

THE PHAKADE LEGACY

Your Brother's Keeper



Author
Keabetswe Mahlaba

PROLOGUE

Yanga

Yanga



We all look at him , as he stands
up

The boardroom is full of
shareholders , and all the
executive staff

Dad : I'm sure you're all
wondering why I called you all

Some nods , while others muffle

Dad : I won't keep you , and I'll
keep this brief and simple

He buttons his suit jacket

Dad : when I started this
company , I didn't think it would

be what it is today . The drive and passion I had 17 years ago , I still have it to this day

He clears his throat

Dad : unfortunately this is life , and life has no guarantee . The company is doing well , and I believe it'll continue to do well regardless . With that being said , I thank and applaud all of you for your hard work and drive .

From today , I will be leaving
you

There's gasps , muffles and
sounds of shock

I smile looking down

It was damn overdue

Dad : it's a shock to all of you I
know , because I didn't discuss

this to anyone . But my decision is final I've made up with my mind as well , so I'm resigning as the CEO of Phakade Logistics . From today hereon , I will no longer be a part of you all

I place my arm on the table , looking at him intensely with a slight smile on my face

Dad : I trust that whoever will fill my shoes , will have the

same amount of respect I've
gotten from you all . I'll still
remain a shareholder , so me
resigning doesn't mean I'm
saying drag my company down .
Remember it might be my
sweat , but it feeds all of us in
here . And without it , we are
stranded

They nod

Dad : and I know , many may be asking who will be my replacement . I'm sure that's the question in your minds right now

Like isn't it so obviously ?

I fix my suit jacket , just ready for him to call me out

Dad : I don't have one as of yet

I stare at him confused

Dad : it's....it's anyone's game

He has to be kidding me right
now

Anyone's game , when I'm right
here !

Dad : but once I've chosen I will tell you all . But Phakade logistics has always been a family company , so whoever will steer the ship will be family

He chuckles

At least now we're getting somewhere

I'm the only family in this company , his only son who has worked his ass off to impress him

Dad : uhm....I think for today that will be all . So thank you , and it's been a pleasure

They clap hands , and get up shaking hands with him

I remain down , until the few
shareholders walk out

I get up and walk to him , he's
talking to Karabo

Me : father

They both look at me , she gives
me an ugly look

Me : can we have a word ?

Dad : I'm still.....

Karabo : it's okay

She flashes him a smile and
walks out

I wouldn't be surprised if this
one , has had an eye on my
father

Dad : yes ?

I clear my throat

Me : that was a shock

Dad : to everyone yes

Me : why.....why didn't you tell
me ?

Dad : why would I tell you alone
? Decision that concern this
company , are told to everyone
who is a part of this company .
At the time they're supposed to
be told

I guess the son card won't work
right now

Me : I understand

Dad : is there anything else ?

Me : uhm....the CEO position....

Dad : like I said , I'm still
deciding on that Yanga

Me : but....I'm the obvious
choice , I'm the only family in
this company . And I'm sure
everyone knows that , why
delay ?

Dad : well , I think after the
farewell party Friday everyone
will know

Me : a party ? I don't know
about that ?

Dad : they suggested it

Me : oh okay fine then , but you should really tell me so I can prepare myself

He chuckles shaking his head , and he walks out

I sigh

He better not screw me up , but who will he choose ?

I'm the obvious choice , that
CEO position is mine

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Mvelo

myelo



Tumi : it I'll be done soon

Me : at least estimate

She looks around , and turns
looking at me

Tumi : in two months max

I sigh

Me : can't you make it sooner ?

Tumi : some things , I'm sure
they can speed up . But of
course it'll cost you

I turn looking around , heaving
another sigh

Tumi : are you in a hurry to
move in ?

I walk towards the porch

Me : just get them to work quick , and fast-track whatever they can

Tumi : okay , which parts do you prefer being done fast ?

I feel her standing behind me

Me : don't stand behind me like that

She clears her throat moving

Tumi : I'm sorry

I turn looking at her

Me : yeah

Tumi : I think the kitchen , living
room and of course the main
bedroom

I nod

Tumi : alright , I'll tell them to get on with it . I'll come check on the progress after a week , and I can tell you when they'll be done

Me : okay

Tumi : uhm....so far are you happy with everything ?

Me : it's fine

My phone rings , I take it out of my back pocket

Me : yeah

Phakeme : nduna , uzofika nini ?
(Boss , when will you arrive)

Me : what's going on ?

Phakeme : you're on route soon
, or should I take it up for you ?

Me : take it , I'll bring a load
later

Phakeme : alright

I drop the call

Tumi : if you want something changed , you can just say

Me : no , it's fine

I put my phone back in my back pocket

Me : I have to go

Tumi : okay see you soon

I just nod , heading for the door
going out . I get in my taxi , and
drive off after heaving a sigh

I cannot wait for this to be done
, so I can just move

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INSERT 01

Yanga

She fixes my tie , and moves
back when she's done

Me : thank you

I say patting the tie , grabbing
my suit jacket putting it on

Imani : please , come for
breakfast

Me : who was cooking ?

She smiles

Imani : your mother

Me : did she say anything ?

Imani : about what ? We were just conversing

I look at her

Me : the fact that dad resigned

She looks at me shocked

Imani : that's new to me

Me : well yesterday

Imani : wow , so he's put you in charge ?

I smile

It's only a matter of time

Me : my dear wife , I love that
your mind-set works the same
as mine

She laughs placing a hand on
her mouth

Me : it's only a matter of time
before he does , he said only
family should lead Phakade
logistics

Imani : you're the only family there

Me : exactly

Imani : you deserve it babe

Me : thank you my love , but please don't tell the others about this . It could be possible , that he hasn't told them that he's resigned . They'll want to

lead a company , that they haven't been wanting to do anything with . You know how my brother's are

Imani : I understand , and I won't say anything to them . So best believe , it'll be a surprise when he tells them finally

Me : give me a kiss , let's go eat

She gets on her toes , I lean
down meeting her halfway . My
lips gracing hers

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Karabo

Karabo



I turn facing the other side

I don't get what's the stress
about so early in the morning

That I let out a sigh

I get up , and sit on the bed a
few seconds just rubbing my
eyes

I head for the bathroom ,
walking barefoot

The coldness will get me to
wake up better

I get in the toilet and pee ,
nothing beats morning pee

It's so refreshing and releasing ,
it's like therapy . There's just
something about it

I wipe myself , flushing the
toilet . I wash my hands , and I
look like I didn't sleep well

Brush my teeth first , before
getting into the shower

I take a long hot needed one ,
walk out wrapping a towel
around me

If I had stability , I would be
staying in a house one that has
an ensuite bathroom

Sometimes I do crave a bath ,
but I'm stuck with a shower .
And I can't install a bathtub in
here , it's not spacious

I dry and lotion , heading to the closet

I pick up clothes , black slim fit formal suit with a white vest .
And I take out 8 inch red bottoms

Head to the dressing table , I put on make up keeping it as natural as possible, i fix my hair

I get dressed , sliding in my
slippers

I make the bed , when I'm done
I grab the laptop bag and my
handbag along with my shoes

I walk down

It's so quite , I'm damn early
today

I make myself a fruit salad , with
orange juice and sit down
checking my emails

My phone rings , I smile picking
it up

Me : Phakade

He chuckles

Mr Phakade : you're up early

Ms Morake

Me : so it turns out

Mr Phakade : sorry for calling
this early , I wanted to catch
you before the office

Me : is everything okay ?

He shocked us yesterday

Mr Phakade : with me yes , but
you didn't seem okay at all
yesterday . And Yanga
interrupted us

I sigh

Me : it was just shock

Mr Phakade : are you sure
that's it ?

Me : yes , there's nothing else

Mr Phakade : alright , I will see you on Friday . I know my son cannot wait to have me completely gone , so he can ruin my company to the grounds

We laugh

Mr Phakade : take care

Me : you too

We hang up

I shake my head slowly ,
continuing to eat

The attitude of that boy is what
will be the end of Phakade
Logistics nothing's else

I started working there 4 years ago , as their COO

It's been bliss I won't lie

Because Phakade has done a lot for me , so in a way working for his company was me saying thanks to him . Some things thank you is just never enough

I grew up with foster parents , I don't know my real parents

Before that I was at an orphanage , he used to come helping the orphanage out with money

That's how we met , and he wanted to adopt me

But then his wife didn't approve

They have 5 kids , 4 sons and 1 daughter

But he never stopped caring for me , even when I moved to foster family

It was with his friend Thabo Morake , I believe Phakade had something to do with it

But they raised me well I won't
lie

When I turned 18 , I went to
varsity and they moved to the
UK

Yes we still talk and all , but
we've created such a distance
between ourselves over the
past years

Right now , we're at a point I just regard them as people who raised me

When I finished and graduated , Phakade had a post for me in his company

I was new and fresh out of the box , eager to prove myself

I took it

Knowing how scarce it is finding
jobs these days

He's been a great support to me
, and doing it all on his own

Because his wife doesn't
approve

I don't blame her though , I'm
nothing of theirs

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Mvelo

Dad : can we talk

I hold the door , not even
wanting to look at him

Me : I'm late

Dad : I know , you're usually not
home at this time

It's 07:00 , I always leave at
04:30 for rank

Dad : which is why I'm asking to
talk now , because I don't know
when I'll see you again . You
arrive late , and you leave early

I sigh

Me : okay , I'm listening

Dad : I resigned

Me : from the company ?

Dad : yes , and

He turns and looks back

Dad : Yanga is already ready to lead , you know with him being the only one there

Me : oh well good luck with that
, I have to get going

I'm seriously not interested in
anything , that has to do with
his business

I'm a man I work for my own ,
I'll leave my kids my own legacy
when I die . As for this one , I
want nothing to do with it . And
they all know that

Because this one it's of all his children

And my brother's just feel entitled to anything , just as long as they didn't work their ass off for it

I just wonder between the three who will he choose to succeed him

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INSERT 02

Karabo

Portia : we're getting dolled up because ?

I smile

I asked her to come out with me , because I wanted to come to the salon today

Me : it's Phakade's Farwell party tomorrow , I won't have time to

come to the salon and all .
Besides , I just needed a good
massage

The past few days have been
hell

That rude boy is something else
, he's throwing his weight in the
office like nobody's business

Portia : stressed much ?

Me : having to deal with Yanga
busy throwing his weight
around and all , nothing much

She laughs

Portia : daddy is leaving the
chair for him ?

Me : there's no one else , he's
the only one in the company .

All the other brother's , are not interested . Well I think they're not

Portia : how will you survive working for that kid ? He's arrogant , rude and just spoilt . He's nothing but a brat

Me : if he gets too much , I'm out of that door . I love my job yes , but I'm not desperate

Portia : but you love your job

Me : yes , but I also love my
sanity more

We laugh

Portia : plus one for tomorrow ?

Me : wish , no extras invited .
Just the staff , and shareholders

Portia : I don't know if it's luck or what , but you always get away with not having a partner

Me : leave me alone

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Yanga

I look at them all

And now it came as shock

But the way their eyes are just moving around , I don't like it

Dad : so you're all going to keep quite ?

Sabelo : when did you decide this baba ? (Dad)

Dad : it's been a while now

Vika : well it's unexpected

Dad : it is , but it's also done

Vika : okay , so who's going to
take after you ?

Sabelo : surely it can't be
someone from outside

Vika : definitely , so please
choose amongst your son's

He chuckles

Sabelo : the three of us here ,
because we all know that
mageza won't want anything to
do with this

Dad : mind how you talk about
your brother

Sabelo : I'm just saying

Me : you two shouldn't even be thinking of being appointed

Vika : and why not ?

Me : what have you done for that company Vika ? Absolutely nothing , I've been working my ass off for 6 years . We all know here , that if anyone deserves that position it's me

Sabelo : you chose to go and work there , no one said it's a must

Vika : if we want to step up now , and lead the company . We're well within our rights to do so , when dad chooses . It's a family company after all

I get up

Me : we will see about that

I walk out

My father better not betray me
like that

I'm the only one who's been by
his side all along , not them

Suddenly because he's no longer in power , they want in

Hell will break loose before that happens

I take my phone making a call

Candy : baby

Me : where are you ?

Candy : my place

Me : I'm coming

Candy : see you soon

I drop the call

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Mvelo

Dad : your brothers are fighting
each other

I just look at him

I don't know what he wants me to say about this

Mom : why are you telling him ?
You know very well that he doesn't care , so Mvelo will not bother himself with the well-being of that company

Dad : I'm trying to have a conversation with my son , can you just keep quite

Mom : I was just saying

Me : of course I'm the one that's always gonna be seen wrong , so I should be supporting old men fighting over another man's sweat . They're all too old to be fighting , for something that's not theirs

. At their age , they're still
looking on having riches of their
father . It's embarrassing

She looks down

Dad : it's only been days , but I
feel like I made a mistake
resigning

Mom : don't say that

She looks at him holding his hand

Mom : your son's are just excited to family make you proud , just be fair to them and choose wisely

Dad : when they're acting like this ? Who exactly am I supposed to choose ?

Mom : one that you see is
deserving

Dad : I don't see how any of
them is deserving , when
they're at each other's throats

Mom : well , at least they're
showing to be eager and caring
for your business . A legacy that
will still be there , even for your
grandchildren

Dad : they will crumble it down ,
before any of those
grandchildren can even point it

She sighs getting up

Mom : it sounds like you really
don't know what you want , but
it's your company so it's fine .
Just do whatever works for you

She walks out into the kitchen

Dad : is this what my family is
turning into ?

Me : you had your own reasons
for resigning , honestly it's your
choice who you choose . This is
how you preferred for things to
be , I don't even understand
why you're listening to them

Dad : how would you have preferred them ?

Me : I wouldn't just resign , and leave everyone else to have their way with my hard work . I would leave everything , sell the company take my package . Travel the world with my wife , or settle on a island across the world

He laughs

Me : let every man work for himself , his family and his own kids . If they want a legacy , let them create it for themselves . I mean it's just embarrassing for grown men , to be after another man's money

Dad : I wish I had your strength

I chuckle

Me : you're just thinking of your children , and I wouldn't be doing that . My own kids will work for their own money , they better not even think they'll benefit off my things

He nods slowly

Me : maybe you can find a way , to keep this company going .

And having the legacy you started , remain still intact .

Dad : what can I possibly do ?

Me : only you can figure that one out , you know in your heart what you want for this company . So surely , there's one person you think could live up to that

He stares at me intensely

Me : just as long as it's not me

He laughs

Dad : there might be someone

Me : you're getting somewhere

Dad : problem it's not family ,
and you know how I feel

Me : oh well

Dad : do you want to get
married ?

I slightly laugh

Me : maybe

Dad : that's not definite

Me : I know , but honestly it would depend for me why I would be getting married . I won't just get married for no reason at all

Dad : say it happens that you do get married , wouldn't you want your kids having a piece of their grandfather's legacy ?

I chuckle

Me : don't do that , it won't work . I want nothing to do with the company really

He sighs

Me : don't even think further , like really you should stop

Dad : you leave me no option then

He gets up , and walks out . I
don't get what he means when
he says I leave him no option

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INSERT 03

Yanga

The night is going by

He's just going around
conversing with everyone

I thought by now , he would
have already announced who
will be the CEO

I mean , I don't get what's the
wait about

Especially now that Sabelo and
Vika also want to be a part of
this

When they've done and
contributed nothing to this
company

I hope my father thinks about
that

Before he makes a choice

Because I've given 6 years of my
hard work and sweat to this
company

I've always been that son , that
wanted him to be proud of

I followed in his footsteps , and I
learnt from him

I told myself this is it , this is
who I am

He can't take it away from me

Especially just to please his sons
, just because they suddenly
seem interested in this

Where were they all along ?

I take my eyes off of him ,
grabbing a glass from a waiter
passing

Voice : Mr CEO

I chuckle

She comes around , and she's in
a stunning black evening dress

Candy : you're denying with
smiles

She keeps a bit of distance
between us

Candy : you don't want to be
grumpy in the morning papers ,
just smile

Me : maybe I have tension ,
how about you attend to it ?

She looks around , and looks
back at me biting her lower lip

Candy : won't anyone notice
you've disappeared ? What if
your father calls you out ?

Me : not now , not yet . We'll
make it quick

She smiles , I down the glass
placing it down

Me : in my office

I walk away , heading to my
office

I switch my phone off

I would rather not be disturbed
by calls from Imani

Guilt will just eat me up

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Karabo

I get to my office , taking my shoes off

I sit down on the couch

I'm tired , I could use some rest

I just want to shut an eye for a few minutes , so I'll be able to drive home

I don't want to cause an accident

I lay down on the couch , closing my eyes and it's just for a brief moment as I'm disturbed

A slight knock comes at the door , and lights come up

I open my eyes , he smiles

Phakade : I'm sorry

Me : it's okay

I sit up slowly

Phakade : I saw you leave , and I thought maybe you can spare me a few minutes of your time

Me : alright

Phakade : it's about the CEO position

I nod

Phakade : my son's are fighting each other , they're not hiding how they're all just gunning for it and it's a lot

I feel for the poor man , it's not easy having a company and kids who will want to step in your shoes

Forgetting there's only space for one

Me : well , only one can lead

He sighs

Me : please take a seat

He sits down on the opposite
single couch

Phakade : now , I know I cannot
choose between the three . I

have a feeling , they will choose
the company to settles scores .
It pains me that I cannot trust
my own kids , I never thought
anything like this would happen
to me . But like I said , I want
someone from family to lead .
So it just feels I'm stuck in
between a rock and a hard
place

Well I can only imagine how
he's feeling right now

Me : if you can't pick your son's
, then what are you going to do
?

Phakade : Mvelo seems to be
the only level headed child I
have right now , but he wants
nothing to do with the business

Me : maybe he seems level
headed because of that , if he

had interest wouldn't he be just like the rest of his brothers ?

Phakade : maybe , he's a taxi driver

Oh wow !

Not that there's anything wrong with being a taxi driver , like I mean it's a job like any other

But you don't expect a Phakade son to be one , like I would have never even thought of that

Phakade : you know I have always taken you as my own

I nod , getting curious to hear where he's getting at

Phakade : I have a proposal for you

Me : what....what kind of a proposal ?

He sighs

Phakade : I was intending on keeping my shares , like I have said

Me : yes you told us all that

Phakade : but now , I need a way to save my company and this is the only way. Like I can't seem to think of another , because me staying on as CEO is just out of the question

Me : I'm listening

Phakade : I will give the shares to Mvelo , even though I don't think he will agree

I look at him confused

Me : the son who wants nothing to do with this ? I don't understand how that is going to help save the company

Phakade : okay , I will give him half the shares and give you the other half while you also get the CEO position

Me : what ?

I ask in shock

Phakade : on condition that you and Mvelo get married , he continues doing what he's doing and you lead this company as his wife

Now I am defeated

Phakade : it's a lot , and coming out of nowhere I know . But I have no other option , without you I leave this company in the hands of a stranger or my son's

I sigh rubbing my eyes

Phakade : I'm not saying do it by force , but you can at least think about it ?

I look at him , and he's serious

Phakade : otherwise I would be left even with an option to sell and I don't want that

Me : sell the company ?

Phakade : yes , truth is I would rather sell it enjoy that money than to see it crumble . All in

the name that , I'm holding it so
precious to my heart and I don't
want to let go . It will hurt more
, to see it in ruins

I sigh

Like this man is faced with a
predicament , and he's breaking
my heart

I know how much this company means to him , and how much work he put to make it what it is today

But he's under pressure right now , and he will do as say anything that he thinks will help him

Makes me wonder if he's saying this with a sane mind

Me : does he know ?

Phakade : no , I wanted to talk
to you first

Me : will he agree ?

He smiles

Phakade : knowing my son ,
probably no

He lets out a slight laugh

And now this doesn't make sense to me , even how he got here to think this

To a point that he tells me , yet he knows his son is going to say no

But he's telling me either way

Phakade : but I mean , who wouldn't agree to marry such a smart beautiful and intelligent woman ?

I laugh

Phakade : this is not ideal , but in this case I will know the company is in good hands

Me : won't your son's be angry about this ? Let's say we do agree to do this , just in the name of being your saving grace . Surely they won't like me leading their family company , and it'll look suspicious suddenly marrying their brother out of nowhere

Phakade : you being CEO yes , but they don't need to know about the shares . Just you and

Mvelo , and it'll just be like I've handed you two my proxy

Me : why don't you do that ?
Hand your son your proxy , in that way you'll still have power in the company . Regardless of who the CEO will be , or better yet still keep your shares yourself like you said . I mean , isn't that way much better than this ? Like can this be the only alternative you're left with ?

Phakade : there are other shareholders , and at the end of the day the word of a CEO is the one that holds and counts . It's not that I don't trust you on your own , but I know married to my son you'll be one of us . And that will ease me , on having someone else on the chair . I just don't want to watch my company being ruined

Me : I understand you want someone from family , but isn't it maybe we're judging Yanga too soon ? Maybe you can give him a trail run , and see how he does

Phakade : as my daughter in-law , you'll be well within your rights . I don't even want to take that risk , I don't want to have worries and constantly watch his back . That will cause

us to fight I know , he will say I don't trust him and all that .

This is a lot

It's an opportunity alright , at 26 I'll be a CEO of this multimillionaire company

Not only that , but also a shareholder

Me : I get the position , it's just a position at the end of the day . But the shares , why would you give me half ?

Phakade : Mvelo won't be here , you'll be the one running the day to day operations . Just take it as motivating nothing else

I sigh , I did not expect any of this . I honestly thought he will pick Yanga . Rude as he is

I look at him , and I can see the desperation that's on his face

Me : I'm not promising anything , this is a lot . And it's life changing , you're asking me to give myself to someone . I don't know your son , I've never even met him . And now I would have to start a whole life with him , business deal or not . This is just a lot , and I don't think it's

something I'm ready for .

Marriage is a huge thing , I did not even see myself getting married . But then you can talk to your son , I will think about this . You'll tell me what he says , and we'll take it from there

He nods with a smile

Me : can I see him , do you perhaps have a picture ?

He laughs taking his phone out

Phakade : oh he takes after me ,
he's actually the only one who
took after me

I take the phone as he hands it
out to me

I look at the picture , and
involuntary let's out a smile

Me : he's handsome

At least he's not ugly

Phakade : told you he takes
after me

We laugh

Me : talk to him , and if he will
agree I would like to talk to him

first . Before we make an agreement to anything , or taking this further . I want to know , if I were to agree what exactly I'll be getting myself into

Phakade : not a problem , I will also be waiting to hear from you

I nod

Like what a way to end this
night !

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INSERT 04

Mvelo

Me : what ?

Dad : yeah

And he's serious , I know he's serious because I know this man like I know myself

Dad : you said I can come with another alternative , and I did

I chuckle

Me : I didn't say use me as a
sacrificial lamb

He laughs

Dad : I did not , either way
you're benefiting from this as
well and helping your old man

Me : I didn't ask

Dad : out of all my kids , you're the only one who is not after my wealth

Me : believe it or not , I have my own money . So for what reason would I be wanting your money ? Honestly you ruined your son's , so much that at their age they still think it's okay to feed off of you

Dad : I know that , which is why this company will be in good hands by you and Karabo

Me : you're asking me to get married , to a woman I don't even know . And who said I want to get married ? I might even have a girlfriend

He smiles , and it's a lot . I guess he's that found of her

Dad : Karabo is a very nice young lady , goal driven and she knows what she what she wants . I know you don't have a girlfriend , you're my son . You've never given a woman your heart

I laugh at that last part

Me : you trust her that much ?

Dad : if I did , I wouldn't be saying get married . But I do trust her to run the company , and very well . This way , the company remains in the family , you'll have my share while she gets the other half and she's CEO .

Me : so you think she won't screw you over ?

Dad : not in this way , that's
why I'm suggesting this
marriage

Me : what makes you think she
won't this way ? Don't even
suggest any contracts , because
if she's as smart as you think
she will know exactly what
you're doing

Dad : oh but there will be a
contract , in the case that you

two divorce before having a
child....

Me : a child ?

I chuckle shaking my head

Dad : yes , in the case that you
do divorce then her share of the
company comes to you

I slightly laugh

Me : and if there's a child ?

Dad : then her share goes to the child , either way oPhakade win in this . My company is secured , and you get a wife

Me : you're using her

He sighs

Dad : I'm not , she will get dividends . So those shares will be useful to her , as long as she's still married to you . That's a lot of money , so the time married to you won't be in vain

Me : if she's so beautiful as you say , why isn't she married ? Or yet have a boyfriend ?

