likes it or not.

I drove to her house and I was told she left early in the morning going to the clinic. I drove to the clinic and there was no sign of her. I called her again and left the message.

Me: you better call me when you get this message or you will be sorry I promise you.

I drove back home feeling very livid.

22

Baxolele

I have been driving like a mad person around my neighborhood looking for Lihle and there was no sign of her even her friends don't know her whereabouts. I decided to visit my friend Tony am sure he knows where I can find her. I didn't knock I just let myself in

Him:ey X you don't knock what if I was naked?

Me:naked with who?

Him: any girl you know me..you know sidume ngani.

Me:you sick bro..anyway Ku hambanga(what's up)

We fist bump and I get comfortable on his couch

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he takes two cans of castle lights and we drink .

Me:Montana have you seen Lihle?

Him:no I haven't.why?

Me:Lo girl ufuna ngiqoke ijazi elingalona elami(she wants me to father a child that's not mine.)

Him:so that's why you want DNA test done?

Me:yes bafo am not ready to be a father.imagine me X onga solveki being a father?ai ngeke sbali.

Him: but I warned you about this slay queens of yours but you don't listen. You should have picked an ordinary girl nje.

Me: ordinary ?I don't do ordinary girls .

Him:then deal with your slay queen Lihle.

We both laugh my phone ranged and we both sang along to the ringtone.

Us: uX onga solveki..ngisgebengu esinga khuzeki,mina ngyenza I couple ingaxabani ngikjikele ulahle umfazi"

The person called more than once and all we did was sing and dance call us crazy but my ringtone is the best.

>>>

Thulisile

I have been trying to call Baxolele with no luck if his phone is not on voicemail it rings until it goes to voicemail. The thought of spending another day not talking to him kills me. I don't know if I did something wrong or he is no longer interested in me. I am losing my mind right now.

I went outside to find my grandmother sitting with her fellow church ladies and the topic was about me judging from the way they were looking at me.

Gogo: here she is my grandchild is very troubled please ladies let's pray for her.

Lady1: kneel down Sisi so we can pray for you

Me: no thank you I have to go.

Gogo: oh Nkosi yam let dimoni be busy with my child. Thethelela somandla.

They forced me to kneel down and I fought them they were convinced that am possessed by some demon. They prayed for me others were praying in tongues.

>>>

Mlungisi

Everything is falling to space money was deposited in my account the kind of money that shows you know living the lavish life. I took my favourite girls for shopping they shopped until they were hungry. We passed by the restaurant I found the place very beautiful I wouldn't mind owning this type of joint.

I spoke to the waiter and he told me that the place will be closed cause the owner no longer takes interest in it. I took his contact details and set up an appointment with him. Ifi want to look rich I must start now. This restaurant is exactly what I need.



23

Boniswa

I went to visit my grandmother I needed to tell her the good news I know for a fact she will be happy for me. When I arrived at her house she was walking out her fellow church ladies. I greeted them and and went inside the the house to find the crying Thulisile.

Me: what's wrong sisi?why are you crying.

Her:ask your grandmother.

Me:no am asking you. Tell me.

Her:she has no right to ask her friends to pray for me.I don't need prayers I can pray for myself.I need my man not prayers.

Me:what does prayer and your man have to do with you crying?

Her:Baxolele left me with no goodbye or anything and he is ignoring my calls.

Me:you have a boyfriend? Why do you think he left you.

Her:he is nowhere to be found Boniswa. I miss him gosh you don't even understand what am talking about.

Me:listen you will wipe your eyes and forget about him.he probably got all he wanted that's why he is ignoring you. Did you sleep with him?did you use condoms?

Me:no.

Me:don't lie to me did you?

Her:yes I slept with him.

Me:Thulisile you such a fool kodwa.

Her: stuff you Boniswa.you no God to judge me and not my mother either.

She got up leaving me with a question mark. When did Thulisile start being this disrespectful? Am lost for words that girl is not my baby sister.

