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The Duplicate II

It is now six years later. Tabita is now married. She has been married for six years right after the birth of her son. When her son Mihla was a month old the families saw it best that the two should tie the knot. She lives in their home with her husband and son. She has grown over the years; she had gone back to school after marrying her husband and was now a foundation phase teacher. She was a brilliant teacher; she understood all of her students and knew them by their full names.

Tabita goes home early because her children go home early than the rest of the grades. She gets to spend her time alone in the house without her son and husband. The first thing she does when she gets home is to cook dinner, takes a warm silent bath with half a glass of wine and enjoys her own company. Her husband works full hours, from eight to seven. He comes home

in the evening, sometimes he gets held up in meetings and come home at midnight or in the morning. They have a happy home. Her son is six years and was now in big school, he was supposed to start with school the next year but because of his birth month the school took him in with fear that he will be late from his peers. Mihla is a boy and he is very adventurous, he jumps on the beds and couches even after his reprimand him you would swear he has walls blocking his ears, at first his grandmother from the dad's side was worried and had him checked by the Dr to see if anything was wrong with him, there was nothing wrong with him except that he was too hyper and the Dr suggested that they give him little sugar, the only good thing that came out of his mad levels of energy was that he went to bed very early at seven pm giving the parents time to bond without him pulling his father's ears.

There have been suspected cases of infidelity on the husband's side but she never followed or uncovered any of them simply because she never bothered to. She knew better than to sniff behind her husband's back and that was an advice given to her by one of her married friends. She had made a couple of friends over the years. Some were from her workplace, others she made from school.

Thabo has his hands full with work and his family. His wife and son are his backbone, the only cards he holds that give him

power and feel like a man. Without the presence of them both lies an insecure boy still seeking validation from his father. He juggles between the legit and illegal affairs of the family, what more could his father possibly want I mean he is in fact the perfect heir. Besides being married an excellent business man and a perfect son he is also a shine of hope in someone else's life, Sino. Thabo's been seeing Sino for years now, like it or not she was indeed a part of his life.

Sino Mampofu is ratchet and absolutely unapologetic. She is a socialite, the life of the party. She checks in at the most highly popular clubs, hotels and all the local fancy spots. On the weekends she plays netball as a hobby and has her own netball team of young girls from eight to nineteen. She lives a really soft life, although she works and gets paid for her influencer work, her entire existence is sponsored by her married boyfriend. She lives in a fancy apartment where she sometimes hosts the girls.

Thabo's sister Khanyi has brought a new place but she's always at her parents' house because she is a big baby. She has just found out that she is a few weeks pregnant and she was keeping the baby and had already told her family without disclosing the boyfriend's name. Issa, her sister still stays at home and has fully accepted that she was bisexual, she now

had a girlfriend who like her was a tattoo and piercing artist, together they were running an ink studio.

Nokuthula and Mbulelo have a number of unresolved marital problems. She feels like she is old and now tired of living a lie. Besides fighting her husband for the disappearance of their son she's has also been pleading her husband to stop and put an end to all the illegal operation because she felt that they had enough money to settle down and the legal business generated enough income to maintain the family for a life time. They had a grandson and another on the way; she feared for them and even suggested that they move out of the country just so they can start on a new clean slate. Mbulelo promised his wife the new life she wanted. He assured her of dropping all of his immoral acts and concentrate on the legal systems and family. Of course it was all lies, crime ran in his blood. It had become a part of him.

Tabita's father had moved out of the main house leaving her wife behind. He moved to the farms, his home at his father's house where he was taking care of his father's livestock and pastures that he as the only son inherited. Tabita was suspecting a default in their marriage, to her it made zero sense that they lived in different cities without visiting one another. But the old couple continued to live separate lives without disclosing any information to their daughter.

1

Sino

I am Sino Mampofu. I grew up with everything I asked handed to me. I never struggled as a child, my parents worked hard in making sure that I get everything I want and need. They sent me and my brother to the best schools in the city and together we delivered the best results, not once did we disappoint our parents with our academic results. I am dedicated, I work hard in making sure that whatever I want I get, I never go down without a fight, I am very much consistent in my hard work. I am very much popular; everyone knows my names I don't shy away from that. I am that bitch. I coach a netball team and my girls are between eight and nineteen. We have won tournaments in and out of the city and I have a really good relationship with their parents, they believe in me and they trust me with their children's safety as always I make sure I don't disappoint. Practice is on the weekends; mostly Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon after some of them have come back from church. I make sure to take them out to the mall for all sorts of fun activities at least once a month. I have become a bigger sister to many and that just warms my heart.

I am versatile. I am friends with so many people of different energies but my day ones are boujee with a luxurious lifestyle everything with them is top class. My friends host parties almost every weekend and we make it a point that at least we cross borders to a different continent twice a year.

My parents have influence but I never used any of their power to get where I am. I worked my way up, rubbing shoulders with people in high places to get recognition. I am a social media influencer with a huge following I charge brands for their products. My parents had a hard time supporting my line of work but ended up supporting it because it generates income and it is what I consider as my career. I wish I can tell you that I have everything I want and everything is perfect I am so fulfilled but I won't. My life is far from perfect, because I am dating a married man. I wish I had him first but I didn't, he was already in a year old relationship when we met. We met at his friend's house who hosted a party celebrating something work related. His friend was dating my friend at that time. To cut the story short we clicked and he asked if I wanted to get out of there, I said yes and then we left and never looked back. At first we would hook up at least once a month at the hotel when his girlfriend was home. It went from once a month to three times

a month and then he made his girlfriend pregnant, they had a baby and got married. I was worried because I had thought him getting married would mean getting rid of me but that wasn't the case, instead he got me my own apartment so he can see me whenever he liked. Sometimes he would drop unannounced but I was always ready for him, I get that he has a home and a family. But I am his second home. His parents and siblings know about us, and it's only a matter of time before the wife finds out.

Tabita

My life has become pretty boring. I feel like the birth of my son oozed out all of my youthfulness and fun. I love my son so much I even walk to his room on my way from the bathroom at night to steal kisses, but damn. I rarely went out to the club and get my ass drunk because mommy duties always stepped on my neck. I go to lunch sometimes

when I have mastered being a good wife and a mother. I go to lunch with Noma, my friend from work who is also married and a few years older than me. Noma and I relate so much to each

other because we're both married teachers and our kids are the same age, she has a daughter.

My husband is never home. He stays with us but is always at work and comes back in the evening. Our sex life has become so boring sometimes I do not climax. Have I mentioned that the only time we have sex is when our son goes to sleep? Yes. My sex life has become so boring that I keep a few dildos and a vibrator. I keep my sex toys at the ceiling in our backyard cottage. Every time when my husband goes away for a weekend I take my son to his grandparent's house and take out my sex toys and pleasure myself. Sometimes I grind my clit to sleep, I have had episodes where I was extremely horny and would watch myself in the mirror and imagine the last man that made me feel like a woman behind me then I would cum and taste my own cum afterwards. I missed him every day, but he was now on the list of things never talked about.

Khanyi

I am four weeks pregnant. I found out 2 weeks ago and have been keeping it a secret from the person responsible. I was

scared of how he would react, whether he wanted to be a part of the child's life or not I was keeping my baby. I have already told my parents and they accepted the pregnancy, my mom was excited. I haven't been to my place since I found out I was pregnant, I curled up all day in my room or in the couch besides my mother. He has been ringing me nonstop. I wasn't ready to talk to him. My mother has been asking me and trying to find out about the father of my child but I wasn't ready to tell her, I was gonna tell her once the baby is born so that she doesn't force me to abort. I could imagine the shock and disappointment on her face when I tell her that Samson got me pregnant. That would evoke war in the family, they trusted him I mean we grew up in front of him but I aged and fell in love, he loved and treated me like a real woman and that is something man in my age group failed to do, all they wanted was to smash and party. Samson provided me not only with love and affection he also took care of me financially, not that I needed the money but it felt kind of special to receive money from someone I call my man.

Mbulelo

Daniel knows too much. Ever since he and his wife Thozama stopped working for us he changed and started drinking. He is now talking to the wrong people about my family's issues. I have used him as the family driver for years and may have

included him in some of my illegal deliveries a few times. The word on the street was that he has started working and plotting against me. I don't have much information on this but he needs to be stopped before it gets ugly.

Nokuthula

Everything was falling apart. My friend of thirty years had stopped working for me, she has stopped talking to me she doesn't answer my phone calls. I have been to her house a couple of times but she refused to open the gate. I know our husbands had some sort of controversy but I want my friend back, there's a lot I need to get off my chest. I tied back my doek, I was getting ready to go to sleep and Mbulelo was still downstairs at his study room. I reached for my phone on the pedestal and tried my son's phone. I listened to his voicemail tone every time before I go to sleep just to hear his voice. I missed my boy so much and I have been calling him on the same number ever since he left. I know Mbulelo is responsible for his sudden disappearance because whenever I asked him to organise a search team and look for my son he would show me our online transactions, streams of money that Thabiso was responsible for were still running so he had to be out there.

2

Sino

I said goodbye to my friends and opened the gate to my house. Tonight was fun I was able to take my mind off a lot of shit that's been going on lately, work related stuff. I locked the door and asked Siri to play T-shirt by Shontelle. I threw my heels and bag on the floor, I opened the refrigerator I had nothing to warm up or eat, only juice. I poured some and had a sip then I went to change. Something triggered me when I opened the closet, my man's shirt. I brought it to my nose and sniffed and realised that I missed him so much I haven't seen him in a week, his cologne on that fabric made its way to my lower areas, I leaned with my back on the closet biting my lower lip. Should I call him? It was late, and I never call him this late because I know the rules. 'But I miss him so much' I whispered throwing myself on the king sized bed he bought; the king-sized bed was really nothing without my king. I took the risk, dialling his number on my phone. I was about to drop the call and switch it off when he answered, I didn't expect him to answer because it was already midnight.

Thabo

I closed the door careful not to wake my wife. She never calls this late there must be something wrong. I answered the call locking myself in the bathroom.

'Hello' I said trying to sound as low as possible.

'Hey, I'm sorry I know the rules but uhm.. I'm so stupid I'm sorry you can't go to bed, don't mind me' she said and ended the call. Just like that she ended the call. I called her back

'Daddy'

'Talk to me' I said leaning on the window. I could hear her breathing through the phone on my ear. 'Sino'

'I wanna fuck' she said.

I sighed. My mind was already getting carried away. 'What are you doing right now?' I asked relieved that she was not in some kind of trouble also her tone slow and low, pleasing.

'I'm lying in bed, just came back from the club and all my friends are getting nailed tonight'

'baby you know you can't call me at this time'

'I know it's just.. I miss you so much daddy I just want to be in your arms right now'

'you know I can't' I said fighting myself. I couldn't risk it.

'I know I'm sorry, I wish you were here next to me'

'I know. I'm sorry baby. I love you'

'I love you too. I'm so aroused right now since you not here I'll play with myself, stay with me until I climax, can you do that for me?' she asked and I got electrified immediately. I heard the sound of her vibrator vibrating. 'say something to me daddy' I held my erection. I imagined it all, her on top of the bed pulling the sheets.

'You know what, I'm coming' I changed my mind.

Back to the bedroom. Tabita was still sleeping, my sweat pants I had on last night were on the couch. I put them on and took my car keys, I was doing all of this in silence

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she was snoring peacefully.

Tabita

The bedroom door closed again, his phone had rang a couple minutes ago he left the room and came back to get dressed. I listened carefully, I could hear the front door opening and closing again in a slow motion. I sat up. I saw a light on the window coming from outside, seconds later I heard the engine. I was still not sure of what is going on so I sat there for good five minutes still dumbfounded, I switched on the lamp on my side and looked at the pedestal on my husband's side of the bed, his car keys were not there. I checked my phone maybe there was an emergency or someone in the family was hurt and needed rescuing. But why would he sneak out and not tell me.

I left the bedroom and went to check on Mihla, my son. He was still sleeping with his blankie on the floor, I picked it up and spread it on top of his tiny body and placed the extra pillow on the side and tucked the blanket so it does not fall again. The kitchen and the couches were empty and the lights were off, I switched the lights on and went out to check the cars. He was gone. One of the cars was not there so I went back to the house and locked the doors. I went back to the main bedroom to find my phone, I called my mother luckily she picked up. I told her what had just happened. 'Tabita sana lwam khawulale mhlambi uzobuya akuxelele usukaphi' (Go to back to sleep my child,

maybe he will tell you where he went when he comes back). That was my mom. I was expecting her to say that. I tried my friend Noma, I needed a second opinion because my mind needed help processing the entire dilemma, and he had never done anything like this before.

‘Hey sisi’ she answered in a sleepy voice.

‘Hey, I’m sorry to wake you’ I told her the same thing I told my mother.

‘Don’t cry my friend’ she said and only then I realised that I was actually crying. ‘Something is definitely off but try not to push him, remain calm don’t ask him anything you know how these men are he might try to turn the whole thing against you’ she said and we talked for a while until I was feeling better. We said goodbye and then I went back to bed, I was struggling to sleep for about an hour or three and when I finally did the door opened, he snuck back in bed behind me.

Thabo

I woke up around six in the morning and prepared breakfast. I left my wife in bed. She was still sleeping peacefully as ever. When I was done with breakfast I made the bath ready for my boy then I went to wake him up taking him to the bathroom so he can get ready for school and go down for breakfast after. I had just fixed the plates for the three of us when my wife walked in the kitchen, she was already done with everything and ready for work. I opened my arms so I can give her a hug and then I kissed her. "There's a new chef in town" I said slapping her behind playfully. "I made breakfast my love, sit down" she smiled and sat down. To be sincere, the only reason I was taking over her morning routine was because I felt guilty of what I did, sneaking in and out of our house like a thief in the middle of the night. I was disgusted by myself. This was my first and last time doing something so risky.

Tabita

I rinsed the plates on the sink and left them to dry. I was still, smiling with my husband while my heart was writhing and sinking all the way to my tummy. He was with a girl last night, I could feel it. I heard him sneak back to bed this morning and fell asleep right after, this morning he made sure to wake up very early to hit the shower before I could smell her on his skin. For years before getting married I never understood the whole notion of keeping quiet when your husband is doing something filthy behind your back but now I was living it. I felt misunderstood, my mother and Noma offered inadequate advices, I was hurting and deserved a whole lot more than 'let him be'.

Thabo came back dressed and ready to go, he insisted on taking the boy to school and kissed me on my cheek goodbye.

It was finally my turn to leave the house, I made sure the doors were locked and went to my car, I sat there for a while reading through the most horrifying stories about serial cheating husbands and the things they do to cover up their infidelity. I wondered if he was cheating on me with the same woman or

multiple women. I made a realisation that I was so deep in this marriage; I had my claws sunk to the deep end. I had absolutely no desire to cheat on my husband even at times where I felt like he wasn't delivering or playing his part.

I laid my head back on the chair and closed my eyes. It was Friday, the last week of the day and it has been six full years and like the day he left I still missed him. I missed my lover, my secret-lover who disappeared without a trace.

I received a call from my dear husband during break time. Noma and I were at the school park having lunch while looking after the kids. 'Standwa sam, I won't be home tonight something came up and by the look of things I may not be home for the whole weekend'

'Oh?'

'I'm sorry, I know how lonely the house can get when I'm not around'

'okay'

'I'm sorry my love but I'll make it up to you and I will try to be back home early Sunday''

'It's fine. What time are you leaving?'

'This afternoon, I'm about to go home now and get a few things'

'Oh so soon, alright then can you please pick Mihla up and drop him at your mom's on your way to the airport. I could do with the weekend alone'

'No problem, call you when I board, I love you'

'I love you too, bye'

I placed my phone down on the space between Noma and I. She looked at me.

"Business trip again?" she asked. I nodded. "Mm. Let's do something this weekend, lunch maybe?"

"Yes, I would love to. How's Saturday?"

We stayed at the park a little longer and when it was time we took the kids back to class. Noma's class was next to mine. Usually we would have our learning lessons in the morning, after break we do nursing rhymes and read stories after that we clean up as a class and I get the kids ready for their parents.

By two o'clock all the parents had picked up their children, I cleared my stuff and went to say bye to Noma who still had two kids left.

I got home late because I went to the mall first to get a few things. I unlocked and went in

I wasn't going anywhere so I made sure the gate and front doors were locked. I made pasta while I did the laundry and went to hang it at the backyard through the backdoor to dry for the night. I changed my work clothes to a blue lounge wear, fluffy shorts and a top. I went to sit down on the TV with a bowl of pasta and a bottle of wine.

Thabo

I laid my face on her breast. Her chest soaked in sweat we just had sex. I suck her nipple playfully. "Stop it or you'll get me turned on again" she said putting her hand on my head to play with my ear I laughed and stopped. I was at her house again we had an unfinished business from last night. I was staying the weekend at her place. Somehow she had begun to feel like home. Unfortunately I already had a place I called home.

"Baby" She says, still playing with my earlobe. I answered with

my eyes closed I was tired we just had a steamy session. “Do you love me?”

I sighed. I knew exactly where the conversation was headed. This wasn’t the first time and most probably not the last. “Of course, I love you” I kissed her boob.

“I wish we can stay like this forever”

“Me too”

“Things will stay like this between us huh. In hiding”

“There are too many people involved, too many feelings to consider” I said, this was my normal response whenever she got into her feelings.

“Mm, it doesn’t matter, as long as I get to see you” she said giving me a third eye kiss. Was it love we shared? We did everything like lovers except for going out in public, but I still stayed with her for weekends, cook for her and make love to her at sunrise.

Tabita

I was full and tipsy from my wine. I switched the TV off and went upstairs, I longed for a man's touch so bad. I left the bath water running while I went to make the bed, after taking out Thabo's old shirt I normally sleep on I went down again to the backdoor. I hurried to our cottage, I climbed up the ceiling and took out my meatiest dildo and a clit stimulator then I went back to the house again. I set the mood in the bathroom; I had scented candles on the floor and poured bath salts in my water. My tiny Bluetooth speaker placed on the mat by the door, I got in the water and connected music from my phone and played Jhené's Triggered and left the playlist on shuffle.

I used a sponge to wash my back, arms and legs. When done I reached for sex toys on the window, and stimulated my clit. I moaned, echoes in the bathroom mimicking me, I painted pictures in my head from memories that I refused to let go of. I was drunk, soaked in salts and horny. I reached for my dildo it was my first time trying it out since I ordered it online, sitting down on top of my bathtub with my legs spread out I shoved the thing inside me; it felt like the real deal. I gasped in disbelief of how well and hard it actually felt inside me, I went out of the bathtub with my wet feet and I sat down on the mat and rode the dildo until I climaxed countless times. One thing about myself, I know how to pleasure my body.

4

Sino

I was on top of my man. I was doing it right because the expression on his face was priceless. He sucked my boob groaning at the same time pleading with me not to stop bumping on his erect tool. I was super wet from my own creamy fluids. The fire was too strong I wanted to stay with him forever. "I love you Sino, I love you baby- uhh.. yess" he groaned some more and I made sure to up my pace to drive him more crazy. My straightened hair was wet from sweat and was all over my face, I screamed after his heavy breaths while biting my lower lip in great satisfaction. This is really the man I want to be with for the rest of my life. If it means seeing him on the weekends and after hours so be it, this is the hill I'm willing to die on.

Tabita

The next morning I woke up to clean the mess I made in the bathroom. I rinsed my toys and place them back to their hiding place. After I have showered I call Noma to confirm the time.

We had breakfast and went grocery shopping. I got a few bags because we had groceries at home. Noma's husband was rich and paid for every bill in the house including their daughter's school fees, so did mine. After groceries I walked her to home city because she wanted new curtains, I also saw things that I also liked. I had Thabo's card on my wallet so money was not an issue. House shopping was like therapy this meant that at least I had an exciting thing to look upon when I get home, such as putting new sheets and curtains, changing the old table cloths to new one and putting new coloured shades for our lamps. This wasn't the life I had planned for myself, but I was already six feet deep in, there was no getting out. It's not like I had anything exciting to do anyway, my life was centred at being a good wife, mother and a brilliant teacher to my little bundles of joy.