He laughs

Dad : she's too dedicated to her work , women like her don't entertain relationships

Me : so she fucks around ?

He frowns

Me : what ?

Dad : she's well mannered

I shake my head.

Me : she agreed to this ?

Dad : she said she's going to think about it , and I mean that's expected surely

Me : mhm , but the fact that you're telling me means you know she's going to agree .

Otherwise you wouldn't be
telling me this

He laughs

Dad : like I said , she's very
special and she knows and sees
an opportunity when one avails
it's self . And this is a great
opportunity for her

Me : right

Dad : you're my only hope right now , I cannot trust your brothers at all . And we know , they will ruin this company I built so hard . I'm not ready to sell it , I don't want to loose it . I'm desperate , I do not want to lie to you . I'm very desperate . And you know what they say about desperate men , I wouldn't be asking this of you

Me : this is a situation you're putting me in

Dad : I know , but there's nothing you'll have to do at the company

Me : a wife ! You're giving me a person to live with , for life

He laughs

Dad : you're going to fall for her
, she's very beautiful

Me : if you were still in your
younger years , you would....

Dad : I don't see her like that ,
but I'm not blind . My eyes still
work fine

Me : I hate that in all this , I'm
feeling sorry for you . And I

hope you don't regret this decision of yours , because at the end of the day she's not blood . And trust me , I know just how deep that goes .

People will always choose blood over everything , I hope she also knows that . Because your son's are not going to be happy about this , she's making a sacrifice and she better ask herself if it's worth it . Because if it's not , she'll cry for a lifetime . So all

that money , she better hope
it'll make up for when she gets
hurt , because we both know
your son's won't just let this be
. So if she's going to be a
walkover , it's going to be a
problem . I'm not going to baby
her , I'm just feeling sorry for
you . Because I see how this is
making you be , but I'm glad
you know I'm not leaving my
job not even for your dear
company . I can't help you with

taking over it , but if in this way
you think I'll be helping you
then it's fine . But you can keep
your shares I don't want them

Dad : no one needs to know
that you have those shares
except us

Me : you're missing the point , I
don't want those dividends . So
keep your shares

Dad : it breaks my heart , that you don't want a single thing from me . Even after you're giving me hope that you'll make this sacrifice for me

Me : you raised me , and that was enough . You don't need to pay me for this , and if it works out I would have scored myself a wife

We laugh

Dad : just let me do this one thing for you , because when I die everyone will get their portion . This is the least I can do for you on your own

I sigh

Me : you'll tell me what she says , but I want to see her

Dad : you two can't say the same thing to me , she said what you're saying . So right now , I don't even have an answer . Because she's waiting to hear what you say , and you're saying that as well

Me : we'll meet then

I get up

Dad : just like that ?

Me : she wants to meet , and I want to meet . So let us , man we're doing you a favour here honestly

Dad : without me there ?

Me : why you want to be there ?

Dad : to hear the decision

I laugh shaking my head

Dad : okay fine , when do you
want to meet ?

Me : when she's ready

He laughs

I grab the keys to my taxi
walking out

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Karabo

I tried looking up the guy

But he's nowhere to be found

Like who doesn't have social media , in this day and age ?

I just wanted to stalk him

I don't lead a lonely life no , I
love my job very much

It keeps me sane and going

I have a friend

I've never seen a need to keep a
man , like ever . So I'm not all
about that

I've never kept relationships , I
just release and pass

And that happens like once in a
while , or rather it used to

It's been over a year and 6
months now , since I've
entertained any guy

But now a whole marriage !

I don't know how I feel about that

I don't know the guy , and if he's anything like Yanga then we won't get along at all . Like that's a given already , I don't like Yanga it's not even a lie

And just maybe he could even be worse , Phakade said he's a taxi driver

I'm not judging , but those ones are just known for being rude and lacking manners

I don't see myself getting along with a man like that

I got a call from Phakade earlier on , saying his son said we can meet

But he didn't say anything else

So I don't know , does he agree
or what ?

Maybe he wants to see if I'm
not ugly or what

I don't blame him though

He also might have looked cute
on the picture , and just be a

whole total different person
when we meet . So that one I
do support that we should meet

I don't even know what we will
say to each other

Maybe he's rude and talkative
like Yanga

I'm anticipating the meeting
though

Maybe it'll even help me make up my mind about this

Because right now , I haven't yet gotten there with my answer

Marriage is a big deal , and this is a business deal of some sort so there's just a lot to consider to be honest

Will we live like strangers and
all ?

Or we'll actually be trying to
make it work , like a marriage

And what if he has a girlfriend ?

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Yanga

I sit down , she gets behind me

Imani : you look tired

Me : I'm....it's this thing with
dad

I loosen my tie , as she gives me
a massage

I close my eyes , as I feel the
slight pain on my shoulders

Imani : you have knots

Me : baby , I don't understand why he's taking time like this . I thought he was going to announce this on Friday

Imani : maybe he will soon , you know the talk with your brothers didn't go well

Me : they're just being jealous , they wanted nothing to do with

the company . Now they want to be placed as CEO

Imani : what did Mvelo say ?

I chuckle

Me : probably nothing , we all know how he is . I doubt he even cares , so he's not even a threat nor is he on my mind right now

Imani : I saw your father talking to him , and it was like for a while

I move a bit turning my head , I look at her

Me : when was this ?

Imani : yesterday

Me : did you hear what they were talking about ?

Imani : no , I was in the kitchen

I sigh

Me : how did Mvelo look like ?
Was he angry or annoyed ?

Imani : he was okay , at some point he was even laughing

She comes and sits down next to me

Me : do you think dad could have convinced him ?

She laughs

Imani : no ways , you know your brother doesn't listen to anyone . Not even your father

Me : I need to know what they were talking about , I don't want surprises

I get up

Imani : you're probably panicking over nothing

I rub my chin pacing around a bit

Imani : will it make you feel better asking your father ?

I sigh

Me : if something is going on , he won't tell me

Imani : and you won't ask Mvelo we know that pretty much , so who will tell you ?

I look at her

Imani : sorry , but we know you
won't

I click my tongue annoyed

Imani : baby !

Me : I'm going to get some air

I head out of the bedroom

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INSERT 05

Mvelo

Me : hi

She lifts her head and looks at
me

Me : I'm here to see Ms Morake
, is she available ?

Her : uhm....sir ?

I sigh

Me : never mind

How will she hear what I'm saying when she's gawking at me like that ?

Whatever happened to now women chasing men , and it's so very annoying and unattractive to say the least

I head to the elevator , pressing
the executives floor

I can't believe I'm here , maybe
it would have been better if I
called her to meet somewhere

Doesn't matter now

I'm here , and I don't want this
thing dragging

I get out , and look around . The doors have their tittles on , and their initials

I finally get to it , at the end

I knock slightly , and a down come in comes from the inside

I open the door and walk in

She has her head bowed ,
looking at some file

Me : hi

She lifts her head and there's
slight shock in her eyes looking
at me

Karabo : uhm....hi

She gets up

I close the door behind me

Me : I'm sorry to disturb

She smiles , and I cannot miss
that beauty Phakade was
praising so much

Karabo : I....I wasn't expecting
you so....so soon

I look at her slightly confused

Karabo : your father showed me
your picture

Me : of course he did

Karabo : please , take a sit

I pull the chair opposite hers , I
sit down and she sits down as
well

Karabo : can I get you anything
to drink ?

Me : no , thanks

She nods smiling

Karabo : I....

Me : I'm....

We say at the same time

Karabo : I'm sorry , you go first

Me : you can go ahead

Karabo : honestly , I wasn't
going to say anything important

Me : okay , well I just need to
know if you've decided or what
?

Karabo : not really , have you ?

Me : tell me this first , did he
tell you how it goes with the
shares in case we are to divorce
?

Karabo : no

Me : if we divorce without
having a child , you forfeit the

shares . And if we have a child ,
the shares goes to the child

She goes quite for a while

Karabo : uhm....okay , I guess
I'm answered there

Me : what else is there ?

Karabo : the marriage , will it be
a marriage where we try and

get to know each other make it work . Or it'll just be , for this business reason and nothing else ?

Me : what do you want ?

She was said to know what she wants , so surely that won't be a problem

Karabo : can we try ?

I chuckle

Me : but I asked a question

Karabo : okay , I want us to try .
That's if you're not bringing any
girlfriends , because that drama
I cannot deal with . So if there's
any , I would rather not even go
ahead with any of this . Because
it won't be nice for either of us

Me : I'm not

Karabo : then are you okay with that ?.

Me : yeah , but you have to know we'll be staying at home

Karabo : your parents home ?

I nod

Me : and all my brother's are there with their wives and kids it's just a mess , and my sister comes as well occasionally . If that won't work for you , we can always rent somewhere

Karabo : that's....that can take a toll on us financially I mean

Not really

Karabo : I think for now , staying with your parents will be better . Then we can see what to do we time goes on , maybe getting our own place . But maybe that also would be better , if we've already tried making the marriage work . So we won't be living in a house together , just as strangers . That will be very much awkward , I don't like awkward things

I chuckle

Me : okay , what kind of a wedding do you want ?

She smiles

Karabo : nothing big , I don't have a family . So I'll just feel excluded in my own wedding , signing in court will do fine

Me : isn't the whole point of getting married , having people see and know about it ?

Karabo : don't worry , we'll make it to the papers

I chuckle

Me : I'll see when I can get us a date

I get up

Me : I guess we're done , unless there's anything left out ?

Karabo : nothing for now

She gets up

Me : okay , I'll see you

Karabo : let me walk you out

I won't say no to that

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Yanga

This has got to be a dream , or
my eyes are deceiving me

I've never seen Mvelo set foot
here , like ever

I watch as Karabo walks him to
the car

They look at each other , and
his back is facing me

So I only catch her smiling ,
before she leans over hugging
him

And he hugs her back , it lasts
like for a while

They pull out , and she says
something moving in front of
him

He opens the car door , and
gets in . She turns in on her heel
walking towards the door

He drives off

She gets to me , and just walks
past me

Me : what was Mvelo doing
here ?

I follow behind her

Karabo : what's it to you ?

Me : well , I'm asking

She keeps quite

Me : come on !

Karabo : you're seriously asking me about your own brother ?

Don't you think if he wanted you to know , he would have told you ?

Me : are you fucking him now ?

She stops walking and looks at me

Me : like it's a question , surely that one you can answer

Karabo : I can fuck whoever I want

She shrugs , and winks walking away

I sigh

Me : fuck !

Seems like things are just
happening and I have no idea
what's what

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Karabo

That was so unexpected

I didn't even think he would
come here

I thought maybe he'll call , and
say let's meet somewhere

But to just see him rock up here

I did not anticipate that
happening

My palms were sweating the
whole time

I kept checking myself , if I was dressed appropriately

And mind you , he was just wearing skinny jeans sneakers a t-shirt and a light jacket

But he still looked good in that

I'm in formal wear and heels , make up on point

But I was sceptical about myself

Surprises are not good at all

That conversation also went
very strange , but from his
words I guess it's done

And we're getting married

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INSERT 06

Mvelo

Dad : so ?

I chuckle

Me : she's okay

Dad : what do you mean she's
okay ?

Me : just that

Dad : mhm , but did you talk at
least ? I'm even scared to call
her

Me : we did

Dad : reached an agreement ?

I've never seen nor heard my
father so anxious like he is right
now

Me : mhm

Dad : come on ! Really ?

Me : why don't you just let it be
anyways ?

Dad : I just want to know

Me : you can have the contract
ready

Dad : so you're getting married
?

I nod

He releases a sigh of relief

Dad : you're protecting the family's legacy , I will never forget what you have done

Me : it's fine

I didn't think I would agree to this either , or even do it

But here I am

And it's all for his sake

I just saw of how stressed he
was starting to get

And like he said , he isn't ready
to selling the company

I sort of understood him there ,
because I wouldn't let go of my

business as well . Just because I
feel pressured , or backed into a
corner

I'll try finding an alternative to
keep what I have

I honestly would have just done
that

If I ended up with kids like my
siblings

But I get where he's coming
from

Its one thing building something
from scratch , and having to
give it all up

Or just do away with it , just
because you have no one who
will step up and cater for it

Obviously I will not be doing
that either

Because I have no desire to

Working for the family company
, it's like working your ass off for
other people

Because at the end of the day ,
they're all going to benefit
there

Hence I will never leave what
I'm doing and focus on it

Maybe in this way it'll work

And it's not like I've never been
taken seriously about anything
in this family

They're all educated , and sit in
big office chairs

They just see me as a mere taxi driver nothing more

I'm sure they don't even see me , as anyone who can even be a part of that company

I would never waste my time on such people

I won't work for them

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Karabo

He's smiling a lot , I'm guessing
he's happy today

Phakade : thank you so much

I nod with a side smile

Phakade : I know I'm changing
your life right now

Me : a big change might you say

We laugh

Phakade : but , I know it's a win
for us all

Me : uhm.....I heard about the
shares clause

He clears his throat

Me : but it's okay , I do understand why

Phakade : it's even there in the contract

Me : you seriously want me giving you a grandchild ?
Because I know , that's the only reason why you have that clause

He laughs

Phakade : it doesn't hurt , even
though it's coming through
plots and schemes

I shake my head slightly
laughing

Me : you might have to wait a
while for that

Phakade : butMvelo said you want to just sign

Me : true , but I think he's such a mystery . It'll probably take me time getting used to him , and understanding the kind of a person that he is . So , I don't think a wedding is necessary right now , maybe down the line if we can make it work

Phakade : I think if there's
anyone who can get through to
him , it's you

I don't know about that

I couldn't keep still when he
was here that other day

My palms kept sweating , I was
just a mess

Phakade : I'll leave this with you
, and you can sign it return to
the lawyer when you're done .
Keep your own copy

He gets up

Phakade : come over for dinner

Me : we're already there ?.

We laugh

Phakade : the sooner the better

I heave a sigh

Let's see how that rude bastard
of his , will react to me now
having dinner at their home

Oh and the wife !

She will probably not be in my
feels

Phakade : please do come ,
you're about to be family now

Me : I.....I will come

Phakade : good , I'll see you
tonight then

He smiles walking out

He doesn't even say at least
tomorrow

Like tonight !

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Yanga

It's like a feast is brewing , in
this kitchen

I don't think I've ever seen my
mother cook this much

Like not even on special occasions

Me : yhoh !

I lean by the counter

Me : what's going on ?

She laughs

Me : do we still even have food left after all this ? Because it seems and looks like you've cooked everything

Mom : don't be silly

I grab a carrot

Me : what's the occasion ?

Mom : dinner

Me : we have dinner everyday ,
you never cook like this

Mom : well , your father says
we're having a guest tonight

Me : who ?

Mom : I don't know

Me : wait.....so you're slaving
away on the stove like this for
someone you don't even know
?

Mom : it doesn't matter

Me : wow , what if it's someone
you don't even like ?

She laughs

Mom : I don't know what you're talking about , because there's no one I don't like

Me : mhm , you're a better person than I am

I turn grabbing a bottle of water from the fridge

Me : so , we're all invited to dinner right ?

Mom : yes

Me : okay , I'll see you then

I turn , going out heading
upstairs

I bump into Vika

Vika : has dad said anything
about

Me : go ask him.

Vika : why are you getting angry ?

Me : why do you want to just squeeze yourself in , when I've poured my heart and sweat into that place ? You're running your money lending business , so what's the greed about ?

Vika : okay , first of all we're all educated and qualified to lead that company

Just looking at him , I'm getting annoyed

Vika : I'm just saying , he can pick whoever he wants . You chose to work for it , but it's a family company . Meaning ,

family has the right to it . Even
me you know , my business
doesn't count because it's mine
. You could have started your
own as well , but you chose to
work for the family business .
Don't feel entitled to it , it was
never a given that it's yours

He walks past me heading down

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INSERT 07

Yanga

We're all down , in the dinning
room

Awaiting this guest that we don't know

Sabelo : so Mvelo won't be here for dinner ?

Vika : he leaves the rank at 20:00 , he's probably going to miss this whole thing . I don't even know why you're asking , because we know him

Speaking of him , and he walks
in

The two go quite instantly , it's
like they weren't saying
anything right now

He pulls a chair and sits down

See how we're all just dressed
up for this dinner

Or rather we look decent , to him it's like it's just another day going to Bree

I shake my head , darting my eyes away from him . He could have put in effort at least

Mom : what time is this person arriving ?

Dad : anytime from now , stop
being so impatient

The door monitor goes off , and
I'm expecting dad to get on his
feet

Seeing that the guest is his ,
well I think it's his . They said
he's the one who spoke of this
dinner

But no !

Mvelo gets on his feet attending
the door

We all just look at each other

Eyes are just so eager to see
who will walk through that door

Mom : I thought it was your
guest ?

She says looking at dad

Dad : no

Mom : but you're the one who
told me about this

Dad : yes , but does it matter
who spoke about it?

She sighs

Vika : why are they not coming
in ?

We look at him and laugh

Vika : I'm just asking

No ! It's curiosity , Mvelo never
ever has anyone come here for
him

I doubt he even has a girlfriend

That's why I was so shocked
seeing him with Karabo , it's just
so not like him

It's a while before they actually
come through

And my eyes pop , landing on
her

She looks stunning , yet so simple but classy

She's wearing a long strap sleeve summer flower dress , with black heels definitely

I clear my throat , as I feel Imani touch my hand

Fuck !

I hope she didn't catch me
staring

Karabo greets and we greet
back , Mvelo opens the chair for
her

Mom : Karabo , it's so good to
see you

Oh wow ! The shock on her face
, doesn't match her tone at all

Karabo just smiles

Mom : how.....how are your
parents ? I haven't seen y'all in
like forever

I don't know , but there's
something off here

Karabo : they're in the UK

Mom : Ohhh ! Okay , well then
welcome

She pours herself a glass of juice
, and takes a few sips

She's not taking her eyes off
Karabo , there's tension

Mom : I didn't know you're
dating Mvelo

The two look at each other

And the look is just intense ,
there's something about it I just
cannot comprehend

She's first to look away from his
eyes

Dad : are we going to eat or
what ?

Mom : uhm.....isn't it just a nice courtesy , for her to be introduced ?

Dad : for what ?

Mom : just to know she's here as what , I mean we thought you're the one bringing a guest . And seeing it's her , I don't get what was all the secrecy about when I asked

Definitely something is off

I pour myself a glass of juice ,
seems like drama is about to
unfold in the Phakade
household

Mvelo : she's my fiancé

I choke taking a sip of the juice

Imani pours me a glass of water
, I take a sip

Me : I'm....I'm sorry , that was
just unexpected

Mom : fiancé you say ?

Of course he won't answer her

Mom : wow , and when did that
happen ?

Dad : can we please just eat ?

My eyes trail between these
two

And it feels like we're just
missing something here

I've never seen them together
before , and they're engaged

Like how ?

Mom : let's eat , I'm suddenly not feeling well . I won't see this dinner through

Just like that ?.

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Karabo

The woman of the house wasn't
happy , she wasn't happy at all

That she even left dinner and
retired for bed early

The two daughters in law are in
the kitchen doing the dishes

It's just the brother's and the
father in here with me

And the way , they haven't
taken their eyes off of me

It's like they're trying to study me , or just to know or understand what's happening here

Mvelo barely said two words to anyone

I don't know , but there's just something about the way he's so quite

Yanga : Karabo I see you
everyday , and not even once
did you think to tell me we're
going to be family now

I look at him

Yanga : like.....why hide it ?

Me : I wasn't hiding anything ,
you only tell people about
yourself and your business

when necessary and they need
to know

Yanga : ohh !

I swear if they were to hear why
were getting married

This one would mock me for as
long as he still breathes , well
more like all of them

Yanga : it's just somehow
suspicious

He leans back on his chair

Yanga : my father resigns , and
to this day he hasn't appointed
a CEO . He wants family to lead ,
and that has you excluded
doesn't it ? And now this , out
of nowhere suddenly you're
marrying my brother . Maybe

you're trying to secure that
position

Me : honestly , if you weren't
after people's legacies you
wouldn't think that everyone is
just as you are

He clenches his jaws

I flash him a smile , which just
annoys him to the core

He clearly didn't choke enough

Sabelo : okay , I think we don't need to go at each other like that . I mean asilwi right ?
(We're not fighting)

Vika : and dad you're here , with us all . So maybe you should just tell us , who will be taking over seeing that we're multiplying

now , there's more people and threats

He says looking at me

The whole thing just seems to have rubbed Mvelo the wrong way , as I dart my eyes to him and something is strange with his eyes

He gets up

And me being me , I get up
along with him

He's not about to leave me with
his crazy family , I refuse

Me : Phakade , dinner was great
thank you . I'll take my leave
now , thank your wife for me

He smiles

Phakade : thank you for coming

I nod , following Mvelo as he
heads to the door out

Mvelo : you didn't have to leave
because of me , I just needed to
catch a breath

I catch up to him

Me : you were not about to
leave me with your crazy
bothers alone , like I came here
for you

He chuckles

We walk to my car

Mvelo : sorry dinner ended like
that

Me : it's fine , I better get used to them soon cause we'll be living with them.

And I don't see how we're going to be able to live with such people

And the mother not liking me

I could suggest we move to my place , but men and their egos

And Mvelo is a man and not a boy okay

It doesn't even make sense to me how he's still living in his family home . Just the way he is , as for his brother's I can understand

Mvelo : I got a date for Wednesday

He says opening the door for
me

Me : next week

Mvelo : no

Me : like Wednesday , the day
after tomorrow ?

Mvelo : yes

Me : wow ! So soon

Mvelo : getting cold feet ?

I slightly laugh

Me : no

Mvelo : give me your account
details

Me : for ?

Mvelo : might be a court thing ,
but I'm sure you'll want a dress
and whatnot

Isn't he just sweet ?

I want to decline and all , but I
don't want to make him feel
somehow

Me : give me your number , and
I'll send them to you

I take my phone out , he calls
his number out

Mvelo : drive safe

Why I place a kiss on his cheek ,
I don't know . But I do it
anyways , getting in the car

He closes the door and I drive
out

I'll be left ripped by those
people , the mother who
couldn't even finish dinner

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INSERT 08

Karabo

I slept last night

And didn't even get to send my
bank details to Mvelo

Only sent them this morning

Maybe I'm crazy , but that
dinner last night was something
else

I woke up looking at houses

It's not that I cannot afford one
, but I'm wondering if he'll be
okay in buying one

I mean he only suggested renting , and I'm not about that

I know their family set up is not a shock

There are families who live like that , prefer being under one roof all together

But the whole setting is just not for me

There's the mother , two wives
and I'm sure Vika brings around
his girlfriend if he does have
one

So like 4 women in one house ,
that never works so well

Especially if you can't do
anything , because you'll always
be reminded that it's not your

house . So you're not the
women of the house

I for one know I won't last in
that house , that one doesn't
even need me to wreck my
brains about

I swear as soon as I find a house
I like , I'm having this
conversation with Mvelo

I take my phone making a call ,
it rings for a bit before she
answers

Portia : it's too early for calls

Me : I'm getting married
tomorrow , I need a witness .
Short notice I know , I only
found out last night . I'll sponsor
for everything , so please say
yes

She burst out laughing , after
awkward silence

Portia : what ?

Me : tell me when you're done
laughing , because I need to get
ready for work

Portia : when did you step into
comedy ?

I keep quite

Portia : oh shit !

I hear some shuffling , like she's
sitting up straight

Portia : you're serious ?

Me : yes , now will you be
available ?

Portia : wait.....wait back up a bit , you're getting married ?

Me : yes

Portia : to who ? Just yesterday you didn't have a boyfriend .
And you're getting married ?

I laugh , she sounds so defeated

Me : well , it all happened so fast . But Mvelo Phakade is the lucky guy

Portia : Phakade ? Phakade as in like Phakade your father ?

I laugh

Me : he's not my father , but yes that Phakade

Portia : okay , what am I missing ?

Me : well , we need a cup of coffee and red velvet cake for that

Portia : I'm coming

Me : I'm going to work

And I'm talking alone , she's
dropped the call .

Me : great !

My phone beeps and it's a bank
notification , of R10 000

I laugh

Like what the hell ?

Who buys a dress with so much money ? Surely we're not doing anything fancy here

There'll even be change left

And I must say , I'm shocked .
Cause I didn't expect him to
send so much

Mhm ! When they say never
judge a book by it's cover

They mean this man

Like 10 000 might not look like a lot of money , to someone who's spoilt

But it's a lot !