>>>

Mlungisi

I underestimated the power of Zombotha I thought I will never get the riches. The sacrifice I made worked for me even though

this will haunt me. I was sitting outside my house having drinks with my boss.

Me:thanks for the whisky.

Him: anything for my former driver.I will sure miss you.

Me:am a phone call away if you can't drive.

Him: so what are you going to do with the money?

Me: I thought of buying the restaurant in town then will see after .

Him;not a bad idea you can invest some of your money for the girls.

Me:I will sir.

Him:so has she visited you?

Me:who?

Him:the river goddess

Me:no she hasn't.

Him: she will come one day.

Me:has she ever visited you?

Him:am an old man she loves young man like you. The young  
leds if you know what I mean.

Me:I get you.

Him:don't make her angry or else she will hurt everyone in the  
house especially Boniswa now that she is pregnant. I still think  
you should have sacrificed with the baby to avoid trouble.

Me:trouble was with my mother she was never gonna heal  
anytime soon.

Him:so you took her out of pain and misery?

Me: how do you deal with your conscious after what you did?

Him:there's no dealing with it you have to accept it and move  
on with your life.

Me:I see.

He makes it look so easy this is a difficult thing to deal with it  
maybe its because I did it now but maybe one day I will get  
over it.

>>>

Baxolele

I have been ignoring Thuli's calls I don't know why she doesn't get the message that am done with her I got what I wanted and I have to move on.I checked my phone I got a lot of missed calls and texts from her. I called her number and he picked up immediately,this shows she was expecting my call.

Her:thank God hello babe

Me:hi Thuli.

Her: I have been calling you and you don't answer why?

Me:I have been busy .

Her:busy to even send a simple text?busy for me

Me:ai I didn't know we married that I must explain myself to you.

Her:but. ..

Me:listen I called you because I want you to stop calling me. Whatever we had is finished.I want you to focus in your exams and forget about me is that clear?

Her:please Baxolele

Me:goodbye Thulisile.

I hanged up and threw myself on top of my bed. I hope she won't call me again.

>>>>

Mlungisi

♪wenkobasa mtaka baba wenkobosa mtaka baba

Woza mtaka baba woza esibayeni mtaka baba

Wozo ngithwesa umgqomo uya sinda

Wenkobosa mtaka baba wenkobosa mtaka baba

Uya sinda umgqomo mtaka baba♪

I heard this angelic voice singing, I listened attentively and the voice came from the kitchen. I got off my bed and followed the voice I found Nomanzi standing near the TV singing while playing with her hair. She looked at me and smiled at me. Her

voice is something else reminds me of my mother I walked slowly to her

I stood next to her I was held captive by her voice and beautiful eyes.

Me:your voice is beautiful.

She moved her hands on my face it was a soft touch that makes you want to close your eyes and not do anything. Our eyes locked and I was meeting her halfway to kiss her, we shared the most passionate kiss with my hands moving slowly on her body. I sat on the sofa and she sat on top of me riding my cock this was beautiful or should I say magical? I found myself groaning while looking deep into her eyes.

Once we were done with our session she got up and waved me goodbye she exited through the door. I peeped through the window and she was nowhere to be seen.

When I opened my eyes I found Boniswa sleeping next to me. I checked under my briefs and I have messed up myself. This was one dream I never had all my life. I got up to clean myself and check if all the doors are locked,I saw a shadow through the window and when I peeped I saw Nomanzi walking through the gate holding hands with a zombie. Was I dreaming or it was happening for real?

## Thulisile

I can't believe that Baxolele dumped me I mean I don't even know what did I do to him. I called him again his number wasn't going through all I got was that annoying beeping sound. I will call him later after my exam.

After taking a proper bath and wearing my school uniform I prayed asking the Almighty God to be with during my exam I hope that I will do good I have to make my grandmother proud. I had my breakfast alone my grandmother went to an early morning prayer with her friends as for Gcebi and Zitha they were still sleeping, at least I will eat in peace.