The next day I cleaned the house and drove home to see my mother and together we went to church.

After church I made tea and scones for us and we had what seemed to be a profound conversation pity it fell on deaf ears. My mother was still preaching the same old song, if you ask a

man about his infidelity he's likely to leave you for the other woman. My mom's teachings and beliefs were old school and I for one was totally against them, but I was careful not to tell her that because I respected her as a mother, the last thing I wanted was for her to feel inferior. I admired her bravery sometimes I'd even forget that we shared a secret, my son's true identity was buried deep in our chests we didn't even talk about it.

Thabo

After Sino and I had late lunch I said goodbye and drove home to pick my son up. I didn't stay long at my parents' house because I was exhausted I wanted to take a good nap before work tomorrow. My wife had called early in the morning to let me know that she was going home to see her mom. There was no food ready when we got home, none in the fridge and oven so I ordered three large pizzas to feast on while we waited for my son's mother.

By seven o'clock Mihla had already passed out on the couch from all the junk, I carried him to bed and then I went down to

clean up his toys. I threw away the empty pizza box and went to shower. I waited in bed for Tabita to get home.

Tabita

I parked my car inside the garage. Thabo was home. I went inside, the TV was off and Mihla's bag which had his clothes was on the couch. I took it with me upstairs to his room where I unpacked the backpack on the washing basket. I kissed him goodnight on his closed eyes. I went to the main bedroom, he was sleeping. I didn't wake him up instead I went to look for something to eat, I was hungry. I found pizza, I warmed up three slices and had them with a glass of juice.

I made sure the doors and windows were locked and closed after that I went to brush my teeth and went to bed, snuggling behind my husband. He smelled great, fresh out of shower. I kissed him on his back, he opened his sleepy eyes. "Hey

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I'm home" I said planting kisses on his neck and chest. He held my head still and kissed me on my forehead. "Hey" He said. I kissed his warm lips and traced my hand down to his groin, I wanted him. He smiled and stopped me. "I had a long day sweetheart" he said and lying on his chest, his head looking the other side.

I sighed from disappointment. We haven't had sex the whole week.

Thabo

Dad came to see me in the office. I asked Samantha to bring us coffee and we sat down at the couches area inside the office. He was interested in business, how was everything going. We talked about everything, first the façade side and then the dark side one that contributed a lot of money. Apparently mother had run out of business spirit, according to her husband she wanted to drop everything and focus on the real business, which was ridiculous because our livelihoods depended on the drug and trading money. Father and I agreed on the same

thing, and that is to keep her out of the business and convince her that we were no longer involved and we have cut all ties with crime.

“How’s your family doing?”

“We good” I said hiding my guilt.

“You can never fool me son” he gave me an eye. “Is it something she did?”

I got up from the couch and went to lean on the bookshelf behind the couch. “No it’s nothing she did, she’s a good wife and mother to my son”

Father took a sip from his cup. “I see its Ceaser’s daughter”

Father was aware of my relationship with Sino. Sino’s father, Ceaser and my father were once business associates but him, my father left the line of work. Sino’s dad ran a secret adoption agency; from what I have heard from my father he worked together with nurses, midwives and social workers to steal children from new-borns to the age of one and give the children over to new parents. My father though still had an

interest in working with him in other streams apparently he had a lot of useful contacts.

I nodded. Ashamed.

“It’s nothing to be ashamed about, I too have had my share of women I couldn’t get my hands off, I’d keep going back for more until your gangster mother caught me red handed one day and left a mark on my back”

We laughed as he shared more stories of him and my mother. “She’s old and tired now, not as mischievous as she used to be. So have I, now I have my eyes fixated on her”

I nodded. “I can’t seem to stay away from her dad. I love my wife, I’ve loved her before she took my second name and gave me a son. I still love her and I don’t want to imagine my life without her” I said sitting down again. “And then there’s her, she makes me feels things, she takes me places I don’t know... she-

I paused. I was so caught up in the moment I even forgot who I was sharing the information to.

“Sex? It be like that sometimes” said father, putting his empty mug on the table.

“I don’t know if I’ll ever be able to let go of her. I have different feelings for them both; I don’t want to ever choose between those two women”

“Well then you better make it official before someone comes and steals her from you”

“Official?” I asked puzzled, I already had a wife.

“Polygamy” He said. I laughed.

“No dad, are you serious?”

“You said so yourself that your wife is a sweetheart, talk to her about it. She might surprise you”

“Yes she’s sweet and calm but not in that sense, Tabita would never agree to such nonsense”

“Well then” He shrugged getting up to fix his jacket, said goodbye and left.

5

Thabiso

I am back at home, home where the heart is. You know the more I try to run away from the place the more it spiritually haunts me to come back. I have endured more years as a wanderer trying to find my purpose in the world, I tried everything. I fell in art a bit more, tried dancing and music. I even attempted to write a book but I never got the satisfaction I needed, every night of every day I'd go to sleep with a longing. I had the money, I had friends who have turned into family but I still missed something.

I was parked outside the gate at home, once again I have found myself here after so many years and I'm still not sure whether coming home is a brilliant choice. The first time I left I was adamant about my choice, I made a vow to never come back to the place but destiny brought me back and that's when I got entangled in a different kind of connection, one I've never experienced before and for the first time I found a purpose to stay at the native town. But as always, past and our mistakes will always get in the way, at the end of it all I had to choose between my happiness and her life.

The big gate opened and a car came out, my brother was in the driver's seat. He pulled down the window staring at my car, my windows were opened. I wondered if he was still with her, did he ever find out about us.

I got out of the car locking the doors, I went over to him. He was shocked to see me, not excited or happy but he was kind enough to get out and hug me. It was nothing intimate as we only bumped shoulders and looked at each other. He looked different, still in shape but old.

"So you're back, again" He said leaning on his car.

"What can I say, home is where the heart is" my hands were in my pockets.

He nodded. "So what's the plan, you disappear again? After a month or two?"

I chuckled. "No brother, I'm here to stay. Is everyone home?"

It took him a while to say something back, he looked at me for a good minute as if I was up to no good and finally he nodded to my question. He got in his car and drove back in the house, I went back to mine and followed. The house still looked as good as new, so many memories flooded my mind. I followed behind Thabo as he opened the door, everything inside had changed. The house now had homely vibes as compared to the luxurious and fancy vibes from the last time. There was more furniture occupying the house, pictures of the family plus me and my siblings at every stage of our childhood. The TV was on but no one was around, I sat town on the couch with my arms stretched out.

“Whew! Feels good to be home” I said hitting the empty space next to me.

“Thabo, is that you? I thought you left” said mother walking in the siting area. She froze as soon as she noticed that there were actually two of her identical babies. Her hands quickly flew to her mouth

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she screamed.

Before I knew it everyone was at the area on their feet looking down at me sitting on the couch like I am side kind of an alien. To say the whole scene was emotional is an understatement, both my sisters and mother were crying.

‘We thought something bad had happened to you’ they said. It was certain that my father never said a word to anyone about our last encounter, not even his wife knew what my reason for departure was. They all thought I woke up one Saturday morning and left, never looked back again.

Honestly, it was very wrong of me to leave without saying a word but I had no choice, I had to leave and there was no time to plan or make up lies. I was emotional, in disbelief and hurt. I guess all I wanted was for the nightmare to be over, I had done too much damage to a point of no control and I didn’t want to be the reason for someone’s death again. I don’t think I would have been able to live with myself had my father killed her. But I was young and stupid, did a lot of things without thinking. I should have said goodbye to her more than everyone else.

“Why have you come back?” asked my dad, my mother gave him a death stare. “Do you know how much misery you’ve brought us as a family? We looked all over for you” what an act! I thought to myself. Nothing had changed; my father was still the same old twisted gangster.

I asked for forgiveness. I kept the apology short but sincere. After what felt to be an hour of a roller-coaster of emotions the girls broke down and hugged me. Everyone was sitting down now, the man of the house displeased and the opposite gender was happy sitting close to me. After catching up I found out a lot of things, Issa was bisexual, can’t say I was surprised by that because she’s always been the weirdest and I sort of knew something was up with her. Khanyi was pregnant and it became awkwardly silent when I asked about the baby’s father, no one knew and she preferred to keep it like that until she’s ready. Okay. One last realisation I made, one that made me want to sink and suffocate in the couch was that my brother was married and had a whole child, him having his own family wasn’t the case because I was running my own race and absolutely not in competition with him and I certainly did not have any desire to start a family of my own as yet, but what cut

me deep was that he was married with her, the same woman whose life I spared without her knowing. It took me back.

My mother brought me a plate of food which was leftovers from dinner. I was happy to be home, my sisters and mom were going through the pictures in my phone asking my experiences with the places I have been. "How old is he?" I asked my brother who was at his phone.

"He's six" he said, still not looking at me in the face. Thabo and I had a lot of unresolved issues from our childhood, everything to him was still about competition, and he saw me as a rival more than his own brother.

I nodded. "How does it feel? To be a dad" I asked again, my father's eyes pierced through his glasses as if I was about to start a conflict. Thabo put down his phone and we talked, he really loved the boy.

Hours later Khanyi had fell asleep on my lap. Issa was still on her phone while the rest of us were just talking about everyone light, in and out of the family. I checked the time, it was ten.

Thabo got up to stretch his arm to look at his wrist “I better get going, I’m sure my wife’s worried”

“I’m coming with you” I said. Everyone looked at me. “What kind of an uncle would I be, I need to see my nephew” I tapped my pockets for my keys.

“Isn’t it late? You can still see him tomorrow” said mother.

I smiled. “The night is still young, come on let’s go” I said tapping my brother in the shoulder. I could feel my father’s eyes piercing through my back as I led the way to the door.

6

Tabita

I was fresh out of shower, my hair was wet I had a towel in my head to dry them. Mihla was in his bedroom sleeping, we had dinner alone because his father was with his family, I'm not sure how true was that but I didn't want dig into his business in case I come across something I won't like. This weekend he took us out for a weekend, we spent two days under the sun looking at the beautiful Cape Town Mountains. I really enjoyed myself, he made love to me when Mihla was sleeping and that alone gave me a little bit of hope and assurance that he was still in this marriage, no matter his infidelities he still loved me as his wife. We only came back today.

I was tired from all the water and sun in at the beach, I still had echoes from the sea in my ears but I had no choice but to stay up until late because I had marking to do. My kids and I were starting a new literacy chapter tomorrow. I saw the lights outside and heard the gate opening, I finished marking the three last books on my lap so I can go down to warm up his plate of food.

I wrapped my silky gown around me and slid into my slippers. I switched off the bedroom light and hurried down to the kitchen. He was sitting down on the couch looking at the TV, he had his back on me. I smiled walking to him, I gave him a back hug squeezing him a little, I kissed his neck and he held me on my hands. His hand had a tattoo, my heart raced with shock and realisation. I moved back, it had to be a dream. No way.

I heard footsteps behind me, quickly I looked back to find my husband carrying Mihla. I looked at the stranger again, it was him. I recognised his heat when I hugged and kissed him a second ago, the touch of his hand on my arm I recognised it. "Hey honey" Thabo kissed my cheek as he walked past me to sit down at the couch, opposite the stranger. He introduced his son to his uncle, Mihla my poor baby was confused to see someone who looks exactly like his dad. The uncle took off the beany hat he was wearing, exposing blue hair. The brothers eventually found a way to explain to Mihla what was happening, and once he was trusting enough he went to hug his uncle still looking up at his face, he couldn't believe how much he looked like his father, he asked if he was also his

father. They both laughed “Yes, I am your second father” Mihla nodded still looking at this human who had his father’s features. He touched his hand and asked.

“What is this?” he had a small dragon tattoo on his hand, exactly the same tattoo on his chest.

“Uhm. It’s called a tattoo, aunt Issa also has it” He said. Mihla nodded again and asked another question.

“Why is your hair blue?” they laughed again. Thabo answered the question this time

“Your uncle is different, he likes different things. You like batman right? And your friend at school.. what’s his name

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uhhm” He looked at me to say the boy’s name

“Anthony” I said.

“Yes! Anthony likes spider man. Uncle Likes tattoo and blue hair” Mihla nodded again.

I asked if I can bring them anything to eat. They both said no and opted for beer. I brought them the cold bottles and switched the sports channel. We stayed up until midnight,

Mihla had fell back to sleep in his uncles arms. Thabiso made sure that his eyes don't meet mine, he was very good at it, and he ignored me the whole time. I on the other side wanted him to look at me; he has looked into my eyes before why was it different now. I felt like a stranger, he had completely locked me out. I said goodnight to the guys and went to tuck Mihla back in bed and after I went back to my room to finish up marking, once I was done I switched the lights off and went to sleep.

Thabiso

Thabo and I stayed up late watching football, I was getting drunk and sleepy. I checked the time, it was 01am. I got up to look for my keys "I should get going, it's late"

He looked at his watch. "Are you serious? Dude its 01am in the morning and you're drunk, you can't drive in this state"

"I'm not drunk, and you know I can drive brother"

"Nope, not in my watch" He got up and walked to the kitchen opening the drawers. "You can sleep at the backyard cottage,

I'm drunk I'm going to sleep" he threw me the keys. I was drunk and too tired to debate and look for my keys. He was also drunk, lacking balance.

I said goodnight and left the house so I can go find the cottage. He locked the doors behind me.

I found the small cottage at the backyard, unlocked and went in. I switched the lights on. It was two roomed, a bedroom and a bathroom. I kicked my shoes out and fell on top of the mattress. The ceiling was spinning.

She married him when I left. The boy was born the same year I left. What if he's my child?

Tabita

It was Monday I woke Mihla up and had him prepared for school. He sat at the TV watching cartoons as I fixed him cereal. I gave him his food then I went up to get showered, Thabo joined me in shower.

He hugged me from behind. "Why didn't you wake me. I feel tired" I laughed. "No wonder, you drank alcohol like its water

last night. Your brother drove home in that state?" I asked giving him the sponge so he can scrub my back.

"No, he slept backyard" he said.

"Oh? At the cottage"

"Yup" he kissed my neck. One thing led to another, we had sex.

I left him in the shower to go and get dressed for work and after I took the workbooks to my car. I fixed myself a bowl of cereal and coffee. The door opened, and he came in. His hat was in his hand, he closed the door behind him still not looking at me. He said hello and went to play with his son, I mean his nephew. My husband came running down fixing his tie, he kissed my cheek and called Mihla.

"Breakfast?" I asked.

"I'm already late baby, I'll get something at work"

Mihla grabbed his school bag and ran towards me for a kiss goodbye.

They drove away. I rinsed my bowl with water leaving it on top to dry.

I wiped the counter with a wet cloth and went up to my room. I couldn't stand being with him in the same room. I took my bag and car keys and closed the door hurrying down. I stopped at the stairs. He was looking at me, in my eyes like I wanted him to. He had blocked the way. He was clever because he was standing in the middle of the stairs so I wouldn't walk pass, also he knew I wouldn't push him because he was at the stairs and that would only result to him getting hurt.

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Thabiso

I had finally got the chance to be with her alone in the same room. This was my chance to look and talk to her. She hasn't changed much, hasn't aged one bit. She had really long afro hair.

I stood in the middle of the stairs, her only way out.

"Can I pass?" she asked, looking down on her feet.

"Look at me" I said. She ignored me. "Tabita, please look at me"

"What is it?" She asked looking in my eyes. My heart warmed up to its favourite person. I had a lot to say to her. I didn't know where to start. I was a very complicated and conflicted person but whenever I was with her I would feel lighter, different.

My heart was beating like crazy. I waited for this moment for years, I wasn't sure when it would happen but I knew that one day I will stand in front of her and will have to explain why I left. "I'm sorry" was all I came up with. It felt like something was blocking me from speaking.

“I’ll be late for work”

I broke down in front of her. I couldn’t hold my tears in any longer, for years I ran away from my true feelings. I tried to forget her and replaced her couple of times but there was never a success, I tried everything and still felt incomplete. She had her arms on her chest, refusing to let me in. She was unbothered.

“I’m sorry for leaving that day”

She chuckled. “It was years ago Thabiso we were young and dumb. I’m married now I don’t have time for games. Please move I have to get to work”

I wiped my face. I was making a fool out of myself. I moved so she can pass. She walked down the stairs I followed behind her and left the house.

Tabita

It was break time. Noma and I were sitting down at the bench having our lunch as usual.

“Are you okay?”

I sighed. “Yes I’m okay. Just have a lot on my mind”

“Are you sure because you don’t look like someone who went to a vacation this weekend”

“I’m fine. Its family related” I said checking my phone. It’s funny how I was expecting a call from him to meet up when I totally refused to talk or hear him out this morning. That’s even if he still had my number.

“If you say so” she took a bite on her sandwich and wiped her mouth. “How are things between you and your husband?”

I smiled looking at her. “Well, this weekend we made love the whole night for two days”

She giggled. “Must be nice”

“Yes, and this morning he joined me in shower... and we did it again”

We laughed more, trying to keep the conversation as low as possible so the kids don't hear us.

"I'm so happy that things are back to normal"

"So am I" I said checking my phone again.

Thabiso

I called Thabo. I wanted him to hook me up with an estate agent. I was buying a house. He gave me few contacts.

"Thanks man, hey can I stay in at the cottage a few days until I sort something out?" I asked.

"Uh. Yeah, no problem. I have to go"

"Alright thanks, bye"

I exhaled looking out of the window at my house, my parents' house. I prayed that father wasn't home. I had no strength to get into a conflict with him.

I got out of the car and walked inside. Mother was making breakfast so I asked if I can lend her a hand. We prepared breakfast, I also found out that Thozama was now our ex-employee; apparently her husband who was the family's driver stole money and some of my father's possessions so they fired him. The husband forced her to resign as well. What a shame.

We later sat down at the breakfast table to eat. Issa was ready for work

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she had a tattoo studio at the mall. "I'll drive by to check out some of your work, I need a new ink on my back" I said.

Mother looked at me. "More tattoos?"

Issa laughed. "Tattoos tell stories we can't tell mama, you should also come by I'll give you a nice ink for free" We laughed at my mom's disgusted look.

"Take your hat off, where are your table manners" that was my dad. I took it off and their jaws dropped to the ground when they saw my blue head. Issa's expression was different, her

eyes lit up and she made a cute face blowing me kisses. “I love you! Omg. I’m so happy there’s someone cool in the family, I was even thinking of moving out because I’m tired of being the weird one here”

I laughed, my mother hit her playfully.

“They not as cool as us kid” I said. “Unfortunately, I won’t stay long. I’m buying a house”

There was silence in the table. Everyone looked at me.

“Where?” Khanyi asked, she was still in her gown.

“Here in town”

“Why?” my dad asked putting down his spoon as if he has lost his appetite.

“Because I am starting over father, I’m here to stay this time if someone feels different I suggest they go hit their head on the wall. I’m not going anywhere”

“Although I was hoping you’d stay here home with us, I still feel it’s okay that you’re buying a house. At least you’re in town that means we can see you anytime” said mother putting her hand on my shoulder. “I’m so proud of you”

I smiled.

“Thabiso, meet me in my office right now” father left the table. Everyone was confused. I ate my breakfast ignoring his tantrum.

“Son, go and hear him out”

“Ma-

“Please.”

I exhaled and left the table to his office. I closed the door.

“Tell me, why are you here?”

“What do you mean? This is home”

“Is it? I hope you’re not here to stir trouble”

“No I’m not, I’m here to sort out my life back together”

“Why here? It could be anywhere in the world son you have the money”

I laughed out loud. I couldn’t believe the hate.

“Why do I make you so uncomfortable?” I shook my head. “I think it’s time I start treating you like you treat me”

“And that is?”

“Listen old man, I am here to put my life together. I am still part of the family and responsible for all streams of business overseas you need to start treating me with respect, you owe me that much”

He stared at me in disbelief. “Every business overseas is mine”

“Half yours old man, I’m the one who put in all the work while you sit here and lay expecting streams of income into your bank account every quarter of each year. It’s my business, you’re the founder” I said and walked out of the office. I was pissed. He really pressed my buttons this time. He didn’t give a flying fuck about my wellbeing and feelings. He treated me like poison.