And I didn't expect it

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Yanga

Vika : what do you think that was all about ?

Mvelo is not around , hence everyone is okay discussing him

Because in front of him , we don't even mention his name

I don't buy that taxi driver nonsense of his

There's just more to him than it
meets the eye

He wouldn't even be so
invested in taxis that are not
even his

I know we all regard him as
nothing , but I swear we're just
fooling ourselves

Sabelo : something is just off ,
why the sudden marriage ?

Vika : we've never even met the
girl before , well as his girlfriend
I mean

Sabelo : what do you think he's
trying to do ?

I shrug

Me : but whatever it is , dad knows very much . Mom was under the impression that the guest was dad's

Vika : then let's ask him

Sabelo : you know he won't tell us anything

Mom walks in , and you can just tell she doesn't look good

Mom : good morning

We greet her back

Mom : where is your father ?

Vika : he left

She nods

Mom : heard your brother is getting married tomorrow

Sabelo : what ?

Me : tomorrow so soon , when did they plan the wedding ?

She sits down

Mom : oh they're getting married in court

We look at each other

And I swear , if this didn't look
suspicious before it sure does
now

Something is definitely going on
here

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Mvelo

He opens the door , getting in .

He seats on the first front seat

Phakeme : I wouldn't mind
getting away from here

I chuckle

Me : on busy days , you're
always looking to run away . It's
like you're not making money

He laughs

Phakeme : okay fine , you called

Me : I need a favour

Phakeme : those are rather
always tricky with you

Me : I need a witness

Phakeme : not murder !

I chuckle

Me : I'm getting married tomorrow , I need a witness for that . You mind giving Nkuzi your taxi for an hour or two?

Phakeme : an hour or two ?
Wait.....why not the whole day ?
Is it not a celebration ?

I chuckle

Me : no

Phakeme : I don't know , but I'm not coming back . And I didn't even know you were seeing someone

Me : get out of my taxi , and dress appropriate . Like please , don't be like you're coming to the rank

He laughs

Phakeme : the things you make
us do

Me : leave , I need to go buy
rings

Phakeme : this is serious ?

I chuckle

Phakeme : it's clear I don't
know you as I thought I did , but
you know you can always count
on me nduna (boss)

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Karabo

Portia : shut up !

She leans back on her chair

Me : don't judge me please

I told her everything , she
rocked up in my office and I

knew there was no running
away

Besides I need her

And we're yet still to go
shopping

Portia : I'm not judging , but this
is insane . And people don't just
do such things

Me : people do a lot of things

She sighs

Portia : yeah , but not you . Do you even at least like the guy ?

Me : what has that got do with anything ?

Portia : friend , you're going to spend your life with this guy .

What if you two just never fall for each other , and he finds another woman ? Or you find another guy , is that going to be your home situation ?

I sigh

Portia : you didn't think that far did you ?

I shake my head slightly

Portia : I don't know , but you're an adult . I just hope you'll know best enough to leave , when things don't work out . Like don't endure a painful situation , just because there's benefits

I nod

Portia : did you tell your parents ?

Me : gosh ! I hate you right now
, can we just go ?

She laughs

Portia : Thabo is going to flip

Me : I'm going to tell them once
we're married

Portia : are you that brave ?

Me : I just think they're going to come down on me like you are right now , and this is insane . This whole thing is insane , so I don't need sane people okay ! Just let me be , I'm doing this and I'll think about sanity when it's done

Portia : I don't know , but girlfriend let's go

I can't have my mind working
overload , because I will run
away from all this

I've already decided , and so
best I just go ahead with it

There's always an option of
walking out if it doesn't work
out as intended

But right now , I'm not giving up
before giving it a try

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INSERT 09

Yanga

Candy : you're very tense

I look at her

Candy : wife giving you
problems ?

I sigh

Me : I told you not to talk about my wife

Candy : I'msorry

She moves off me

Candy : you're just off today , I feel like you don't even want to be here . So I don't understand why you are

Me : if you don't want me here
why don't you just say ?

Candy : I wouldn't have let you
fuck me if I didn't

I get up

Me : I'm leaving

Candy : fine , it's not like you're
here anyways

She walks to the bathroom

I pick up my briefs and pants
putting them on

It's not a very good day today

I grab my phone making a call

Imani : babe

Me : I'm coming home , can you please make me something quick before you leave

Imani : leave ?

Me : are you not attending the wedding thing ?

Imani : we were not invited , I'm home with your mother and Wanda

Me : oh okay

Imani : what do you want to eat
?

Me : anything you can make

Imani : okay baby

Me : I love you , I'll see you
soon

Imani : I love you

I drop the call , finish dressing
and I leave

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Mvelo

Phakeme : are you scared ?

I look at him with a frown

Phakeme : you're panicking

Me : do I look like I'm panicking
to you right now ?

He laughs

Phakeme : this is like your
second smoke , since this
morning and it's only 11:00

I sigh

Phakeme : I'm sure she's
coming , women take time
getting ready

Me : we're not late

Phakeme : yeah , but what's the
stress all about ?

Me : I'm not....

A car stops next to us , and my
eyes just land on her

I haven't even seen how she
looks like , but my breath is
already blown away

Phakeme : is it her ?

I nod , throwing the cigarette on
the floor stomping my foot on it

I throw in a gum in my mouth

Phakeme : finally , we can get
this done

Me : shut up

We watch as they get out of the
car , and they walk to us

She's fucking stunning

In a cream white tight body
hugging long dress

Even her shoes are hidden ,
that's just how long the dress is

She sure looks like a bride

Phakeme : you didn't tell me
she's this beautiful , where did
you find such a beautiful
woman ?

This idiot !

They get to us , she lets go of her dress . She smiles as they greet , and we greet back

Karabo : this is Portia , my best friend

I just nod , not taking my eyes off her

I get closer to her , holding her
wait

Me : you look stunning

She lifts her eyes meeting mine

Karabo : thank you

I lean down placing a peck on
her cheek

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Karabo

I don't know where and when
he got the time to buy the rings

But he bought them

I have on a stunning silver
diamond ring

And he has a silver band

We said our own vows , which was very strange . Cause I thought we'll just let the priest do his thing

But no , Mr here wanted to say his own vows . And I had to say mine

Priest : and now I pronounce you husband and wife , Mr and

Mrs Phakade . You may kiss the
bride

He lets go of my one hand and
leans down

Me : don't kiss me , your father
is here

I whisper to him and he
chuckles

He pecks my lips , and moves
back

I sigh in relief

If only his father wasn't here , it
would be less awkward

I mean that would have been
our first kiss , it certainly can't
be in front of his father

Phakade : you're seriously
scared to kiss your wife ,
because of me ?

We all laugh , except Mvelo
who just chuckles shaking his
head

Phakeme : oh he'll make up for
it

This guy !

Phakade : he better , otherwise
he wouldn't be a Phakade

This is going far , like crazy far

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Yanga

Sabelo : are they back yet ?

He sits down

Mom : no

Vika : what kind of a wedding is this ? That we're not included yet we're family

Mom : I didn't know you weren't invited , I would have asked why not

Me : were you invited ?

Mom : yes

Sabelo : then ?

Mom : I didn't want to go there

Me : what's the deal with you
and Karabo ?

She sighs

Me : mom !

Sabelo : do you maybe know what's the sudden marriage about ?

Mom : I don't know , I just don't understand why Mvelo couldn't get any other girl . Why did it have to be that Morake girl ?

Vika : the heart wants what it wants

Mom : your father is friends
with her father , if he starts
mistreating her their friendship
will be ruined . Such things are
just not to be mixed

No ways !

There's more to this , she just
doesn't want to say

But she knows something

Mom : and why would they have a court wedding , like they don't have family ?

Me : Does Thabo know his daughter is getting married ?

She shrugs

Vika : I just foresee drama with the whole thing

Sabelo : more like just secrets
coming out , just days ago
Mvelo was Mvelo and now he's
someone's husband

Vika : there's no way that
makes sense

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INSERT 10

Mvelo

I look at the phone ringing , I
close the taxi door answering

Me : what do you want ?

She sighs

Nomusa : hi

Me : I told you not to ever call
me again

I'm so pissed right now

Nomusa : you got married ?

I sigh , shaking my head

Nomusa : you didn't even tell
me

Karabo did say this will be in the
papers

We got married yesterday , and
today we're in the news

I guess news really don't sleep

Especially when you're the COO
and getting married to the son
of the boss

I hear sniffs

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

Nomusa : Nkosi I know that.....

Me : you know nothing , there's
no shit you know about

Nomusa : how long will you
keep shutting.....

Me : for the last time , don't
ever call me . You're really an
annoyance

The passenger door opens , and
it's my father

I drop the call

Dad : what's wrong ?

Me : it's nothing

Dad : you don't look okay

Me : I'm fine , I have to leave

He sighs

Dad : okay , Karabo signed the contract . I got an email last night

Me : okay

Dad : when are you two moving in together ?

I just stare at him

Dad : you didn't say if you'll be staying here or what

Me : we will

He smiles

Dad : okay , let me not keep you . It'll be fine , the mood is very sour inside there since from yesterday .

Me : no wonder you're up this early , the blankets are not warm

He laughs

Dad : I thought your wife will wake up here

Me : don't start

We agreed she'll move in , in a few days

Dad : I'll make the official statement , at the office today

Me : good luck

I know his son's won't be happy about this

More especially Yanga more
than everyone

He closes the door , and walks
back . I drive out

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Karabo

I've been ignoring my father's
calls this morning

The way he's been calling , it's
so unlike him

So I can just guess he's not
happy at all

I'll call him like after a few days
or so

We haven't spoken in a while

And the talk we're going to
have , is not going to be a very
pleasant one

I'm not looking forward to it at all

Phakade : are you ready ?

I look at him

Me : yeah

Phakade : let me go have my head chopped

I get up laughing with him

Me : good luck

Phakade : from the words of the
love birds

Me : are you just not being
dramatic !

He opens the door , we walk
out heading to the boardroom
together

And as we enter Yanga lays his
eyes on us , and you can't miss
the annoyance on his face

I sit down

Phakade : thank you , for
coming

He gets a few nods

Phakade : I will not keep you all away from your work , as we know I've taken a step back and resigned . I was still yet to appoint someone to step in , and fill my shoes . I'm sure you've all been waiting in anticipation , and eager to know who will that person be . I have son's it's no secret , and only

one decided to step up and be a part of this company .

Yanga smiles

Dad : I applaud him for that , and as a father I'm every proud . But to say the least , as much as I wanted a family member to pick up from where I left off it really isn't cast that it has to be any of my son's . As eager as they are to lead , but a leader

leads and doesn't dictate . And therefore , the person who will step in and fill my shoes as the new CEO of Phakade Logistics is none other than Mrs Karabo Phakade

There's slight confusion , while others just dart their eyes to me

And the anger in Yanga's eyes cannot be missed

Phakade : for those who don't know , my second born son got married to Karabo Morake here who is now a Mrs Phakade . And she will.....

Yanga gets up abruptly and walks out , slamming the door on his way out

Just causing slight commotion

It's goes awkwardly silent , for a bit

Phakade : well , we can't always get what we want . This is life

There's few laughs and chuckles here and there

Phakade : I hope , you will respect Mrs Phakade the same

way you have done with me .
Don't expect her to perform
miracles , and be a team that
she can rely on at all times . And
the same ethic you give her ,
she must give to you . Working
together , and holding each is
the only way you'll keep going
forward and making this
company a success

There's nods a claps

I release a sigh , knowing now a
huge responsibility awaits me

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Yanga

Me : I have heard and seen nonsense before , but this ! This just takes the cup , how can you do that to me ? When I've given this company my all

Dad : well did you expect to give it your what ?

Me : this is why Mvelo married her isn't it ? They don't even love each other , I can bet on that . You orchestrated this whole thing , so you can make her CEO as some part of a stupid family

Dad : whatever you say , it's done now . Make peace with it , and you will give her the respect she deserves . Bare in

mind that you still need this job
, it feeds and cloths you

Me : if you're seriously
expecting me to be led by that
woman , you're in for a big
thing . I will walk out of that
door , and never come back

Dad : then do it , it's not like
you're irreplaceable

I shake my head

Not believing that he just said
that

Dad : I'm not going to beg you ,
if you want this job you will toe
the line just like everyone else .
And if you can't , the doors are
opened

I nod slowly letting out a
chuckle

Me : well , you've made your
decision and choice I see

His phone rings and he just
looks at it

Me : I hope you don't live to
regret what you have done

Dad : best believe , there's no regrets . But you can take your tantrums far away from here

His phone rings again , and again he ignores it

Whoever is calling him , he's really ignoring

Dad : I guess this talk is done

He walks out

I rub my hand on my face
frustrated

I can't believe he did this

How did I miss this whole thing
?

I knew that marriage was just
too suspicious , but I didn't

think he was pulling such a
thing . It didn't even cross my
mind , like not even once

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INSERT 11

Karabo

I asked Portia to come by and help me pack

I'm just going to need my clothes

I'm leaving my furniture as it is

This will be packed , once we've had a talk about a house

I'm definitely not taking my things into his mother's house

Portia : I'm sure he wasn't happy

Me : he stormed out of the meeting , and there was shouting and all in his office with Phakade

Portia : are you sure , it's a good idea moving into their home ?
Those people cannot be trusted babe , what if they poison you ?

I laugh

Portia : no I'm being serious

Me : I doubt they would do anything like this

She sits down on the bed ,
holding a t-shirt

Portia : we're black people
Karabo Morake Phakade , and
we do all kinds of things to deal
with problems

Me : so I'm a problem ?

Portia : to those Phakade
people yes , and I don't know

how much that handsome man
will defend you

I laugh

Me : don't call him that , use his
name please

Portia : jealous already aren't
we ?

Me : well , I don't need Mvelo to defend me . I'm very much capable of defending myself

Portia : yeah , but it sounds like you're going to be in a house full of people who are just going to be against you

I sigh

Portia : I'm not trying to scare you , but this is the reality that you have to understand

Me : I know , but don't worry about me . I'll be fine

Portia : I feel like once you move in there , I should see you everyday

I laugh

Me : don't exaggerate

Portia : I'm worried about you
friend

Me : it's cute , but not needed .
And this worry you have , tells
me you clearly don't know me

She sighs

Portia : a person is only strong
to a point

She folds the t-shirt , and the
way I'm trying so hard not to
take her words

Is because I know she's right

It's like I'm be moving in to the
lion's den

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Mvelo

It's unlike my father , to be out
on his own especially this late

And he seems so lost in thought

I guess his day has been shitty

With the announcement he had
to make

Without a doubt , I know Yanga
is not happy about that

I head to him , and stand next
to him

We stand in silence for a while ,
his phone rings he looks at it
heaving a sigh

Me : you're not going to answer
that ?

Dad : he's been calling the whole day , and he knows I'm ignoring him

Me : who ?

Dad : Morake

He sighs again

Dad : and he won't stop calling
until I answer

Me : mhm , well then answer
him and put the phone on
speaker

He looks at me , answering the
call putting it on loud speaker

Thabo : finally !

The man is pissed

Thabo : I thought we were friends , how can you do this to my daughter ?

Dad : I.....

Thabo : just because I did not father her , you think it's okay to just pull her wherever the winds blows ? How did you get

her to agree to doing such nonsense , and how do you feel marrying my child to that taxi driver son of yours ?

Dad : can you just....

Thabo : do you know what you have done ? Like do you actually have an idea of what you have done ? You know who and exactly what he is , and you

marry my daughter to him ?

Your curse of a son !

He roars through the phone

Thabo : if anything happens to
my daughter because of that
son of yours , I will rain terror
on you Phakade you best
believe that

My father shakes his head

Thabo : what ? So you have nothing to say ?

I grab the phone from him , he shakes his head in disapproval i ignore him

Me : you actually care to hear shit from him , listen and give him a chance to speak . You're busy going all crazy for no

reason , if you were actually a father enough you would know about things happening in your so called daughters life . But you're half way across the world from her , and you want to act all that with us . Stop speaking shit about me , you don't know me so fuck off . If you were here , we would have been decent enough to do things right and even pay you bride price that you don't even

deserve . Don't forget , you just adopted her and did shit . She ate and lived Phakade , the expensive schools and everything it was all him . All you did was give her shelter , under a roof of which he paid for . And as soon as she was old enough , you took the money he paid you and you left her all alone . Today you're busy going on , shouting my daughter my daughter . Do you know how to

make a fucking child wena ?

(You)

My father sighs

Me : don't ever utter my name out of your mouth , it's a good thing you know exactly who and what I am . Keep this nonsense of fake anger you have away from my wife , if I dare even hear a hint of it that stupid terror I'll fucking rain it on you .

Call me a curse again , and I'll damn show you what a fucking curse is . The only damn thing you gave her was your surname , and guess what it's gone now . Cela singajwayelani amasimba Thabo (please lets not get used to each other with shit)

I drop the call handing the phone back to my father

He shakes his head

I'm sure he's disapproving of
how I've just spoken to Morake

Dad : that was...

Me : mhm !

Dad : how did you know all
about that ?

Me : well I know everything I need to know , and come inside the house , you're acting like a tenant right now in your own home

He chuckles , I turn walking towards the door

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Karabo

Yanga : as if it's not enough ,
you have to come and annoy
me here . Why must you come
and live here , oh yeah ! Your

poor boyfriend cannot afford
your status , and you're here to
feed off us

I walk closer to him

Me : mhm , says one who's
been long married . Yet still
stays with daddy and mommy ,
with two kids . And is crying
over daddy's company !

He clenches his jaws

Yanga : you don't know what
shit you're talking about

Me : just like you don't know
what shit you're talking about

Yanga : if you think this is done ,
you have another thing coming

Me : bring it on , I would
actually be very disappointed if
you just let it be or quit . I am
going to bring you down to size
, and when I'm done with you
.....

Voice : whoa !

And it's Vika walking in

Vika : you're a wife here , even though you're a fake one hold yourself . And well , you know even I could have married you . It should have been said , that you're up just for a promotion . And the nice thing , is that I would have gladly stepped up to take it

Me : have you taken a great look at yourself ?

He frowns

Me : I guess not

I pull my bag , as these two walk away and I know he's entered the room

Is this a behaviour or what ?

But it's amusing to see

When he's not around , they
spit whatever shit they want to
spit

But when he's around , they're
just like wet chickens

Mvelo : let me take that , sorry
I'm late

I smile looking at him

Me : it's okay

He takes the suitcase , I follow
with my sports bag it's not big
nor heavy it's just casual
dresses inside

We get to his room I believe ,
and it's so clean

I don't know if he cleaned
because he knew I was coming

Or he's just clean , because he
does look clean

Mvelo : I tried making space for
you in the closet , if it's not
enough just take my things out

Me : I'm sure it'll be fine , I'll
just pack most things

He nods , I place the bag down

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INSERT 12

Karabo

Finding the whole family having
breakfast

Except Mvelo who was out of
bed by 05:00

Like that was a shock for me

And I just asked myself if that's
the time he leaves home
everyday

I can't be having my husband
leaving me in bed that early

I would die

Like an everyday thing ! No
ways

I greet , and only Phakade and
the daughter in-laws greet back

I grace them with my smile

Phakade : you're not having
breakfast ?

Me : no , I want to start early

Phakade : let me walk you out

Mrs Phakade : for what ? Mvelo
is not here to walk his so called
wife out , so why are you
stepping up on that ?

Phakade : why do you want to grace us with your drama this early ?

He gets up , we walk out together heading to my car

Phakade : I'm guessing the welcome wasn't well ?

I laugh

Phakade : I'm sorry , I wasn't here last night

Me : don't worry , my husband came around in time and he took care of it

He smiles

Phakade : I am loving this I'm hearing

This one is banking on a love story here

Which might not happen , unless his son is ready to play part

Phakade : have you spoken to your parents ?

I shake my head

Feeling so bad , because I've
been ignoring my father's calls

And I guess maybe he spoke to
them , that's why he's asking

Me : my father has been calling
, and I've been ignoring his calls
honestly

He sighs

Phakade : he called me , and he wasn't happy

Me : I'm sure he isn't

Phakade : so please , talk to him

I nod

I don't think I will do that though

Phakade : if he wants us to do things right , we will be willing to do that . Uhm....will you be telling him , of how this came about ?

Hell no !

Me : I don't think that's wise , so no I won't tell him

I'll rather lie about a
relationship that did not exist

He will freak , and say all sorts
of things I do not want to hear

Phakade : happy first day as
CEO

I smile

Phakade : don't let those people get to you , make sure they know and understand who is the boss

Me : understood

He opens the door for me , I get in and he closes . I drive off

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Yanga

Imani : aren't you going to be late ?

I just look at her

Imani : Yanga !

Me : what ?

I ask annoyed

Imani : I am talking to you

Me : and I damn heard you

Imani : so ?

Me : so what ?

Imani : are you not going to
work ?

Me : what does it look like ?

She chuckles

Imani : well , you better get up
and go to work

Me : and if I don't ?

Imani : so you're seriously going
to leave work , just because
your father chose Karabo over
you and your brothers ?

I lean back down on the bed

Imani : get over sulking , you're a man with a family . We have two kids to feed , are they going to eat water ?

Me : am I poor ?

Imani : that's exactly where you're headed leaving your job , grow up you're not a child .

Stop acting like one , you lost so
accept defeat . And while you're
stuck on that bed , think of how
we're still stuck under one roof
with your parents and siblings .
It's really a shame

She walks out

I cannot go to the office , I will
not survive seeing Karabo

It's bad enough that I have to
tolerate her here at home

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Mvelo

I decline the call , putting my phone back in my pocket

This damn woman ! Once she starts with this nonsense of hers she never ends

I turn looking at her , she's holding the file

Me : so , exactly just how far are these people ?

Tumi : just final touches

Me : explain

Tumi : well the master's bedroom is done , the lounge almost there . And the living

room is also done , the kitchen is the one that's a bit behind

Me : and why is that ?

Tumi : you wanted only imports , and so some things were delayed a bit . But they arrived yesterday , so tomorrow they'll start working on the kitchen . They'll be done like soon

Me : I pay you , and your people a lot of money . Can this just be done as soon as possible ? Or I'll find other people , who will gladly finish the job for you . Do tell me if you're failing

Tumi : no....you don't have to do that , wewe will get it done

Me : don't call me again , unless it's done . And you have a week

She nods

I walk away from her , taking a
look around

I cannot bring her here , into a
house that's unfinished

And now , I know just how
important it is moving out of
home

And she's here now

I can't exactly ask her to go back
to her place

Like just until the house is
finished

I'm never always home

I leave early , and come back
late

So I'm barely home

And I know it's not a pleasant
place for her

Considering what I walked into

I know my brother's are not
happy

And her presence there is just
going to keep rubbing them the
wrong way

I don't care about them

But I do care about her

Never thought I'll say that

But I really do

She's like a little kid , it's just the things she does

The smile she always flashes me when she looks at me

Last night , we got into bed and she kept to her side . Until I pretended to be asleep , and she just snuggled closer to me

She did it slowly , in a way that I
wouldn't feel it if I was asleep

And it was just cute

She took my hand , and made
sure it's wrapped around her

Snuggled her face to my neck ,
and within minutes she was
asleep

I don't know

But who wouldn't fall for all that
?

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INSERT 13

A WEEK LATER

Karabo

Things have just been hectic

Trying to juggle work , and
these insane Phakade people

Families are crazy out there ,
but that one takes the cup

That woman and her son's !

It's annoying just how she can't
get over something that didn't
even happen

It's just a pity , she's barking up
the wrong tree

Because I don't give a shit about
any of them

Yanga didn't come to work for
two days , and today he arrived

Acting all that , I gave him a
written warning

I expected him to run out of here , but I guess he has his big boys pants on

Because he's still around , and just annoying

Tried calling my father a few times , after he stopped calling me

But he just served me what I
served him

He ignored my calls , and well I
won't bother myself with him

He will talk when he wants to

And if he doesn't , I guess that
will just be how we end this
matter

A slight knock comes at the
door

I lift my head smiling , just
knowing it's him

I know his knock , he knocks like
he doesn't want to

If you're not listening enough to
pay attention , you won't hear it

Me : come in

He walks in , just in his usual casual clothes yet still looking good as hell

I guess he's still working , or he's from the rank

I'm still getting used to this , that he leaves early and comes back late

Mvelo : sorry to interrupt

Me : it's okayyou're not disturbing

Mvelo : I brought you lunch

Isn't he just sweet ?