I saw my father and his wife when I was on my way to school he didn't look too good probably his sick or his sins are catching up with him. I greeted and as always the wife replied she even wished me luck on my exam and my father just shook his head.

>>>



Boniswa

Him: hurry up or we will be late for our meeting.

Me:but you can go alone I mean you the one who wants the restaurant.

Him:we partners here MaXaba so I want you by my side always.

Me:sthandwa sam I thought we could go to the estate business.

Him:that too but let's seal the deal of the restaurant first please my love.

Me:all done so how do I look?

I took a twill for him I was wearing body hugging red dress that has a slit behind and the red painted stilletos my weave had curls and I looked fine let's say even the pregnancy has added on my glow.

Him:you look like a snack umuhle Thembalami.

Me: Thank you my love now we can go.

We borrowed a car from Mr Mgoma after the meeting we are going to pass at the car dealership we need to get our new wheels. This is the life we have been dreaming off.

>>>>

Thulisile

The exam went so good everything that I have prepared for came out am so glad that the study group is helping if it wasn't for the group I would be cracking my head. I passed by Mr Phiri's office I need to thank him.

Me:thank you so much for helping me the exam was a piece of cake.

Him:did you enjoy the slice?

Me:yes I did and I think I got 80% .

Him:mhm I like the confidence Thuli.

Me:thank you again sir.

Him:you know you the only one who calls me sir.I told you to call me..

Me:Tebogo. I will never get used to calling you with your name.

Him:you will one day.anyway I have to go Thuli see you in the afternoon.

Me:thanks again sir.

I walked home with a huge grin on my face . I called Bax again and I got a beeping sound sigh why is he doing this to me.

>>>>

Boniswa

The meeting went very well soon my husband and I will be the new owners of The saucy dish,I am proud of myself for the first time things are looking up for us. We got home and celebrated with the girls and next year they will be in one of the best boarding schools in Durban. We don't want to expose them in witchcraft/ cult we have joined it is best that they don't know anything about it.

We went to bed very late I was exhausted that when the lights went off I fell into a deep slumber

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suddenly I felt something or someone with cold hands ice cold hands moving the around my stomach singing,I tried to open my eyes but they were very heavy. This person kept on singing a beautiful lullaby I don't know if she is singing for me or the baby that is growing inside of me.

♪wenkobosa mtaka baba wenkobosa mtaka baba

Woza ngithwesa mtaka baba

Umqomo uya sinda wenkobosa mtaka baba

Wenkobosa woza ngithwesa woza mtaka baba♪

I slowly opened my eyes as heavy as they were I had to see the person who is singing and rubbing my stomach. I saw the river goddess and I screamed my lungs out she quickly disappeared in the room.

Mlu:what's wrong thembalami

Me:she is here she is in our bedroom

Him:who?

Me:Nomanzi or whatever her name is she is here

Him:Oh! Relax she won't hurt you.

Me:what?

Him:come let's sleep.

He pulled me closer and wrapped his warm hands around me,closing my eyes was a bit of a problem because I kept on hearing Nomanzi's voice singing. What have I gotten myself into?

>>>

25

Thulisile

I felt my phone vibrating under my pillow, I clicked on the answer button and waited for the person to speak.

Voice: hey Thulisile it's Tebogo.

Me: Mr Phiri?

Him: yes are you sleeping

Me: yes am sleeping why? what time is it?

Him: don't worry about the time I was just checking up on you.

Me: thank you sir.

Him: alright let me leave you to sleep see you tomorrow .

Me: ok bye.

That was strange he was calling to check up on me? I closed my eyes again and fell asleep.

>>>

Mlungisi

How do you tell your wife that you are married to the river goddess? Do you put it straight like "Thembalami Nomanzi is my spiritual wife" Boniswa will never understand I think it's best to live her in the dark. I sat on the sofa reading the contract I have my body suddenly felt cold and it got cramps I knew that Nomanzi was in the room with me. I raised my head to be met with my mother's bleeding body

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she held her chest crying.