8

Tabita

I cooked dinner. Thabo and his son were sitting down at the sitting area; Mihla was sitting down watching TV while playing with his toys. Thabo was on his phone busy with whatever.

“Honey, Thabiso will be using our back room for a while until he finds a place to stay”

“Oh, okay”

“Yes. I’m sorry I know I should’ve discussed it with you first”

“No don’t worry, he’s your brother he is welcomed anytime. Should I leave him a plate?”

“Yes please” he said.

After dinner we went to sleep. I heard his car coming in at midnight.

Thabiso

I have been staying at my brother's house for a week. I have been meeting up with estate agents and viewing houses but I haven't found my idea of home, the home I was looking for. Every day I would go and visit mom and Khanyi at day time when I know my father won't be home.

The whole week I have been avoiding Tabita because she made it very clear she wanted nothing to do with me, all I wanted was to explain myself. Something still didn't make sense though, how sure was she that I am not Mihla's father, counting back to the years and months of our relationship I could possibly be the father. It's possible. If only I can get hold of the boy's certificate so I can calculate months, there was a period where she slept with me for a month after finding out my brother was cheating, she wasn't intimate with him at all for a whole month while sleeping with me on the side. I had to find out more about the boy's birth.

Mbulelo

I was sitting in my office when my wife walked in. it was already night time so she was wearing her sleeping clothes.

“Tata, can I talk to you”

I closed my laptop and lied back on the chair.

“Mbulelo I don’t like the way you treat our boy”

I sighed. I wasn’t in the mood. “What did he say to you?”

“He doesn’t have to say anything to me, the kids have been through a lot. Why cant you let him start over and do something he loves, let him be his own person”

“His own person? Everything that boy does will come back to haunt the family, he’s not even a man yet. Look at his hair? What man paints his hair blue?”

“His looks have nothing to do with us, it’s who he is, and he’s different. You just hate that he’s nothing like your young self”

“Nokuthula you know the stuff I’ve been through, everything I do is for the family and if I see one of my sons straying I will let

them know and as a father and the only sane person in this household I will make things happen”

“You’re only destroying the family Tata. Thabiso is not a young boy anymore, let him do his own thing”

“He will do exactly what I want him to do” I said opening my laptop. I had no more time for unnecessary chitchat. “In fact I will make him”

“What are you doing?”

“I’m sending my lawyer and financial advisors an email. I have to take everything away from that boy all this money seems to be getting in his head”

Nokuthula shook her head in defeat.

Both of them got back to me in time. I paid them after all. I stamped my fist on the desk when they both told me I owned and had access to fifty percent from all overseas business, I made a mistake putting him in charge.

“What’s going on?” My wife asked. I told her the news. She shook her head

“Is that all you going to say?”

“What more can I say? I’m proud of my son Mbulelo. At least someone in the family is standing up to you, I wish he kicks you out of all the business because I told you to stop the operations. If this is the only way of getting your big head to stop I’m proud of our son” She said and walked out of the office. I was fuming

I called Thabiso it rang and went to voicemail. He was ignoring me on purpose.

Thabiso

I switched the cell phone off after rejecting a call from my father. I knew exactly what the call was about, I had my own lawyers and advisors who handle half of the businesses that belonged to me. I had learned from the best. Mihla had just left the room. He had come to tell that dinner was ready. I had just refreshed in the shower because I had a long day. I met another estate agent who seemed to know her thing and we were viewing the house tomorrow then start with the paperwork. I also went to visit some of my old friends regarding business. I

read on the newspaper that he was selling his restaurant due to bad publicity. I was interested in the place, it was at the heart of the town... with revamping and good publicity to keep it back to its toes again I think I can bring it back to life, or even better. He promised to look into it, I don't blame him. He started the place early in his twenties, it was his baby and would take a whole lot of courage to let it go, I was in no rush.

I unzipped my sport bag taking out my T-shirt. I locked the door and went to the house. It smelled amazing, and my tummy went in rumbles immediately.

Tabita

I had just set the table when he walked in, he looked ravishingly hot. For a minute I couldn't take my eyes off him. He had on grey shorts; his muscular thighs were showing I almost licked my lip. His white printed Tee was laid perfectly on his broad chest, and I couldn't take my eyes off him. The bang from the door closing snapped me back to my senses. I swallowed the

spring under my tongue. Thabo came into the dining room; we all sat down as everyone helped themselves. I looked down on my plate and ate after fixing a plate for Mihla.

“Honey are you okay?” asked my husband. I smiled nodding.

“Yes, just tired” I chewed on a piece of meat.

“Had a long day?” I nodded. “Tomorrow is Friday, I may be going away again for another weekend”

“Mm, have a safe trip my love”

“Thank you baby, Mihla do you want to spend the weekend at grandpas?” He looked at his son, Mihla nodded excitedly. He loved spending the weekend at his grandparents, Nokuthula spoiled him rotten.

Thabiso has been living with us for a week now. He ate dinner and breakfast with us, he was part of the family. He also helped with the dishes. He hasn't attempted anything weird, he was good as absent. He spent most of his evenings out or in his room playing with Mihla.

My husband had crawled back to the other woman, and I say this because he came home very late and tired every night refusing to give me my sexual needs. This was his routine; I knew when he wasn't getting it from me she was definitely back in the picture. It's like he lived two separate lives, two weeks would be mine and the other two weeks would be for her. He was too blinded by pussy to notice that I was actually looking, I wasn't stupid.

Tabita

The next morning was like the normal. I had prepared everything, Mihla and breakfast.

We were sitting down, the four of us. We were seated on our usual arrangement, my husband beside me and my ex-lover opposite me. I was wearing a blouse with three bottom buttons; my boobs were showing. It was payback for last night's thirst trap. He had walked into my house with his bomb thighs and arms exposed. It was working because somehow his eyes would land on my boobs and fly away again.

Thabo's phone vibrated. He looked at his screen and placed it back on the table on its face. He wiped his hands with a cloth and poured juice on his glass. I took a sip from my already half empty glass as well. I peeked through the glass, and his eyes were still on my boobs. I fixed my blouse, he embarrassedly looked away.

“Have you fixed things with father?” he asked looking at his brother who was playing with Mihla.

“There’s nothing to fix brother”

“You sure? He’s been looking all over the town for you”

“He’s being extra, he knows where I live”

Thabo shook his head. “You’re being difficult”

Thabiso chuckled. “Why does it bother you?”

“Because you’re living in my house, I –

I cleared my throat to stop him from saying things he would later on regret.

“I’m sorry. Look dude, we’re old stop running around and talk to father”

“There’s no talking when it comes to your father you know that, you listen and he speaks. Anyway, I think I have found a house I like and will be moving out soon. Out of your life”

“Good. At least you’re doing something good in your life”

Thabiso laughed, he tickled and kissed Mihla. “I better get going, see you later”

He said and took his car keys.

Tabita

“Do you have any proof though?” I asked my friend Noma. It was break time we were sitting on our usual spot. She had just found out that her husband was cheating.

“My sister wouldn’t lie to me. She saw them at a hotel” she was crying under her sunglasses, I had my hand on her back.

“I’m sorry friend. Men are horrible people”

She sobbed for a while and as her friend I was besides her comforting her. Telling her everything was going to be alright. Minutes later she had stopped crying, we were laughing at one of the kids doing something funny.

“How are things in your marriage?”

I laughed. “Girl, you don’t want to know. He’s been cold all this week. Every night he came back tired, refusing to give it to me as his wife”

She shook her head. “Men are something else hey how long is he going to carry on like this?”

“Girl, I don’t know. Maybe until his penis becomes inactive”

We laughed. Thabo’s situation didn’t bother me anymore, he was cheating and there was no beating around the bush, I was at a point of accepting it all because at the end of the day he comes back home to me. What more can I say.

“I think you should snoop around” said Noma. I looked at her with disbelief.

“What happened to the good-girl Noma? You say what?”

She laughed. “Yes friend, clearly your husband can’t get his hands off this woman. Just do a little research and find her name and find out what kind of a person she is”

To hear it come from someone else hurt me, I won't even lie. I was aware that by now she had his heart. I mean no man would leave his wife behind on the weekends of every month to go and be with a side chick he didn't love.

Thabiso

I said goodbye to Charmaine and got into my car. I was standing in front of my soon to be house, we viewed the house and I liked everything about it including the neighbourhood. The backyard was spacious, plus it had a whole basement and an attic. I had a design in my head to turn the attic to my bedroom. The only thing left to do was for Charmaine to go through the paperwork with both our lawyers and the bank. She said it would take her a week or two after that I would be able to move in. I had already made calls for my furniture to be shipped from overseas.

I drove to the bar. I needed to celebrate.

I was sitting down chatting to the bar man. I had a different idea for my new restaurant, I was planning to sell alcohol so I needed a bar man. He gave me some of his friend's contacts. A hand tapped me on my back.

It was Lerato. She and I had a thing back in the day, well. Khanyi introduced me to her one night because I wanted someone to drink and to take home.

"Hey stranger, you didn't tell you're back in town" damn she looked hot. I won't lie. She was hourglass shaped. I wiped my mouth and put my whisky glass down so I can face her. "Hey beautiful" I hugged her as she clung onto my chest I checked out her ass.

She folded her arms to her chest. "Home come I didn't know you're coming back?"

"No one knew sweetheart, that's just me" I was still checking her out. Her protruding hips were perfectly shaped in her little dress. "What are you doing tonight?" I asked. I wanted to take her home.

"I'm leaving the city tonight, my girl's hosting"

I nodded. "Some other time then?"

“Yeah sure” She winked and stank walked out of the bar. Damn. I fixed my chair so I can finish my whisky, the bartender was in stitches.

“Bro, the way you were drooling over this girl” He laughed.

“Some girls have that effect bro, its pity she doesn’t taste as good as she looks”

“You’ve hit it before?” he asked surprised.

“Yes sir, but that was back in the day. I haven’t been with a girl for some time now, taking her home with me wouldn’t be such a bad idea”

10

Tabita

I was back in the house. I placed my bag down on the coffee table. I called Thabo. He picked up, he was in a jolly mood. "My wife"

"Hey baby, have you picked up Mihla yet?"

"Yes sweetheart. I'll call you tomorrow morning when we've settle"

"Okay, have a nice stay"

He chuckled. "Its work my love, there's nothing fun here. I wish you were here with me" He said.

'It's not like you ever ask me' I thought. "I wish. Bye now"

I switched the TV on and went upstairs to go and get changed. I was wearing sweatpants and a sport bra sitting in front of the TV watching my favourite series. I fell asleep on the couch and woke up later, the TV was loud and there was a sex scene on my TV screen. I watched for a while before switching it off, I was turned on. I went back to my room and closed the door, under the blankets I played with myself as usual, my finger didn't get the Job done so I went downstairs and looked for an extra for the cottage. I haven't heard Thabiso's car come in, I

didn't even bother to check. I unlocked and went inside. I switched on the light, and I quickly closed my eyes with my hands shocked from what I saw. "I'm sorry, I'm sorry I didn't know you're-

I had just walked in on Thabiso jerking off with headsets on his ears. His pants were down on his knees while he lay on his back bare chest looking at a naked woman with big booty on his laptop screen. "Didn't you parents teach you to knock?" he yelled at me covering his manhood.

"I'm sorry, oh God. I'm sorry" I closed the door and stood outside. I was traumatised. But it was funny, I laughed outside the room.

The door opened. "What do you want?" He asked as I held in my laughter.

"I'm terribly sorry, I didn't think you'd be home yet. I came to get something, I'll leave, I'm sorry" I walked giggling.

"Looking for this?" I stopped to look at him. He had my old shoe box, the one I keep my sex toys in.

The smile on my face quickly turned sour. “Have you been snooping around?”

“No, I happened to find them in the ceiling. Does your husband know you keep sex toys?”

I snatched the box from him and it fell on the ground, my face flushed with heat as I picked them up from the grass putting them back inside the box. He kneeled down to help me, I pushed his hand away. I was upset, how dare he invade my privacy like that. I went to put them in my car; I wasn't even horny anymore in fact my whole mood had changed to sad. Picking up the toys from the floor made me realise how sad my reality was, I had collected so many toys without even realising it. I was so embarrassed.

Thabiso

I felt bad. When I got here I looked for a temporary place to keep my gun

so I thought the ceiling would be great. I was shocked to discover a box of sex toys in a shoe box and I knew they

belonged to her. It was obvious that their sex life sucked. What a shame. Tonight she walked in on me as I was about to cum, I was groaning, my eyes at the back of my head ready to shoot a cum suddenly the lights in the room went on. I was ashamed because she wasn't supposed to see that, no one is. She laughed at me and in turn I may have said or asked some hurtful things because she snatched the shoe box away from me and ran to the house. I felt stupid.

Sino

I was in Cape Town with my man and friends, my girl Zoe had a party we were celebrating her birthday at her boyfriend's club. My friends know about me and Thabo, they know he's married and we are keeping our relationship a secret. I was sitting in one table with all my friends; Zoe, Lerato, Tamsen and Anita. My man was sitting at the bar with his friends, he was friends with Zoe's boyfriend.

Lerato was still telling us about her old flame who was back in town, his old flame happened to be my man's twin brother.

“Girls... he is hot! His eyes!” she moaned with excitement, we laughed at her craziness. “I can’t wait for him to spread my butt cheeks” the table dissolved into laughter again.

“What if he has a girlfriend?” Zoe asked her. We laughed because hello? Since when was someone’s girlfriend a barrier?

“Girl, I don’t care I’m not asking for marriage, I want to choke on that dick” she added. She was unbelievably lusting on the guy. It was weird because he was my man’s twin that means she can easily feel the same with my man given a chance. My phone vibrated. I smiled and the crew looked at me with their eyebrows rising to the foreheads. I showed them the text they were lusting over, my man wanted a quickie in the bathroom. They started screaming like a bunch of groupies.

I went to the ladies bathroom, it was empty I looked at myself in the mirror and powdered my nose. I puffed perfume at the back of my ears and wrists. The door opened and he came in locking the door. He gave me a back hug and kissed the back of my neck, pulling my dress up and bent me over the sink. After feeling my warmth and wetness with his finger he spanked me, I was wet and ready. He pulled down his pants and then we had sex. He ravaged me from behind with both his hands on my waist while looking at my expression in the mirror. I was screaming through the loud music in the club, halfway through

he turned me around and had me sit at the sink, pulled me closed to him and had his way with me. I reached an orgasm with my head bent to my back. We had both reached climax, breathing heavily from all the action. He brought down the top of my dress, and he kissed and licked my nipples. I held his back of the head and we looked at each other.

“I love you so much” I said.

“I love you too” he laid his head on my chest catching his breath. “When are we getting out of here? I want to have you all to myself”

“We’re celebrating my friend. We can only go home once she’s had enough”

“Alright then, we should get going before security gets here” he said “Should I go first?”

“I’ll go first” I said as he dropped me to my feet, I fixed my dress and cat-walked out the bathroom. There was already a line of ladies waiting to use the toilets outside.

Thabo

I was in a hotel room with Sino, we went to bed really late last night. Her friend had hosted a party sponsored by the boyfriend at the club. Themba, my friend owned the club. We weren't the best of friends but someone I hang out with when I am in this side. He knows about Sino, everyone in our circle knows about us, I swear the way I'm going with this whole thing my wife will soon find out. I closed the bathroom door and went back to bed, Sino was naked sleeping on her stomach. I caressed her cheek with the back of my hand, moving strings of hair that were on her face. She opened her eyes, held my hand and kissed it. "Good morning" she said. I smiled and laid next to her, I kissed her forehead.

"We need to talk" I said.

"Am I in trouble?" she asked.

"No, there's something I want to ask you"

She sat up and fixed her hair, covering her boobs with the sheets. I sat up beside her. I have been thinking a lot about what my father said, about polygamy. I hadn't made a decision yet, I didn't really want to think about it because a part of me

knew Tabita would go against it but a tiny part of me refused to let the matter go, I was looking into it.

“I don’t know how to say this but... uhm, what’s your take on polygamy?”

I saw an expression of shock in her face. She sighed and blinked couple of times before asking me “What do you mean? You mean how I feel about men taking multiple wives or do I want polygamy?”

I exhaled. This was difficult than I thought it would be. “Yes, how would feel if I take you as my second wife?”

There was silence for a while. “Uhm... I don’t know baby, but of course there’s nothing I would love more than us to be official. I mean I’m with you fully aware that you’re married, settling as a second wife wouldn’t feel new to me because I have been with you all your married life but... your wife? How would she feel?”

I rubbed my forehead with my thumb. “I don’t know” I was being honest.

“And your family?” she asked.

“Well, my father is the one who suggested it so... I might as well say I have his blessings” she nodded. “I’m sorry that we have to

find ourselves in this, I mean you're young, beautiful and talented you deserve someone who will be so good to you and take you as a first wife, I hate that you'll feel as if you come second in my life as the second wife"

"Baby what are you saying?" she fixed her hair. "You want to marry me?"

I nodded. "I want to marry you Sino. I love you but I'm scared you might feel inferior to my wife"

Her eyes watered, and before I knew it drops were streaming down her cheeks. She sat on top of me and tucked her hair behind her ears. "Look here, I want to be your wife. There's nothing more I want than to be yours forever, I want you to put a ring on my finger

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I'm tired of us hiding baby. Don't worry about me feeling some type of way with your wife, what matters to me is that you love and I love you back" I wiped her wet face and kissed her "Thabo, I know you have a wife but fuck that, I'm going to be your wife too. I have waited to hear you say this all our dating life. I'm so happy, you have no idea how much I waited for this" we kissed and hugged, refusing to let each other go.

"I still have to talk to my wife"

“Oh I understand my love. You know I respect you, take your time don’t rush into anything I’ll be here waiting. Always”

“You’re amazing” I kissed her, and threw her on her back and had my way with her.

Tabita

The next day when I woke up there was a great smell coming from the kitchen. I went to bed with the bedroom door opened last night. I found my slippers and went to the bathroom, after that I went down to check what was going on. The table was laid nicely with two plates and glasses there was full English breakfast at the table. On both plates there was bread, sausage, eggs, tomatoes, beans, bacon and butter.

“I’m sorry for last night. I shouldn’t have gone through your stuff please forgive me” said Thabiso standing behind his usual chair at the table.

I smiled nodding “I’m sorry for walking in on you, I should have checked for your car first”

He nodded. “I forgive you. Let’s sit down and eat”

“Let me change and brush my teeth I’ll be back” I ran up to brush my teeth. I was excited for the breakfast.

“So, when is your son’s birthday?”

I poured juice in my glass. “Why do you ask?”

“I’m his uncle, I think it’s fair that I know so I can have a close look at my budget”

I told him the birthday. He was definitely up to something, Thabiso was not a fool. “Mm, I see. Can I ask you something?”

“Yes”

“How sure are you that he’s not mine?”

“What do you mean he’s not- come on Thabiso don’t tell me you think Mihla is your son” I giggled.

“I mean, if you look at the dates and-

“Whoa, stop. Dude I am married, if this is your way of trying to get back into my life then take my advice and drop it, I am not yours anymore and Mihla is not your son he was born prematurely. My family and I are happy I don’t want any trouble”

He nodded. "I'm sorry if I offended you, I just wanted to make sure. Truth is I feel something when I'm with him"

"That's right because he's your blood after all, your nephew. Can we please not have this talk again?"

"Yes of course"

We ate in silence.

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Thabiso

I was sitting in bed playing a game with my joysticks when a knock came in at the door. I stopped the game and went to open. Tabita was at the door.

“Hi, are you hungry? I made lunch”

“Oh, yeah yes sure I’ll be there shortly” I said and she walked back to the house. I found my shirt and followed her to the house. I washed my hand and sat down to eat, we were eating in silence. The silence was unbearable because we obviously had a lot to talk about, a lot of feelings to share. “The food tastes good”

“Thanks, I try. I’m happy there’s someone, I’m usually alone on the weekends” her face changed after that, it must have slipped her mouth. So I changed the subject to avoid making her uncomfortable.