It's lunchtime , and I wasn't even going to go out and eat

And now all thanks to hubby , I
don't have to starve

Me : that's...thank you

I take the take away bag from
him , placing it on my desk

Me : are you joining me ?

Mvelo : I have to get back to work

That's a pity

And this rude boy just walks in here , without even knocking

Yanga : oh ! I didn't know you were with someone

Me : don't you ever enter my office without knocking ever again , this is not your father's house

He clenches his jaws

Me : next time , I will send you out to come and knock again .
Have respect for other people's spaces

He raises his hands up in
surrender

Yanga : fine !

I look at Mvelo , and he's
annoyed you can tell

Mvelo : I have to go

I lean over giving him a kiss ,
and he doesn't kiss me back

It's the third time I go for his lips
, and he kisses me back but he
damn moves back after that

We lock eyes for a few seconds

And it felt like I was melting in
his arms , that slight kiss felt so
right

Did he have to move back ?

I feel like slapping him right now

Me : you can't join me for lunch
, can we do dinner maybe ?

I'm just pushing my luck right
now

And I don't even know where
he stands with me

Like he's not that showing with
it

I know we agreed that we'll try ,
to make the marriage work

I swear I see myself growing old
with his man

I just wonder if he sees the
same thing , or I'm just falling
for him all alone

Mvelo : dinner it is

I smile

Me : thank you

Mvelo : I'll see you at home

I nod , and he walks out passing
Yanga at the door

I feel like rolling my eyes , for
the mere fact that he's still here

Me : what can I do for you ?

I say waking back to my chair

Yanga : you must be a very good
actress , because I don't buy
this whole lovely dovey
business you got going on

Me : your relationship must be very boring , for you to be watching mine like this

I sit down

Me : but don't worry , feast your eyes and we'll keep you entertained

He walks further in , placing the file on the desk

He clicks his tongue turning on
his heel walking out

I laugh to myself

This one can spit , but can't take
it back . It's actually just funny
to be honest

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Yanga

I look at her

And by her tone , I can just tell
that she's serious

Me : what do you mean ?

She sighs

Candy : I don't see where this is taking us , you're married and you have kids . So what am I to you exactly ?

I chuckle

Me : where is this coming from
?

Candy : honestly , I just don't
think we should continue doing
this anymore

Me : and when exactly did you
start thinking this ? Because all
along we were fine

Candy : were we ? were we really ? Just like you thought you had the CEO position , and your brother's wife gets it right under your nose

Me : what has that got....

I chuckle shaking my head , figuring exactly what's happening here

Me : so this is all about me
loosing that position isn't it ?

She keeps quite , but her look
says it all

Me : you just stuck it out with
me , because you thought when
my father resigns or finally
retires . I'll get that position ,
and now that I lost it you don't
want this anymore . It's always

been about power and money
to you , nothing else right ?

I grab my jacket seeing she's
not intending on having any
conversation with me

Me : now it all makes sense ,
you screwed and fucked with
me knowing about my kids and
my wife suddenly you're making
them an excuse . You didn't
have to , I can take a hint and

very well . Let's hope that PA
job you have at my family's
company , can sustain you
enough that you don't miss the
money I've been supporting you
with

I grab my car keys along with
my phone

Candy : I....

Me : don't fucking bother me
again

I walk out

She opens the door

I don't bother looking back at
her

Bloody whore

I was good enough for her ,
when she thought I'll be in
power and all that

And now that it's not happening
, she's using my family as an
excuse

This is why it's said , never make
a side woman feel any superior
off feel like she has a hold over
you

Let her know her place in your
life

And I let Candy be too
comfortable

Resulting in her forget that
she's nothing but just a fuck

And she'll never amount to
anything with me

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INSERT 14

Karabo

It's just after 19:00

I worked late , just to push the time and hours . Knowing Mvelo won't be home early

I didn't see anyone coming in , just Yanga and his wife

I'm taking a shower now

Hopefully Mvelo will be home
soon

I hope he didn't forget about
that dinner

Although I know he works until
late

I don't know what I was doing
asking him that

But I'll just see if he makes it or
not

I'm taking a shower , just to
freshen up after a long day at
work

If we're going out , I must look
and smell good

I have the door slightly opened ,
just for the cold breeze

I didn't want to take a cold
shower

It's when I feel a presence , that
I turn my eyes

And it's him , leaning against
the bathroom door just staring
at me . Even when I look at him
, he doesn't take his eyes off of
me

With his hands inside his pants pocket

And the way the glass is not even that moist , water is dripping down and not making a mist

I close the water off , standing by the door with just the side of my self exposed to him

Mvelo : hi

I've never heard his voice this deep , but I just grace him with my smile

Me : please hand me a towel

It's not even that far , but I don't wanna reach for it

He'll see the whole of me

He walks closer , his eyes not
leaving me

He grabs the towel and hands it
to me

Me : thank you

Mvelo : you're welcome

I stand over wrapping myself
with it , and I guess it was
pointless asking him to hand it
to me

Because here I am exposed ,
and he's just looking

Me : was just taking a shower

I walk out

Me : are we still doing dinner ?

Fingers crossed

Mvelo : yes

Great !

Me : okay , so where are we going ? What should I wear ?

Mvelo : where do you want to go ?

He moves his eyes from my thighs and finally looks at me in the eye

Me : anywhere you can take me

Mvelo : okay , just wear comfortable

Me : okay

I walk past him , heading to the
bedroom

I'm thinking I'll hear him follow
me back , but nothing

Until I hear the water running ,
and I know he's also taking a
shower

I dry and lotion , then look for something comfortable to wear

I don't even know if his meaning of comfortable is the same as mine or what

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Yanga

She comes down , and I can't
help seeing Vika just lusting
over her like she's a piece of
meat

For his own good , I hope he
knows what good for him

And that he values his life

But who can blame him ?

She's beautiful , without even
trying

The make up just enhances
everything else

And today , she has it as natural
as possible

She's wearing a long high waist
black slip summer skirt

With a black and white sports
bra , she has on a white light
jacket on her shoulders

With black laces sandals , with a sling bag

Now any man would feel like a man , with such a woman on his arm

Me : ah dinner date !

She looks at me

Me : you look so ravishing , I wonder where he's taking you . Like can he afford a 5 star restaurant , like those kinds you're used to ? And well , just imagine arriving at such places with a taxi

Sabelo laughs

Me : should I borrow you two my car ? Just to spare and save you the embarrassment

She smiles , and I know a come
back is coming

It's so annoying just how she
always has something back to
say

And you'll never see her walking
away angry or anything like that

Karabo : our car costs triple to that thing you driving and calling a car , trust me that taxi costs double to that thing of yours . So exactly what's the embarrassment ?

Me : you fucking

Karabo : uh-uh , don't be rude now . If you can dish it , surely you can take it as nicely

I click my tongue

Karabo : you're just a boy ,
loving to play in the man's
league . And you'll always be
kicked down , because you just
.....

Vika : o-kay , there's really just
no need for all those insults

She looks at him

He clears his throat , looking
down . I turn my head and he's
coming down the stairs

We all go quite

Mvelo : sorry that call took long
, shall we go ?

She smiles at him

Karabo : yes

He holds her on her waist as
they walk out

Vika : some bastards are just so
fucking lucky

Me : what's lucky about such a
fucking rude woman ! Mxm ,

they probably fucking deserve
each other

Sabelo : do you want her ?

I give him a death stare

Me : don't fucking talk
nonsense

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Karabo

I swear this man doesn't have
anything that says formal

The most formal I saw him , was on our wedding day

And it was actually just kind of formal

He was wearing slim fit pants , I guess they counted because it was pants and not skinny jeans as usual

And he had on a shirt , but that was it

No tie , no suit jacket . No formal shoes , he was actually wearing sneakers

He's out here today in all black , but the way he's just turning heads as we walk into this pub and grill

I'm even jealous , because I just want to hide him inside of me

I grab his arm , and just hold tight on it

I'm sure he's catching on me , but I don't care he's my husband

They shouldn't be looking at him like that

And the slight nods he's getting
from the guys

And well the ladies are
definitely eyeing my husband

I guess he's a regular around ,
some are even calling him
nduna

It's like they know him

Me : what's the meaning of
nduna ?

I ask he looks at me and
chuckles

Mvelo : where do you want to
sit ? Right here outside , or
inside . It's a bit chilly though ,
keep your jacket on

Right here it's so chilled , and
the vibe looks nice

But it's the eyes

Me : where you want to sit

Mvelo : okay , we'll sit out here
and go inside when you get cold

Serves me right !!

Now I have to endure these slay
queens staring at him

The hardships of having a
handsome husband

He picks a table for us , we sit
down

Me : you didn't answer me

He chuckles

Mvelo : it's just a way taxi
drivers greet each other

Me : those guys are taxi drivers
?

Mvelo : mhm

He nods

I feel like he's lying , maybe I'll
Google it

Me : this place looks nice

Mvelo : you've ever been to
such a place before ?

Would it be a shame to admit ?

Me : no

Mvelo : okay , well I hope you enjoy it

Me : you're here , that's all that matters

I swear I feel like an idiot where this man is concerned

I just spit things , and I just do things without even using my mind to think first

A waiter comes to us , and he greets again with that Nduna thing

And I thought taxi owners greet like that

This guy is a waiter

Mvelo : what do you want to eat ?

I look at the menu , and I can
hardly understand any of these
things

It's really a shame

I'm not a brat , but I've always
been a restaurant kind of a girl

So this to me is just new

Me : uhm....

I look at him with a frown , he
takes my hand into his across
the table

And for some reason it's like
he's just assuring me

I heave a sigh looking at him ,
he turns and looks at the waiter

Me : bring Mrs Phakade a glass of red wine merlot , bring my usual . And get us a platter of meat , along with the special for today

He nods walking away with a smile

Mvelo : come sit here next to me

I look at him seeing that he's serious , I get up from my seat and walk to his side

I sit down next to him , he places his hand over my shoulder and plants a kiss on the side of my face

I don't know , but I like and love this side of him

It makes me feel like I'm not
into this all alone

The waiter comes back with our
drinks , my glass of wine and
beer for Mvelo

Him : your meat will be ready
soon , can I bring you anything
else in the meantime ?

Mvelo : just snacks

He nods again with a smile and
walks away

I feel like I'm being pampered
today , and I'm loving it

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INSERT 15

Karabo

He takes my hand into his ,
making sure I still have my
jacket on

I'm feeling somewhat right now

It has been a great night

I loved and enjoyed this outing ,
I don't want to lie

Mvelo : shall we go ?

I look at him and nod

Mvelo : okay , don't let go of my
hand . I got you

I don't blame the man

I am feeling a bit tipsy somehow

I mean , I've had more than
three glasses of wine

I think at one point he just
asked for a whole bottle

I really don't know

He gets up first , I make sure I
hold to him

And I swear people are living
out here

Because at this time , people
are still arriving at this place

Makes me wonder what time
exactly do they close

He bids a few goodbye , as they
do him as we head to the taxi

I didn't even mind arriving here
in a taxi like at all

Wish Yanga could have seen me

He opens the door for me

Mvelo : don't trip

Me : don't let go

Mvelo : I won't , get in

I slide in , settling on the seat

Mvelo : you good ?

Me : mhm

He closes the door with a
chuckle , going to his side he
gets in and drives off

I lean my head back , closing my
eyes

Mvelo : it's late now , I don't
want us bothering people
arriving home close to midnight

I open my eyes looking at him

Mvelo : I want to take you
somewhere , is that fine ?

Me : it's fine

At this point , I swear I'm just
agreeing to everything

I can't tell the route well ,
because it's late and well I'm
not entirely in my sane senses

But I'm brought to , as he
enters what looks like a private
estate

And the huge mansion graces
us

This house is even better than
their family home

I want to ask who's house is this

I thought maybe we're going to a hotel , since we don't want to bother people this late

And then , I see the many taxis . There's like close to 8 , if I've counted well

But I could have missed or added more , I don't know

That's just how many taxis I see
parked

Mvelo : don't get out , I'll open
for you

He says as he parks , and he
gets out to open the door for
me

He must be feeling like he's
looking after a child tonight

I let him lead me , because
there's no way I'll even attempt
to get out on my own

He closes the door , taking my
hand we walk towards the door

He takes out a key from his
pockets , and opens the door

It looks and feels empty okay !

Mvelo : it's not yet done , but
welcome to your new home

Shut the front door !

I gasp looking at him in shock

Mvelo : I know it can't be
comfortable staying with my
family and all , and I know it's
not an ideal situation . I also

didn't anticipate that I'll get married so soon , before the house was done and finished . The master's bedroom is done though , along with the kitchen lounge and living room

Me : wait....you built this ?

I ask him walking around , just taking a look

And my breath is just taken
away

Mvelo : yes

I look at him

Me : wow , I.....I don't even
know what to say

Mvelo : well , I hope you like it
enough to stay here

Me : like it ? I love it

I say with such a huge smile

Me : honestly words are just
failing me

Like on the real

Mvelo : well , we'll move in
soon . But you'll have to bring

the things you left at your place
, then you can decide what to
do with it

Now , that I can do

I mean I'm the wife here , so
ain't no woman that's gonna tell
me anything about my own
things

Like in my own house

Mvelo : I know you're tired ,
and you have work tomorrow .
So let's go to bed

I wish he brought me here
sober , and during the day

Just so I can admire this
beautiful stunning piece of art

Because right now , yes I am
tired

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Mvelo

Even intoxicated , this woman
still is a baby

We got into bed , and she kept
to the other end

But she's been tossing , even
now

So she can't fall asleep

And it's crazy , because it's like I
am feeling just how she is there

I open my eyes , laying on my
back

I turn my head looking at her ,
and she has her head covered

I heave a slight sigh

Me : move closer

It doesn't even take a second ,
for her to move close snuggling
herself next to me

Placing her one arm over me ,
her face resting on my neck

That's how she sleeps every
night

Makes me wonder how she was
sleeping at her place

I lift her shoulder a bit , sliding
my hand underneath it rubbing
her back

I place a kiss on her forehead ,
and within a minute she's has
quite down

I know now she's sleeping

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INSERT 16

Karabo

I wake up , feeling a bit lost and
out of place

Everything just feels different

Like the bed , even the sheets

I sit up , and slowly rub my eyes

One thing that's not different ,
is not seeing him next to me

This one I'm getting used to , I
swear I'll scream the day I wake
up and he's right next to me

Looking around a bit , I see that
I don't know this place . This
lavish bedroom I'm in

And there's just a strange sound
, I can't make out what it is

I try to think of what happened ,
and where I could be

Last night we went to that pub
and grill place

Trying to travel my thoughts
back , and it all comes back

Even the house thing , which
brings me a smile

The sound , he did say the
house is not yet finished

But could it be they're working
already , like this early ?

But the again , it doesn't sound
like a machine type of a sound

I get up , and I have no slippers
on

Walking barefoot so early in the
morning , but even at my place
it used to be a norm

Oh but , what do you know ?
The floor is very warm , I swear
it feels like it has underfloor
heating

I head to the window looking outside , where the noise is coming from

And what do you know ?

Those taxis are all up and alive , it's them making noise

And there's just a group of men out there , I do spot that husband of mine amongst them

And he's smoking , him and a few of them . I've caught on that he does smoke , even though I've never seen him

I move away from the window , putting on my skirt and sports bra

I walk downstairs , at least I still remember the way

I look around in the kitchen ,
and I've never seen such beauty
before

It's just so beautiful , it's like
you shouldn't even touch
anything

Voice : I'm sorry we woke you
up

I get startled a bit , but instantly
go calm hearing his voice

I turn facing him

Me : what's going on ?

I rub my eyes once more

Mvelo : with ?

Me : those noises of the taxis ,
and those guys out there

Mvelo : it's the drivers , they're
here to take the taxis to the
rank . They're just warming
them up , they'll leave soon

Me : oh , okay . But don't these
taxis have a home ?

Mvelo : a home ?

Me : yes , like a home where
their owner is . So they can stay
there , if drivers are not allowed
to keep them with them

Mvelo : this is their home

What now ?

Me : mhm ?

Mvelo : I'll tell them to move them a bit further away , so they don't bring you much noise

Me : wait.....they're yours ?

Mvelo : ours , there's nothing to make food here . I asked the guys to pass by drive through and bring you food , you can warm the coffee if it's cold . I know you need that one

I'm still shocked on that he owns those taxis

I mean I thought he's just a taxi driver , not that he owns them

I doubt his family knows that

But then again , I asked myself a question last night about this house

This must have cost millions ,
and so I wondered how he
could have afforded to build
such especially if he's just
earning a taxi drivers salary

Me : oh , thank you

Mvelo : they got a bit of
everything , they're bad with
these things . You'll eat what

you can , and leave what you
don't want

Me : okay , are you leaving now
?

Mvelo : no , I'm going to wait
for you so I can take you home

Do I really want to see his
annoying family ?

Oh hell no ! I don't

Me : can't I just Uber and go to my place ? I'll change there for work , honestly I am happy . I don't want to see your family , they'll rub me off I know .

Worse I still have to see Yanga at work

Mvelo : you sure ?

Me : yes

Mvelo : okay then , I'll leave when you leave though . I'm going to leave now , and do maybe two loads , and I'll come back

You can never separate a man with what he loves

Me : okay

Mvelo : and about moving ,
they're still busy finishing up .
Will you be okay coming to live
here , while they're still getting
done ? Like won't that get you
irritated ?

Me : when are they working ?
Like do they work through the
whole night ?

Mvelo : no , they start in the morning and at noon they stop

Me : then I think that's fine , in the morning we also leave for work and we come back at in the afternoon

Mvelo : okay , the guys are leaving . I'm coming

Me : I'm going back to bed

He chuckles

Mvelo : okay

Me : oh....since there's no food here , I'll need to do groceries we can't eat drive through food everyday . So I need a list of what you eat and don't

Mvelo : I eat what you eat

I slightly laugh

Me : I'll just buy lots of meat
less chicken though cause I
don't like it , I prefer chicken
fillets . But I'll buy it , just incase
you want it . Oh and , I'll add
veggies

Mvelo : you know best

He reaches in his pockets ,
taking out a card

Mvelo : you'll use that for
groceries , tell me if it exceeds
the limit I'll raise it

But honestly , is it really this
nice being married and just
having someone go out of their
way just for you ?

Me : thank you , let me go sleep

Mvelo : don't over sleep , I'll see you when I get back

I nod with a smile

He walks out , and I head back to the bedroom

It's still very much early , I'll wake up at around 06:00

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Yanga

I pull a chair , sitting down

I grab the jug of juice , taking a
glass I pour in the juice

I look around the table , and
everyone is looking at me

Me : what ?

Mom : you don't know how to greet anymore ?

I've lost my humanity ever since I was screwed over

And it seems like everyone is just rejoicing at my downfall

Me : good morning , even though it certainly can't be a

good one . I'm the one who has
to face up with that....

And it's only now it clicks that
they're not even here

They last left last night , and we
went to bed they weren't back

Me : speaking of her , where are
the fake love birds ?

Vika laughs

Sabelo : why are you calling
them fake ?

I look at my father who is
annoyed

Too bad , his feelings are the
last thing I care to spare right
now

Me : well , you have to be blind not to see what's going on here . The CEO position gets vacant , and clearly I'm not seen good enough for it . Despite my hard work , dedication and efforts to that company . The years I gave in , and out of nowhere Mageza marries her and she's made CEO .

I pick up a plate

Me : did you even suspect him being in a relationship ? Even with just anyone ? Like never , Vika brings women around here all the time . That one , has never even brought one . When he does , he's getting married . And it's done in court , with their families not present nor invited . Like what happened to culture and tradition ? She wasn't even poured with bile , so basically she's not a wife

here just on paper . So you cannot , tell me that all this seems sane to you , it's just conspiracy and nothing else .

It goes all quite

I finish dishing up for myself , and start eating

Me : some people are just favoured , I guess if he wanted a

piece of this he would have gotten it with just his knowledge of driving a taxi . Seeing that his wife , is also favoured as well . I'm married , Sabelo is married too . So why weren't our wives chosen as well ? So much for a family business being led by a family member

Mom : Yanga please !

Her voice and tone is so down

I guess even between them
things aren't good

She doesn't shy away showing
she doesn't like Karabo

And well father seems to taken
of her , very much so you'll
swear there's just something
more to them

I hope Mvelo is wise enough to know if they're not screwing him

I mean , all this doesn't make sense to me

Maybe he's just being used a cover up , to hide maybe an affair between dad and Karabo

I mean , I'm not saying that's the case but it could be

Maybe he promised his sugar baby the position , and he didn't know how to give it to her

Because of his own words of family leading the company , of which he's failing very bad to stick to

And maybe this was the only way to keep his promise

I mean , one can never know for certain

Anything is possible

I would never hand my own company , to a stranger

You really cannot consider a
wife to be family

Blood is thicker than water

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INSERT 17

Karabo

Wether it's the slight chilliness
from that night or what

I don't feel so good this
morning

And I was tossing and turning at
night

I just couldn't sleep still

And I know I kept Mvelo up

And I'm supposed to be going
to my house after work , and
pack my things

But now , with the way I am I
won't even make it to work

I lean over grabbing a tissue ,
releasing my nose of the
blockage

I sigh leaning back down

Voice : you don't sound too
good

He's still here ?

I'm wondering what time it is

I turn my heavy head and look
at him

Mvelo : what's wrong ? You
were shaking last night , were
you feeling cold ?

I shake my head slowly

Me : no , you even put on an
extra blanket

Mvelo : because you were shaking , I thought you were cold

Me : mhmI think I'm coming down with flu

Mvelo : you should get ready , so I can take you to the doctor before I go back to the rank

I can see he's dressed

Meaning he left and came back

Me : no , I think I'll be fine . I'll
just sleep it off

Mvelo : okay , but if you're still
not okay . I'm taking you to the
doctor

I just nod , wanting to shut my heavy eyes

Mvelo : you're not going to work ?

Me : uh-uh , I don't think I'll make it

Mvelo : which is why you need a doctor

I lazily smile

Me : don't worry

He just stares at me

I slowly close my eyes , and
forcing them to open but it's
not happening

At some point I see his lips
moving , but I'm not hearing
anything he's saying

It gets all blurry , I see him
walking over

Feeling my body being laid
down , and I can tell he's
tucking me in

I zone out in sleep

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Yanga

Sabelo : why are you not at work ?

He asks placing his laptop bag on the couch

Looking at his wrist watch

Me : well , I'm just following in the footsteps of the big boss

He chuckles sitting down

Me : she's not at work , her PA said she's not well . I live with her in the house , and I didn't know that . So if she can skip work , however she wants so can I

He sighs shaking his head

Me : don't even give me a
righteous lecture

Sabelo : you're forgetting that
she already gave you a written
warning

I sigh

Me : well , she can bring me
other one . Just so dad can see
who exactly he trusted with our
legacy , someone who's eager
to rule and do away with his
family

Sabelo : I hope that....

He keeps quite when Mvelo
walks in , and seems like he has
a chemist paper bag

He doesn't even look at us , he
passes jogging up the stairs
going upstairs

Sabelo : well

Me : shut up

He chuckles shaking his head

I can also get a fake doctors
note

I'm not slaving away for Karabo
, I did that for my father and
look where it got me

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Karabo

I am smitten , I won't lie

I'm woken up by him

And he's brought me flu meds ,
with food

Mvelo : eat , so you can take
your meds

I sit up

Mvelo : you don't look okay ,
either you let me take you to
the doctor or I call one over

I look at him with a smile

Me : but you bought meds , give them a chance to work . And if overnight they don't , I'll go see a doctor tomorrow morning

Mvelo : none negotiable

I nod with a smile

He sits down on the bed

Me : I'll infect you

He leans over giving me a kiss
on the forehead

Mvelo : it's fine

I laughs

I'm even loosing my voice
slightly , it just sounds so bad

I hope I'll wake up so much better tomorrow

We should be moving , and not me being sick right now

I don't wanna be in this house anymore

Being away from them , will definitely do us good

These people are toxic , and
they always have negativity to
spit

Me being me , I can't keep my
mouth shut

Now it's like I'm just as toxic as
they are

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INSERT 18

Yanga

Imani : Babe can we talk ?

I fix my tie , not even looking at her

Imani : okayuhm.... I'm pregnant

I lift my eyes looking at her through the mirror

Imani : I wasn't feeling well the day before yesterday , and I threw up yesterday morning . I

got a test it was positive , I went to the doctor he confirmed . I'm two months pregnant

I shake my head slowly

Me : I thought you were on the pill Imani

Imani : I was , I.....I don't know how this happened

I turn facing her

Me : how do you get pregnant ,
and you have no idea how ?