Me: mama please forgive me..am so sorry mama wami.

Her: Buthelezi what have you done.

Me: am sorry mama please.

Right now I was a crying mess I kneeled infront of her as her blood was dropping on my head. She touched my head and sang her favourite song. I felt guilt washing all over my body am not a good son.how could I murder my own mother? I never

told the twins about her passing I just couldn't bring myself to it.

Me: mama ngyaxolisa mama.

I kept on apologizing and she never said anything to me. She walked away with me trying to stop her.

>>>

Boniswa

I rolled over hoping to feel my husband's body next to me but his side was empty. I woke up and went to find him. He was sleeping on the couch mumbling something, I shook him roughly.

Me: sthandwa Vuka.

Him: Thembalami

Me: you were dreaming what's wrong.



Him: it's nothing. Just had a dream

Me: come to bed then.

I went back to our bedroom to find Nomanzi sitting in front of the mirror brushing her hair and singing, I stopped and covered my mouth so that I don't scream. She smiled at me and continued brushing her hair. I walked slowly towards her I stepped on her tail and she screamed so loud .I found myself pinned on the wall and her eyes reflected fire she is going to kill me.

Baxolele

Someone was banging on my door the person kept on banging making it hard for me to sleep. I dragged myself to the door. Lihle stood there with her bags.

Me: manje Wena?

Her: may I come in?

Me: come in where? Uyaphi ngemithwalo

Her: I will be staying with you until I give birth.

She pushed me and came in this girl is testing me. She disappears with no trace then comes with this kind of shit in my house.

Me: you not going to stay here.

Her: I will watch me.

Me: Lihle ubuya phi? I have been calling you for days ubuya phi Wena.

Her: I wanted to clear my head but am back now.

Me: clear your head? So you will tell me that who is the father of your child.

Her: Yaz X you so slow how many times must I tell you this.

Me: Lihle out with the truth now will you.

Her: ngathi Uzo Dina manje.

I grabbed her chin and tighten my grip she looked terrified she was ready to cry.

Me: you going to do the test tomorrow morning and if that child is not mine I will kill you with my two hands.

I pushed her and she fell on the couch. I left her crying and locked myself in the bedroom

26

Boniswa

We finally moved from Madadeni to Durban our restaurant is growing we decided to buy more restaurants have a chain of restaurants. Our financial situation has changed a lot I no longer worry about money or how will I buy my family groceries. My phones rings and its Gcebi the money sucker I just answer with so much annoyance in my voice.

Me:Gcebile

Her:Boniswa we must talk.

Me:about what I hope its not about money cause I gave you money yesterday.

Her:well its about money. We need to renovate the house?

Me:your house?

Her:no you know I don't have a house.

Me:good cause there's no house that's getting renovations.my grandmother is happy with her house.

Her:she won't tell you to renovate it but am telling you.

Me:Gcebile if you want to renovate it better find a job and save up for it.

Her: oh now you have money you talking the way you want with me?

Me:goodbye Gcebile.

I hung up this woman loves money hell since I got wealthy she always request for money I even offered her a job and she turned me down. I need to stop sending them money or else I will go broke again.

>>>

Thulisile.

Me:but you are my teacher.

Him: I won't be next year Thuli.I have fallen for you please understand that I love you.

Me:Mr Phiri I have never dated anyone older than me and my last relationship left me heartbroken.

Him:my name is Tebogo. Am not your ex and I won't hurt you I will love you. Let's take things slowly let's not rush things.

He stepped closer and our lips met I tried pulling away and he pulled me closer. I was enjoying the kiss more than anything the butterflies in my stomach were playing hard and the sensation between my legs was playing with my emotions right there I felt like screaming.

Him: do you love me Thuli.