“So, how’s work”

“Work is amazing” she said and told me all about it, she was a teacher. She enjoyed her job because her face was glowing the whole time talking about her kids. We had finished our food we

were talking, deep in conversations. She still looked as beautiful, had the same smile but there was something missing. The beautiful look in her eyes was not there, you know what they say about eyes being windows to one's true soul. She wasn't happy.

“How are things between you and your husband?” I asked. Her face changed, she didn't want to talk about it, at least not with me. “Okay look, I know I'm the last person you'd want to speak to regarding your marriage, I know we have a history together which can make things awkward but I'm willing to listen. Not as someone you shared a bed with before but as someone who knows you”

She relaxed back on her chair. We were sitting opposite each other. “You don't know me” she said.

“Okay, maybe I don't know you as well as you know yourself but I can list things about you I'm sure no one cares to know or notice. How you close yourself in the bathroom when you're unsure or anxious. Or the look in your eyes when you try to convince someone you're okay when you actually not. I-

“I always spend the weekend alone Thabiso, your brother he’s... he’s never around and I think I have come to terms with the truth, that there is someone else” she said cutting me off before I can finish speaking. I held her hand, she didn’t stop me. Her hands were soft and warm. “I’m scared, I’m scared that one day he will come home and he” She wiped her face. “That one day he will come home with his mind already made up that he wants me out of his life”

I exhaled deeply, it was devastating to see her in that state. Still crying over the same thing she cried about when we met. “I tried, I tried Thabiso. I tried to let it slip and block it in my mind, it’s been going on for years but I never bothered to search or snoop around because I’m afraid of what I might find”

I squeezed her hand. “He loves her, whoever she is my husband loves her. He can’t even control himself anymore, one night he sneaked out of bed to go and be with her”

“I’m sorry” I said as I listened to her share more of her pain. She let it all out, accompanied my mix of emotions. “I think you’ve endured way too much than necessary Tee, you weren’t supposed to hold on like this”

“I know, I don’t know why I keep doing this to myself. I think I don’t even feel jealous anymore I’m only scared of the day he finally tells me it’s over”

I nodded. “I don’t think you’re still in love with him, you’re just used to the idea of being with him. Being his wife and a mother to his child”

She took her hand away from mine and wiped her face. “I know. But I don’t believe in love anymore”

I relaxed back on my chair. I was ready for the conversation, I prepared for it all these years. “You can still take back your power and take back your love and give it to someone who deserves it”

She giggled. “Nope, I’m not doing that again. Been there I’m not doing it again” the shots were obviously directed to me.

“Tabita, I’m sorry, I regret leaving without a word”

She chuckled. “Thabiso it doesn’t make sense man, one day you just left and I didn’t hear from you for years. How does one get away from that? How do I forget the hurt, the questions I asked myself?”

This was it. We were having the conversation. I got up from my chair and went to sit next to her, my brother's place. "Oh sweet angel, I am so sorry... I too am still struggling to forgive myself for what I did to you" I said wiping her tears with my open palms. "I was stupid for leaving

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I made a mistake for some time I avoided my own reflection on the mirror" I added. She was still crying, her cute face was still on my palms.

"Thabiso you left me after we talked you and me, right after we agreed to be together but you left me without an explanation. You know what's sad? I couldn't talk to anyone about my pain because no one knew about us and how much I loved you" she broke down and cried, her heart was still hurting. "I grieved alone for years I was worried sick about you. I left you thousands of messages begging you to call me back, for years Thabiso I called you but you never got back to me"

I held her face and pressed her forehead against mine. The heat was still there, chemistry was still around us no kiss was needed to prove that. "I love you Tee, I left because I had no other choice. I should have told you but it wouldn't have made sense

to you, the years that followed after I left you were not kind to me but I had to hold on. I held on to art, friends and strangers but none of that was enough, my heart was and is still with you. I came back for you Tabita and I will never leave you again”

She removed my hands from her face shaking her head. “Its too late”

“No, don’t say that please” I held her pretty face in my hands again, I kissed her pressing my lips against hers for a while.

“I came back Tee, please give me a chance again”

“No, no I can’t” she moved my hands again and got up from the chair to get away from me. “I made a mistake allowing you in my life, I’m not taking that risk again”

“I had hope you’d see my face and be reminded that on my side it isn’t over, I had hope that you’ll see the love I still have for you Tee”

“I don’t need it. I’m giving you up Thabiso, what we had in the past I’m giving it up. I’m Mrs Mpata now, I am your sister in law show some respect”

“Mrs Mpata? You mean by name... you’re not happy in this marriage, I came into your life for a reason to release you from these chains, I’m the one who loves you”

She laughed. “Yeah right, as if you’re better”

“I would never put someone else’s happiness before yours Tabita, when last did he make love to you? When last did he fuck you brainless?”

“My sex life has nothing to do with you”

“It has everything to do with me, I’m the only one who can give it to you the way you like”

“I wouldn’t be so sure if I were you”

“I know what I’m talking about, I too have been struggling to make love to someone else like the way I make love to you. We have something special and you know it, you’re just in denial”

“Please” she rolled her eyes. She was acting tough, or dumb. she knew I was right, I could tell it from her eyes the feeling was mutual.

I got up and walked to her, I grabbed her by small back pulling her to me. I locked her in my arms and kissed her passionately. I wasn’t surprised at all when she returned the kiss with more

fire and passion, I grabbed her by the legs and placed her on the table. I was hungry for her, so was she. My blood was boiling, all my senses were blocked all I could feel and hear was her heavy breathing and the beating of our hearts.

“Please stop, stop”

My head was already buried between her breasts ready to tear her top. She held me by my head telling me to stop, so I did. She freed herself from my arms, pulled down her skirt and fixed her top. “This is a mistake, if you ever try something like this again I will tell Thabo”

I chuckled. “You’re just bluffing”

“Try me. Like I said before, I am your sister in law. Respect me”

“That selfish bastard doesn’t deserve you Tee, come on” I reached for her hand, her small hand met me halfway but in the form of a hot slap on my face. I saw stars.

“Don’t you ever talk about my husband to me in that way, he’s my husband and you? You’re no one” she said and hurried to the stairs.

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Tabita

The next day I went to see my mom. We went to church together as usual, instead of going home to eat I drove to our local KFC she went to find us a table as I queued and ordered food for us. I sat down opposite her, we were still talking about the service and normal church gossip.

“Thabiso is back” I said avoiding looking in her face.

“Ngubani lowo? (Who is that?)” She asked. There was two possibilities, one was she was too good at the burying secret thing that she blocked his name out of her mind or it could be that she was in denial.

“Thabo’s twin” I said munching, still avoiding eye contact. She stopped chewing.

“Play far away from him, I don’t want to hear that name again”

“Come one mama, I was young. I’m married and old now, and I wouldn’t dare take the same route’

“Good. Because one mistake you will lose everything”

“I know... I’m not saying I will let him back in my life but should the truth come out I have nothing to lose, I am my own person now. I have a job and father’s health is no longer a problem, I can always start afresh”

“You’re right. But you’re married, it will stay like that”

“Even if it means I should compromise my happiness?”

“Tabita this boy poisoned your mind again, what is this now? Why are you speaking like someone who wants out of marriage?”

“This has nothing to do with Thabiso”

“I told you not to mention that name again”

“sorry. But this has nothing to do with him you know that, Thabo has been cheating on me all these mama and I turned a blind eye”

“That’s right. We all turn blind eye in marriage, the day you said yes in front of the pastor, us your family, the congregation and friends was the day you said yes to all of his imperfections. You knew he was cheating even before you agreed to marry him”

“And that was all because of you mama, you’re the one who convinced me to stay with him”

“You had no choice. Tabita I can’t believe how stupid you can be, do you think if the Mpata’s find out you lied about the

paternity of your child will forgive and forget? They will take the child away from you because you caused havoc between two brothers”

“The Mpata’s will never do that”

My mother shook her head. “Tabita, stop being naïve and face the problems of your marriage. You’re not a failure, you will not divorce Thabo”

“How can you put this on my shoulders?”

My mother wiped her hands with a serviette and took her bag. “I’ll take a taxi” she stormed out.

Thabo

There was no one in the house. Mihla went to put his bags in his room and came back down to watch TV. I was bored so I decided to cook supper, I found ingredients in the fridge and started with peeling and chopping.

Thabiso's car was not in the garage so I went to the backyard to see if the cottage was still in place, you never know with a gypsy. I was surprised to find all of his things gone. His computer, games and clothes were gone. I called him and the call took me straight to voicemail. Maybe he was still mad about the conversation we had, none of what I said is wrong. I closed the door and went back inside the house.

Tabita

Back at home I received the shock of my life. The table was set and ready, supper was ready and guess who cooked? Thabo. I am always excited for food not cooked by me. I changed from a dress to sweatpants and a Tee. The three of us sat down to eat. There were three plates and glasses on the table. "Your brother's not joining us?"

"Nope. He left again" I swallowed my heart.

"What?"

"Yup I got home and he wasn't here

he packed all of his stuff and left"

“Why? Did he say why? Did he leave a message?”

Thabo shook his head. “No. Don’t worry about it, you know how he is. It’s nothing new. I wouldn’t be surprised if he left the country”

“Did you at least try to call and find out from him the reason why he left?”

He laughed. “Hell no, sthandwa sam (my love) don’t worry. This is my brother I know him, now eat your food before it gets cold”

Yesterday Thabiso and I had a heated argument and I slapped him at the end of it all. I feel guilty, and yesterday I said things to him, horrible stuff I shouldn’t have said and that is probably why he left, because of me.

Thabiso

I gulped down more shots. There were still more of them lining up. I took out my phone so I can send Khanyi a text. She replied back to me with the contacts I asked for, I copied and pasted the digits pressing the call button.

Lerato picked up the call. "Hey sweetheart, what are you doing?"

"Hey, just chilling. What are you up too?"

"I'm chilling, hey listen. Can I come get you?"

"Yeah sure, why not?"

"Cool, send me your location"

I finished the line of shots on my table, paid the bill and went to my car. I drove straight to the address on my inboxes. The gate opened, she came out wearing a little tight number, because it looked good on her that's all I could notice. I went out to the other side so I can open the door for her. I squeezed her butt as she gave me a hug. "What can I get you?" we were inside my car, she was sitting nicely on the passenger seat, her one leg on top of the other.

"You know I'm not here for that" she switched the lights. Still confused she reached for my groin, her hand massaging the

area I got hard immediately. She unbuckled the leather belt and pulled out my erect penis. I swayed the chair back so I can relax and give her space to do her work. I zipped down my jacket to let some air in, and her hand was already massaging my cock... God what an amazing woman she is. I love that she wasn't shy about it, she got straight to the point. She laid my pipe nicely in her long tongue, I closed my eyes feeling myself travel to the heavens. The pressure was now increasing, I groaned holding the back of her head and roughly I shoved myself in to the back of her throat. She gagged, I continued until my vision was blank. A shot of cum found its way inside her mouth, she held my dick and sprayed the cum on her chest between her boobs, she used her hand to clean her boobs and licked it afterwards.

Thabiso

We were in a hotel room on white sheets. Her legs were up on my shoulders, I was grinding on her fiercely.

I was broken. I had so much hurt in my heart. Nothing ever works out for me, I live a separate life from my family because no one of them knows the actual me. They don't know half of the stuff that goes through my head. I have always been alone. I love Tabita, I know loving her is wrong but she is the one I want, she is the one I want to open up to about everything, and I feel like she is my place of safety. The only person who will release me from all the pain and darkness in my life is her. Love has never been easy when it's my way.

She was wet, sweaty and freaky. I choked her, putting all my weight on top of her as I ejaculated. She pushed me back and climbed on top of me, my penis was still erect she pulled out the condom and opened another one and took me in her wet walls again. This chick is crazy. She is insane.

Yesterday Tabita said things to me. She said things that assured me she indeed wants nothing to do with me. I don't get it though, my brother treats her like garbage, Tabita deserves princess treatment.

Her walls tightened and her knees started shaking, she was screaming my name and before I knew it my groin area was wet with juices. I have always been the dominant type, when I fuck I make sure I fuck and I always have the last round. I had her position herself to a doggy style. I put on another condom and went in, now that her face was on the pillow and out of the way I imagined Tabita, I imagined she was her. I held on in her hips, I was knocking on her clit savagely. I remembered the taste and smell of Tabita's juices, how the soft flesh in her clit would feel between my lips and tongue, how she moaned when I playfully pulled her clit or sucked it with my lips. How her beautiful eyes would roll to the back of her head when she reaches the end. "Aah aah, ssssc... oh yeah Tabita baby yesss... ahhhh fuckk!!!" I groaned as I pressed myself on her behind, I was done and I opened my eyes. I removed the condom, ashamed I lay down next to her. I had just called Tabita's name out loud during intercourse with another girl.

“Is Tabita your girlfriend?” she asked grabbing the sheets so she can cover her chest. I placed the plastic down on the mat and pulled up my boxers.

“No”

“Thabiso you just called me Tabita, is she your girl?”

“I don’t know what you’re talking about. Can we go to sleep?” I asked and switched the lamp off.

Morning came, Lerato was still sleeping. I sneaked out of bed and reached for my pants and my phone rang, waking her up. Khanyi was calling. “Hello?”

“Hey, can we meet?”

“Oh, is everything okay?”

“No I just want to talk to you”

“Okay, you home?”

“No, I’ll send you the address”

I put the phone down and looked for my shirt under the covers. “So you were gonna leave without saying goodbye”

“No, I was gonna wake you. Listen

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something came up should I call an uber?”

“No don’t worry about it, I still have to shower”

“Alright, give me a call when you’re done I’ll uber for you” I kissed her cheek and walked to the door.

“Hey!” she called behind me. I stopped and looked at her.

“Next time you want to fuck, don’t hesitate to call me” she said and winked. I laughed.

“You’re amazing, I’ll keep that in mind” I left the hotel room.

Khanyi

I made tea and sat down on the bar stool in my kitchen. I was back in my house. There were grocery bags on the counter that needed unpacking, I was too lazy to work. I had just called my brother, the cooler one Thabiso. I decided to tell someone in the family about me and Samson, the secret was already too heavy for me sharing it with someone would bring my chest to

ease. I opened a packet of biscuits and went to my room to get a fleece blanket so I can sit down and watch TV while I wait for Thabiso.

About thirty minutes later there was a knock on the door. I turned the volume down and went to open the door. "Hey blue hair" I said and walked back to the couch.

"Why didn't you tell me you own a house"

"It never came to mind"

"Mmm. It looks girly" he walked to the fridge and poured juice for himself. He gulped down a full glass and poured another.

"I'm hungry, do you have anything to eat in here" he looked inside the grocery bags.

"Sit down I'll fix you a sandwich" he came to sit down, I got up and prepared him food and more juice. "So, how did it go with Sino?"

He chuckled, he was clearly shy to talk to me about her. "Come on bro, what is she like? Is she dominant? Submissive?" I teased him. He laughed at my curiosity.

“I’m not gonna discuss that with you, but all I can tell you is that she is insane!” he howled and we dissolved into laughter.

“I give it to her, she’s a wild one” he said biting his sandwich.

“So that means you guys are meeting again”

“I don’t know about that” he said.

“What? You just said-

“I know what I said. Why am I here?” he changed the subject, I fell back on the couch. I had no idea where to start, I was nervous.

“Khanyisile. Talk to me”

“I don’t know where to start bro I’m so ashamed of myself”

He sighed, giving me a look. “You know, if I were to tell you the things I have done that bring me shame whenever I think about I’m sure you would stop going around telling people I’m your brother”

I exhaled. I closed my eyes with both of my hands. “Shit, this is so hard”

“Whenever you ready”

I took a few minutes to myself. I had to speak to him about it. I had to.

“I’m seeing Samson”

“Oh, when?” he asked, his brain took the message the incorrect way. So I raised my eyebrows, indicating to him that there was more in the message.

“What? Samson who? Uncle Sam?”

I nodded hiding my face with a cushion.

“No! But he’s... no bro, he’s old”

“I know bro... uhhh” I cried playfully, beating my face with the cushion.

He was quiet. I peeked at his expression under the cushion. He was expressionless.

“So he’s the one that got you-

“Yes. He’s the baby’s father”

He got up. “Who else knows about this?”

“No one”

“Fuck!” he stormed to the door.

“Thabiso no bro!, don’t!”

I pulled him by his jacket and ran to block the door. “Please don’t do this, he doesn’t know I’m pregnant”

“You say what?”

“He doesn’t know I’m pregnant”

“What fucked up shit is this? What were you thinking? He’s triple your age!”

“Thabiso please come down, the only reason I told you this is because I trust you. Can you not disappoint me and keep this between us”

“I’m sorry I won’t do that, Khanyi you a baby”

“Thabiso please” I was now crying, pleading with him not to tell anyone. I begged him not to get in any argument with Samson.

He was now calm. He went back to the couch and sat down.

“I’m not making any promises”.

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Thabiso

I couldn't believe it. Samson was way too old for Khanyi, she's just a baby. And for him to see her as a woman enough for him was disturbing. I am aware of Khanyi's mischievous ways, she is a rebel that begs and listens to know one. She's capable of so many things, but Samson? Damn.

So we talked through it, she made me promise not to ask Samson anything. I promised her but I wasn't sure of the promise I was making, I knew for sure I'd jump him down when I see him.

"There's something else I want to talk to you about"

"Oh God, what is it now?"

"I overheard mom and dad speaking. Thabo wants to take a second wife"

"NO!"

She nodded. “I was just as shocked, I mean it doesn’t make any sense. Tabita is so perfect, she makes his house a home... not to mention the confusion this will bring Mihla, no man Thabo is selfish”

I shook my head. I knew he was another douche bag in suits but I didn’t expect this. Damn. “He got balls, damn we’re messed up!” indeed we were. All my siblings were messed up, I was also not perfect.

“You can say that again, we’re a messed up pack. Poor Tabita, I pray she leaves him” she said and reached for a packet of biscuits on the table.

Tabita

Noma was absent so I was forced to look after her kids. Instead of juggling both classes separately I made space for her kids in my class and had everyone sit down in a circle on their chairs. I was exhausted, by the time parents came for their kids my head was pounding. I cleared their workbooks and placed them in my desk. I locked the classroom and went home.

I cooked early supper and then I went to the bathroom, I soaked my body in warm bathroom water. I dozed off, and when I woke up to check the time it was five o'clock. I rushed out of the tub because I had to go and pick my son from school aftercare. I was in a grey tracksuit ready to leave the house when I heard a knock on the door, I opened the door. Thabiso was standing at the door, he let himself in. "We need to talk, is your husband home?"

"Thabiso I'm late I still have to pick Mihla up from school"

"I won't be long"

I pulled my sleeve up and checked the time. "Be quick"

"Tabita, I love you. I want you, I know you feel the same way"

I sighed. "You're exhausting, I had a long day Thabiso can you please leave?"

"He's taking a second wife"

"What? uThabo?" I laughed. "That's a low blow. Thabiso if this is your way of getting under my pants forget it"

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you lost me"

“Tabita, I wouldn’t joke about something like this”

I laughed some more. “I’m sorry, I have to go”

“You don’t believe me? What? You don’t believe he would do something like this?”

My nightmare was coming to life. I knew it, I was aware he loved her... but polygamy? That’s too much. “I have to go, please leave”

Thabiso shook his head and left. I locked the house and hurried to my car. I prayed it wasn’t true.

Sino

The girls and I were chilling at Lerato’s place going over Zoe’s birthday. You know who got up to no good and all the stuff related.

Lerato stole our attention as she told us about her newly found man. We have always been fascinated by her storytelling

ability. She had her special way of narrating you'd even start to feel like you were there with her even though you were absent. "Girls, I tell you no lie, no sauce added" she added and we all laughed. "Man it's in the way he holds me, the tone of his face... I have never had so much sex in one night, you all know I like to take control but he? He dominated me until I ran out of breath" the girls were howling. "I swear, girls I blacked out... like? What the fuck?"

"Is that a thing, I've never experienced it I thought people were being spicy whenever they told me they blacked during sex" Anita asked in between giggles.