Didn't you miss your periods
last month and this month too ?

Like surely you must have
noticed something , change in
your body or anything

Imani : it ...it wasn't heavy , just
mostly spots . I didn't pay
attention to it

I sigh moving back , sitting down
on the bed

Me : we already have two kids ,
and you can see how the
situation is . Can we afford to
have another baby ?

She keeps quite

I sigh

Me : I don't know , I know I'm supposed to be happy and excited right now but I am not . This is just another expensive thing , we've just added on top of everything . Really this is just the worst time for this , a baby comes with expenses

I run my hand on my head , I hear her heave a sigh

Imani : if you want me to abort
just say so , and know you'll
accompany me there . You'll see
everything happening , I won't
be tormented alone

I lift my head looking at her ,
her eyes are glistening with
tears

Me : babe please , don't get me
wrong . We're not ready for a
baby again , we didn't plan one

yes I know . But I'm also not saying let's abort , this is my child . Why would I want you to kill my baby ? We will make do , the same way we have done with the two . I'm....I'm just taken by surprise with this

I hold my hand out

Me : come here

She takes my hand and I bring
her on top of me

Me : I will never ask you to do
such a thing , maybe my choice
of words was just wrong . But
I'm sorry , we're going to be
fine

I peck her lips

Me : I love you okay ?

She nods

Me : you don't love me back ?

I chuckle , she smiles

Imani : I love you

I hold her closer for a hug

Things just keep getting worse
instead of just working out

We already have kids , we
seriously didn't need another
addition

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Karabo

Mvelo : you look better

I smile

Me : I feel better

And I'm at work , and so is that
rude Phakade boy

He thinks I don't know he
wasn't in yesterday , because I
wasn't here

And I know nothing was wrong
with him , he just did it because
I wasn't at work

Mvelo : mhm , I brought you
lunch

Me : I swear you're spoiling me ,
and when you stop I'm going to
think something is going on

He chuckles

I take the take away bag

Me : thank you

Mvelo : I'll see you later , are you going to your place to pack or what ?

Me : I'm thinking of getting movers , was going to talk to you about it first though

Mvelo : that's fine , you'll give me the bill

I open my mouth , but shut it

Knowing I don't want to offend
him

So seriously what he wants to
do , I'll just let him do it

Especially where money is
concerned , I've seen he wants
to take that lead

Me : okay , please join me

He darts his eyes around a bit

And I'm just crossing fingers
that he agrees

Although I know he probably
has to go back to work

Mvelo : okay

I smile , just being happy

We go sit on the couch

I lean down to take my shoes
off

Mvelo : let me help you with
that

He leans over , taking them off

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Yanga

Me : your brother is a regular
guest here

He laughs

Me : I swear he's making it
seem like this thing of theirs is
real

Vika : maybe it is real

Me : I don't wanna buy that

He sighs

Vika : get over it , either way
what's done is done . You didn't
look okay this morning , I didn't
come here for Karabo and
Mvelo . It's about you

I sigh

Vika : I hope you're not letting this thing of Karabo and Mvelo interfere with your life . I mean I saw Imani wasn't okay too , that's why I'm here . So is everything okay between the two of you ?

Me : she's pregnant , and I just don't think we need another child right now

Vika : oh.....but kids are blessings as it's said

Me : we already have two Vika , I didn't get the position I was gunning for . I honestly don't think we should still be having more kids , that two was fine and

The door opens Candy walks in

Me : don't you know how to
knock ?

Candy : sorry sir I...

Me : get out

Candy : I'm.....I.....

Me : get out !

She nods walking out

Vika : and what was that all about ?

Me : what ?

Vika : why were you so hostile ?

Me : I'm dealing with my issues , honestly how hard can it be for everyone to just toe the line

He sighs shaking his head

Candy hasn't talked to me , she
hasn't come into my office

Ever since we broke things off

So what the fuck does she want
now ?

She just chose the wrong day

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Mvelo

Dad : everything still okay ?

I look at him

Me : we're moving out

Dad : what ?

Me : I don't think you thought
I'm going to stay here with my
wife forever

Dad : maybe I didn't think you'll
move so soon

Me : yeah well

Dad : do you.....

He sighs

Me : you can say it

Dad : it's just that , it's almost that season . And you're going to be alone with her , do you think she'll handle knowing ?

Me : I can hold myself

Dad : I know that

Me : and she has no reason to see me like that

Dad : I get that , but anything can happen . Do you think it's wise moving now ?

Me : it doesn't matter , I have to live with her . This season comes every single year , so she will see it if it happens . Doesn't matter it's this year , or the next

He sighs

Me : I won't hurt her , you don't
have to worry about that

Dad : Maybe you should tell her
the truth

Me : no

Dad : Mvelo

Me : I said no

I turn walking away from him

I take my phone out making a
call , it rings a bit and she
answers

Tumi : Mr

Me : listen , I don't want you coming to the house anymore . My wife and I will be moving , your job is basically done . The contractor will check on his men , so there's no need for you . I have the deed , you got your payment . And my wife will oversee everything else that's left to see , as the woman of the house . Lose my number , bye !

I drop the call , getting in the
taxi driving out

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INSERT 19

A FEW DAYS LATER

Karabo

Most of my things have been
moved to the house

Today they'll be moving the last things

And then we can finally move in

Honestly I cannot wait

I'm excited to be honest

I feel like Mvelo opens up more when we're at a space where it's just us too

And that's the thing that gives
me hope , that maybe we'll
make this work

On my side , I know I'm falling
for the guy

I won't even pretend anyhow

But I still haven't learnt to read
him that well

So I don't know where he
stands with me

I don't wanna push , I won't
even sit down for that
conversation

Things will just happen on their
own if they do happen ,
because our situation is
complex in a way

I've just knocked off , and I don't know what's wrong with my car

It's making a very so not nice noise , and I'm sceptical about driving it like this

What if something goes wrong , or I just damage it ?

I place my bag down , taking my
phone out and I call him

I hope he answers , I wonder if
he ever kept my number or
what

Mvelo : mama

What ?

My heart , the feels

My stomach , the butterflies

I'm smitten , and smiling like a
retard

Mhm !

I gather myself , my cheeks hurt
like hell

What just happened ?

Me : uhm..... I'm stuck at work

Mvelo : what happened ?

Me : the car is making funny noises , I'm scared to drive it because I don't know what's wrong with it

Mvelo : should I require an Uber for you ?

Me : are you far from this side ?
I thought maybe you can come
pick me up

Mvelo : I'm not far , I have a
load to the rank

Me : okay , so you're full ?

Mvelo : I'm going to make drops
before I get there

Me : then please come

His silence , I'm sure he's shocked that I want to be picked off by a taxi at work

Rather than getting an uber , but mhm I want him to pick me up

Mvelo : okay I'm coming

Me : I'll be in front of the building waiting

Mvelo : okay , you be safe

Me : I will , bye

I drop the call , picking my bag walking to the front of the building

And call me crazy or what , but I
keep seeing taxis slow down
when they get to where I'm
standing

Just the drivers looking my way

It's creepy in a way

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Mvelo

I don't know if all women are
like this , or it's just mine

I swear having a wife like mine
feels like having a 3 year old
daughter

If we were to have a girl child ,
my home would turn into a
battle ground

It never used to be like this with
one night stands

This is new for me

Because you fucked , and never
saw them again

Even if you did , it looked like
you didn't even know each
other

Get a wife and you'll
understand better , I have a
baby there

Now I have to get out of route ,
just for her

I wasn't even going to use this
road , but now I have no choice

And it's late , I'm worried of her
safety and all

I spot her as I get closer , she's
standing there all alone

I thought she would be okay
with taking an Uber

I mean , that's why I even
suggested it

I slow down a bit

Me : ngicela i'two minutes
bantu abadala (can I please just
stop for two minutes)

These old women , you never
get bored having them as
passengers

They'll call you son in-law all
day long

I chuckle as they respond back

I stop the taxi , and she's across
the street

Me : sisi , ngicela uyongihlalela
ngasemuva (please go sit in the
back)

She looks at me , and the
attitude

Her : for what ? I paid

Me : okay , uzoyehlika ke
nesilungu sakho ubone ukuthi
ufika kanjani eBree (you'll get

off with your English , and see
how you're going to get to
Bree)

I get off , crossing the street

One of the taxis pass , and they
hooter

My guys did good , I know most
of them use this route late

I could have said they should take her , but she already said I must come . I told them to look out for her

And I didn't want to find her sulking

She looks up and smiles

Me : you okay ?

Karabo : yes

Me : okay , let's go

I take her hand , we walk across
the street

And the lady has moved from
the front seat

She's sitting at the back

I open the door for her , she
gets in and I close going to my
side

I get in

Me : ngiyabonga (thank you)

The son in-law again

I drive off

Me : bingelela (greet)

She frowns

Karabo : I can't speak your
language

I chuckle

Me : I'm sure not all can

Karabo : ah ! Okay , I'll know
next time to greet when I enter
a taxi

There's slight laughs

Me : bingelela (greet)

She sighs , and turns back
slowly

Karabo : dumelang bagolo

They greet her back laughing

She turns her head back ,
leaning on the seat

Me : that wasn't hard

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Karabo

Me : I am hungry

We're at the rank , as to why
we're not leaving I do not know

He looks at me

Mvelo : what do you want to eat ?

Me : can I find anything to eat here , or we're ordering ?

Mvelo : there's that container there , the lady cooks until late

Me : okay , what ?

Mvelo : there's meat , like all kinds and flavours . As well as pap , and salads maybe . But there's always chakalaka

Me : I want that

He chuckles

Mvelo : have you ever eaten that ?

I shake my head no

Mvelo : okay , I'm waiting for
Phakeme I'll go get it for you .
Then we can go home

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INSERT 20

Karabo

Portia : so you're moving really
?

I nod

I'm glad it's finally done

I'm just here to see that they didn't damage the property , or anything like that

Even the cupboards and all

I'm vacating the place , and I'm leaving it as it is

So I don't want to pay for things I know nothing about

Portia : I never saw this as you ,
like ever

I laugh

Me : I know

Portia : will I be seeing you now
? I mean am I allowed there ?
Honestly that guy scares me , as

handsome and good looking as
he is he scares me

Me : you're being dramatic ,
listen lets go eat

Portia : I am starving , it was a
long morning at the office

Me : I didn't even pop in today ,
I was packing our clothes .

Tomorrow we're definitely out
of that place

We walk out , I lock the door

Portia : it's not nice living with
the in-laws

Me : you know I've always been
on my own , honestly it's just
not for me living in a crowded
space

We get in the car , and I drive
out to that pub and grill Mvelo
took me

He gave me a car this morning ,
a whole Ferrari I didn't even
know was in the garage

That man will never cease to
amaze me , he's just full of
shocks

Portia : where exactly are we
going ?

Me : to eat , don't worry you're
going to be fine

And I'm glad my memory is still
working fine

As we find it , and the beauty of
it it's something else

Since it's during the day , I can see everything well

We get off

Me : let's go sit inside please

Portia : it seems very nice outside here

Me : and we're not here for a
vibe , don't start

She laughs

We walk inside , and sit down

Portia : wow , this place is nice

Me : I know

Portia : definitely not your kind of to go places , so how did you even know about it ?

Me : Mvelo brought me here

She smiles

Portia : ah....this man seems to be doing all things right , I swear it's like this has always been .
You're even driving his car , and

we know how man feel about
their own cars

A waiter comes over , and I see
it's the guy from last time who
served us

Him : boss lady , what can I get
you ladies today ?

He says to me , and I just look at
him awkwardly

Portia : okay , what am I missing ?

Me : nothing

Portia : and he just called you boss lady ?

I shrug

The guy laughs

Him : her husband owns the
place

What now ?

Portia looks at me popping her
eyes

Portia : you didn't tell me that

Okay !

I didn't know either

Me : please bring us your special , add extra pork . Coke will do for me , and get white dry wine for her

Him : coming right away

He walks away

Portia : you didn't tell me !

Me : it's not a big deal

I'm shocked myself

Portia : I thought your man is
just a taxi driver

Oh well , those taxis are also his

But who needs to know ?

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Mvelo

Phakeme : I don't know , but I think we did good

Me : yeah , seems like we picked up from the last two months

Phakeme : I guess it was a good thing adding the three taxis to long distance

Me : but we came short local
because of that

Phakeme : so ...what will we do
? Unless we get another route

Me : I don't wanna start war , I
can just increase my taxis on
the local routes

Phakeme : give me a new taxi

I chuckle

Me : I did not say I'm buying them , I think that's what I'll do

Phakeme : we both know , you're going to . And do when you do , I want a new taxi Nkuzi will take this one

I shake my head

Me : I'll try the association , and see if they won't be open to giving me a route

He raises his brow

Me : I'm not demanding , I'll just run it in passing . I mean it won't.....

My phone rings

Me : go check the guys

He walks to them , I answer the call

Me : mama

Karabo : are you home ?

Me : I'm...at the house

Karabo : oh okay

Me : what's wrong ?

Karabo : nothing , I'm going home I just wanted to know if you're there or not

Me : I'm not , but I'm coming soon

Karabo : okay , bye

She drops the call , and gets me
worried

She doesn't sound like her usual
self

I heave a sigh , walking to the
guys . I sit down trying to not
get lost in thought

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Karabo

And I turned right away at the
gate

I didn't want to see those
people

I don't even know what Mvelo
is doing here

I hope no nasty surprises
welcome me , because I didn't
say I'm coming

All the taxis are here

But it's so quite , even though I
can see the lights are on

I hold the handle opening the
door , and it opens

My eyes lay on them , and I
swear I saw Mvelo sliding a gun
on his back

His eyes staring straight at me

He gets up fixing his t-shirt

I've never seen so much money
with my own eyes

Like the living room floor , is laid
out with money in stacks . And
these guys are all here , seems
like they're counting the money

Mvelo : come

I turn my eyes looking at him ,
as he takes my hand and we
walk to the kitchen

Me : sorry.....I should....

Mvelo : it's okay , we're just
counting money the guys have
to get paid . They get paid
weekly

Me : oh

He picks me up , placing me on
the counter

He gets in between my legs ,
placing his hands on my waist .

I smile looking at him

Mvelo : Luba tells me you were
at the pub

Luba is the waiter at the pub
and grill , I ended up asking his
name

Me : keeping tabs on me ?

He chuckles

Mvelo : we were talking about
the books , and he mentioned it
in passing

Me : mhm , I was

Mvelo : and you didn't tell me

Me : you didn't tell me you own
it , that it's yours

Mvelo : it's ours

Me : yours and who ?

He smiles , and I swear it's the
most sexiest thing ever . Like
I've never really caught on him
smiling before

Mvelo : and my wife

He leans over , his lips gracing
mine . I better not be dreaming
right now

Like this kiss is happening ?

He deepens the kiss , his one
hand trailing to my ass

I lose myself at his touch ,
feeling all kinds of feels

I'm in my thoughts , like what is
happening ?

He just initiated the kiss , and
he's coming in full blown

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INSERT 21

Karabo

I turn over , fiddling with my
hand trying to find him

But he's nowhere to be found

And it's cold on his side

I sigh , feeling a bit sad

I lay on my stomach , my eyes
still closed

A few minutes passes , I feel a shadow hovering over me

I open my eyes slowly

He leans down , placing a kiss on my lips

I don't kiss him back , but he doesn't move away

I give in , kissing him back

Me : I thought you left

He pulls back , sitting down next to me

Me : I didn't hear you come to bed last night

Mvelo : the guys left late , you were asleep

Me : okay , we're going to your parents house to get our things right ?

He nods

I'm looking forward to that one

He clears his throat , busy fiddling with his sweat pants and he seems uncomfortable

And my eyes trail to his hands , I
gasps at the sight of his bulge

Like I've seen Mvelo naked like
quite a few times yes

But I tried so hard not to stare

In my life , I've seen dicks

But I've never seen one that
scares me like his

What if he tears me up ?

But my body doesn't care ,
because as it is just at the sight
of it my body has reacted

I get up slowly , he looks at me

Mvelo : it's a weekend , why are
you getting up so early ?

I smile , getting on top of him

I straddle him , he places his hands on my ass cheeks

I lean over for a kiss , he kisses me back

I feel his crotch growing underneath me inside his pants

I move my waist slowly , he
groans as it twitches

I press down on him , moving
my waist in circular motion

He tightens his grip on my waist
, I pull my pj top off

I move my face back , pulling
out of the kiss looking at him

Mvelo : sex is all nice

His voice is much deeper

He pecks my lips , trailing his
hands to my boobs cupping
them both

Mvelo : but I want to be
intimate with you

Whatever that means , can we
just not

Like not now

I'm drenched and in need

Me : please

I cup his face , placing a few
pecks on his lips

He lowers my pj shorts

I get off him , pulling them
down

I get down on my knees , pulling
his sweatpants down along with
his briefs

He moves back , I get up getting
on top of him

I don't even want him to tease me with foreplay , he might just change his minds . I don't know what's wrong with this man

But I feel that we're at a better place now , and he's opened up

Really I won't starve , while I have a husband

I'll take judgement after

With that slight fear , just
looking at his erect veined dick

I grab it slowly rubbing on my
coochie , he deep groans as I
slide it in

I stop , breathing heavily as I
feel the pain shooting through

He brings me down , holding on
my waist as he starts thrusting
in

I pull his t-shirt off

I lean forward giving him a kiss ,
and he kisses me back with the
same pace

His hands rest on my waist , I try to move just to accommodate him better

I'm feeling slight pains on my lower waist , and it's a bit uncomfortable

He flips me over , pinning my hands above my head

Still deep inside of me , he
pounds in . I'm eager to just
hold him , as pleasure kicks it

But there's no way to free my
hands , I part my legs further he
goes in deeper . I cannot
contain my moans

I lock my legs over him , as he
thrusts in harder in a slowly
pace

And I feel him hitting me

I try freeing my hands , holds
them tight

I close my eyes , throwing my
head back

Moving my lower body to his
pace

He goes in deeper , I lose myself
convulsing underneath him as
an orgasm hit him

I let out a scream in pleasure ,
heading him curse under his
breath

He doesn't even give me a
chance to breathe

He turns me over laying on my stomach , pressing me down .
My thighs and legs brought together

He slides in , I scream out in pain and pleasure as he starts thrusting in

I pull the sheets , as my eyes tear up

He takes a few deep strokes ,
before he slowly pulls out and I
feel the wet liquid dripping on
my ass cheeks

I'm panting , trying to catch my
breath

Mvelo : come here

I feel him moving back , and he
slowly turns me on my back

He's standing on his feet , he
pulls me to the side nearing the
edge

I gasps , as he parts my legs
getting in between them

Staring deep into my eyes

His hands running on my thighs
, he slides his crotch in

I close my eyes moaning in pain
and pleasure , as he goes
deeper

As soon as he's in , he thrusts in
more like pounding in

And now I get what he meant

This is sex , and I'm being
fucked there's no intimacy

My poor coochie will suffer all
because I couldn't let the man
be

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Mvelo

I've been trying to get her to
wake up

And she wasn't up for that

I ended up sleeping with her ,
and misses going to the rank

But when she woke up , she left
me in bed alone

Women !

I find her downstairs in the
kitchen

I stand behind her , she's sitting
on the high chairs

I place a kiss on her cheek ,
looking through her table

Me : morning after.....mhm take
before...passes ...

I look at her

Me : what are you doing ?

Karabo : was trying to see if I
can order this online , but

seems like I can't . So I have to
get one from the chemist

Me : what do you need it for ?

Karabo : we had sex

Me : mhm

She looks at me and smiles , I
place a kiss on her lips she
kisses me back

And quickly pulls back laughing

Karabo : unprotected , and I
know you left your seed inside
of me . And I don't know how
fertile you are

I chuckle

Me : I'm very fertile , but don't
kill my baby

She laughs

Karabo : we didn't speak about
having kids

Me : we're having kids , why
must we sit down and plan
them as if we'll do away with
them . If they decide to just
surprise us , don't kill my child

I place another peck on her
cheek

Karabo : I don't want anyone
who's going to fight me when it
comes to you , I don't
understand the need for us to
invite terrorist in our humble
home

I chuckle with a smile

Me : you're already calling the baby a terrorist ?

Karabo : I'm serious , she'll be sleeping on your chest and cry when I remove her . She'll act like you belong to her , when I knew you long way before her . Like you're my mine , but she'll be making it seem like you're hers . And she's going to get the upper hand always , because you also won't want anything

about her . She'll wrap you
around her little finger
and....well it won't be nice at all

Isn't this just cute

I swear I'm married to a baby
here

Me : we'll make a son

Karabo : I'm not ready to share
you

I chuckle

Me : I don't know about this ,
don't kill my child though . And
can we just go get our clothes

Karabo : I feel like going to
spend my money

She gets up

Karabo : I didn't know it feels
this amazing being given money
by your man .

I laugh

Me : you'll spend it another
time , now let's go so we can
come back .

Karabo : why did you send me money though ? I was very happy when I woke up , to that notification

She turns looking at me , I pick her up placing her on the counter

She's just wearing my t-shirt , has no bra and nothing underneath

I slide my finger in between her thighs , fiddling with her coochie lips

I peck her

Me : for this

She laughs , I lower my sweatpants settling in between her legs

She places her hands on my shoulders , bringing my face closer

We kiss , she seals it with a smile , i place my hands on her waist

I slide my dick in , letting out a groan as her warmth welcomes me

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Yanga

Like this is a shock

I swear everything that has to do with these two is just shock

They walked in here , said they're moving out

And I mean , we did not see that one coming

Mvelo went out with their bags

Me : you're leaving ?

Karabo : yes

Me : oh....well where are you
going ?

Karabo : our home

Vika laughs

Me : well where exactly is that ?

Karabo : why am I even
entertaining you two ?

Vika : just answer the question

Me : maybe they're going to
Soweto

We laugh

Vika : don't degrade yourself ,
moving from all this to a 4 room
. Karabo don't do that to
yourself

I laugh

Karabo : well there's nothing
wrong with Soweto , or a 4
room for that matter . But my

husband can afford , so no .
Anyways we're moving to a
private estate in waterfall if you
really must know , built from
scratch . By that man I call mine

Imani and Wanda gasps

Sabelo : with what ?

Karabo : well he holds a job you
know , so what's the shock ?

Me : being a taxi driver really ?

Karabo : oh you'll be surprised ,
but don't worry you won't be
missed . And I won't definitely
invite any of you at our house ,
but you can come just once .

Just so you can feast and feed
your eyes , and then I'll rub it on
your faces . Grown ass men
living with parents

Sabelo gets up angry like he will
throw a punch on her face

Karabo : I dare you to hit me.

Wanda : Sabelo !

He looks at his wife as Mvelo
walks in

Karabo : tell your mother we
said bye

She turns on her heel , Mvelo
eyes are boring into Sabelo

I swear if he caught on what
happened here , shit will
happen

They walk out

Me : what the hell was that ?

Sabelo : who the fuck does she think she is ? Talking to us like that

Vika : that one has a sharp tongue , trust me she responds everyone she doesn't spare . It doesn't matter who you are , but if you want to spit it to her be ready to take it back because she will dish it back

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INSERT 22

TWO WEEKS LATER

Karabo

I walk in , and he's sitting alone

Not that I expected to find him
with anyone

But the past week , it's just
been awkward

Having to come back from work
, and find him home

I don't know

But something is off with him , I
just can't put my hand on it
though

I take my shoes off , placing my
bag down

I sit down next to him , placing a kiss on his cheek . He turns giving me a full blown kiss , before he moves back after a few minutes

I clear my throat , fixing my blouse feeling slightly hot

Things in this house happen , and touches bring feels

Me : this is starting to become a norm

He doesn't even look at me

Trust me , he knows I'm right here next to him

But he's not here , it's like the second he pulled out of the kiss he zoned out

Me : what's going on ? It's like
you're just trying to shut
everyone out

He turns slowly looking at me ,
and I can't help myself but keep
noticing this change of colour in
his eyes

They're blue , like there's that
slight blue colour in his eyes

Me : please talk to me

He sighs shaking his head

Mvelo : I just don't want to be
around people

He goes to the rank like in the
morning , and by the time I
leave for work he's back

So he hasn't even been working

The guys come to take the taxis
, and they bring them back later
on

Me : you're worrying me , and
there's a number that's been
calling me for two days . Now I
might even think it's your ex or
side chicks

He chuckles , facing me taking my hand into his

Mvelo : why would you think that ?