Me:I don't know Tebogo am not sure .

Him:give us a chance Thuli .

He kissed me again gosh this guy here will oil me with his kisses.

>>>>

Baxolele

As many times I tried to get Lihle to do the test she refused even got my parents on her side. I will never know if the child is mine until he is born. She walks in my room dragging her feet I must say pregnancy has changed her she looks ugly.

Her:babe my back is killing me can you rub me.

Me:I can't I have to be somewhere.

Her:X you such a cow. You never spend time with me you always away what's wrong with you.

Me:you not a baby Lihle and I can't always baby you so please leave me alone.

She started crying there goes a drama queen. I just left her went to have some drinks with my friends.

Mlungisi

Having Nomanzi around my house its a problem she appears anytime she wants she no longer waits for midnight and she has pinned Boniswa against the wall couple of times and I fear that she will kill my child and wife.

I went to see Zombotha he needs to take Nomanzi away from us I can't always leave my wife alone and fear that I will find her dead one day. We were sitting in his indumba talking.

Him:money suits my son.what can I do for you

Me:baba its Nomanzi she brings trouble in my home.

Him:am listening.

Me:she once attacked Boniswa couple of times. I fear that she might kill her.

Him:I see. I told you to sacrifice with your child because I was saving you from all of this. Nomanzi once lost her baby now any pregnant woman brings pain open up old wounds.

Me:how?isn't she dead ?

Him:no Nomanzi is very alive just that she is in coma she has been in that state for a long time.

Me:what? You have to do something about her. Take her away.

Him:am afraid I can't son. Wena uqalekisiwe(you are cursed) futhi uthwele ngo Nomanzi.She is the source of your riches without her everything will fall apart and you will be more poor than before.

Me:so what must I do?

Him:in one of your spare bedrooms keep her there. Keep the room locked at all times.you the only one who has go in that room.if you want to be intimate with your wife go in that room.

Me:my wife won't agree to this.

Him:Buthelezi qina ube yindoda(be a man)

Me :I hear you baba.

Him:good now take this. You sprinkle it that room every morning and at night. Call her name and tell her to stay in the room she will obey you .

Me:I will do so baba.

Him:go well then my son.

I walked out accompanied by his zombie one will be scared to be followed by a zombie but am used to this nothing scares me anymore.



27

Thulisile

Tebogo has been blowing my phone with a lot of messages and calls and every time he calls I have to excuse myself and speak with him privately. I looked at the caller ID I can't believe what am seeing with my eyes.

Me:Baxolele?

Him:Hi Thuli unjan?

Me:am good oh my God can't believe you called me.

Him:will you believe me if I say that am back?

Me:no I wouldn't

Him:ngila ngaphandle woza(am outside come).

I kicked the covers and ran outside he was leaning against his car in the all white outfit oh my word its really him. I ran like a five year old seeing her mother coming from the shops. I jumped at him and he spinned me around my heart was dancing.

Me:I didn't think I will see you again.

Him:am sorry for the way I left I really missed you.

Me:but why did you end things with me that way?do you know the pain you put me through?

Him:am really sorry Thuli.I can explain all of that but come with me to the shop so I can explain everything I don't want your uncle to chase me with a sjambok.

I got in his car and we drove off gosh its really him even his Cologne didn't change. The love of my life is back.

>>>

Boniswa

I had a very long day at work ,running a restaurant its no child's play you have to be in your fit all day checking if everything is in order. I checked my phone hoping to get a message from my husband but he didn't call me.

I went to the bathroom to run me a bath after the day I have I surely deserve it, Once the bath tub was filled with water, I went back to my bedroom to take my clothes off and some bath salts I bought for myself heard that they work magic on pregnant woman.

As soon as I opened the bathroom door I saw a tail flapping inside the water

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the water changed its color into black my heart skipped a bit and I almost fell, gosh why does this thing have to be everywhere? I closed the door and went back to my room. I am still scared of Nomanzi that thing has serious issues with me.