"Anita have I ever lied to you?" Anita shook her head. "I will never lie to you, you know how open I am about my sex life. No, I give it to him... he knows how to lay a pipe" clearly this guy was amazing. Guys have always had a problem with Lerato because she takes control in bed, Thabiso did a good job I applaud him. "And this weird shit happened" we listened. "He called me with another chick's name"

"NO!" we all exclaimed.

"I kid you not! What was the name again... Thabisa or Thabile something along those lines... oh wait! Tabita! That's the name"

“Maybe it’s his girlfriend” said Anita. The only Tabita that came to mind was sweetie. My man’s wife, we called her sweetie because all of my friends say she is being a sweetheart, they all agree that she knows me but she’s too soft and a sweetheart to confront me about her man. They claim that everyone knows about me and her man and it has long reached her ears.

“Maybe, but I don’t care”

“Guys, sweetie is Tabita”

We looked at each other. “Do you think?” I asked the girls.

“NO! HE WOULDN’T DARE!” they screamed. Thabiso would never do something like that, it’s either he was dating someone else named Tabita or he fantasized about her, I don’t know. We went through all the possible theories regarding the name Tabita until the topic was boring at the end we all agreed that Thabiso would never do something like that with sweetie, it was farfetched.

Lerato opened a bottle of red wine for us. The smell of grapes went up my nostrils, going down my throat and made a mess in my stomach, my tummy started turning and boiling. I ran to the bathroom to vomit.

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Sino

I came back from the bathroom and sat down. The girls were giving me weird vibes avoiding eye contact at the same time. "What's going on?" I asked, they were concentrating on their phones.

I took my glass of wine. "I don't think you should be having that" said Lerato and snatched the wine glass from my hands it almost spilled on my dress.

"Okay, what the hell is going on you guys" they looked at each other. "Come on, out with it" I waited for one of them to say something.

"We think you're pregnant"

"Ha-ha what? Why? Omg. Why would you think that?" I found it funny. Me? Pregnant? No ways.

"Okay friend, we've been suspecting you for a while now" they all gave me reasons for their claim. Apparently I've been moody. My mood swings would go up and down the roof in seconds and I eat a lot. "And you're fat" Anita added.

"No! I'm not fat"

“Yes friend, you are” Lerato said. I looked at Zoe for backup.

“I’m sorry my friend, you’ve gained weight”

I chuckled shaking my head in disbelief. “I can’t believe you guys right now” I snatched my bag and stormed out.

Thabiso

I was in my car and ready to head to the club and later call Lerato to join me again tonight. My phone rang, it was Charmaine. I answered. She was calling to let me know that everything was in order and I can move in anytime. I was excited because I wasn’t expecting everything to be ready so soon. I drove to her office so we can finalize the paperwork.

I had the keys to my house in my hands. I called my mom and sisters to let them know the good news, they were happy for me and promised to come by later so we can celebrate. While waiting for them I moved all of my gadgets in, including my computers and gaming. I went online to contact the delivery company so they can speed up the process, and of course I had to pay extra money for it.

Tabita

It has been full two weeks since Thabiso told me my husband will be taking a second wife. I doubt it was even true, I'm sure he was just using my insecurities against me. He knew that I feared Thabo would one day leave me because of the other woman. Thabo has been nothing but sweet to me

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he was home more and we did a lot of fun stuff together as a family and if he really wanted to take a second wife I would know. I can't believe Thabiso would stoop so low, yes I love him probably more than I love my own husband I'm sure he knows that, but for him to be that twisted and lie about something like that? Come on.

Life was kind of getting back to normal or should I say it was my time with my husband, it has always been like this you know. Half of the month belongs to me and the other was for her. We

were now sitting down on our normal spots. Mihla was being his usual naughty self. I haven't seen my mother since that day she told me I was naïve about this whole incident with Thabo. I was back to stalking Thabiso on Instagram, he had a new account and about weeks ago he had tagged his siblings and mother in a family photo taken in what seemed like a new house, I guess he was finally moving in his new house. I envy them so much, everything is easy with them. All siblings except for Issa have their own houses and can still go home to be with their parents whenever they feel like it. How I wish to have a house of my own, I owned nothing. The only thing that is in my name is my car, clothes and Mihla.

Sino

I am at my parents' house. I have been here for weeks, Thabo and I speak on the phone when he's at work. He's been asking to see me but I told him I'm home just to unwind. I haven't spoken to any of my friends for a while, they were worried but I sent a text message in our group last night I apologized for my actions the other day. I took a test the same day and I found

out I was pregnant and have been pregnant for a month. I told my mother immediately when I found out and she asked me to come home. I told her who the father of my unborn child is, she knew Thabo's parents and that he was married. She was a bit disappointed that I was involved with a married man but she promised to be by my side and support me on whatever decision I choose to make regarding the baby.

Mbulelo

I was at work in my office when my assistant came in the door rushing, and she looked like she had seen a ghost. “Mr Mpata sir, there’s a man at the desk-“ And before she could finish speaking the door flew open and I was shocked to see Ceaser, he had an unpleasant stink face. He was fuming, standing on the other side of my desk, I asked my PA to leave us and then I got up so I can reach his height.

“Ceaser, long-time”

“Mbulelo I’m not here to amend any of our dead unions. I am here to tell you that my daughter will not be a disgrace, no daughter of mine will have a child out of wedlock”

“Can we sit down?” I motioned for him to make himself comfortable on the chair in front of him. I was confused.

“I will not sit down. Mbulelo, if you know what’s good for you and your family you will make sure to do right by my family, your son needs to do the right thing or else” He had his index finger pointed at me, just a few inches away from my forehead.

“Or else what? Or else what Ceaser?” I was pushing my luck. Ceaser and I have a great history. He has seen me at my lowest. I sighed. “I didn’t know your daughter was involved with any of my sons”

“Sino wouldn’t lie to me, she told me your whole family knew about them. How can you sit back and watch kids do something like this? You know your son is married instead of reprimanding him you applauded him. What kind of a man are you?”

“I thought it was harmless fun between two kids”

“When one of them is married? Listen here and make sure you listen carefully for your son too, my daughter has an image to protect she is not a hooker. We have standards to maintain, if you know what’s good for you your son will give my daughter what is due to her. Marriage”

“Come on!”

“Don’t try me Chap. Don’t try me” those were his last words before he stormed out of my office, the door flying behind him. I sat down after the huge bang of my door closing. I eased the grip on my neck from the tie on my neck and reached for the phone.

“Tata” Thabo answered.

“Come to my office, right now” I said and put the phone down. Sino was obviously pregnant, and I knew something like this would transpire I saw it coming. What the hell is wrong with my sons?

Thabo

I closed my laptop and walked to my father’s office. We were in the same workplace but different departments, which was two buildings away from where I was situated. I knocked at the door and let myself in, he was sitting down with his back facing the door. “Tata?”

He turned his chair so he can face me. “How can you be so careless?” I was confused. “Thabo, you know for once I thought you’re way better than your brother. I thought you’re the matured and responsible one”

I sat down. “Father, what’s going on?”

He got up from his chair and shook his head. “You boys will always be boys, there’s always a problem after the other. I’m tired and I’m getting old but I am still forced to fight your battles”

“What did I do?”

“Ceaser was here. He told me his daughter is pregnant”

“Wait what” this was news to me. Sino didn’t say anything to me.

“You didn’t know? Well son your mistress is pregnant, her parents know you’re responsible”

“I don’t get it... but. Why didn’t she tell me?”

“Only she will tell you, I called you here to make amends with the family. Do right by her parents, she is their only daughter”

“What do you even mean by that?”

“Thabo stop being slow! Damn son! Ceaser is not someone to cross

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not someone to play with. Here’s what you will do, you will talk to your wife and tell her you’re taking a second wife”

“Dad wait, no... I can’t just-“

“Looks like you have no choice, and it looks like you have no time left you must make it official with that girl as soon as possible”

“I can’t- what will my wife say?”

“Don’t you! - don’t tell me about your wife right now. Your family is in danger! Ceaser is a great deal, a threat to our livelihood. He knows too many stuff, things that you don’t know, he knows too many people I wouldn’t be surprised if he pulls a few calls and we lose all our clients”

“So this is all about money? I have to sacrifice my marriage because you don’t want to lose clients?”

“Have you been listening to what I just said, son this man knows a lot... we go way back him and I, I would hate to see our family come to an end because of something you could have prevented” He reached for his jacket. “I’m leaving, I promised your mother dinner tonight. If you have the family’s best interest at heart you will do as I tell you, talk to your wife and fix this mess before it’s too late. At least do it for Mihla’s future” he said and left me behind in his office. I searched the inside pockets for my phone and called Sino.

Sino

I had just got to my place. I haven't been around for some time there was dust everywhere. I placed my bag on the counter and sat down waiting for Thabo, because he had called and asked for us to meet. I was nervous because he sounded serious. I haven't told him about the pregnancy yet no wonder I was panicking. He knocked, I ran to the door to open for him. "Hey baby" I gave him a hug, he blocked me and walked in. something was definitely up. Thabo would never say no to a hug unless something is wrong. "What's wrong?" I closed the door.

"Why didn't you tell me you're pregnant Sino?"

I swallowed the little water in my mouth. "How did you find out?"

"I asked you a question!" he shouted. I slid my hands in my jacket. I was freaked out and confused at the same time, no one in our circle of friends knew about my pregnancy.

"Who told you?"

“Your father did. He was at my dad’s office this afternoon demanding that I marry you” my heart dropped to my knees. How could my own father embarrass me like that?.

“What?” I sat down. I zipped down my jacket. The only person I talked to regarding my pregnancy was my mom. Honestly I should have known better... she probably ran to tell her husband as soon as I told her about my pregnancy.

“Sino I thought we had each other’s backs, I trusted you. Why didn’t you talk to me about this first instead of running to your dad? Are you that desperate for marriage?”

“I’m sorry”

“You’re sorry? Why didn’t you talk to me?”

“I was still keeping it a secret. At least that’s what I thought, baby the only person I told is my mother, I didn’t think she will tell dad I’m sorry”

“I don’t even know if I should believe you, I’m very disappointed with you”

“Thabiso you know I have no problem with your marriage, I meant it when I said I will wait until you’re ready to talk to your wife. What my father did is totally unacceptable, I’m sorry my love. I can even abort this baby if it will cause problems for us”

He sat down beside me. “No, I can’t let you do that” he was calm now.

“I hate it when we fight you know that, I love you” I hugged him and he hugged me back.

“I just wish you told me first before talking to anyone else”

“My mother is not just anyone Thabo”

“I know that, I’m sorry but you know what I mean” I nodded.

“How far are you?” he asked looking at my belly.

“I’m two months today”

“Have you been to the Dr?”

“Not yet. I only took a pregnancy test” He nodded.

“This means I have to talk to my wife soon before you start showing”

“Are you sure?”

“It’s the right thing to do” he kissed my lips and pulled me so I can lay on his chest. “I’m sorry for being harsh my love, I was upset”

“It’s all good. I get it, it’s my fault”

Thabiso

It has been a month and a few weeks and life has been taking a right turn ever since I made peace with myself by accepting things will never go my way, you know that I will never have her as my own. I take full responsibility that I was the reason for the hate she held against me, I'm the one who left her. But to be quite frank even if I stayed I would still come second after her husband, my own brother. She was never going to love me the way I want to be love.

My friend Siza, came through and we finally sealed the deal, I bought the place and soon I will be starting with renovations and from there we jump to hiring then we get the ball rolling.

I have been seeing Lerato, we had both agreed as adults that we were just having innocent fun you know, playing with time. A relationship was out of the picture, it was something we were not looking forward to. I would go to her place whenever she asked me to and we would fuck then I leave the next day, she

hasn't been to my place because I respect my place because it's my own space I want it protected from unpleasant energies.

Thabo

My wife has been out the whole day with her colleague friend for shopping. Its Saturday so I have been alone in the house with Mihla watching football, I was planning to tell her about Sino tonight over a special dinner.

In the afternoon I prepared Mihla's bag so he can go and spend the night at his granny's plus he has been nagging us to drive him to his grandparents' house since yesterday. I came back with a ready meal I brought down the street, at one of her favourite eating place. I dished for us in our plates and threw away the empty takeaway boxes. I then continued to have everything nicely prepared, the floor was watered with rose petals, and I had curved candles and a bottle of wine on the floor. I laid a fleece blanket and put cushions over for us to sit in. All this setting was done in our bedroom with the lights off.

Tabita

I parked my car inside the garage and walked to the house, I unlocked and went in. The lights were off, and then I switched them on and unpacked the groceries. It was strangely quiet, there was no Mihla running around plus the Television was off. I went up the stairs, Mihla was not in his bed so I went to my bedroom and opened. I switched the lights on, instantly I teared up. My husband had set us a beautiful evening. There were rose petals and candles all over the room. There was space below our bed where he placed a blanket and cushions, in the middle of the cushions there was a bottle of wine and glasses, berries and a plate of sea food, I assumed he brought it from my favourite place down the road.

“Thabo” I cried

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I dropped my bag on the floor. “Why?” I was too emotional I couldn’t hold my tears, he hasn’t done something this romantic ever since we got married. He got up to hug me.

“I love you baby” he said and kissed me on my neck. He ordered me to take off my shoes and join him on the cushions. I took off my shoes and sat down opposite him.

“This is so beautiful” I said wiping my face “Where Mihla?”

“I took him to my mom’s place. Hey, don’t worry about Mihla this is our night” he kneeled so he can kiss my forehead then went back to sit down.

He asked how my day was, I told him everything about my day and everything that Noma and I got up to. He also told me about his day with Mihla. We had our meal with soft music playing in the background, it felt like the good old days. He opened the bottle of red wine, all this while staring in my eyes like he wants to bed me. On my second glass of wine I was turned on no lie, so I reach over to kiss him. He held on to the kiss and I unbuttoned his shirt. We got in the mood, our tongues down each other’s throats it was getting heated.

I moved everything behind him out of the way and made myself comfortable on top of him, he was erect and I was ready. I planted kisses down his neck to his chest, he held my head and pulled it back up then he stared me in the face.

“I love you” his thumb was playing with my lips. “I love you so much and I want nothing but the best for you” he kissed me again and in an instant he pinned me down on the floor still staring in my eyes. He looked different now, a bit unsettled.

“What’s wrong?”

“There’s something I want to tell you- well... ask you”

“What is it?”

He moved away from me and sat down. I sat up too. He looked at me. “There’s someone else”

“Where? What do you mean?” I asked still dumbfounded, I guess I got too comfortable.

“Tabita” He held my hand and kissed it. “I have been seeing someone and now she’s... she is pregnant and I want to take her as my wife” I felt my skin tingling, I had an overwhelming uneasy feeling on my chest and my ears felt like they were closing in. It was suddenly blurry in the room, and my flesh had gotten so hot in an instant that I could feel the cold of my tears running down my cheeks. I had an unexplainable dread in my

heart, one that hit straight to the core. I tried getting up only to end up in the traitors arm telling me to calm down.

“Calm down my love, I’m sorry I should have spoken to you sooner” as if that would have made everything easy to take in. I had an uneasy feeling in my chest, I was hurting deep. I sat down trying to claim my normal breath again. He was still talking, some of the things I didn’t even hear. Once I had my breath and heartbeat in control again I looked at him and asked. “Who’s she and how long?”

He reached for my hand I flew it back across his face. “Baby I’m sorry”

“I asked you a question Thabo”

“Her name is Sino, she went to school with my sisters”

“Your sisters know about her?”

He nodded.

“And your parents?” He nodded again. I laughed in disbelief, to say I was disappointed was an understatement. “How long has it been?”

“It’s been a long time”

“I know that! I want to know how long Thabo”

He exhaled nervously and used his ring finger to scratch his forehead. “Before we got married”

“What!” I cried. I lost the control and cried, so all these years I have been married I had a secret sister wife I knew nothing of. “If she didn’t fall pregnant were you ever gonna stop? Were you ever gonna tell me?”

“I have been planning on telling you before she got pregnant”

“So you’ve always wanted to take her as the second wife” I chuckled. I should’ve known that the romantic dinner meant something else, Thabiso warned me and I didn’t listen, I called him jealous and crazy. “I can’t do this” I got up from the floor and reached for my shoes.

“Where are you going?”

I grabbed my bag and ran down the stairs to my car.

Tabita

I parked my car at the gas station. I was crying inside the car with the lights off, I cried so much at one point I kicked my feet beating the horn. How can I be so stupid? I stayed making a clown out of myself, and all these years in marriage he was seeing someone else. I have always known that there was something going on, that he was not being truthful about a whole lot of stuff, I imagined that there was someone and I didn't go looking or snooping behind him because I believed that it would one day come into light, I never thought he would bring it to light. I reached for my wallet so I can withdraw some money for fuel to go home, to my mama's place. My wallet was not in the bag, I must have left it in the kitchen when I was unpacking groceries. I had no money enough for fuel, no money to book myself in a hotel, I was stuck.

I reached for my phone and switched it on, I headed straight to the search button and clicked on my recent searches, I sent a request and a message. He got back to me in less than two minutes.

Thabiso

I heard a car hooting outside my gate, I took the keys and went out to open. She drove in as I closed the gate behind her. We walked inside the house, she looked like a mess. Her face was black from her messed up make up.

“I’m sorry, I had nowhere to go”

“Its okay, sit down” I held her on her back and sat her down, I sat beside her. “What happened?”

“Thabo, you were right” she sobbed. I held her in for a hug and brushed her hair.

“It’s going to be fine... shhhh” I brushed her back. I rocked her back and forth like a baby, she cried on my shoulders asking me why, why Thabo is so heartless. I didn’t have her answers so I kept quiet and focused on getting her better. I offered to make her tea once she was quiet, and I also brought her a blanket because she was shivering from cold.

“I’m so stupid, I let him get away with so much thinking he will get tired and finally see me as his wife, I’m so hurt... it hurts” I

held her close again. It was hurting to see her hurt like that, no lies. She finished her tea and laid on my chest again, I played with her hair.

We stayed quiet for a while. My phone started to ring. I had promised Lerato to see her tonight. I rejected the call and switched it off. I played with Tabita's hair again until she fell asleep on my chest. I switched the TV off using a remote, and then slowly I moved her head so I can lay it down on the cushion. She opened her eyes.

"Sorry to wake you, you fell asleep"

"Oh sorry, what time is it"

I looked at the time, it was 11pm. "I should get to sleep, do you want to sleep here or you'll take the bed?" I asked.

"I want to sleep where you sleep" she kissed me. Her lips were warm, I can't control myself when it comes to her to I kissed her back. The kiss reactivated what was once between us as my mind imagined all the things I used to do and would still want to do to her. I stopped her.

"What's wrong?" she asked trying to kiss me again.

"I don't think we should be doing this

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Tabita the only reason you're here with me is because of what happened with your husband. It's not your choice you're here"

"I'm sorry"

"Its cool, because I let you in here it doesn't mean I'm open to you taking me for a fool again. You don't love me, you never did-" I paused and stopped speaking before I said something I would regret the next day.

"It's okay, I respect your decision I won't try to do it again forgive me"

I said goodnight and went to my room, I closed the door and threw my weight on the bed. How can I be so stupid!!! I was so close. I wanted to be between her legs so bad and for so many years I missed the warmth and moisture between her legs but now that she was finally offering it to me I declined! Who does that?

The next morning when I woke up with my pants still on I was glad that within temptation I was still able to think with my head and not my penis. Had I let her get away with leading me on again would have destroyed me, she always goes back to him.

I had just had a shower and got into fresh new clothes and a new jacket. It was Sunday and I was opening my new place, blessing it with Sunday vibes.

I went to the kitchen, Tabita was sitting up watching TV she looked like she has been crying the whole night. I said good morning and opened the fridge for an apple. She greeted back and walked to where I was, the kitchen.

“I’m sorry about last night I didn’t mean to take advantage of you”

“It’s all good, don’t worry about it”

“I mean it. Thabiso I wasn’t doing it as a distraction. You know I feel a way about you, I still love you”

I didn’t say anything instead I took the time to rinse my apple.