Me : you're not yourself

Mvelo : there's no such thing as that , I don't have an ex . And I wouldn't risk bringing in side chicks in here

Me : I know I didn't find you a virgin

He laughs

Mvelo : yeah , but I also know I don't have an ex

Me : I hope that's the truth

Mvelo : I know you're territorial

He leans down picking up my feet , he moves back placing them on his lap giving me a foot rub

Mvelo : so this person has been calling you , why don't you answer to hear who it is ?

Me : I don't have people I don't know call me , like everyone

who calls me I know . And ever since we got married , my father distanced himself I guess my mother did too . I don't have strange numbers calling me

Mvelo : but.... You're a CEO of a big company , surely you have people calling you all the time

Me : not on my personal phone no I don't

Mvelo : mhm , unfortunately it has nothing to do with me

Me : okay , I believe you

He smiles

I lay my head back , closing my eyes

Me : what am I cooking ?

Mvelo : you're not , I asked
Luba to bring food

Me : thank you

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Yanga

Me : what ?

She just looks at me

Me : you have got to be fucking
with me right now , why were
you quite all this time ?

Candy : I tried to talk to you ,
and you didn't....

Me : Candy do you think I'm
stupid ?

Candy : no !

Me : then please , take yourself
and your child away from me .

Go find the father of that baby ,
it's not me . It cannot be me

Candy : Yanga you're the only
man I've been sleeping with

Me : hey ! Me and you haven't
slept together in how long ?

Candy : but I'm 15 weeks
pregnant , it is your child

I sigh

Me : what you're doing won't work , please go find the father of that child . If it's mine as you say , kill it . You're not ruining my family with a bastard child , I want nothing to do with it so fuck off

Candy : it's your child Yanga
how can you....it's your child

The door opens , and Imani
stands right in the middle

I pop my eyes , seeing the shock
and hurt in her eyes

Me : baby.....

I get up , walking towards her

She holds her tummy

Me : baby....please lets.....

She looks down , and I see
blood staining her white pants

Me : fuck !

I hold her hand , and she pushes
me off

Me : babythe baby ...let's
....let me take you to hospital

Imani : Yanga leave me alone ,
keep your hands off of me

Me : baby please.....you're
loosing the baby !

Imani : you have another one
coming , it'll bea
replacement

She frowns in pain

Me : fuck !

I look at Candy

Me : I swear if my wife loses
this baby , I'm going to kill you
with my bare hands

I look back at Imani , she's
balancing herself with the door

Me : I.....

Karabo shows up , she's holding
a file in hand

Karabo : what's going on here ?

Me : she's pregnant.....

She slaps me with the file ,
taking Imani's hand

Karabo : how stupid are you ?

They walk away

I sweat taking my suit jacket off
, loosening my tie

Me : Wena ! (You)

Candy : I'm....

I grab my car keys from the desk , running out hoping I can see them but they're not in sight

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Karabo

Poor woman

I don't even want to think of
what she's going through right
now

Me : I'm sorry

She nods with a smile

I hand her the cup of water , I
sit down with my cup of tea

It's even bad , but damn I need
it . After having to see her bleed
that much , knowing she's
loosing her baby

I could call my husband , I know
he will be here now with proper
tea

But I don't think Imani wants
people around her right now

Imani : that woman I found in
his office , she said she's
pregnant with his child

I'm not surprised , Yanga is
fucking with his PA right now

So he probably fucked with
Candy , or still is

Me : I'm....really sorry that you
lost the baby

Imani : it's probably for the best
, a blessing in disguise . She's
carrying a child for him , so it'll

be a replacement for mine . I'm going to divorce him , I'm not sticking around for his nonsense . I'm not accepting any bastard kids , I'm not forgiving cheating . Me and him are done

This is just sad

I swear if Mvelo puts me through anything like this

The whole of Bree will know
him , even those who don't

Men are shit !

Excluding mine , cause he hasn't
dealt me

And he better not even try

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INSERT 23

Yanga

She walks in

And she's in a change of clothes

She's wearing a tracksuit , with
slippers

Her eyes are swollen , looks like
she's been crying

I'm just a mess myself

I felt it , I felt it she lost the baby

Me : I've been driving around , I
thought I'll find you . I called

your doctor , but he said you weren't there . I didn't believe him , I even went there to check . I've been going crazy out of my mind , baby I'm sorry

I get up looking at her

Imani : how long have you been cheating on me Yanga ?.

Me : baby she's lying , that baby is not mine

Imani : that's not what I asked you , women are not crazy . She won't say she's pregnant with your child , unless you've been sleeping with her . She can't accuse you of something like that , if you haven't been sleeping together

I sigh looking down

Imani : how long ?.

Me : it didn't mean anything

Imani : again.....

Me : baby please , let's not do
this please . It doesn't matter it
meant.....

Imani : doesn't matter ? My
child is dead , because of you .

My heart sinks as tears stream
down her face

Imani : Yanga I hate you , and I
wish you nothing but pain and
misery . I'm taking my kids , you
enjoy your bastard child with
your whore .

I shake my head , wiping my
tears

Me : you can't leave me
please.....don't tear our family
apart like this , over a
stupid.....baby please

She walks to the closet ,
bringing out bags . She places
one on the floor opening it

Me : I'm not letting you leave
me

She ignores me , just throwing
clothes inside the bag

I hold her hands , she yanks one
arm off slapping me

I just hold her tight , as she cries

Me : you're not leaving me ,
baby I can't let you leave me
.....please don't do that

She wails , I've never heard my
wife cry like this

Fuck !

All that nonsense wasn't worth
it at all

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Karabo

Mvelo : what happened ?

Me : your brother can't keep his
dick in his pants , his zip is not
up at all

He laughs

Me : I'm serious

Mvelo : mama , I'm trying to give you a listening ear . But you're not making it very easy

Me : Imani was pregnant , and turns out the side is pregnant too . Imani heard that , and she lost the baby . She says she's divorcing him , I don't know

He just looks at me

Me : an emotion at least

Mvelo : for what ?

Me : they lost a baby

Mvelo : that's sad !

Yhoh !

Me : I swear , if you dare do
that to me I will cut your balls

off and feed them to you . I'll tie you in that taxi of yours , and I'll drag you to Bree .

He burst out laughing

Me : it's a joke to you ?

He pulls me closer , pecking my lips

Mvelo : you're scaring me

Me : mhm , it's funny . Just try
me

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Yanga

She pulls off wiping her tears

Imani : let me go

I shake my head

Imani : I'm not playing with you
Yanga , let me go

Me : baby.....I'm not letting you
leave me . We have kids , please
don't let this ruin and break our
family

Imani : you should have thought
of that , before you went
around sticking your dick
everywhere

I sigh

She picks the bag from the bed

Me : baby.....

Seeing that she's serious , I
stand in front of the door

Imani : get out of my way

Me : I'm not letting you leave
me

Imani : Yanga !

I lock the door , keeping the key
in my back pocket

Imani : you're starting to annoy
me , you can't lock me in here

Me : I can , and I will . You're not leaving me , we're going to talk about this . And we're going to be okay , and we'll deal with the loss of our child together . You're not going anywhere

She raises her hand to slap me

Me : will beating me make you feel better ? Because if that's the case , baby please beat me all you can . Just go ahead and

beat me , but if you're still going
to leave me after that then
we're staying in this room

A slight knock comes at the
door

Voice : mama

I sigh

Imani : open the door my child
is looking for me

Me : Zolani , mommy is busy

He knocks again

Imani : Yanga

I shake my head letting go of
her arm

Imani : let me go see my child

Me : we're not leaving this room , not until I know we're okay and that you're not leaving me

Zolani knocks again , and he just ends up crying banging the door

Imani : does it make you happy , hearing him cry like that ?

Me : of course not , but.....

Voice : Yanga what the hell is going on here ?

It's Sabelo

Me : take Zolani , I'm trying to fix something with Imani

He fiddles with the door handle

Sabelo : open this damn door

Me : Sabelo take Zolani and
leave , Imani will attend to him
when we're done

Sabelo : Imani are you okay ?

Me : do you really think I hit my
wife ?

Sabelo : I'm not talking to you

Imani : bhuti , please try and open the door . He has the key with him , I want to get out

Sabelo : Yanga are you on drugs ?

I keep quite

After a while he moves away ,
and I guess he's taken Zolani
with

Me : baby I'm sorry

Imani : I swear if you don't let
me out of this room , one of us
will be taken out dead

She places the bag down ,
walking to the bathroom

I follow her , you can never
trust these people

What if she takes an object and
hurts me with it in there ?

Me : baby

Imani : open the door

Me : don't leave me please

Imani : you want me to beg you
?

I keep quite

She takes the cup holding the
toothbrushes , and bashes it on
the mirror

Me : baby

I try holding her , she picks the
piece of the mirror facing me

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INSERT 24

Yanga

Me : babe.....

Imani : give me the key

Me : let's talk

She aims the piece at my face , I
lift my arm to block it

And she cuts my wrist

I groan down in pain , as the
blood oozes

And she reaches for my back pocket taking the keys out

She walks out , leaving me just like that

I drag myself out , following her

And she's no longer in the bedroom , and the bag is gone too

I run down , holding my wrist as
it's still bleeding

Dad : what happened ?

He says as I walk down and
everyone is on their feet

I'm holding my wrist , and it's
bleeding bad

Sabelo : why were you locking the bedroom door ?

Dad : what ?

Imani : your son impregnated another woman , I lost my child . He wasn't happy hearing I'm pregnant , because he knew he's busy making babies out there

Me : babe.....

Mom : we have to get you to hospital , you're loosing a lot of blood

Dad : what's all this nonsense that's happening in my house ?

Me : it's.....it was a mistake

Imani : well then , I'm taking my kids and I want a divorce

Mom : did you have to stab him ? Men cheat all the time

Imani : well that's fine , I won't stand for that nonsense

She grabs the bag , taking Xolani

Me : ba.....

Imani : don't you dare !

They walk out , Wanda follows
with Zolani who is sleeping

Sabelo : what is wrong with you
?

Mom : enough ! That woman
hurt my son , and we're going
to stand around talking non

stop things . Do we want him to bleed and die right here in front of us all ?

Dad : after this nonsense , I want you out of my house . I will not have this nonsense happening in my house , never ! This is fucking nonsense

Vika takes my hand as we walk out

Vika : you need brains where women are concerned , especially if you know you're busy doing shit

He shakes his head , getting in the car

Vika : take that cloth , don't stain my seats

I must say , I did not think that she would really stab me

But she didn't even hesitate , and my arm just got caught because I was going to use it as a shield against my face

Because that's where she was aiming

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Mvelo

Me : hospital ?

Karabo looks at me

Me : what happened ?

Dad : Imani cut his arm with a
mirror , she almost cut his vein .
He bled bad

Me : I see

Dad : will you come ?

Me : uhm....no

He sighs

Dad : I thought as much

Me : what did he do ? Women
don't act unprovoked

I'll ask like I don't know

Dad : it's a lot , apparently she caught him with a woman that's pregnant with his child . And she wanted to leave , sounds like she lost the baby . I didn't even know she was pregnant

Me : why men can't stay loyal , still remains to be known

He chuckles

Dad : don't do that woman bad
, I can't lose my son's to such

Me : I've already been warned ,
I know better

Dad : we'll talk

Me : alright

I drop the call

Me : Imani cut Yanga with a mirror , he's in hospital

She laughs

Me : so now it's funny ?

Karabo : very funny , she should have done far more worse

Me : you're dangerous

Karabo : your brother is a pig

I shall not say more

I might end up being bashed as well , for things I know nothing about

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Karabo

I stare at my phone

Seeing it's the number that has
been calling me

I don't understand why don't
they just leave a message

If it's so important they talk to
me

I let it ring until it stops , but it
rings again

I heave a sigh answering it

Me : hello ?

Voice : hello

Says a female voice , and my
attack mode just comes up

Me : who's this ?

Her : my name is Nomusa Cele ,
I believe you don't know me

I am certain , I don't know
anyone with a Cele surname

Me : yes , how can I help you ?

Nomusa : I sawthat you're
married to Mvelo Phakade . I
read on the news

Me : okay , with all due respect .
I don't know you , and I believe
apart from the papers you also
don't know me . So if you're
about to cry wolf here , I'm not
interested . If you're a bitter ex ,
stay away from me . If he left
you with a child , and ran away
from responsibility I don't care .
I don't even want to know ,
because I won't accept your
child . If you're a baby mama ,
please remain exactly right

where you are . I don't want problems in my marriage , so this better not be about any of that

Nomusa : it's.....it's not

Me : then ?

Nomusa : I'm sorry to reach out to you , I've been trying to talk to Nkosi but he doesn't want to

hear anything from me . He
even blocked me

Me : sorry , who is Nkosi now ?

Nomusa : oh I'm sorry , it's
Mvelo . I actually named him
Mveloyenkosi , but I know he
just uses Mvelo

So much confusion

Me : wait....what do you mean
you named him ?

Nomusa : I'm...I'm his mother

Shut the front door !

Me : his what ?

Nomusa : his mother

I sigh

Me : okay , I don't know what joke you're trying to play on me . But I know his mother

Nomusa : Phakade's wife is his step mother , I'm his biological mother . I know what I'm saying is hard to believe right now , but I just need to talk to him . I can't try his father , he banned me from seeing Nkosi . I'm in

Joburg , I just need to see my
son and talk to him

Is she being for real ?

Me : why...what did you do ? I
mean Mvelo can't hate you for
no reason , so is his father . So
what did you do ? If you're
really his mother ?

She sighs

Nomusa : it's a lot , but if you're willing we can meet and talk .
And I'll tell you everything you need to know

Can I ?

Me : I don't know , you just told me things I know nothing about . So it's very hard even believing you right now

Nomusa : I understand , and I know you just can't believe or trust a stranger

Me : then I don't understand how you're expecting me to help you

Nomusa : can we meet ? Please just hear me out , and you can decide if you do want to help

me or not . I really can't leave
without speaking to him

I sigh

Me : I don't mean to be rude ,
but you sound like you're
bringing problems . And like I
said , I don't want those in my
marriage . And seeing or
meeting with you , just sounds
somehow

Nomusa : I understand , I can only hope you'll change your mind while I'm still around .
Thank you for your time

She drops the call , and I'm just left stunned

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INSERT 25

Mvelo

Dad : you seem to be handling
yourself

I nod

Dad : hasn't she seen anything ?

I shake my head

Me : I haven't been going to the rank as usual , I'm trying my level best to stay away from situations and environments that might piss me off . It's quite at the house , there's no noise . And she's a very subtle person , she's just clingy

He nods

Me : I don't know , she was acting strange last night . But didn't say anything , and I didn't ask either . But I'm certain she's noticed by eyes , even though she's never asked

Dad : do you think maybe she's suspicious ?

Me : I don't know , I haven't given her any reason to be . But she's been asking , why I haven't been going to work as usual . So I guess even that on its own , has gotten her wondering . But it's just that , surely it doesn't spike anything . And exactly what will she be suspicious of ?

Dad : if you say so

I chuckle

Me : what do you want to say ?

Dad : that you should tell her
the truth

Me : no , I'm not doing that

Dad : well , I can't tell you what
to do . I just hope when she

does find out , this doesn't blow
up in your face . You love
Karabo , I've seen that . If she
were to leave you , I swear
you'll be a very much worse
mess than your brother is right
now

I chuckle

Me : is he living ?

Dad : yeah , the doctor says
he'll discharge him tomorrow .
He's going crazy in that hospital
, crying over his wife

Me : she really left ?

Dad : yeah , her brother came
to get some of their clothes this
morning . I don't think she's
coming back

Me : she's choosing her happiness over a man , that's good

Dad : your mother is not happy

Me : of course she's not

Dad : she's just against how she hurt him , like she's been raising it like she almost killed him

Me : yeah , he was fine cheating . Forgetting he's a married man , his wife lost their child because of his whoering ways . If she didn't hear what that other woman was saying , she wouldn't have had a miscarriage . But of course , mom doesn't care . Because Imani is not her child , if it was Nomfundo being done the same was she gonna side with her husband ?

He sighs

Me : I don't think so , she would side with her daughter . Even if she had killed him , but in this case she's with her dear child and is acting like Yanga didn't wrong Imani

Dad : I don't know , what to say or do about this situation

Me : what must you do ? Both Yanga and Imani are not kids , if she leaves him let her be . Don't push that poor girl into a situation you know , you would never let Karabo or Nomfundo be . Because if that was me , you would actually pay the lawyers to draw divorce papers

He laughs

Dad : I hate that I know you're right

Me : exactly , so let them be .
Even if she decides to forgive him , let them be . You don't involve yourself in a matter of two people , because at the end of the day they'll end up just resenting you . So whatever they decide , they must just let be . This is a matter between a man and wife

Dad : I hear you , but I honestly think your brothers should move out

I chuckle

Dad : he locked the door , not letting her out . Zolani was knocking and crying for his mother , but he wasn't budging . I don't think that's a behaviour

I want my grandkids growing up
in

This man is always in
predicament with his kids

Unfortunately for him , I'm not
getting involved this time
around

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-

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Karabo

I run my hand on his head

He's laying in between my things , his head laying on my boobs

His hands wrapped behind my back

I haven't been able to stop thinking about what that woman said

And I'm scared to just ask him
upfront

What if I upset him ?

She didn't deny that she did
something

So maybe it's bad , so bad that
he will get angry with me just
for even speaking with her

I can't ask Phakade either , he might not like that I know his family affairs

And well that woman is a no go area , I wouldn't even touch her . Already she doesn't like me

But again meeting with Nomusa , Mvelo not knowing doesn't sit well with me

But I am so eager and curious

Honestly I've never been this
conflicted

Me : can I ask you something ?

Mvelo : mhm

Me : uhm.....I've noticed that
....you and your mother don't
really get along

Mvelo : yeah

Me : why...why is that ? Because she seems to get along pretty well , with your brothers . Even their wives

Mvelo : every family has their own black sheep , and I guess that's me

No ways !

From Nomusa's words , Mvelo does know that Phakade's wife is not his mother

Me : and that's it ?

Mvelo : yeah from what I know , unless there's something else from her . I mean one can never know , what the other person is

thinking or feeling . Just like I
don't know why you're
suddenly asking me about this ,
surely it's not just some random
conversation

That hits a nerve

I swallow , because I won't be
able to tell him why I'm asking

If he starts asking me

Me : ng-ng

Mvelo : anyways , I don't get
along with anyone in that house

Me : except your father

He chuckles

Mvelo : he's an exception

Me : I see , I guess I understand
. Your mother also doesn't like
me , but I'm not her child so I
guess that's not even a bother

He goes awfully quiet

And I'm asking myself if those
words , have brought up a
thought

Or maybe struck a nerve or
what

Me : anyways let's sleep

Mvelo : ngiyak'thanda mama (I
love you)

Me : ke ya go rata (I love you)

He chuckles , pulling off and he
lays down next to me

Mvelo : come cuddle let's sleep

I turn over , snuggling closer to
him he cuddles me

I close my eyes running my
hand his chest , my mind trailing
away

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INSERT 26

Karabo

I sigh pulling a chair sitting
down

This woman is beautiful

I did not even imagine her to be this beautiful at all

I swear she looks like she's just 30

But if she's really Mvelo's mother , she must be very old

Me : I shouldn't even be here , honestly this feels like betrayal to my husband

Nomusa : I understand , and I'm very sorry

Me : you understand a lot , is that why your son and his father don't want you ?

She looks down

Me : I don't mean to be insensitive

Nomusa : it's okay , just thank
you for coming

Me : yes , I'm here now . So
please tell me

She takes a sip of her water ,
placing the glass down

Nomusa : I was very young
when I had Mvelo , I was just 16

. I'm a princess from the Cele
kingdom....

My jaw drops

Me : what....a princess ?

Nomusa : yes

I'm about to hear things today ,
I mean I have no idea that these
people are related to royalty

Nomusa : as royalty , we're raised a different way . With laws and rules to abide by and live with , we can't just do anything and everything we want . The kind of men we associate ourselves with , we don't just date anyone . I know a lot of royal families don't follow those anymore , but my father was a very strict men . And he lived by those rules ,

and he didn't accept change .
He wasn't up for adapting to
anything

She sighs

Nomusa : I grew up cooped up
in the palace , I really didn't
associate much with the outside
world . It was one summer ,
Phakade was visiting relatives in
our village . By chance I just saw
him , and he noticed me too .

His cousin was the one who helped us be together at that time , because he was working at the palace . You can say I was very much clueless about a lot of things then , we dated and ended up sleeping together . Just after being together for a week , and then I got pregnant . I wasn't aware , and he left because he was only visiting . He promised that he would come back , and I believed him

of course . I didn't know after how long he was going to come back , but I knew he was going to come back . I just kept the faith , and I was just a girl in love . And I didn't even know where he was coming from , or where exactly he came from . It was after a month , and it was announced that I'm getting married to another prince . Now it's a norm with us royals to get married very young , and the

marriage is arranged . At some point , I knew that was going to happen . But I was hurt and just shattered , because I had already fallen in love with another . I had no means to reach Phakade except his cousin , and I sent messages through him . He advised that I don't tell anyone anything , until Phakade comes and we figure out a plan together . That gave me hope , and I let things be . But wedding

preparations went on , and Phakade was nowhere to be found . Until it happened , I got married . I was still known to be a virgin , but of course the night of the wedding the prince found out I wasn't a virgin . The matter was brought to my parents and the council , and I had to account for my deeds . I couldn't lie , so I told them the truth . My father was shamed and embarrassed , I could never

forget that day . The other kingdom I was married to , they felt lied to and deceived by my family

She takes a deep breath wiping her tears

Nomusa : the marriage ended , after a day of just being married . The prince didn't want me , and I was taken back to my family . But of course I was to

serve a punishment for shaming my family , and the kingdom in that manner . My father had given punishment already , but our seer came to my aid in a way you can say . It was found out that I was pregnant , and that only made matters worse . Because Phakade was still nowhere to be found , so he couldn't account for his actions . My family strongly believes in that royalty marries royalty ,

blue blood with blue blood . See the men in our lineage are gifted , and they have abilities that no normal human being has . It comes in all forms and shapes , and it is passed through . We as the women do bare these men , but we don't possess what they have . They're born with it , and we as the women are really not clued up on who or what they are . I was and still am the first , to have brought a half blue

blood in my family which is
considered a curse

She swallows after saying that

And I can just see how hard ,
and sad it makes her saying that

Nomusa : Nkosi....Mvelo I'm
sorry , he was born with these
abilities . But he's half of me ,
and half of his father who is not

of royal blood . So his are not developed , they're not tamed either . And as much as he has these abilities , they're nothing like that of the men in our lineage . He's completely different from them , and a mystery you can say . He's deemed very dangerous , because no one has a single clue about his abilities . And peoplewell they always fear what they don't understand .

And so no one knew exactly who and what he is , he possesses these abilities that even we don't understand . His eyes change colour in a very strange way , it goes on with seasons to be precisely . He gets much worse in winter , he can't handle noises much . As you know , in winter the weather is very bad . There's rains and storms and all that , so he's rattled . That is the worst time

for him I believe , it's when his abilities are mostly evoked . But every season , his eyes shift . Very young , he was just two years old . To this day , I don't know what had him that upset . He cried , and it was very bad . The weather got messy , the whole kingdom got flooded by storms . A whole lot of people died , including my father . Such a destruction had never been seen , and it left nothing

standing really . And it took years and years to rebuild that back , but after the incident it was decided by my family that either he be killed or taken to his family and I cut my ties to face my punishment . A curse or not , he was my son . That's howeveryone saw and called him after that . How was I going to let them kill him ? I didn't know where Phakade was at , his only link was his cousin . I

tried reaching to him , and he said Phakade had gone to war . I pleaded that he takes the baby and gives him to his father when he gets back , he didn't want to . He was scared for his own life as well , he was scared to keep the baby in the kingdom . Knowing someone would end up recognising him , he refused . I....I had no choice , and I left him no choice either . Because I...I left the baby at his

door step , I knew he wouldn't do away with him . Blood is thicker than water , and Nkosi was a Phakade . I named him Mveloyenkosi , but they opted to calling him Mvelo . It was days later , I heard the cousin had left the village . And I knew it was because he found the baby , and he left to save both of them . It gave me hope that... Phakade would see his son and that he will raise our son . I

didn't hear anything for about 10 years , after I served my punishment in the village . I was enslaved by my own family , for bringing a curse that killed my father and destroyed the kingdom . After serving my punishment , I tried looking for him . I didn't rest , and when I finally found him he was 18 and all grown . Those eyes , I knew those eyes . I tried , I really tried . But Phakade had told him

everything , as his cousin had told him when he got back from war and took the child . And he wanted nothing to do with a woman who saw him as a curse , and gave him away just like that .