>>>

Baxolele

I left Kwa Mashu as someone who is going to have drinks with friends, I thought its best to leave the house I was really

suffocating in that house. Lihle is a problem and the fact that she is pregnant makes me mad am not ready to father a child.

I did miss Thuli even though she is not the girl I want. I missed her jokes and being around her and looks like I have some explaining to do.

Me: am sorry for the way I left. I had things to take care off back home and if I didn't take care of them they would have gone out of control.

Her: are they sorted?

Me: not really babe they far from that.

Her: are you going to tell me or you will leave me in the dark?

Me: Thuli you know am a DJ and girls throw themselves at me. Some girl claim that I have made her pregnant.

Her: OK are you the father?

Me: I don't know she refused to do the DNA test. But I will do it after the child is born I can't father a child that is not mine and am not ready to be a father.

Her: so what about us?

Me: I still love you

Her:and if the child is your what are you going to do?you said you don't want to father a child.

Me:if the child is mine she will remain with his mother I want nothing to do with him..I am..

I felt a very hot slap right on my cheek. I tried to speak and she slapped me again flip why is she slapping me?did I do say something wrong? I opened my mouth and she slapped shit this girl gives mean slappes.

Her:I don't ever want to see you again Baxolele.you selfish you want to fuck and not take responsibility of your sperms? Go to hell.

Me:Thulisile lalela(listen)

She got off the car and ran for her life.

>>>>

Mlungisi

I found my wife pacing up and down in the living room she looked so stressed and when she saw me she let out a heavy sigh .

Me:what's wrong Thembalami

Her:where have you been?

Me:I was at Madadeni then went to see the girls what's up?

Her:that thing of your shows up everywhere. I wanted to take a bath and it was in the bathroom swimming or bathing whatever you want to call it.

Me:oh.so you didn't bath?

Her:I did bath in the guest bathroom.

Me:then why the long face.

Her: you left me with it.what if it attacked me like before? How are we going to keep it on the leash? Mlungisi I didn't sign up for this.

Me:relax I will handle it

Her:no you can't .Mlungisi you scared of it maybe you should consult that man again.am sorry but I want that thing gone.

Me:will you stop calling it a thing?Nomanzi is the reason why we rich and without her we will be poor again is that what you want? When you went ka Zombotha you signed up for everything. You signed up to connect with her ,you sold your soul to her,she is the other you and you Boniswa you agreed to make her my spiritual wife.so you signed up for everything.

Her:what did you just say?

Damn I spilled the beans carelessly I didn't think she will hear me because I spoke so fast.the room was now quiet the only thing speaking was the clock that is hanging on the wall. We had something splashing in the pool outside and we both ran outside and we both couldn't see anything.

28

Boniswa

My heart broke into pieces after what Mlungisi said, how on earth did I sell my soul to Nomanzi? how on earth did I even agree to this? was it because I was tired of poverty? was it because I was tired of Gcebile always asking for money or because she always compares Mlungisi with Mabutho? So many questions I can't even answer.

Me: what did you just say?

Him: you heard me very well and am sorry for not warning you, I should have.

Me: can I be alone please

Him: not now we need to fix this.

Me: there's nothing to fix just get Nomanzi out of my way.

I went to our bedroom and cried hard. I wish he did warn me and how will I stay out of Nomanzi's way when she makes her presence felt all the time.

>>>



Mlungisi

I took out the powder Zombotha gave me it was time to keep Nomanzi in the room this is the safety of my wife and unborn child. I sprinkled the powder and called out her name

in no time she appeared she was singing her favourite song. I felt words failing me I couldn't speak she moved around me singing her voice is very captivity I wonder how many men has she captured with her angelic voice.

Me: Nomanzi... Nomanzi as from today you will stay in this room. This is your private space.