“I have been with Thabo for too long while my heart was with you, but when you came back I didn’t want to give you a chance I feared you will run away again”

“It’s not like things were different before I left, you chose to keep me in secret”

“I know that but I also know that if you haven’t left I would have chosen you”

I chuckled. The conversation was beginning to sound like a Telenovela.

“I know I’ve been rude to you Thabiso, forgive me”

I left the kitchen without a word from my mouth to her ears.

Tabita

I was at Thabiso’s place. I slept over at his place at the couch, he hated me. I don’t blame him because I haven’t been nicer to him ever since he got back, I was only trying to stick to my morals.

I had just took a shower after sleeping the whole day, I wasn’t sure of when he was coming back so I started on dinner just to thank him for letting me stay in his place. I heard his car come in, I had mine parked inside the garage when he left this morning. The garage was big enough for two cars so I assumed he would park inside behind me.

He unlocked and came in. "Hey"

"Hi" I said "I cooked supper... just to say thank you for letting me stay the night"

"Cool, you're welcome"

"Can I please stay here again, just for tonight"

"No problem"

He sat down and switched on the TV, flipping over channels. I wiped the stove and the table, I cleared all the mess I made when I was preparing dinner then I dished out for us. I took our plates to the sitting room I gave him his plate, I sat down to eat mine. When I finished I took my plate and his then I went to the kitchen so I can wash them, I emptied the pots and stored the food in empty food containers and stashed them inside the fridge.

I felt a hand on my back, and he was pressing himself behind me. He continued to pull my pants down. I looked behind, I must have long lied on his eyes. "I have been thinking about you all day" he said his eyes already sparkling with anticipation.

“Are you sure about that?” I asked because last night he refused to sleep with me.

“Shut up and I’ll show you” he pulled me to his chest, his hand crawled under my shirt to my boobs and he squeezed them. I rested with the back of my head on his chest, I moaned with anticipation. I was excited for what was about to come, what I was about to feel. “Fuck me already” I haven’t had him inside me for years, I have been craving and dreaming of this day. It was finally here, I was sure that my orgasm would fire out the moment he inserts his thick self in.

He pushed me to my chest as I helped him to spread my own cheeks. He bit me on my left cheek while spanking my right and slowly he pushed through my walls. His erection was long and hard, it reached far to places only reserved for him.

Tabita

We had sex until morning light. We got thirsty, hungry and tired but we didn't stop, we couldn't stop it was too good all we wanted was to stay in the moment, in the feeling forever. If there was a way for us to freeze the feeling we would both feel when he was penetrating, when my walls would tighten and when we would cum at the same time I'm sure we would freeze it and stay in the moment forever until we both age and can't continue anymore. He got off on top off me, wet with sweat he rolled over to the empty side of the bed. He checked the time it was six o'clock in the morning. We have been up since last night.

He pulled me in his arms and we locked our tired eyes "Are you okay" he asked as we stared into each other's eyes breathless.

"I'm fine, it hurts between my legs" I said.

"I'm sorry" he kissed me.

"No don't be, I like it. Are you okay?"

"Yes, just tired" he said. We fell asleep still looking at each other.

When I woke up he wasn't in bed. I went to shower then went out to my car. I drove to my house, well Thabo's house. He wasn't home. I went to the room and packed a small bag of clothes and my wallet. I locked his house and drove to the gas station for fuel, I drove home.

I opened the gate and parked in, my mother was not home. I went to the backyard to look for a spare key, usually we keep it under a big stone near the outside toilet. I found it and went inside, I was hungry I made bread and eggs.

I heard the gate open and later she walked in. "I saw your car outside, how long have you been here"

"I think two hours"

"Hmm" She said and went to unpack her stuff. She was obviously still mad at me. I walked to where she was, she was at the kitchen.

"Mama"

She ignored me.

"I'm sorry for the way I spoke to you lamini (the other day)"

“Okay” she said getting herself busy in her small kitchen. I gave her space and left the kitchen to get my bag out of the car.

“What’s going on?” she asked when I walked in with my bag of clothes.

“Thabo is taking a wife and she’s pregnant”

“What?”

“Yes, and before you ask yes I’m getting a divorce I’m tired”

“And you left? Tabita do you know how man are? He won’t care that you left, instead he will take this girl and bring her home

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and he doesn’t need your permission”

“Huh? What are you saying kanti mama? That I shouldn’t have left?”

She shook her head. “He is your husband, you must fight for him!”

My respect flew out the open window. Last night joined by this morning I had a good sex, one that knocked me back to my senses. There was no way in hell I was listening to this woman again. I laughed. “Mama no, I’m not going to do that no! That will never happen, not with me”

“Okay! Be a coward and see her take over your house”

“I don’t care!!! I am in this mess today because of you mama, I listened to you instead of following my heart. I stayed with Thabo while I loved someone else, I love Thabiso mama today you need to get that in your head, I loved him the first time I saw him I still love him today, everything I’ve been doing is because of you, you told me to do it but you were never happy with me, my happiness bothers you so much that you would rather see me miserable and living with a man that loves someone else”

“Don’t talk to me like that!”

“I’m sorry mama but I’m not going back to that man” I said and walked to my room, I locked the door throwing myself on top of my old blankets. I cried.

Thabiso

I was back from work, her car was not outside and she wasn’t in the house. Maybe this was it, the real end of us. I decided not

to call her, if she wants to continue with me she will reach out, I tried before and definitely wasn't going to do it again.

Thabo

I have been trying to call my wife all weekend but her phone took me straight to voicemail every time I tried calling. I was disgusted by myself, she has been nothing but a good wife to me, and she was always at home making the house warm for me and our son. I hate that I'm putting her through this, I wish there was a much easier way than the one I took.

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Thabo

I stopped by my father's office. He was busy with something on his laptop when I walked in. He closed it and looked at me.

"I'm sure you spoke to your wife"

I sat down. "I'm not doing it"

"What?" he shook his head. "So you didn't talk to her?"

"I did. She left me, I'm not going through with it father I'm sorry"

"So what you're telling me is that you choose that girl over your own family"

"She's not just any girl, she's my wife! And the mother of my child"

My father laughed getting up the chair. "I did everything possible for this family Thabo, everything! I stopped my life for this family, and I crossed borders for this family... I did things I never thought I would ever do"

"I'm doing the same for my own family, I will apologize to my wife father"

He shook his head and went to rest on the wall by the window with his back. He looked at me. "I guess I have no choice but to tell you the truth, I can see your mind is already made up" he said. I was listening, ready to fight. I was willing to do anything to keep my wife and son under the same roof with me. "Did I ever tell you about my friendship with Ceaser?" he asked. I nodded because he has told me before that they once worked together as partners until he left the job.

"Well, Ceaser was more than my working partner, he was there for me when I needed a friend, and he was there for me and your mother"

I listened.

"Your mother fell pregnant again when you and your brother turned seven, she was pregnant with twins. Girls"

I was aware that mother fell pregnant with Khanyi and Issa when we were seven.

"And she... she lost the babies, we lost our baby girls"

I was suddenly puzzled, a part of my mind thought he was going crazy. Issa and Khanyi were very much alive. "Dad, are you okay" I asked him to sit down because his face was red. He

looked like he wanted to cry, I have never seen him in that state before.

He came back to sit down on his chair. "When the nurses told us that the girls weren't breathing I made a call to Ceaser, we weren't going home without our babies. Luckily for us, a woman had just delivered a set of baby girls in a public hospital down the road from the private hospital. Ceaser worked with us through everything, he had the babies exchanged that same night and the next day we took the girls home"

I was stunned. Truly, this was way too deep... way too fucked up. "So Khanyi and Issa are not our real-?" I couldn't bring myself to say it.

"They not by blood, they are my children and I will do just anything to protect them from the truth"

It was honestly too much to take it. "Who else knows?"

"Your mother, Samson, two nurses from both hospitals and of course Ceaser"

It made sense now. Ceaser knew too much. "But there's another way, we can eliminate him"

"No, I thought about that but he's... he's too protected he's never alone"

I sighed. I had no other choice but to try and convince Tabita to accept Sino as my second wife.

Tabita

I couldn't stand being in the same house as my mother. I couldn't be in the same house with a woman who didn't care about her daughter's happiness. The only thing she cared about was the family's name, she was proud that amongst all my cousins I was the only one married to a rich family. I had called Noma and told her what happened, she promised to talk to her husband about letting me use their cottage just until I get back to my feet. I was secretly looking for work and a place to stay in Cape Town, I was relocating I wanted to be far away as possible from everyone. I was planning to disclose my location only to one person once I have settled, and that is Thabiso.

I received a call from Noma, that she has talked to her husband and I can move in as soon as possible. So I packed my stuff back

to my car again, I said good bye to my mother who still gave me silent treatment.

Noma's husband was nice

so was her daughter. They welcomed me in their home with warm hands. On the first two nights I had dinner with them and then I talked to Noma, that I was going to use the cottage kitchen for myself I mean it was enough that they were letting me live in their yard free of rent. So I brought my own groceries and cooked for myself, Noma and I would only meet and hang out on the weekends, I didn't want to be that clingy friend who is always after her attention just because we were in the same yard. Friday we closed from work and went into our cars, I asked her not to wait up on me because I had plans.

I drove from work to Mihla's grandparents' house, and they were pleased to see me. My son was asking a whole lot of questions, I told her that mommy is sick and she has to stay away and as soon as I get better I will come and get him. I stayed until he fell asleep then I went to tuck him in and then I said goodbye to my fake ass in-laws.

I drove straight to Thabiso's house. His car was parked outside, I knocked and he came to open. He was wearing his shorts, and he had nothing on top plus no shoes on. "Hi" I said and he moved so I can come in.

"You've been quiet" he said.

"Yeah, I needed time to think. Time for myself"

"I see. Where have you been hiding?"

I told him I was staying at my friends place just until I find a place of my own.

"Are you hungry? Just made a sandwich I can make you one"

"Yes please" I said nodding.

He disappeared somewhere in the house and came back wearing his T-shirt and shoes then he made us sandwich and we ate. "So, you're leaving him for good?"

"Yes. Finally" I told him about the incident with my mom, how I finally stood up for myself. He was proud.

"So where to from here?"

"I don't know, after divorce I guess I will let life rule and see where the wind takes me"

“Good luck”

I looked at him and smiled. “Thank you, I need it”

“So uhm... are you spending the night?”

“Yes, if that’s not a problem with you”

“Definitely not, it’s depressing in this house. I’m always here alone, but it’s better now because my business is blooming so I keep busy” he continued to tell me about this new place he just opened, a restaurant that also serves alcohol. We talked about everything, our dreams since high school. He stared into my eyes, shyly I looked away. “How are you?” he asked.

“Strangely I’m good. I feel peace like the blue in your hair. My life hasn’t been this peaceful since forever, I feel in control”

“You look like it”

“What do you mean?”

“You look beautiful, in peace” he said, I giggled. He moved from his seat to sit next to me. And we kissed, we weren’t rushing into anything... we kissed until our lips were soft and we couldn’t feel the wetness of mouths. It’s like the kiss was in control of itself and we were silent participants, our tongues and lips moving to the same rhythm I found myself lying on my back, with my legs opened. He was between them, and he slid his finger under my dress. “You’re so wet” he pulled my

underwear down and pulled my dress up to my head, I helped him take his clothes off. It was bright in the house.

We were naked on the couch feeling the skins of our bodies rub. We had no care in the world. And somehow we have mysteriously zoomed out of planet earth. He felt so good gasped for air “I love you Thabiso”

“I love you too baby” he replied with his cock deep in my pussy. We haven’t discussed our relationship neither did we express our love before getting naked in the couch. It was something that came out in the heat of the moment.

“Thabiso?!” said a voice, it seemed to be coming in the same room we were in. When we looked up she was standing by the sitting room entrance, looking down at our naked bodies.

Thabiso jumped to the mat covering his manhood with both his hands, and quickly I reached for the cushion on the floor and covered my boobs as I sat upright. “What are you doing here?” he asked the woman standing on the door.

“Wait, I know you aren’t you? No!!! Thabiso? You’re screwing your brother’s wife?” she was looking at me. I didn’t even know the girl but she seem to know who I was.

“How did you know where I live?” Thabiso asked her

“Your sister told me”

“Get out!”

“Excuse me?”

“You heard me! Get out of my house and stop barging in people’s houses uninvited”

She shook her head and cat walked to the door. I was numb from the energy disturbance I mean a minute ago I was out in space feeling things on my body planet earth can’t provide then boom! I was shocked back to reality.

Tabita

I settled a job in Cape Town I was excited and I couldn't wait to leave the place so I can go and be with my child and Thabiso in peace. I was only leaving month end, it was still early in the month and I have already told my boss I was leaving. It was Sunday morning, I had spent the weekend at Thabiso's place again, and we were getting along well. He was the first person I told about my new job in Cape Town. He was excited for me.

I parked outside Thabo's house. I had driven all the way to pick some of the things I left, including Mihla's bags. He was home his car was parked outside the house. I left my car outside the gate and went inside. He was sitting down watching TV. The house looked too big and it needed cleaning. "Hi" I said.

"Hi" he switched the tv off and came to me. "I'm so happy you're back home. I want us to talk, I have missed you so much... I've been calling"

"I changed numbers and I have come to get my clothes"

"Tabita please baby, you're my wife I love you"

I chuckled. "You don't love me, you got someone pregnant and you're planning on making her your second wife, that's not love... at least not the love I'm looking for" I said. "I'm leaving for Cape Town soon, I found a new job"

"What? You can't just leave me, I'm your husband"

"Not anymore, I want a divorce. And I'm taking Mihla with me" I looked through my bag and took out his ring. "Here, do whatever you want with it"

I said and walked to the stairs to what use to be our bedroom. I took out my suitcases and started packing, throwing everything in. "Sthandwa sam please don't do this, let's talk about this... you haven't been home ever since that night, Mihla's been asking for you don't do this to us please, we're your family"

"Thabo you knew this was going to happen, when you got her pregnant you knew exactly what you were getting yourself into"

"Tabita I didn't want to marry her" he said and I laughed.

"Oh? Daddy forced you?" i asked and push him away from the door so I can go to Mihla's room. I packed his clothes in his small suitcases.

"Tabita please don't do this to me... I love you please don't take my son away from me"

I was done with packing and I moved my suitcases to the car fighting him on the side. Once everything was packed in the backseat I went back to check if I wasn't leaving anything behind, there was nothing left. He blocked the bedroom door so I wouldn't leave. I was fighting him until he told me something that shocked me to the core. It was his family's secret, I wasn't sure about the truth of it but there was no reason for him to lie about something like that. Sino's father was holding his father against this secret, if Thabo didn't marry his daughter he was going to tell Khanyi and Issa the truth about their birth. Their rightful parents.

"I'm sorry that it has come to this Thabo, but you got involved with her a long time ago, you dragged her from the beginning to the end of our marriage before you even knew the truth about your sisters. Fact is you wanted to marry her out of free will, you can marry her I give you my blessings but I won't be a part of your stokvel marriage, as much as her family has standards to maintain I also have my own personal standards to maintain. I'm going to get my son so we can get out of your life for good"

Thabo

I called my father to let him know that Tabita was on her way

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and she was planning to take my son away to Cape Town. After all he was the one who planted the idea of polygamy and pushed me into it. "I won't let her take away my grandson, again I ask you to choose between your wife and family" I chose family over my wife. Tabita was acting up, and I wasn't going to let her take my son away from me. I told her the secret my father told me about the girls, I thought she would back down and understand why I'm doing this but she chose not to. Maybe it's time I let her do as she pleases.

Tabita

I drove straight to my in-laws place to pick up my son. I was done with them, well not all of them. When I got there Mbulelo, my father in law was standing outside the gate with his hands on his pockets, charming as ever. I got out of the car and walked to him because he was blocking the entrance.

“Molo tata” I greeted. He had a stink face.

“What are you doing in my house?”

“Excuse me?”

“Ntombazana (Little girl) you tried to come between my sons once and I let you get away with it, Thabiso spared your life when he left the country, the way you were up in my sons life playing them trying to bring them against each other like the true devil you are I almost killed you with my bare hands”

This was news to me. Thabiso never told me the real reason he left.

“Now you’re still up in my family business threatening to take my grandson away, who the hell do you think you are? Do you know me?”

I was hurt. I didn’t think Mbulelo was this cruel, he was too charming to be this cruel. “Well, I know who you are now” I said. “Sir, I’m here to get my son and I will be out of your hair for good”

“I know, Thabo called and told me you were at his house acting crazy threatening to take away his son”

“Thabo cheated! He got a woman pregnant, you and your family knew he was taking a second wife but you sat back and said nothing to me. I wasted years in this marriage thinking I married to a good family kanti I’m married to a bunch of liars”

“You cheated on my son before and I kept it a secret!”

“Only to keep peace between your sons, you didn’t do it because of me”

“Of course I did it to protect my family, I know Mihla is not Thabo’s son”

“What do you mean?”

“I wasn’t born yesterday, I calculated the months and I know Thabo is raising his brother’s son. Can you see how much chaos you have done in my house? You are like a slow poison”

Mbulelo was aware of my relationship with Thabiso the day it started there was no denying the truth. “I don’t want to fight, I just want my son”

“I will not let you in my house but you will get back to your car and drive far away and make sure to never set foot here again, I don’t ever want to see you near my sons again”

It was time that I lose all respect. "Tata, I don't know what gangster talk we're having here but I am tired, I told you I don't want to fight I want my son. Yes, Thabo is not Mihla's father Thabiso is and that is my own secret and its mine alone, mine to keep and mine to disclose. You have your own secretes right? How you're keeping the girls identity? That is your secret right?"

His face changed, I could see that I have hit a sensitive spot. "Who told you that?"

"I will leave now but I will come back, and when I come back you better not be here to stop me from taking my son" I said and walked back to my car.

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Thabo

My phone rang and I was already sleeping because I have been drinking the whole night. My dad was calling "Tata"

"What the hell is wrong with you!? I tell you something out of confidence you go and tell the hoe!"

"Calm down, what are you talking about?"

"Why did you share our family secret with that hoe you call a wife"

"I'm sorry okay? I thought she would understand my reasons for marrying Sino. Clearly I was wrong... but don't worry about it I know she won't tell anyone, I trust her"

The only reason I shared the secret with Tabita is that I thought she would show compassion and get to see the main reason I was pushing this whole polygamy thing, that it wasn't my intention to hurt her. I didn't think she would rub it in my father's face.

"You seem to have a lot of trust in this woman"

“Dad, chill okay this woman has been my wife for years I know her”

“You think you know her don’t you”

“I do. I know you don’t like her right now but she’s still my wife”

“I don’t know what you boys see in that girl, she seems to have both of my sons wrapped in her little finger, she has both of you brainwashed I don’t even recognise you anymore, she has changed you both ”

“What do you mean?”

“Oh son, she’s been playing you for a fool this woman...” I could hear him exhale through the speaker. “I wish we could do this in person so I can tell you what kind of a woman you married but the way she came and disrespected me in my house I have no choice but to tell you now”

“Dad get straight to the point, what’s going on?”

“Before you married your wife she... son there’s no easy way to say this but I kept it a secret for a long time for the sake of peace between you and your brother but she just won’t stop rubbing me the wrong way, she was sleeping with your brother before he left”

“Thabiso?” I asked, as if I had another. “Why didn’t you tell me this sooner? How long did it carry on? Is he still sleeping with her?”

“I didn’t want any bad blood between you and your brother that’s why I didn’t tell you, see why I want her out of our lives? She’s a snake”

I wanted to ask him about Mihla. Before my son was born I always had my doubts about him being my son, I don’t know whether it was because Tabita disappeared and showed up on my doorstep heavily pregnant or it was my instincts telling me and I chose to not listen. It’s like father read my mind and gave me the answer before I could speak. He told me Mihla wasn’t mine, he belonged to my brother and I was actually the uncle

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not the father. I switched off my phone.

Tabita

I was still staying with Noma and her sweet little family. I had like a few days left before we, my son and I leave to start a new life. I missed him so much but going to see him was the last thing on my mind especially after the dispute between his grandfather and I. I was a little rude to him and that's only because he called me names first and refused to let me leave with my son.