She sniffed wiping her tears off

Nomusa : all I did , was to save my child's life . And I would do it again , if I could . Over the years

, he's made it clear he wants nothing to do with me . I've tried reaching out , so many times . And to this day , he still wants nothing to do with me . Even after I've told him my side of things

I sigh defeated

Like you don't just wake up one day , and hear of such things

So really right now , I don't even know what to believe and what not to believe

Me : I.... I hear what you're saying , but I still don't understand how I can help you . Because this whole situation , sounds so very complicated to me . I've never heard of such things , it sounds like a tale to be honest

But that eye changing thing , I
sure do believe it

Because as it is now , his eyes
have that slight blue colour
inside of them

Which I don't understand , and
I've been holding myself from
asking him about

Because once he notices that
I'm staring , he moves his eyes
away from me

Me : oh god !

I'm on my feet in seconds , as
he stands besides the table

And he's calm as ever , I didn't
even see him coming or walking
in

But after hearing that tale , I
don't know

This whole restaurant might just
fly over with all of us

If it's true a tow year old did
that , how much worse can he
do now that he's much older ?

Nomusa : Nkosi....

He doesn't even look at her

Mvelo : you got all the answers
you wanted ?

My heart is pumping like it'll fall
out , and he's still calm as ever
his eyes not leaving me

Mvelo : let's go home , I hope
you were answered

I grab my bag

Me : I'm sorryI....I was
just.....I'm sorry

Nomusa : please , it's my fault .
I'm the one who reached out to
her , she....

Mvelo : let's go , or do you want
to walk all the way home ?

His voice is still calm

This is scary , very scary !

I am shit scared right now

He turns walking towards the
door

Me : now I regret seeing you
about this

Nomusa : please I'm sorry , can
you please just give him this
please

She reaches in her bag , handing
me a brown envelope

Nomusa : I'm sorry for any
troubles

Yet she's still giving me things

Me : I hope this is not one of those

I rush out , putting the envelope in my bag

I get to the car , opening the door but it's locked

I look at him like a puppy

Mvelo : you want to walk ?

I shake my head no

Mvelo : get in the car before I
get annoyed

I'm already pulling the door ,
before he even unlocks

I'm inside in a second , and he
drives off

Me : I'm so.....

Mvelo : keep quite

Yhoh !

I'm shaking right now

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INSERT 27

Karabo

He hasn't said a single word

He hasn't shouted

He's just calm , and it's scaring
me

Now I'm wondering what was I
doing meeting with that woman

I'm shit scared

Everything she told me

And now , he's acting like this

So I don't know what's what

But I don't want to die today

He hasn't even asked me
anything

I don't know if he's angry or
what

Maybe he's disappointed

As he should be anyways

I mean , I'm his wife and I went
to meet with this woman
without his knowledge

I actually went behind his back

And I don't think I would be
happy if someone did the same
to me

So I was very wrong

Now I would take anything ,
than the silent treatment

And there's no way in hell I'm
showing him that envelope

I feel like I'm going to open it
first

Okay , maybe I'm just going to
open it but make sure he
doesn't see it

Argh !

I don't know

I walk in the bedroom , he's
been in here for over an hour
now

I'm scared to even come
anywhere close to him

Me : uhm...hi

He doesn't even turn to look at
me

He's sitting on the bed , his back
faced on me

If I'm going to die tonight , it
definitely won't be worth it

Cause all that woman did was
make me be scared of my own
husband

The things she said

How did he even know where I
was ? Or that I was with her

Because I didn't give in on
anything to him when I left in
the morning

It was just a normal morning

I left like I was going to work

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Mvelo

Karabo : baby...

I chuckle

Since when am I called baby ?

Her voice is even trembling ,
and she's still standing at the
door

I can feel her presence , she
hasn't moved since she stood
there

She's scared

Karabo : okay ! I'm really sorry
okay , I know....I was wrong to
meet her. I just.....I just....

Me : you just wanted to find the
truth I couldn't tell you ?

Karabo : but she lied , and
it's.....it's not like I didn't believe
youokay I don't know what's
what right now , because of
everything she said

Me : I didn't tell you anything ,
about those questions you kept
throwing at me yesterday . It
was because she reached out to
you , and you just figured you'll
go to her

Karabo : I'm sorry , I.....I don't
believe her anyways . I should
have just asked you , or told you
that she reached out

Me : it doesn't matter whether you do or not

Karabo : can I come in so we can talk ? Please.....I'm really sorry , I shouldn't have done that . I can admit , it was wrong of me going to her like that . I know how it seems

This might seem funny and crazy too

But it's not to me , like not even
one bit

Fear has been instilled in her

Now she will fear me , to an
extent that she'll make sure she
doesn't do anything to anger
me

She will fear me when I'm upset

It's just bullshit

Something I didn't want her
knowing about me.

Because I can't live with a wife
who's going to be scared of me.

Wondering when am I going to
loose my cool

Karabo : I'm really sorry , please
don't get upset . I'll stay away
from herI swear I'll stay away

She tears up , and I so badly
want to comfort her

But just knowing how she's
going to react , when I get
closer to her

I can't bring myself to

I get up

Me : when you're done
gathering yourself up , do tell
me . Get away from the door so
I can walk out

She slowly walks in , but stands
at a distance

She can't even come closer

Karabo : Mvelo please don't do this.....don't walk away from me . I'm trying to.....I know I was wrong , and I'm sorry

I sigh

I fucking hate that woman , whatever gave her the right to think she can come here and spit that nonsense of hers

I don't understand why people
can't just accept where they're
not wanted

And stop bothering people , like
they fucking matter when they
don't

Karabo : please.....don't do that
, now you want to walk out on
me

I turn and look at her , she's a
crying mess

Me : how do I even talk to you
when you're this scared of me ?

She looks down

And I know I'm not wrong

Nor am I insane

I grab my jacket

Karabo : don't.....please don't

I walk past her , and she slightly
moves away

That leaves a bit of a sting pain

She probably thinks I'll hurt her
if I could

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Karabo

That slight pain on his face as he
was walking out

And all I could do was stand
there , watch him leave and I
cried

I don't know what I've done

I shouldn't have gone to meet
that woman

Whether what she told me was
the truth or not

I heard way more than what I
wanted

I mean all that a two year old
caused storms that destroyed a
whole kingdom killed people

Just by tears

And to think I'm married to that
man

Like how much more ruin can
his anger cause right now at his
age ?

I won't lie , I was scared maybe I
still am

I met this woman behind his
back , so surely he's not happy

I was scared , scared of what he
might do if he's really angry at
me for doing that

It's close to midnight now

I don't know where he is

I'm driving around Joburg , I
don't even know where I'm
going now

There's nowhere I didn't go

I even went to the rank this late
, I went to pub and it was closed

I don't know where he could be

I don't know if he's okay

But I know he would never go
to his parents home

I tried sleeping but I couldn't ,
not knowing where he was

So I drove out , in hopes that
maybe I can find him

I park on the side of the road
wiping my tears off

I grab my phone and call her , it rings quite for a while before she answers

Nomusa : hello ?

She sounds sleepy , so I've woken her up with the call

Me : it must be nice being you , you're in bed sleeping all

comfortable . While I'm
roaming the streets , honestly I
regret meeting you . Please
don't ever call me again , stay
away from me . And keep me
away from your issues with your
so called son , lose my number .
And just so you know , I won't
give him that envelope . Come
get it at my office , I'll leave it
with reception . Don't even see
me , or tell me where you are

so I can send it to you . If you
don't , just know I'll burn it .

I drop the call , she calls back . I
decline the call blocking her
number

I lean back as fresh tears stream
down my face

I dial his number , and it goes to
voicemail again

Me : Mvelo please.....please
don't do this to me , I'm
roaming around the streets
looking for you . I don't even
know where to look anymore ,
at least tell me you're safe

I shake my head viciously , as
more tears stream down

I take a deep breath

Me : no.....no don't tell me
you're safe....come back home ,
come back home . Even if you
don't want to talk , just come
back homethis is how
marriages end , where one
walks out on another . Next
thing you'll end up with another
woman out there....who will
turn into your comfort tonight .
Making you forget of what I did
, don't do that to us . Come

back home , even if you don't
want to talk it's fineI won't
say anything , but come home .
I swear if I return back home
and you're not there....

I'm startled by a knock on the
window , I drop the phone
down on the floor

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INSERT 28

Karabo

I lift my eyes , and I don't know
this man

He's mumbling something , I
cannot make out

I don't waste another second , I
drive off in high speed

I keep checking my mirrors , to
see if he's following me maybe
or what

But I don't see that car , behind
me

I finally arrive home , and
there's no car that's parked
outside

Except the taxis

I lean down on the floor ,
fiddling for the phone that I
dropped

It has slid , but I find it anyways .
I check it , and it's still fine

For some reason that call is cut ,
I don't know if that message
went through or not

I get out of the car , unlocking
the door I get in

And by the look of things , it's
like he's not back home

I heave a sigh , sitting down on
the couch

Reaching for my phone , and I
call him again

Still the same , taking me on
voicemail

Me : Mvelo Phakade , please let
this be the last time I call you

asking.... Actually begging you to come home . You're a grown ass man , and a husband . You shall not serve me this teenage behaviour , like we're kids . I was wrong , and surely sorry can't fix this . Come home let's talk , and if you don't want to talk but you want to sulk then fine . Come home and sulk , I'll also help you and sulk along with you . Because you also didn't feel as your wife I

deserve to know such things
about you , well tough I know
now . So please stop with this
acting out nxn !

I drop the call

I don't know , maybe I'm even
upsetting him right now

First I hinted he might cheat out
there

And now I'm saying he's childish

But I don't care

If he wanted space from me , he
could have gone to another
room

Not completely leave , and have
his phone off that I cannot
reach him

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Mvelo

Barman : here you go , it's on
25% .

I reach for the phone

I didn't even realise , I grabbed
and left home with a phone that
was flat

I had to ask the barman to
charge it for me

Voice : hi handsome ...

I turn my face looking at her ,
she sits down on the chair right
next to me

She flashes a smile

The barman chuckles , I turn my attention back to the phone

I switch it on , and there's like tons of missed calls from my wife

And there's also two messages

I press listening to one , and it's the recent one sent like 30

minutes ago another came
about 55 minutes ago

Karabo : Mvelo Phakade , please
let this be the last time I call you
asking.... Actually begging you
to come home . You're a grown
ass man , and a husband . You
shall not serve me this teenage
behaviour , like we're kids . I
was wrong , and surely sorry
can't fix this . Come home let's
talk , and if you don't want to

talk but you want to sulk then fine . Come home and sulk , I'll also help you and sulk along with you . Because you also didn't feel as your wife I deserve to know such things about you , well tough I know now . So please stop with this acting out nxn !

Her voice sounds so strained

It's without a doubt she has
been crying

I thought she would be asleep
by now

I press listening to the first one

Karabo : Mvelo please.....please
don't do this to me , I'm
roaming around the streets
looking for you . I don't even

know where to look anymore ,
at least tell me you're safe

There's a slight shuffle , and I
can tell she's crying or rather
was when she was sending this

Karabo : no.....no don't tell me
you're safe....come back home ,
come back home . Even if you
don't want to talk , just come
back homethis is how
marriages end , where one

walks out on another . Next
thing you'll end up with another
woman out there....who will
turn into your comfort tonight .
Making you forget of what I did
, don't do that to us . Come
back home , even if you don't
want to talk it's fineI won't
say anything , but come home .
I swear if I return back home
and you're not there....

After just a few meaningless
sounds , the call drops

I'm on my feet in seconds

Barman : let me call you an uber

Me : I'm fine , can't have my
wife thinking I was getting
wasted in a bar . While she's
driving the streets of Joburg ,
looking for me

He chuckles

I hand him a few R200 and R100
notes

Barman : it's a lot....

Me : keep it

He nods with a smile

I rush out , jogging to my car

I get in driving home

Another part of me is scared
now going home

Like what state am I going to
find her in ?

I dial her , and it doesn't even
ring for a second she answers

Me : Mama

She keeps quite

Me : I'm coming home

Still silence

Me : I was at a bar , just had a few beers . I smoked half the time , didn't even drink much .

There was no woman , I didn't betray you or our vows in any way . I'm sorry I'm not home , but I'm coming now . The phone didn't have battery , I asked the Barman to charge it for me

Her silence is not putting me at ease

Me : I'm coming , I'll be home soon . I love you

I drop the call

After a few minutes , I make it home . Her car is parked on the drive way

I get out of the car , slightly knock at the door before I walk in

I can't just budge in

She's laying on the couch ,
covered with a fleece

I'm sure the TV is watching her ,
and not the other way around

I take my sneakers off , she
would kill me walking with them
on her Italian rug

She doesn't even bother looking
at me , as I stand next to her

I take my jacket off , I slide
getting behind her

Karabo : I'm going to fall

Me : this couch is big enough
for the two of us , so you won't

Karabo : just go to bed

Me : I sleep where my wife is at

Karabo : just.....

I hold her right from behind ,
placing a few pecks on the back
of her neck

Me : I'm sorry , I'll never do that
again ever again . I'll never walk
out on you , no matter what

I heave a sigh

Me : don't be scared of me ,
please . I will never hurt you ,
no matter how angry I am . I will
never hurt you , I don't want
you to fear me . My father told
me more than once , that I
should tell you the truth . But I
just couldn't , I told him I won't .
Because I don't want you living
in fear of me , I'm your husband
not some monster you're ought
to fear . That's why I kept this

thing , the whole Nomusa issue . Because you would have wanted to know why , why my own mother gave me away. And I wouldn't lie to you , so I just thought it's just best you don't know any of these things

She sighs

Me : please forgive me

Karabo : forgive me first

I chuckle

Me : that's

Karabo : your forgiveness rely
on that

I slide my hand underneath her
t-shirt , trailing them to her
boobs

Me : mhm....this is therapy ,
way much even better than
forgiveness

She laughs

Me : I love you

Karabo : but you don't forgive
me ? I won't see her again , I
promise I won't . She gave me

an envelope to give to you , and
I said I'll return it back or I'll
burn it . I won't see her again ,
now I know I shouldn't have
done that

I lean over , giving her a kiss
she's not reluctant kissing me
back

Me : I love you

Karabo : I love you

I just want to hold her right now
, all this talk can wait

I could hear how distraught she
was on those messages

And I don't want to be the
reason this woman is ever
hurting

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INSERT 29

Mvelo

She keeps stealing glances at
me

I've long longed to move away
from here

But I don't want a repeat of last
night again

Me : can we talk ?

She looks at me , wiping her hands with the cloth

Karabo : mhm

Me : come sit down

She smiles walking over , she pulls the chair next to me

I turn looking at her

Karabo : I am sorry about going
to meet that woman , like I
really am

I nod

Me : what do you want to know
?

I lift my eyes to hers

Me : are you scared of me ?

She sighs

Karabo : what she told me....I've never heard of such a thing , like not ever . Just tales from the olden days , nothing but tales

Me : but

Karabo : your eyes latelyyou
always being home , it's not like
you

I sigh

Karabo : I'm not saying
anything....but is there any truth
from what she told me ?

Me : she didn't lie

She swallows , and nods way
too much

Me : I will never hurt you , ever .
My father has been pestering
me to tell you the truth , and to
be honest I wasn't . I figured , if
you were to know any of those
things you would be afraid . I
don't want you being scared of
me , I don't want you to look at
me and see some monster .
Something that can just turn on

you the next day , and hurt you like that . I don't want you to be afraid to get me angry , if it ever gets to that point . I don't want you to tip toe around me , asking yourself when I'll snap and cause havoc

I sigh

Me : I don't even want to say , I didn't want you finding out like this because maybe I was going

to tell you in my time . I wasn't going to tell you , but here we are and you know now . It was my job to tell me , and I didn't . I really shouldn't have made it a big deal either , my only fear was seeing you scared of me . This is a lesson learnt , we talk before anyone comes outside . I don't know where it puts us , I don't know if I'm still who you want to be with . Despite how we met , just to save the legacy

of the Phakade's . We did agree to make our marriage work , and at this point you know I love you and I know you love me . We're way past what the coming of us together was about

I get up

Me : until you tell me otherwise , nothing changes between us . I don't know

Karabo : look at me

She gets up , I turn facing her

Karabo : who knows about this
?

Me : my father

Karabo : and no one else in that
house knows ?

Me : they don't , but he was
careless enough and told Thabo

She pops her eyes

Karabo : my.....he knows ?

Me : yeah , but I don't care
about him . Cause he knows
exactly what I'll do to him , if he
starts blabbering nonsense

about me . So I really don't give
a shit that he knows

She tilts her head

Me : what ?

She laughs

Karabo : I saw you with....

Me : mhm-mhm

Karabo : okay fine , what are we going to do about the envelope I told you about ?

Me : I want nothing to do with that woman, or her people for that matter . They want me to take the throne , that's why she's pestering me like this

She gasps

Me : don't get any ideas , I'm not doing that . For years , I've been nothing to them but just a curse . And suddenly today , they have no male figures in their lineage to take over . They remember me the curse ? I want nothing to do with them , this is our lives and who we are . I will take care of our businesses , you take care of the Phakade legacy . I will not

be some god forsaken king , to
people who have never
regarded me as anything . I
don't know them , they don't
know me . My father has always
been my one and only family ,
because I know his wife and
kids don't like me . But I don't
care , at the end of the day your
mother's child is your sibling .
And I know exactly where I am
with them

She walks closer , engulfing me
in a hug

I chuckle smiling

Me : why are you babying me ?
I'm not hurt , I really don't care
about those people . There only
crazy thing about this , it's the
eyes . Mostly winter is the worst
cause of the unstable weather ,
it keeps me unrattled .

Somehow I'm just connected to

nature , in a way that I also don't understand . It's like we're one , and the effects of it do get to me . Spring is also a bit tad somehow , the chirping and all . That's what gets to me , but it's not like I change into some beast or whatever . Just the way I reach to the noises and all , it's what causes the insane changes and causing havoc . Hence my eyes changes to the sessions , mostly in summer and autumn

they remain brown . Just a bit
tad yellowish in spring , and the
blue now in winter

I'm thinking she'll pull off , but
she just holds me tight

Karabo : are we going to have a
normal baby ?

I laugh

Me : yeah , she's going to be
normal

She pulls back with a sigh ,
sulking

I smile smitten

Karabo : he

I peck her lips

Me : mhm ?

Karabo : he

I chuckle

Me : yeshe

She pouts

Karabo : give me a kiss

I lean over for a kiss

Me : you're horny ?

She nods , I chuckle deepening
the kiss picking her up into my
arms

She clings her arms around my
neck , wrapping her legs behind
my back

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Yanga

The way my mother was so
angry

She didn't want me going
anywhere leaving the house

I swear I must be without a job
right now

Without a doubt , I don't see
Karabo keeping me there

Irrespective of the fact that I
was in hospital and hurt

But I didn't spend days there ,
of which I haven't been to work

But what was I supposed to do
?

I messed up big time

And now I'm trying to fix my
mess

Me : take the money

Candy : what is this for Yanga ?

Me : you should really be glad
that I'm standing here , giving

you money instead of putting a
bullet through your skull

She moves back

Me : my child is gone all
because of you , and you think I
want your bastard ?

She shakes her head crying

Candy : I....

Me : go abort that thing

Candy : Yanga no !

Me : I swear , if you keep it I
want nothing to do with it .

Don't even think you'll use it to
soften me up , I don't want you
and I don't want it . So if you
keep it , just know it's all yours

Candy : Yanga you.....

I close the window as she
screams hitting the car window
with her hands

I drive off

If she's as half smart as I think
she is , she will abort that baby
of hers

I want my wife back , and I want my kids

She's blocked me , and her brother warned me badly to stay away from his sister

I have no means to communicate with her , the only option I have is going to her home

I won't tell anyone at home this

Because I know they will not
approve , especially my mother

I swear if she gets her way , she
would rather we part ways as it
is

But I know I wronged Imani ,
not the other way around

So I'll beg her , if I must . I'm not
losing my family like this

I've been stupid , and just a
damn fool

Its true when they say , you
never know what you have until
you lose it

I never used to appreciate my wife , didn't make enough time for her and our kids

I didn't give them all of me , I didn't spend enough on them

Because I shared the other half of myself with women outside my marriage

I shared the money that was
meant to be for my family with
them

And I gave them a way into us

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INSERT 30

Mvelo

She looks at us

I pull a chair for Karabo she sits down , and I sit down next to her

Nomusa : thank you for coming

She takes a sip of her water

Nomusa : I....I am sorry , I didn't mean to cause any problems

Me : you caused no problems whatsoever , maybe you did me a favour exposing exactly who I am to my wife . But I don't know what were you hoping for , telling her that nonsense . Stay away from her , and for the last time stay away from me . I want nothing to do with you and your

kingdom , take your envelope and leave . It's stupid to actually expect me to go back there , to the very same people who call me a curse just because I'm born different to them . Blood is only red , there's absolutely nothing special about you royal people

She sighs

Me : leave , and don't come
back again . I have a life , I have
never needed you . You never
needed me , until now . You
cast me out , and now I'm
suddenly good enough for you
people . Well you can all just go
fu....

Karabo holds my hand , I look at
her she shakes her head

I sigh

Me : fine , Nomusa just stay away from us okay ? I could actually care less what happens to you or your kingdom . I'm no king , but a taxi driver . That's me , that's who I am

I get up

Me : give her the envelope , I'll be in the car

She nods

I lean down , pecking her cheek
. She lets go of my hand

I walk away going out , heading
to the car

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Karabo

Nomusa : please talk to him

I sigh , taking the envelope out
of my bag

I place it on the table , pushing it to her

Nomusa : Karabo please.....

Me : I made a great mistake meeting with you , but in a way I'm glad I did . Cause it just made me know my husband even better , and know things that made me understand things better . But this is as far as this goes , you heard him . He

doesn't want anything , and I'm not getting involved . I'm supporting him in everything , even if it's staying away from you . I am not a mother yet , and maybe I don't understand where you're coming from exactly. But I'm a wife , and my place is with my husband . You could have tried harder all those years , maybe you should have taken your baby and ran away with him . But you chose

your people over him , now this is what it has come to . And I might say , woman to woman . You're very selfish , and inconsiderate . You're expecting him to now come save your kingdom , the very same kingdom that casted him out . You're selfish , and you're after him now so you can use him to your benefit . But I can still commend you for giving him away , sparing his life .

She tears up , and I can't stay
here any longer

I get up

Me : please do stay away from
him , it's only right to do so just
like you have done all those
years that you found him as a
grown ass teenager , you said
he wanted nothing to do with

you then . And now , he's a man
so he certainly doesn't . You're
hurting yourself , and just
causing us disruptions in our
lives

Nomusa : Karabo please

I grab my bag , walking out

I go to the car , and he's leaning
against it

I can tell he was smoking

Me : I'm hungry

Mvelo : are you sure you're not pregnant ?

I laugh

He just wants to torment me

Me : no I'm not

Mvelo : should we go see a
doctor ?

Me : no we shouldn't

He laughs

I probably am , but I don't want
to know

Cause I know my time with him
will be cut short

Someone is even going to take
over our bed

No !

I don't want to know that

Mvelo : okay , what are you
eating ?

Having steak or ribs would do
right now

But knowing the situation , I'll
rather we're home

So he can be himself , away
from noises and all

Me : can't you ask Luba to bring
meat ?

He smiles

Mvelo : okay

He opens the door for me , I get in he goes into his side and gets in driving home

I don't know if this is the right thing , him walking away from Nomusa and this

But I'll support him in whatever
, so if years down the line he
chooses to change how he feels
now

I'll still be there supporting him

For now , I'm letting it be just as
he is

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Yanga

Vika : he's going to flip

I put my keys on the table

Me : what's going on ?

They both turn and look at me

Me : what's that ?

I point to the paper Sabelo is
holding

Sabelo : where were you ?

Me : uhm....out

They look at each other

Me : what's going on ?

Vika : you....it's for you

Sabelo : sorry we opened it

I take it from him , and my eyes
land on the divorce word

Me : she's divorcing me ?