She kept on singing. This is not working how do you tell someone to obey you when they have already kept you captivated? I closed my eyes and listened to her voice my heart is at peace all my worries have vanished.

>>>

Thulisile

I never went home after what Baxolele told me instead I went at Tebogo house I needed someone who will listen to me but I found myself in his sheets. He made love to me like he will never get a chance to do it again, I enjoyed every moment of it. He was thrusting me hard while I was sucking on his thumb in no time he collapsed ontop of me.

Him: are you good?

Me: yes am good

Him: no regrets right

Me: no I have no regrets.

Him: that's my girl.

Me: Uhm can you take home am sure my grandmother is worried about me.

Him: it's 22:00 pm Thuli uzothi ubuya phi?

Me: I don't know.

Him: stay please spend a night with me and I promise to take you home in the morning.

Me: no take me home

Him: alright then.

We got in his car and drove home, he dropped me by the gate and left. The lights were already off and there is no way I will wake my grandmother up so I went to the garage and took a sponge that was placed in the corner, I laughed at myself as I layed my body on it years ago I used to sleep in this sponge with Boniswa. I slowly closed my eyes and went to dream land.

>>>

Boniswa

I felt warm hands touching me and I opened my eyes Mlungisi was staring at me. I was still angry at him.

Him: am really sorry Thembalami and I promise that Nomanzi won't be in your way.

Me: promise?

Him: with all my heart. I don't want to lose you or our child you two are important to me. I love you Boniswa

Me: I love you too.

He kissed me and we both feel asleep

♪♪Wenkobosa mtaka baba Wenkobosa mtaka baba

Wozo ngithwesa mtaka baba

Umqhomo uya sinda

Wenkobosa mtaka baba ♪♪

29

Thulisile

The way my calls my name you will swear he is a lion he was standing next to his car yelling out my name. I got up and greeted him.

Him:nyaobona malume ubuya phi?

Me:malome I can explain

Him:explain what?Thulisile ubuyile ugijima nabafana?

Me:no malume I was at a friend

Him:friend my foot your teacher is your friend?

Me:Malome?

Him:don't malume me you heard me very well. You busy running with older man first it was that boy who drives a velocity now its this old man who drives a polo?woza Lana.

He dragged me into the house and whipped the nonsense out of me. Gcebile was the cheer leader as always my grandmother went to her bedroom leaving Zitha to deal with me.

Him:Nonjabulo should come back and fetch you cause that useless father of your want nothing to do with you.

Gcebile: or better yet call Boniswa to fetch her am sure their mansion has many rooms.we won't stay with you.

Me:am really sorry it won't happen again

Zitha:you damn right.am going to your father he will come here and fetch you whether he likes it or not its time he takes you in.

Me:am not going anywhere this is my home too.

Him:uyangi phendula Thulisile.

A hot slap met my right check and I found myself kissing the cold ceramic floor. He whipped me again this time he wanted to whipp me until I bled.

>>>

Boniswa

I was in a room everything in it looked white I couldnt see the sunlight I screamed out loud and my voice came back in echoes.

Where am I ? I looked around and I heard MaButhelezi's voice she was singing and rocking a baby back and forth. I got closer and I smiled at her.

Me:MaButhelezi ?

Her:Makoti wami

Me:what are you doing here and where am I?

Her:this is my home.she looks so beautiful

Me:who is she?

Her:hao Koti don't you see who is this?

Me:my word she looks exactly like Thulisile

Her:she is the one who will reveal your secret. It pains me of what your husband did and you couldn't stop her.

Me:what are you talking about?

Her:you won't be able to even see her when she starts teething. Makoti ithi sihambe.

Me:please leave the baby behind.

Her:am sorry I can't

She got up I couldn't help but notice that she has a huge whole on her chest and the baby seemed to be bleeding from the head. I screamed her name trying to stop her but she didn't. I heard Nomanzi voice coming from behind and she she got to the door her face changed and she looked like Nomanzi. I screamed so loud as I woke up from mg horrible dream.