I haven't been to Thabiso since that night his girlfriend caught us having sex, he said she wasn't his girlfriend, and they had sex once. It bothered me at first I won't even lie, the fact that he saw interest in someone other than me didn't sit well with me but who was I fooling? I mean I'm the one who chased the dude away. Well I spent another weekend with him because I can't seem to stay away from him but after that I really haven't been to his house but we would speak on the phone. He was happy that I was soon to start afresh somewhere and we will finally be together. So was I, but there were one thing still holding me back... and he had to know.

“How’s the house hunting going?” asked Noma. It was hot and we were sitting under a tree with the kids, she had just finished reading a story the kids were busy being kids on the grass.

“You don’t want to know my friend... houses are expensive it doesn’t help that this profession pays peanuts, seems like I might have to empty some of my savings just to get a safe place for me and my son”

“The start is never easy, once you get settled everything will sort itself out”

“I hope and pray that’s true. You know I love my job but man, the money they pay us is not enough friend I have so many things to do and they all need money”

“We all do don’t we”

“Yeah. Well, besides my money problems... there’s someone” I smiled, she smiled back.

“No you didn’t!” we laughed. “Girl it’s still early”

“I know but listen... how do I put this, he’s like an old flame. He’s back and we’re now trying to pick up where we left off”

“Mm, are you sure about that?”

“Yes. We’re taking baby steps... it feels right”

“Okay but I think before you jump in bed with this guy first make sure you finalize the divorce” she said, little did she know I shagged him every chance I got.

“I have started with the divorce. I sent the divorce papers to his office last week I’m still waiting for him to say something so we can get this thing over and done with”

I couldn’t wait.

Thabiso

It was late after work instead of going home I saw it best to pass by my mother's because I have not seen them for a while because of work. I parked outside there was no one in the kitchen and the dining room, I went upstairs to the rooms there was no one in the house, I called my mother and it went straight to voicemail so I went back down to my father's office to check if he was there. I was still at the hallway when I heard what sounded like a dispute, and it was between two voices I recognised. My father was talking to Samson they were arguing about something.

"All I'm saying is you need to look at this in a different way, yes she has tried to cause havoc in this family but it was unsuccessful now why kill her? You can let her leave with her son"

"I don't want that girl anywhere near my grandson and sons. You should've seen how she disrespected, how she gloated in front of me"

"Yes Mbulelo I'm not saying what she did or said is right all I'm saying is that killing her is not an option. Think of something

else, think about your grandson, what will happen once he finds out his grandfather killed his mother?”

“No Samson I want Tabita dead, I want her out of our lives she has caused enough damage”

I moved back, silent with my shoes careful not to make any noise. Once I was out of the hallway I went straight to my car and drove off in speed.

My father tried to kill Tabita once but I protected her, he was at it again. He was planning her death. I called her but the call took me straight to voicemail... I was aware she was staying with a friend but I didn't know the friend's place and the last time I saw her she had gone to get her remaining stuff at her husband's place. So I drove to Thabo's, the gate was opened which was very usual, so I parked inside closing the gate behind me and hurried inside the house. The door was opened and there was music playing in the house, Thabo was sitting down at the couch drinking like a fish. The house smelled of alcohol, he was drunk he laughed when he saw me so I turned off the music, I noticed that there were divorce papers on top of the table so I figured the mess in the house was all because of the divorce papers, she was finally divorcing him.

“Brother” I greeted sitting opposite him.

“You have a nerve” he was struggling with words between hiccups. “You have the nerve to come into my house Thabiso”

“I came to check up on you brother, what do you mean”

“You mean my wife?”

He knew something.

“Thabiso you fucked my wife, you made her pregnant and forced me to raise your bastard son”

He also knew something I didn't know. Something I have been suspecting for a while.

“Where did you fuck her? Was it here in my house? Are you still screwing her? She's great in bed isn't she?”

“Where is she?”

He laughed and got up from the chair, before I knew it he was on top of me, he had jumped from his place of sit to mine. He hit me in my jaw I was sure he broke it, I felt hot liquid running down my nose and my mouth got salty instantly. With force I

pushed him out of the way he landed on the floor with his back, I wasn't going to fight him, he was drunk I was in no position to fight him. I sat on top of him pinning his hands on the floor, he was fighting to get up so he can beat me again and I was busy telling him to calm down. I underestimated him because he found his strength, bringing me to his position and he beat me to a pulp, I had no other option but to fight back. I fought him back, I made fists rain on his face and got up...

"Where's the girl brother?"

"Go and fuck yourself, I wish she dies alongside you! you're nothing chap... you're a coward always waiting for people's leftovers. How long have you been screwing her behind my back Thabiso, how does she like it with you? She likes it rough?"

"She's not a leftover

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I stole her from you"

He jumped up again, the amount of strength he had surprised me... I misjudged him a lot, there I was again on the floor as he gave me his own shares of fists, one after the other I almost blacked out, again I pushed him away from me and beat him up again until he was unconscious with no hope of getting up again. He had no more strength left, I looked at him. "She's great in bed brother, I fuck her and I make sure she screams my name every time I have her... she likes it rough and I give it to her exactly the way she wants it, she likes it even better when I burry my face in her big bum"

"Fuck you!" he screamed on my face and I got up and dragged my body out of his house he was still lying on the floor fighting to get up, I had to find Tabita.

I called Samson, he picked up. "Son?"

"Let's meet"

"Did you make an appointment?" he was joking "I'm kidding, can't it wait? I'm in the middle of something right now"

"No, we need to meet now"

"Alright, where?"

I told him where and then I started the engine ready to leave. I ducked on my seat when I heard a gunshot behind me and when I looked at the review mirror my brother had a gun in his head he was trying to kill me. With an unimaginable speed I flew my wheels out his yard, I think I broke his gate but I didn't care to look behind. What a nutcase! Why shoot me?

Samson stopped his car outside my house I went to his car. He asked what happened to my face, I told him what happened.

"Damn, I thought your father told you early to leave this woman! What is wrong with you... we don't do that in this family, brothers don't stab each other in the back like that"

"Please don't. I don't need your advice right now, Thabo is a little boy he can't handle a real woman"

"And you figured filling his shoes would make you man enough?"

"I didn't call you for this, Samson I know what happened between you and my sister, I know you've been sleeping with her for some time and she's carrying your child" suddenly he lost his tongue, his lips were glued together.

"We're not going to talk about that neither what we will talk about is what you're planning with my father"

He looked at me. "I know you're planning to kill Tabita, I heard you talking this evening in his office, Samson. If anything dare happens to the mother of my child I swear your friend will know you've been sleeping with his daughter and you know who's assassination will follow next, yours"

"I'm not the one doing the Job, I refused to do it so he asked someone else"

"You better make sure you get it back and protect Tabita, if anything happens Samson I swear to you-

"I will make a plan. I will sort something out, I'll make sure she's unharmed but on one condition"

I listened. "That you make sure she leaves the country, at least the province and lie low until I sort something out with your father"

"No problem, just make sure she's safe. I'll call you" I said and got out of his car, he left.

Samson

I was at the bar listening to jazz with a cigar in my mouth. My phone vibrated on the table, I looked at the screen and saw a message, and it was an address from Mbulelo. I had agreed to do the job on my own. I was going to kill his daughter in law for him. I left the cigar on the table and paid the bill, I said goodbye to the gentleman on the table. I called Lucky, my right-hand man.

We drove to the address on my phone. I parked outside the gate for hours, later I saw her leave the house and disappeared to the back. We waited for her to come back to the main house but she didn't, instead the lights in the main house went off, so I got out my car and went inside the yard. There were no dogs in sight, I made my way to the back of the house and I found a cottage. The lights were off, I looked inside my jacket for something to break the door, I slid a pocket knife on the side of the door near the knob and just with one hard push the door opened, I switched my torch and looked around the house, there was a small open plan kitchen and two doors, I opened the first one... it was a bathroom, I went to opened the next. She was snoring peacefully, sleeping in the right position, her back. I took my time to spray my handkerchief with a knockout

drug then I pressed it on her nose, she couldn't scream because my one hand was on her mouth, preventing her from making a sound. She kicked until the drug took in, I switched on the light and looked around for her clothes, they were still packed in small suitcases so I called Lucky to come in and help me. We took everything in sight that belonged to her including her car key, which was parked outside.

We left the neighbourhood. We did an excellent quiet Job. I was driving her car and Lucky was driving mine, we stopped on the road and exchanged cars. He took her car and drove back to hide it while I drove out of town, to get the final Job done.

Around 3 am I got to my farm. I barely spent time there because of childhood traumas I still needed to face. I was always in the city. I looked behind my seat, she was still out. I parked inside and took out her bags and threw them in a guest room then I carried her inside, I tied her on a chair inside the room, I locked and left.

Thabiso

I answered my phone. It was 7 in the morning, I had work in two hours.

“It’s all done, I’ll send you the address in a minute”

“Okay, thanks”

“Thabiso, make sure she lays low I don’t want any trouble with your father”

“You got it”

I jumped up to my jeans and shirt. I had a jacket in the car so I didn’t need to carry one. After putting my shoes on I ran out of the house to wait in my car. A message came through. It was directions 200KM away from where I was. I put it on my GPS and left.

The sun was out, it was hot and dry where I was. I stopped the car outside the gate and walked in. The house was huge, good but rusty. It needed new painting the ceiling was falling off. There were no other houses around, and the grass was as high as my knees there was no sign of people or cars driving near the place, it looked abandoned. I kicked the door opened and

walked in, there was dust everywhere... I heard someone screaming in the passage

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it was coming from one of the rooms, and I ran in. Tabita was tied on a chair, she looked freaked out and her face was wet and dry from her own tears.

Tabita

I cried when I saw Thabiso. I was relieved to see him, he untied me from the chair and took me to sit down on the bed. My bags were in the same room, I don't remember how I got here but I remember screaming last night, a man was in my room and he forced something strong down my nasal passage that's all I remember. My throat was itchy and dry, and I felt like I had sand on my throat my mouth was also dry. I asked for water. He came back from his car with bottled water.

“What happened? Why am I here? How did you find me?”

He told me how I got there. He talked to Samson, family uncle who was sent by his father to kill me. Mbulelo was not who I thought he was and he proved it to me. On our last encounter he mentioned something about Thabiso who spared me my life, and he had told me that if it wasn't for him I would be long dead so I asked Thabiso about it. "Will you ever tell me the real reason you left?" he told me everything, how his father made him choose between my life and him leaving the country, I wasted years of my life angry that he abandoned me pregnant with his son. I hugged him, he saved my life again.

"I love you" I clung on to him. I didn't want to let go. I was still shaking and not trusting, if he didn't hear his father and uncle talking I'd be long dead by now. He brushed my back.

"Can I ask you something?" I nodded. "Is Mihla mine?" this was my moment to tell him everything. He deserved to know the truth. "Please don't lie to me Tabita, please tell me the truth"

"Yes, he's your son" I said sitting on my own. I wasn't expecting the conversation to happen so soon.

"Why did you lie? I asked you about it and you still denied me the truth"

“I had no choice Thabiso, I stayed angry at you for years after you left. The day I found out you were gone I went to your old apartment looking for you, I was planning to surprise you... I couldn't wait to see your face when you open the door and see me on your doorstep, I was so in love with you I'm sure I would have chosen to spend the rest of my life with you had you stayed. A woman opened the door for me, at first I thought she was your girlfriend but I was more hurt when she told me you've moved out, the security guy said the same thing and that same day I went to your brother's place and I did a little searching and he told me you've been gone for days, I can't explain the dread I felt in my heart that day it still hurts when I think about it, Thabiso that same day I found out I was pregnant, I remember standing in front of Thabo's bathroom mirror and I noticed how big and dark the circles around my breasts were. The next day I took a pregnancy test and visited a Dr, who gave me the same results as the plastic test, I knew the baby was yours. I was hurt and I felt betrayed, I hated you for leaving me... I thought you had abandoned me Thabiso, I had everything planned in my head, I was gonna escape and run away with my child but my mother, she's the one who planned everything and we tricked Thabo into believing that the child was his”

I was crying, my face wet with tears. It was the first time talking about it, I have kept it caged inside my heart so long that it would hurt when I try to breath. "Thabo and I got married, I think he had his suspicions regarding the baby but when the baby came out those suspicions were laid to rest because the baby looked like you, like him" I wiped my face "We got married, no honeymoon because he had work. I stayed in that marriage with my body and mind, my heart and soul refused to settle in a place that didn't feel like home until you came back to me"

He pulled me to his chest, he held and kissed me. I let it all out, the pain and hate I've been storing... I let it all out.

Tabita

“Are you hungry?” he asked. I was resting on his chest, my eyes were tired from crying but my heart was not as heavy. I nodded. “There’s a small town away from here, I’ll go and get you something”

“I’m coming with”

“I think you should stay behind and rest”

“No! what if your crazy father comes in here and kills me while you’re gone”

“He won’t come here, I’m sure he thinks you’re dead by now”

“I’m not staying here. I want to leave this house. There are rats in here, it smells like a dead animal”

“There’s nowhere to go Tabita, its safe here”

“You can take me with you, I can stay locked up in your room until everything is sorted”

“My father wants you dead, I can’t have you hanging in my house it’s too dangerous”

We agreed to disagree. I wasn’t staying in that house, he wasn’t taking me to his house. We drove to a nearby town, there was

no fancy food so he bought us bread, pork chops and juice then we ate in his car.

“What really happened between you and my father?”

“I can’t tell you, I think its best you wait for him to tell you”

“What makes you think he’s gonna tell me, you know how it goes between us”

“I’m sorry but I can’t tell you, it has nothing to do with me it involves your family and it’s not my place to tell you”

“I thought we agreed there won’t be any secrets between us” back in the house we told each other everything and we both agreed that we will no longer keep secrets. He had a small scar on top of his left eyebrow and when I asked him about it he had told me what happened with Thabo and how he tried to shoot him, I also discovered a whole lot of other stuff about his family. Things I never imagined, chains of crime and by the look of things I would have never made it on my own with them as my enemies. They were too powerful.

“Thabiso I don’t think you should hear it from me”

“Tabita”

“Okay... Thabo said something to me, you know Ceaser right?”

He nodded. I proceeded to tell him everything Thabo had told me about the twins and how I ended up fighting with his dad. I left him speechless. “I’m sorry you had to find out from me”

“Nonsense, I asked you to. Tabita my family is... they not good people, see why I ran away? I don’t want to expose Mihla to such”

We chilled in the car and drove around, we found a small BNB owned by an Afrikaner couple. They spoke Afrikaans and English. The BNB was not much

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but it was pleasant and they didn’t allow long-time stay so they referred us to another place.

It was two floors, and each floor shared the kitchen and dining room. Each floor had four tenants and two tenants would share a bathroom, there were two tenants on the top floor where my room was the other room was still unoccupied. I was happy that I wasn’t going to share the bathroom. Thabiso paid with his own card, I promised to pay him back.

We were sitting inside my room, the door was locked. The bed was a little uncomfortable. There was a couch and a small TV stand next to it, the bathroom was down the passage inside my room and the kitchen was outside at the hallway where I and the other tenants at the top floor would cook.

“You know you can’t stay here for long right”

“I know. But it’s all good because I’ll be starting a job in Cape Town soon”

“About that, I think you’ll have to cancel”

“What?”

“Tabita you can’t stay here anymore, what if someone from the family runs into you?”

“What do you suggest I do?”

“You should leave the country”

“What? No, what about my son? And my parents?”

“Your life is what you need to think of right now”

My life was more important. He was right. I thought about it.

“Okay, can I have time to think where I want to go?”

“Yes, but you need to lie low, don’t make any friends and don’t leave town”

“Of course”

Thabiso

For a month I juggled between the two cities, I spent half the week in my house and running the business, my manager was doing a good job when I wasn't around. I spent the other days of the week back at the farms with Tabita, Thabo had finalized the divorce and I'm sure he was aware of the killing of his wife. He had told everyone about Mihla being my son, and both he and my father they came up with a story that she ran away from shame. They both thought she was dead.

Thursday came, I couldn't wait to see my woman. I said goodbye to the stuff and blew the pipes off in my car in speed, I haven't seen her in three days, I couldn't wait to be in her arms. We have rekindled our love, we were in for a new ride... everything felt brand new. I brought us food and groceries on my next stop, she had also asked me to get her toiletries.

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Thabiso

We had a little chill session in the couch after eating. I had just helped her cut her hair short, you know what ladies say about a woman cutting her hair. She looked badass in short hair.

“Thabo is getting married soon” I told her. I saw a status invite from Khanyi this morning.

“Oh, so soon”

“Yup”

“Mm, I guess he knows your father tried to kill me”

“Clearly”

“I guess it’s all good then” she said getting up to sweep her hair from the floor.

“Are you jealous?”

“Me? No come one I’m not” she tried denying it.

“Oh” her face had changed. It was visible that she was disturbed by the news.

“Don’t give me that” she said looking at me, she came to sit down next to me again. “Okay I’m a little hurt, not jealous... I mean I wasted years of my life with that guy and he... as soon as he hears I’m dead he goes on to be with the love of his life you know that’s supposed to hurt, I can only imagine what sad story they will give to my son, something like- your mother abandoned you” she rolled her eyes.

“No one’s raising my son for me, I’m just waiting for things to cool down so I can take him” I said. She looked at me as if she has suddenly received a new idea alert from her brain. “What is it?” so I asked.

“We can kidnap him” she said.

I laughed because no way! Really? “Are you for real?”

“Deadass. Baby we can do this. We can drive to his school and I will normally go in to pick him up” the plan was dumb, stupid and risky. “I’m tired of living in a cave, I want to go out to the beach with you and our son, don’t forget we haven’t spent quality time as a family and soon we will have to explain to him that you’re his father” it was sweet that one of the things she missed about being outside was the beach, but it was too risky. I had to think of a plan first. For her to go to the boys school like

a normal day would cause my dad to act quick and have her assassinated before they even reach the next destination.

“I know, and there’s nothing I would love more than to spend time with you guys but the timing is... the timing is not right”

“Thabiso fuck the time, I don’t want to be here anymore. I want my life back... if you can’t help me then I will find a way” she said getting up to finish the sweeping.

“How are you going to do that with no car?” Samson had her car destroyed and those were instructions from my father after he had sent him to kill her.

“I don’t know I’ll find a way”

“Don’t be like that. You know it’s not safe”

She ignored me.

I was back home and we were about to close in a few minutes. I called the staff for our evening group affirmations and prayer. I

said goodbye to everyone and went to the car, I drove home to see Mihla and the family.

Thabo had told everyone that Tabita cheated on him with me

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and that I was Mihla's father. They haven't found the appropriate or a child friendly way to tell Mihla that I was his father, my father wasn't talking to me... my mom and sisters had calmed down, at first they didn't want to talk to me because they were disappointed in me for sleeping with my brother's wife.

Everyone was sitting at the couch watching TV. Today they welcomed a new bride in the family, they were still dressed in their wedding costumes. My father left the room when I got there, I sat in his chair and Mihla came to sit on my lap we played together.

"Are you sure you don't know where she is? You look calm for someone who has lost the mother of his child" said Khanyi. I ignored her, I wasn't going to speak ill of Tabita on her absence.

"To think I thought she was a nice girl, it took me some time and great effort to like her" said mother.

"Yeah no, she surprised us all... the worst thing is that she disappeared as soon as the truth came out, what about her

son? Mihla is growing and soon he will start asking questions, what will we tell him?" Issa added to what my mother just said.

"Can we stop talking about the boy's mother as if he's not here?" all the talk about Tabita being the villain was getting under my skin.

"The boy needs to know what kind of a woman his mother is" said Khanyi

"I am his father, I will not let you poison his mind"

Khanyi cleared her throat. "You know you not perfect Khanyi" I said shutting her up, she shook her head and looked back at her phone.

"Don't tell me you still feel something for this girl bruh" that was Issa, at it again.

"You know what, I will leave now"

"Come on bruh, it was just a question... I wasn't implying anything" I ignored her and kissed Mihla goodnight.

I drove to my place, before I went to bed I called Tabita, we stayed on the phone for an hour then I said goodnight and went to sleep.

Tabita

I was facing the other side in bed, Thabiso was sleeping. We had a mini argument this afternoon, I was still pressing the kidnapping idea, a stupid idea... it's not really stupid if you look at it in a maternal way but it's kind of silly because kidnapping a child from school would evoke havoc and Mbulelo and his goonies will be up high and low looking for the kidnapper.

I turned to face him. He was still sleeping so I woke him up. He opened his eyes to look at me "I'm sorry for earlier" I said.

He nodded. "It's all good baby, I understand your concern but kidnapping is not the way to go, I too want to get out of here and be somewhere you will be safe"

I kissed him. "I'm tired baby, if I had a choice I would leave... I would have left the first day you saved me but I can't leave our son behind, I wouldn't live with peace knowing I left him at the lion's den, he will grow up to hate me and that's a burden I don't want my child to carry"

"I know. I will make a plan"

"I trust you will" I kissed him and then we went back to sleep.

The next day I woke up so I can make us breakfast. After sharing a shower we sat down to eat. "I have a plan" he told me.

"A plan?"

"Yes. I can find you and Mihla a place to stay in Cape Town while I sort out your papers, I will do the kidnapping except I will casually walk at the house and take him to the car and I will drive you to the airport" he said. "But first I need to get your ID's and passports"

"Shit!" I cursed, I had just remembered something.

"What is it?"

"My passport and ID's in the house"

"Whoa, you serious?" I was sure of it, I had left both my ID and passport back at the house, Thabo's place. Mihla's were also in the same file I kept my stuff, on top of the wardrobe. I nodded.

"Shit, that means I will have to break in"

"You think you can do that?" I asked. House breaking was extreme.

“I have to, it’s the only way I can get your stuff. I just have to make sure he’s not around”

“What if he comes in while you’re inside the house?”

“That is why you will come with me, you’ll stay back in the car and call me when you see a car coming and I will rush out and hide outside the house”

“Okay” the whole idea was like a movie to me but I agreed to it.

“I’m not sure about this but let’s try it”

“We will pull it off don’t worry” he assured me “Do you still have keys to the house?” I nodded, they were somewhere in the suitcase.

That day Samson kidnapped me he cleared everything at the cottage

I think it was a way for him to cover his tracks. He wanted to make it look like I ran away, I don’t know how he managed to pull it off without waking Noma and her husband. I worried about her a lot. I’m sure she thought I was a bad friend for leaving without saying goodbye.

“That will make everything easy, I don’t have to break any windows or doors”

“Thank you for this” I said kissing him on the forehead. “I’m so happy that I’m finally moving out of here, the food and water in this place tastes horrible” he kissed me. “Thank you for everything my love, I owe you my life” I told him.

“Oh yeah, why don’t you start acting like someone who owes me and stop talking, girl get on your knees and give daddy head” I giggled, it was really unexpected to be honest. So I got on my knees, he laid back with his hands resting behind his head. I pulled down the pants.

I wiped my mouth once I was done and started stripping. He also stripped down as we were now both standing on our knees on top the bed kissing and preying on our nakedness, his big hands were behind me and mine were on his neck. He stared me in the face “I love you” I kissed him and whispered “I love you too” back. His hands moved from my back to my breasts, he cupped and sucked on my nipples and he bite one nipple. I held his head for balance, whatever he was doing to me was working because I was too weak to stand on my own.

“I don’t think I will ever get tired of you Tabita, the feel of your skin...” he kissed my neck at the same time squeezing my butt “Your smell...” he licked my boobs again “your warmth...” he plated kisses down my belly I almost fell back, balancing on my knees with hands. My thighs were slightly opened and I could feel his breath down between my thighs... “And the way you taste” he pulled both my legs forward so that I lay on my back with my legs opened for him. With one lift my legs were up on his shoulders, his head between my thighs I held his head very close and pressed it hard on my pussy. His tongue was wet, warm and tender.

Thabiso and I set a date for our first move. He was to drive us back to the city and we will go inside the house before Thabo comes back from work, her wife was probably going to be in the house but we were going to make it look like a house robbery with her inside. I was ready when he came to pick me up, I had checked out already and cleared all my stuff, we took my bags to his car and we left. The plan was to get documents first, pick Mihla up and then drive to the airport.

Tabita

The dark had crept in. my heart was beating fast and hard against my chest, I've never done like that before. It was all new to me, my partner on the other hand was chilling, and he had a cap under his hoody and was lying back on his chair. We have been parking outside for two hours of our arrival and the lights inside the house had been off the whole time, clearly there was no one home.

“Okay, I think I should go in before he gets here” I knew the owner wasn't home, I was his wife once and I was sure he wasn't home at the time. “I will call you as soon as I make my way in, stay on the phone” he instructed and I nodded nervously. He left the car and ran to the gate, he jumped up and disappeared into the darkness.

Soon it will be over. Soon I will get out of this place and leave everything behind, finally I will be happy. I was biting my nails none stop, I was freaking out. My phone vibrated instantly I accepted the call. “I'm inside, by the look of things there's no one in here... stay on the line and direct me”

“Okay” I told him the documents were on top of the wardrobe in Thabo’s bedroom.

Thabiso

I was inside the room. The bedroom light was off, I was using the torch on my phone so I could see and avoid bumping on furniture. I was still on the call with Tabita, I climbed up the dresser chair and reach on top of the wardrobe. There was nothing in there, I even moved my hands on the clean surface to make sure of it. ‘Are you sure you placed them here?’ I asked her.

‘Yes I’m sure... maybe he moved them’

‘Okay, I’ll try and look around the house. Stay on the line’

I got down from the chair to search the drawers and inside the closet. There was nothing in there so I looked on the final place before I can go out and search the other room. I found the file and opened it, everything was inside. I closed and shoved it on

my chest and zipped up, I nearly jumped from shock when the bedroom light suddenly went on.

“What are you doing here?” my brother was standing at the exit. He had a bat with him, his sleeves were rolled up.

“Thabo” I said. There was no getting out of this one without a fight, the last time we were under the same roof he almost killed me. “Let’s talk about this”

“You’re in my house brother” he said and walked in, closing the door behind him. “And you have my keys in your hands” He walked close.

“Thabo let’s talk about this”

“Mm, you know where she is right?” he laughed “I knew it! I knew it she is still alive”

“I don’t know what you’re talking about”

“I warned father about this... I warned him but he trusts Samson so much! that he refuses to listen when I speak”

“Thabo I don’t know what you mean by that
put that thing down and let’s talk brother”

He chuckled. "Where are you hiding her?" he looked at the phone in my hand and then shook his head. "You're here with her, that's her on the phone right?... she sent you here?"

I had to think of a plan fast. He had no reason not to kill me, I was in his house going through his stuff after taking the only thing that 'mattered' or should I say the only thing that made feel like a man. His wife and Kid.

"Thabo I know we will never see eye to eye brother, we were raised to be enemies... enemies to each other's progress, we both knew there was no way the both of us could be father's successor, only one of us stood a chance. But because I didn't want any more bad blood between us I left so you can grow peacefully under his wing with no competitor"

"What does that have to do with anything? Brother you took my wife" he chuckled... it turned into one long laugh, he looked crazy if you ask me "You fucked my wife Thabiso, how many times again? Once? No it can't be once I'm sure it was more than once" he shook his head and laughed again "I remember how the girls back at high school called you Mr nice because of your big dick, I hated you... you were arrogant, you still are"

His approach did not shock me. Growing up I was always two steps ahead of him, I was great in everything. I was the twin everyone in school like, I was popular and the girls loved me because I was young and cool like that. I pulled the first trigger on our first assassination, father was proud of me and my brother didn't like it, he hated that I excelled in everything while he sits in the corner and get nothing. I was aware that he had deep rooted hate towards me.

"I know. You have every reason to hate me, I don't blame you... father made us enemies and it looks like we will never change it"

"Leave father out of this"

"unfortunately I will not, he is the cause of this and you know it... you're just blinded by power, its nice Thabo, yes the feeling is nice but you will always be under his control trust me, I've been there you need to take your life back brother"

"Thank you for you unsolicited advice but you're in my house right now, the woman who use to be my wife is outside cheering for you. I think we should end it tonight, this world is clearly too small to accommodate the both of us"

Tabita

I was still on the phone listening. I have been listening the whole time from the minute Thabo asked what was he doing inside the house, I was standing outside the car panicking. Thabo had tried to shoot Thabiso before, there was no doubt that he will do it again. My hands were shaking, I had no choice but to go in there and help him, I had to. There was a big bang coming from the speaker phone on my ear, the first instinct was to go in and I did, I ran inside... struggling to climb up the gate I finally made it inside and ran to the door, it was unlocked. I ran to the stairs and I kicked the bedroom door open and went in only to be hit by something at the back of my head and instantly I flew to the wall, crashing on it with my shoulder. I blacked out.

I woke up to a screeching sound in my head, I was sure it was only in my head because I was in so much pain, I covered my ears with my hands silently crying. The lights were on in the room but it was blurry I couldn't see anything, I couldn't get up either. I brought my knees up tightly to my chest... I was dizzy, my head was spinning and in so much pain. I could feel my head shutting, I thought I was dying.

I woke up again, my vision was back and my head was no longer spinning but I had the mother of all headaches, I wiped the warm fluid coming out my nose, it was blood and some of it had dried up. I ran my eyes to the door, Thabiso was on his back and Thabo on top of him... he wasn't moving, Thabo was still beating him up and there was a bloodied bat on his feet. I panicked carrying my weight up to my knees "Thabo! Stop!" I exclaimed. He stopped and got off Thabiso and walked to me... Thabiso wasn't moving, there was blood everywhere and I was confident he killed him. My life came to a complete standstill "You killed him!" there were blood stains on Thabo's shirt, it was clear Thabiso has been fighting for his life because Thabo's face was bruised and swollen.

"Shut up!" he shouted. I kept quiet, I was sobbing between my teeth.

"You lied to me" he came to sit next to me. I was shaking and scared of what his next move would be because he had just killed his own brother. I was certainly next. "How long were you sleeping with him? My brother?" he asked, I was writhing and sobbing in pain. "You better answer me" he said.

I shook my head, I couldn't speak. I was traumatised. I wanted to take everything back. I wished I hadn't persuaded Thabiso to do this, now he was dead because of me.

"Tabita, I took you in when you had nothing, I gave you and your family everything" he was looking my way, I couldn't bring myself to look in the eye of my lover's murderer. "I gave you and your family a name, everyone in town knows your name sweetheart you know why's that? It's all because of me! I gave all that to you"

"I don't care about all of that Thabo. You might have given me money and status

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one thing you failed to give to me is love... and your brother gave it to me" I said. He laughed and kneeled in front of me, he held my head between his wet hands.

"He loved you? Mm, look at where that love led him... look at him, look at your lover" he was forcing my head to look at the door where Thabiso was lying. "You know Tabita, love is a very dangerous thing. It breaks boundaries and it always leads us in trouble or death" he pressed my head, he squeezed it hard that I squirmed in pain and he smashed it on the wall behind me, I saw stars. I cried. "Tell me, did you enjoy sleeping with him?"

Did he give it to you good? You would think of him when I'm top of you right? Huh? I bet you did"

"I'm sorry" I cried.

"How does he like give it to you?" he asked. I cried, asking him to forgive me. "How long does he stay on top of you? I'm sure he lasts long because the minute I mentioned Sino to you-you ran straight to his arms... who knows you weren't fucking him the time he was staying here with us?" he choked me. "Talk to me, tell me... how does he like it"

I was crying and struggling to breathe, his hand was on my neck. "Tell me!" he yelled at me and moved his hand from my neck. "You better say something before I kill you!" he shouted "Does he like it rough? Huh? Say something bitch!" he slapped me.

"Yes!!" I shouted back, I was tired of all the torture I wanted it to end. I wanted him to kill me and get it over and done with. "Yes Thabo he likes it rough, he stays on top of me for minutes I can't count, I pass out during sex because he won't stop... he keeps grinding, grinding and he doesn't stop! And you know what? I like it, I like how he fucks me and you will never amount to anything close to how he fucks me"

“You hoe!” he slapped my face again, hard this time I landed on my right side. He pulled me by my legs so I can lie down straight on my back. He pulled down my pants

“Thabo no!” I yelled. “Please stop”

“What? I’m going to give it to you the way you like it baby” he unbuckled his pants pulling them down to his knees. He forcefully pulled down my undies and got in between my legs, I couldn’t fight him he was too powerful. He forced himself inside me, it was taking him time to penetrate because I was not wet plus I moving and kicking. There was a huge bam! I looked up Thabiso was standing behind him, he had just hit him with his own bat. He landed on the floor next to me

“Baby?” I cried getting up from the floor. Thabiso was alive, and the minute I saw him lying down in his pool of blood my mind had tricked me into believing that he was dead when he wasn’t.

“I’m sorry, I’m so sorry” he held me as I gave him a hug, I was naked and crying “Get dressed we need to get out”. I got dressed, Thabo was still breathing but unconscious on the floor, Thabiso had knocked his lights out. We made our way to the gate, we were both injured to climb up so we opened with the key and we went to the car, his leg was sprained so he couldn’t

walk on his own he had to balance on my left shoulder because my right shoulder was also sprained.

“We need to get you to the hospital” he said.

“No, I’m fine... let’s get Mihla and get out of here”

“You’re not fine Tabita”

“Baby I’m fine” I said. I felt something warm moving down my forehead to my nose bridge, I felt it with my finger. “It’s just blood” still trying to convince him I suddenly felt light headed and I collapsed on my seat with my head on the window.

Thabiso

The nurse bandaged my ankle and knee, they weren't broken but a little sprained. They worried that Tabita might experience brain damage because her head was swollen and she had a lot of stitches in her head they also discovered that her shoulder had been dislocated, they were able to shift it back to its socket and immobilized her before sedation.

I was sitting down on the chair next to her bed, she's been out the whole night giving me time to look at a lot of things, I wasn't going to run anymore. She was what I ever wanted, I wasn't going to live in fear anymore.

I left the room to go and get myself coffee. Outside the hospital I called Samson, It was 2am in the morning. "Thabiso, its 2 in the morning what do you want"

"Thabo knows Tabita is alive"

"What? No how did he- how could you let that happen, that boy is trouble I'm sure Mbulelo knows by now"

"I don't have the time to explain I thought it would be fair for me to tell you before the sun come out, prepare yourself"

He exhaled.

“Just so you know, I’m tired of running and hiding. Tabita will also not hide anymore, in case he asks you about my whereabouts tell him we’re moving to Cape Town tomorrow and tell him I’m ready to go to war too for my family”

“You brave I must give it to you, I’ve always known you are- from a young age you’re the only one who could stand up tall and say no to your father, I like that about you”

“Which is the reason why him and I don’t get along”

“Good luck son” he said.

“Thank you, take care of yourself uncle Sam”

We ended the call and then I went back to the hospital. Tabita was awake.

Sino

When I got home this morning there was blood in one of the bedrooms, Thabo was nowhere to be found. I called him the whole morning and he didn’t pick any of my calls, I was worried sick about him.

Things between us weren't sweet anymore, and I think I was better as his side dish than his wife. He did a lot of unpleasant stuff in the house, things that I don't like. He was always at work and when he's at home he leaves his clothes lying on the floor for me to pick up, I am not a slave. I tried to talk to him about it and he called me spoiled and disrespectful... like? I was raising my concerns like any normal person instead of compromising he called me names and compared me to his ex-wife. I tell my mother everything, I told her everything that annoyed me with Thabo and she advised me not to submit to any of his bullshit.

Because I'm having a baby soon I saw it best that I live at home with my parents until I give birth, Thabo is never around in the house to take care of me.

Samson

I parked outside Mbulelo's house, Thabo's house was also in the yard. I walked in and went straight to his office, they went quiet when I walked in. I looked at them both and sat down.

“I couldn’t do it” I told him and sat down.

“You spared her life Samson? Why?” Thabo was sitting on a chair next to mine. His face was large, his brother beat him up good.

“It was not right Mbulelo, she is the mother of your grandchild”

“What is it with this girl?” he asked “He has all the men in this family wrapped around her stinky finger” he slammed the desk “I will find her and I will kill her myself”

“You’re not going to do that”

They both looked at me with shock on their faces. “Excuse me? Thabiso is out there with that bitch and you say we should spare her life” Thabo voiced in.

“Oh shut up boy what do you know? You know your main problem is with your brother not that girl”

“What is wrong with you? What happened to my friend? The Samson I know”

“Mbulelo, we’re old and time is moving, the same way your wife told you to stay out of trouble is the same way I’m telling you to let go all of this anger and hatred inside you, look at this boy!” I looked at Thabo “He’s a mess, he’s a ball of anger you can see hate burning in his eyes and it’s all because of you

you taught these boys hate and opposition instead of love and brotherly union, and I will tell you chap, everything that is happening today in this household is all because of you”

“I did nothing wrong!” He said angrily.

“Truth always stings. Your other son is out there in the world looking for love, the only reason you hate that poor girl is because she introduced something new in your family, something so foreign to you sons that it left them on their knees asking for me and that is love, something that you my friend don’t know”

“You don’t know what you’re talking about!”

“You know exactly what I mean. Look at this boy, he has become nothing but your puppet”

I must have pressed the buttons too hard the next thing I saw was a gun pointed in my forehead. “You’re going to kill me for speaking the truth, damn man you’re more insane than I thought”

“Shut up before I blow your brains out!”

“Shoot me!” I roared back at him. “I’m tired of your bullshit!”

“Don’t do it dad, put the gun down”

Mbulelo pulled the trigger.

Thabo

“No!!!!” Khanyi came in running “baby! Wake up, wake up!! Mama!!” mother came in along with Issa, my father had killed his own best friend. Samson was on the floor, with a hole in his head.

“You killed him!” she yelled at him, Issa was holding her back from attacking father. “I hate you! You killed the father of my child” We were all shocked from the late discovery that Samson was the father to Khanyi’s five months child. Father was sitting down, he looked like a zombie, and he was not moving he was staring in the same place. Issa took Khanyi out of the room, she was still crying and Issa was crying with her, feeling her sister’s pain.

Father called the police for himself after telling the girls the truth about their birth. They charged him to life in prison because he matched to a sum of other illegal activities along with the dead Uncle Samson.

I spent the whole week after that in my old room at home, reflecting on everything Samson said. I was really my father's puppet.

Tabita

I stopped the car outside, I had just picked up Mihla from school. He loved his new school. He opened the door and ran out of the car to the house. I got out too and walked inside, it smelled good when I walked in. Thabiso had started on supper.

"Baby you need a to take a leave, you can't drive in this condition" he came to hug me, Mihla was at the basement in his room.

"Come on, I feel fine" I told him

"You may feel fine now, I don't want anything to happen to my baby girl" he kissed my five months bump. I played with his head still on my belly.

“Have you considered what we talked about last night?” his face changed and he went back to his pots. “I’m sorry my love, but this is something you have to do for yourself. To find closure, give him a chance”

We received a call last night from an unknown number, it was Mbulelo asking his son to go and see him in jail. He has been behind the bars for a year now for killing uncle Sam, we don’t know the full story behind the killing the family says Thabo was in the room when it happened and he refused to talk about it. So much has happened since we left, the day of Samson’s funeral Thabo was absent he didn’t attend the funeral. The twins had gone in search of their real mother unfortunately she was no more but their father was still alive. They had both moved out of the house and stayed together, Nokuthula sold the house and cars and she moved into a smaller house.

“I will think about it” he finally said. When Thabiso says he will give something a thought he will do it.

“You promise?”

“I promise” he said and I went over to him and hugged him from behind.

Thabiso and I took Mihla and we moved back with him here in Cape Town after the funeral and we started over in a new house. I have been working for seven months and I was pregnant with a baby girl. Noma and are were talking on the phone, months ago I explained to her what happened. My mother had left and sold the house to move in with my father back at his farm. I am happy.

.....**THE END**.....

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