>>>

Mlungisi

I found Boniswa screaming she looked terrified like she has seen a ghost I pray Nomanzi didn't harm her I can't lose my wife.

Me:Thembalami yini

Her:what have you done Mlungisi?what did you do to your mother?

Me:excuse me?

Her:she was in my dreams holding a baby Mlungisi what have you done.

Me:calm down Thembalami let me explain...



Saved by her phone ringing thank you Lord. She talked on the phone looking all angry whoever it is will deal with me for making my wife angry.

Me:what's wrong?

Her:Thulisile..my grandmother wants us to have a family meeting. Let me bath and go home .

Me:I will drive you there.you can't drive in that state.

Her: OK let me bath then.

Me:will make you a cup of tea so long.

She went to the bathroom while I went to the kitchen to make tea for the both of us.

>>>

Thulisile

Everyone was gathered in the dining room I didn't understand what was happening because my uncle and Boniswa were communicating with their eyes.

Me:what's going on here?

Zitha :let's wait for gogo to come so we can start.

My grandmother walks in carrying a bag of clothes that bag looked exactly like mine.

Gogo:thank you Boniswa for coming on such a short notice.

Boni:its OK gogo.

Her:Boniswa your sister has been misbehaving lately.she is no longer my Thulisile that I raised.she is now gallivanting with older men

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men enough to be her father.

Her:is it true Thuli?

Gogo: we came to a conclusion that she will no longer stay with us.

I found myself kneeling on my knees begging my grandmother not to send me away. I don't want to be away from home I still want to stay with them.

Me:please gogo don't send me away please.

Her:au kahle Thulisile you won't be staying with a stranger.

Her: Boniswa I raised the both of you when Nonjabulo left now its your turn to take care of your sister.

Me:gogo please don't do this.

Boniswa:its OK gogo she can stay with us. Thuli take your bags we must leave I have a meeting with suppliers.

My heart broke I don't want to be away from home I want to be near mg grandmother and how will I see Tebogo? This was just wrong.I cried all the way from Madadeni to Durban.

30

Thulisile

My heart was still broken how can someone be chased away from her home because of love? I have found someone who loves me and they separate us? Baxolele never loved me that's for sure and Tebogo loves me his love is written all over his face. I sent him text and told him that I moved to Durban and he replied that he will come and see me.

I took a tour around the house I must say my sister has done well for herself. The house looked spotless you could eat on the floor without worrying about germs. I decided to make myself familiar with the pool it was almost sunset and the water was still warm this should do me good. I took my dress off and jumped into the pool and enjoyed myself.

Mlungisi

The money I have now in my bank account is enough to last me for years I can say that am one of the richest guys in KwaZulu Natal. I decided to buy a block of flats around Durban to accommodate varsity students this is the kind of life a man should live. I got a call from Phindile.

Me:Dade

Her: hello buti Mlungisi.

Me:are you alright sis

Her:am good just missing mom. I want to go and see her its been a while.

Me:oh?sisi let me call you back.

I quickly hanged up dammit what do I say to them I mean they don't even know that their mother is no more. I need to come up with a plan real fast.

Thulisile

I was really enjoying myself in the pool how I wished I had a smartphone so I can take picture and upload them on Facebook.I think I should cook supper for Boniswa just to thank her for taking me in even though I didnt want to stay with her.

Before I got out of the pool I felt something touching my leg I froze a bit and it touched me again. I looked under the water I saw something that looks like a tail. I got frightened and got out of the water and ran inside the house to call Boniswa.

Her:Thuli?

Me:where are you?

Her:on my way what's up?

Me:please hurry up I saw something inside the pool.it had a tail

Her:it had a tail?

Me:yes am scared Boniswa.

Her:OK I will be there but am sure just your eyes deceiving you.

I went back to the pool and I saw nothing.I think she is right my eyes are playing tricks on me. I went back inside the house to start cooking.

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