Voice : and you should just give
her that divorce , and fight for
custody on your kids

It's my mother saying walking in

Me : why did you open this
knowing it's not for you

Sabelo : okay , take that anger
and....

Me : you had no fucking right !

I walk away from them

My heart paining , I cannot
believe she's doing this

I'm willing to beg for her
forgiveness

After all these years , she just
can't give up on our marriage
and family like this

I'm not signing these damn papers , I'm going to fight for my family

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Mvelo

Karabo : please answer your
phone

She says with a sleepy voice

I sigh reaching for the phone

Me : Phakade

Dad : I'm sorry to call you this
late

Me : what is it ?

Dad : do you think you can
come talk to your brother
tomorrow ?

Me : who ?

Dad : Yanga , see what's the
time ? I found him in his car
crying

I shake my head annoyed

Me : no , I won't come

Dad : Mvelo please.....Imani served him and he's not taking it well

Me : I'm not getting involved , I don't want it to seem like I'm supporting Yanga with his

cheating ways . I wasn't there when he couldn't be loyal to his wife , so don't put me in that position . I have a wife , what will she say about this ? I'm saying my brother did well , meaning I'm capable of putting her through the same

He sighs

Me : I don't understand why you're always trying to force me

on your sons , Vika and Sabelo
will talk to him . And please ,
don't call me again at this time
unless you're dying

I drop the call

Turning over , she snuggles
closer

I chuckle

Me : Imani is divorcing Yanga

Karabo : good for her , and she should keep her kids and take him to court for maintenance

Okay !

Karabo : men who cheat deserve to be castrated

What the hell ?

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INSERT 31

Yanga

Themba : what do you want ?

Me : I know Imani is here , can I please see her ?

I'm at her parents home

I called her cousins I could think of

And no one knew anything

So that just left one place ,
where she could be at

And I didn't want to come here

But I had to

I didn't sleep last night , she's
blocked me so I don't have a
way to communicate with her .
Clearly she's distancing herself
from me

I miss her , I miss our kids I just want her back

I want us to fix things

Themba : do you understand that you're no longer a son in-law in this house ?

So even her family know she's filed for divorce

But until all that is finalized , I
am still her husband . And I'm
not going to sign those papers

That won't happen

Me : yes , I...I just want to.....

Themba : if she doesn't want to
see you , fuck off or else I'll
blow your brains out

He turns walking back inside the house , I stand by the gate

I can't believe I'm being threatened by some low life township thug

This is what I'm just degraded to , just to beg my wife

After a while she comes out

And to be honest , she looks
way so much better than I
thought she is

Me : hi

Imani : take the papers to the
lawyer Yanga , not me

Her tone is down

Me : baby please , not like this .
I'm not giving up on our family ,
I want you and the kids back . I
know I messed up , but I'll make
this right . I'll get my act
together , and I'll.....

Imani : listen , I loved you . I
stayed home did everything a
wife could ever do for her
husband , I gave you two
handsome boys . I cooked for
you , and I gave you sex even

when I wasn't in the mood or I was tired . But I knew I was a wife , and I fulfilled my duties . And how did you thank me ? You went out there , cheated on me and worse brought a bastard child . I won't let you degrade me , I won't depress myself . I won't question what I did to make you cheat , or what I lacked . Because I know , I gave you my all . And if it's beauty , I can't do anything to look like

your slay queens . This is me ,
and I know I'm damn beautiful .
I guess I just wasn't enough for
you , and this marriage wasn't
meant to be . I won't forgive
cheating , I don't care what you
say . Because if I did the same ,
you would never forgive me too
. So let's not try and make me
feel like I'm desperate , or
there's no life without you . The
fact that you cheated on me ,
means I've been a fool long

enough . I won't be one any longer , sticking in a marriage knowing I've been shown I'm not woman enough .

She takes a sigh

Imani : I won't be spiteful and deprive you of your kids , they need their father . And I won't use them to fight you , but don't force my hand to take custody of them . Respect my

decision , and leave me alone . I don't want anything from the divorce , because I came with nothing . I want to leave with nothing , I'll work for my things now . Support your kids if you want , and if you don't the law will remind you that you couldn't use a condom and it'll be a must to support them . Sign those papers , or I'll divorce you either way without your signature . I hope you

know that's very much possible
, so please don't give me drama
. I want us to part ways without
any court battles , don't ever
come here again . You're
disrespecting my father , this is
his home and not mine

She turns walking back

My throat is cloaked , I can't
even say anything

I just watch her as she walks
inside the house , closing the
door

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Mvelo

Dad : she knows ?

He asks shocked

Me : you must be happy

He laughs

Dad : I don't want to believe
that you actually listened to me
, and told her

Me : I didn't

Dad : don't tell me it was Thabo

He sighs

Me : it was your ex girlfriend

Dad : what ?

I nod

Me : I'm relieved in a way that
it's out

Dad : wait....how did Nomusa
get to tell her ?

Me : she reached out to her ,
and they met she told her

Dad : that damn woman ! How
did Karabo take all of that ? Are
you two okay ?

Me : we're okay , she was
scared though the day she
heard about it . But we spoke
the next day , and she actually
took it way much better than I
could have thought

He sighs

Dad : you're sure that you're
okay ?

I chuckle

Me : yes we're okay , but you
can ask her if you don't believe
me

He smiles

Dad : you should buy me a
bottle because son , I actually
found you a wife

We laugh

Me : give yourself credit ndoda ,
that's as far as it goes with me

He pats my shoulder

Dad : I am glad this is out of the way though , and next time be the one to tell your wife things

I nod

Me : yeah , I learnt my lesson

And I'm relieved also that this is out

Because now , we can focus on other things . Without this hovering over our heads

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Karabo

He flips over , handing me my phone

Me : I don't know this number

He chuckles

Mvelo : please answer your phone , before you start with your nonsense again

I gasps

Mvelo : don't even , I haven't forgotten how clicked your tongue on me

I frown

Trying to remember , like when
did I do that ?

Am I even capable of doing that
? And like to him even

Mvelo : the day you left me
those voicemail messages

Oh shucks !

I answer the call

Me : hello ?

Voice : Karabo...you're talking to
Imani

The shock !

Me : oh...uhm hi

Imani : I am sorry to bother you

Me : it's okay

Imani : I know this is probably not how things are done , but is it possible to schedule an appointment with you for tomorrow possibly ?

Me : appointment ?

Imani : at the office

Me : oh...is everything okay ? I mean if you need to talk about something , we can just meet and talk there's no need to set up an appointment . Unless it's nothing personal

Imani : yes it's not personal , I know I should be calling your PA . But I don't know who exactly to call , to be directed

This is strange

Me : it's okay , no I understand .
I'll check my schedule
tomorrow , and I'll get back to
you . If there's an opening , I'll
see you

Imani : thank you so much ,
once again I'm sorry

Me : no problem

Imani : bye , thank you for your
time

She drops the call

Mvelo : was that an estranged
baby mama ?

I look at him with a frown

Me : try me

He laughs , pulling me down
placing his lips on mine

We kiss

His hands trail on my ass cheeks

I lift my ass up a bit , he slides
his dick inside of me

I let out a moan in his mouth

Me : that was Imani ...she wants
to see me

He pulls out of the kiss

Mvelo : why ?

Me : beats me , I just hope it's
not drama again . I can't take
that

He chuckles , bringing me down
as he starts thrusting in

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INSERT 32

Karabo

Me : hi

She smiles

Me : sorry my meeting ran
longer

Imani : I haven't been waiting
long

Me : you look good

Imani : thank you

I pull my chair sitting down

Me : uhm we.....

A knock comes at the door

Me : sorry....come in

The receptionist walks in , with
a bouquet of red roses

Lindi : Mrs Phakade , sorry to
disturb . You have a delivery

Me : thank you

She brings them to me , I take
the roses

She walks out

Me : uhm...sorry about this

Imani : it's okay

I take the card , and lord they
smell so good

And what do you know ?

They're from the husband

I smile , just not being able to
hold myself

I don't even remember when
last did I receive flowers

I place them next to me on the
desk , looking at Imani and just
seeing her face

She's even looking down

Poor woman !

Me : so what brings you by ?

She clears her throat , lifting her head

Imani : I have filed for divorce ,
and Yanga has been served

Me : oh wow !

I want to cheer her right now

But after that reaction , I know
she's still hurting

And that's understandable

These two have been married
for years , and they have kids
together

So clearly the separation , is still
a thing she's processing

And it can't be easy

Imani : I've been a house wife
ever since I got married , I've
never even held a single job
post so it's been years

I nod , just waiting to hear
where she's heading with this

Imani : I told him I want to part ways peacefully , and I want nothing from him . He just has to support his kids , and that's all . And this has been an eye opener for me , that now I need to stand on my own . I also need to hold a job , just in case I have to drag him to court for maintenance . He will be given a certain amount to pay , and I'll also be expected to chip in on

that . But that won't be possible without a job

I think I understand now

Me : what qualifications do you have ?

Imani : I have a degree in Human Resources , and I know you're probably not looking for someone right now . I also don't

want favours or being felt pity
at , I just want to hand my CV
out just in case something
comes up

I nod slowly

Me : but why here ? You know
he's the Marketing Director
here , will you be able to work
in the same space with him ?
Also the women he's been
fooling with , they're right here .

Will you be able to handle seeing them ? Knowing they're probably gossiping about you , and laughing behind your back

She sighs

Me : I'm sorry , but I just have to ask . Because if there was a chance you could work here , I wouldn't want any drama . Or find you crying in your office or toilets , just because you're talk

of the company . Or you and Yanga just making headlines everyday , bringing your issues to work .

I lean back on my chair

Me : I'll be honest with you , I could care less about that this is a family company . I'm a Phakade by name , and the only reason I strive this much for this company it's for my kids and

nothing else . Because I hold no part in this legacy , but my kids will . You already have kids in that family , so yes you have as much right being a part of this for your kids . Between me and you , I can only take so much from Yanga . So you're the one who has to look out for those boys , but can I trust you to put issues aside and just do what you came here to do ?

Imani : I hear you , and like I said I'm standing up now and it's for my kids . I believe I wasted my life and years , being a wife to Yanga that I lost myself . So it's not about me anymore , but them . They deserve this me now as their mother , and not Yanga's wife

Me : can I see your Cv ?

She opens her bag taking it out ,
handing it to me

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Yanga

I place the picture down

I had it all

The wife , the kids . Just a great
amazing family

And I ruined it all

And all for what ?

I don't know , because fucking around definitely wasn't worth loosing my family

Not like this

And I would rather not be here ,
than to sign those divorce papers

She has made it clear , I can't
say nor do anything that can fix
this

I take bottle of pills , pouring
the whole lot in the water

I wait for about 5 minutes , and
they've dissolved

I take the glass , looking at the
perfect family picture

Me : I am sorry

I drink the whole thing , laying
down on the bed closing my
eyes

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Mvelo

Me : dad

He looks at me , and I see just
how strained he looks

My anger just rises , and I'm
trying so hard to control myself
right now

Dad : you...you came ?

He looks at me with emotional
eyes

Me : what happened ?

He heaves a sigh shaking his head

I lead him to the waiting chairs , we sit down next to each other

Dad : you know last night , we went to bed okay . This morning we went about with our business , until Wanda called Sabelo during the day that she hasn't seen him

He sighs rubbing his eyes

Dad : since the divorce thing ,
he's been isolating himself
staying away from everyone . So
it wasn't a shock that he wasn't
at breakfast , we don't even
bother to check on him or ask
him to come join us anymore .
But the day went by , and I
guess Wanda got worried . She
called Sabelo , he went home

reluctantly . When he got there
, his door was locked . He broke
it down , and he was just laying
there on the bed with foam
everywhere and a bottle of pills
empty and a glass

That boy better be dead , and
do us all a favour

Dad : the doctors haven't said
anything , he dissolved the pills .
So they were quick to spread

around his body , and it'll probably take them a while to pump them out

He looks at me

Dad : at this point , I don't even know if he'll make it or not

I dart my eyes away from him , because I'm just getting angry seeing how broken he is

Dad : I don't know where I went wrong with that boy , like I don't know what kind of punishment is this from the universe . There isn't anything I haven't done , and didn't do for my kids . But thiseven for a man it's too much . I don't understand why would Yanga want to put us through this , all because of a broken marriage

I close my eyes for a few
seconds

My father is hurting , and I've
never seen him like this or
heard him sound in this manner

When a man starts doubting his
abilities as a father

Wondering where he went
wrong with his kids

Yet deep down he knows very well that he did the best he could

And asking himself such questions , as if he's a failure to his family and kids

You must know that he has reached a point

And that's where he is right

now

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INSERT 33

Karabo

Me : sorry I'm looking for.....

I see him sitting by the waiting
chairs

Me : never mind , thank you

I rush to him , he has his head
bowed down

Me : baby

He lifts his head and looks at me

I have never seen his eyes this
intense blue

He gets up

I give him a hug

Me : I came as soon as I could , I
had crazy back to back meetings
. And the weather is just insane

, it's like there's a storm coming
. So it's chaos on the roads , and
the traffic officers are just trying
to control the traffic to avoid
accidents I guess

Mvelo : you're here safe

He pulls back

Me : what happened ? Has the
doctors said anything ?

Mvelo : that fool bumped pills
and tried to kill himself

Something is not right here

I hear what he's saying , but the
way he's looking and sounding
he's not himself

Mvelo : the doctor just left the
room a few minutes ago

Me : you....you haven't seen him ?

Mvelo : he's there with everyone

Me : you're here too , you should go see him

He sighs

Me : I don't know for what either , because I know you're not best friends . But you're here , and if not for Yanga then for Phakade at least

Mvelo : sit down with me for a few minutes

We sit down , I snuggle to him placing my head on his chest

Mvelo : you're shivering

Me : the weather is bad outside
, I tried the heater in the car but
I don't think it did me better

He rubs my arm

Mvelo : I don't want you getting
sick , we should go home

Me : let's go see Yanga first

He sighs , I laugh

He's not getting off this one

Mvelo : okay

We get up , and walk to where
his ward is at

I open the door , and they all
turn looking at me

You can't miss how the mother
is annoyed

But she can wait a bit

As Mvelo walks in , a wave of
cold air comes through

I shiver like I'm getting chills

Me : sorry to just come in

Phakade smiles

Phakade : don't be silly , come
in

I look at Yanga on the bed , and
he's not hooked on any
machines

Phakade : the doctor said he
will be awake soon

Me : that's....some great news

I turn looking at Mvelo

He just passes me and walks
further in , heading to the bed

Mvelo : stupid....stupid boy !

I don't know what happened

But out of nowhere , the bed
just fly's through , on the side
hitting the wall

Windows shutter

There's screams , and just loud
noises . As wind just blows crazy
in the room

It's terrifying to be honest

I am down on the floor , with
my hands covering my ears my
eyes closed

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Mvelo

As soon as my eyes land on her ,
everything calms down

I'm next to her in seconds ,
holding her in my hands

As the door opens nurses and
doctors rushing in

There's just loud noises

She pulls back slowly , and looks
around with tears streaming
down her face

My heart breaks looking at her

She looks at me , and gets up

Now I'm sure I've done it

I look down , still crouching
down

I see her hand in front of me

I lift my eyes , and she's looking
at me holding her hand out

I take it , and gets up

Karabo : let's go out

She whispers

I dart my eyes seeing the nurses
and doctors , attending to
Yanga

We walk out

And heading to the exit in
silence

We keep getting eyes and
stares

I'm sure it's because people saw
we're coming from the floor
that had commotion

We get outside , and the
weather is bad

The wind is blowing like crazy ,
and the clouds are just dark

We get to the car she came with , she opens the back door

I get in saying nothing as she gets in as well

She locks the doors

Karabo : please hold me

I say nothing bringing her closer
to me , I kiss the top of her head

She holds me tight , laying her
head on my chest

I take deep breaths , just trying
to calm down

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Karabo

I saw this , like lord I saw it

Those eyes !

And I even spoke about the
weather changing to him

But it didn't even hit me that
he's the cause

No ways !

Something is wrong with me

It's calm now , and I swear it all
seems like a lie

Mvelo : I'm sorry

I take a deep breath

The way that bed just flew
along with Yanga , hitting the
wall

I swear he has broken
something right now

There's no way that he didn't

A knock comes on the window

I lift my eyes , and it's Phakade

I move back from Mvelo , and
open the door

Phakade : is everything okay ? I thought you left

Me : is he okay ? I don't think they'll welcome us back in there

He sighs

Phakade : it's been three hours , and they can't speak shit about nothing no one knows . They've moved him into another ward

He looks at Mvelo

Me : I.....I think we'll just go
home

Mvelo : I want to talk to him

I pop my eyes looking at him

Mvelo : I won't hurt him

Me : uhm.....

No !

This is not a good idea at all

Phakade : just three minutes ,
before visiting hours are over

Is he being for real ?

I would be keeping Mvelo far
away from Yanga if I was
Phakade

Mvelo : are you coming ?

I'm shaking right now

Mvelo : I promise , I won't hurt
him

Lord send help , and save us all

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INSERT 34

Karabo

We walk in , and eyes dart to us

I'm saying a slight prayer in my heart

Because we all need it

Mrs Phakade : what is he doing in here ?

Phakade : stop !

She gets on her feet , but as soon as Mvelo looks her way

She looks down

He walks towards the bed again

And this time , I'm right behind
him

Can he just not flow people out
of windows , or worse this roof
fly's off

Mvelo : vuka (wake up)

There's no movement , he takes
the glass next to the bed
landing a slap on Yanga's face

Me : Mvelo.....

I whisper , I don't even want to
look at his family

He pours the whole glass of
water on Yanga's face

I have my hand covering my
face

I said , if I was Phakade I would
keep Mvelo far away from
Yanga

What's this ?

But Yanga gasps , letting out a slight cough as the water hits his face

Mvelo : you're seriously starting to get under my skin , and it's annoying me . Why are you so pathetic ?

Yanga looks at his brother

Mvelo : you want to kill yourself just because a woman left you ? The very same woman who put her life on hold for you , yet you still cheated on her . Today you want to act and seek attention , stop acting for us . If you loved Imani half as you claim , you wouldn't have hurt her . Now stop this nonsense you're doing , who must always come running to the hospital all because of you ? Yanga you're

embarrassing yourself , you
have kids but you clearly don't
even give a damn about them .
Because you're ready to kill
yourself for a woman , you
don't care to live for your kids .
You should be ashamed of
yourself , because this right now
is exactly the kind of a father
your kids are going to
remember having

This is the first time I see Yanga
cry , or even hear Mvelo spit
any kinds of words to his
brother

And in front of the family

His hands reaches to his back ,
and I remember that this man
has a gun

What do you know ?

He pulls it out , Wanda let's out
a scream

Mrs Phakade : Phakade if your
son dares kills my son

Mvelo turns , I don't move an
inch

But the room goes all silent

He turns back looking at the
crying Yanga

Mvelo : you want to die right ?

He holds the gun

Mvelo : here , take this it won't
spare you . Point exactly here ,
and pull the trigger

He is aiming the gun , against
his head

I swear Mvelo is going to give
me a heart attack one of these
days

Mvelo : and you will definitely
die , don't shoot any other
place . Blow your brains , and
it'll be the end . Spare us all this
nonsense you're busy doing ,
because it's annoying . Clearly

this life is too massive for you to handle , that you don't see how important it is to walk away from this divorce with intent and lessons . Pick yourself up , support your kids make sure they're well taken care of . Build them a home , one they can call their own . Because you two can still find other people to be with , but those kids cannot find other parents . But no ! You're

not even thinking about that ,
so do us all a favour

He places the gun in Yanga's
hand , and the poor guy is
terrified

Mvelo : I'm giving you 5
minutes to kill yourself , and
after 5 minutes I'm taking my
gun and leaving . Try your
stunts again , I won't spare you .

Best believe , I will snap your
neck with my bare hands

He moves back , until he bumps
into me

He takes my hand , excusing
himself to the window

He stands there taking out a
cigarette , and he smokes

I don't think it's allowed to
smoke in a hospital ward

But oh well !.

Who's going to tell him

A loud cry is what gets my eyes
off Mvelo

And it's Yanga , no like he's
really tearing up

The gun still in his hands

Not his mother crying too ,
looking at her son

But I guess I can understand

I look at Mvelo and he's looking
at the time , I swear there's no
man that's chilled like him in
this room

He walks over , I guess the 5 minutes has passed

He walks to the bed , and doesn't even bother looking at Yanga

Mvelo : stop acting , you don't want to die .

He takes his gun from him , and
places it back on his back

Mvelo : mama let's go

He takes my hand , and we walk
out

I let out the breath I've been
holding on

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Mvelo

I take the lotion applying it on
her feet

Massaging her ankles

Me : stop with the moans

Karabo : mhm....please let me
be , I am releasing everything of
today . I have never seen such
drama and action in my life

Me : I'll leave you , cause I'm
not standing for this

She sighs

Karabo : Mvelo are you not
tired , like haven't you been
mean and savage enough today
?

Me : savage

I laugh

Karabo : no come on , you're not being nice to me right now . I swear when God casted men out into the world , he took a look at me and was like "I'll deal you an all in one kind of a man"

She says with a funny voice , I can't help but just laugh

Karabo : as if I said I need an all in one , I swear the me's in my past lives didn't know how they really wanted to live

What the hell ?

Me : but are you not mocking me , when you call me an all in one ?

She opens her one eye

Karabo : you're still mine , it's fine

No it's not fine

She's basically saying I'm all kinds of different men in one

Meaning I'm insane also

Me : oh

Karabo : are you not ?.

Me : mhm

She lifts her head

Karabo : are you not mine ?

I smile , seeing she's about to
sulk

Me : I am all yours

She giggles

Karabo : which is why baby ,
we're never finding out if we're
pregnant or not . Because once
that happens , I am going to
have depressing thoughts . Just
the thought of you now being
ours , oh Jesus !

She sighs laying her head back
on the couch

I smile smitten

I swear this one is already
pregnant , and she feels it too

The way she's so dramatic

But I know , she's going to be
the best mother ever

And our kids are going to be very blessed , to have her as their mother

I just can't wait , until we have those little Phakade's running around in this house

Driving us insane and all

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INSERT 35

TWO YEARS LATER

Karabo

We walk in

I put my bag on the desk , she
pulls the chair

Imani : that went great I would
say

I nod with a smile

Feeling a bit slightly dizzy

Imani : wait....are you okay ?

Me : mhm-mhm

I nod , placing my hand over my mouth

Imani : do you need anything , water maybe ?

She's panicking

It finally comes down , I take my blazer off

Me : don't worry I'm fine , was just feeling a bit nauseas

Imani : oh okay , you should sit down

I pull the chair sitting down

Imani : I know you've been working a lot the past week , for the tender . But do you think

maybe this could be more than
just fatigue

I smile , grabbing my bag taking
the pills out

Me : I live off this , it was just a
crazy morning I didn't take my
dose

She gasps in shock

Imani : what ?

I nod , taking two pills out

Imani : oh my God !

She walks over to the small desk
, and brings me a glass of water

Me : thank you

She sits down

I drink the pills

Imani : bhuti Mvelo must be
happy

Me : he doesn't know

Imani : you planning to surprise
him ?

I sigh

Me : I don't know how he's going to feel , the twins are only two . And we're already expecting another baby

Imani : I understand , but I'm sure they're all going to be happy about the new addition

Me : yeah

Things happened

Imani and I are very close now ,
she's been working here for two
years

And she's just an amazing
person to be honest

A total different Imani I thought
I knew at the Phakade home

Me : you'll be giving the boys a sibling soon ?

She laughs

Imani : I am not there yet

Me : Lesego is a good man

Imani : I know , but maybe in the coming years

My girl found love , and she's
happy

I so approve of the new found
love , it's been over a year now

And she deserves this happiness

I don't know if it's meant to last
or what

But for now she's happy

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Yanga

I turn over , picking my phone

I check the time , and sigh
sitting up straight

I dial her number , it rings a few
times before she answers

Imani : hello

Me : mamabo

She laughs

Imani : dude what do you want
? And why are you still asleep at
this time ?

Me : it was a rough night , I'll be
going to the hotel in a few

Imani : alright , what's up ?

I can tell she's walking , because there's the sound of her heels

Me : where are you going ?

Imani : leaving the office , I'm running a meeting for Karabo

Me : oh okay

She laughs

Imani : not that you needed to know

I chuckle

Me : stop throwing shade at me

Imani : fine !

Me : when are you free ? I want us to talk , about the boys

Imani : possibly not today

Me : why not after your meeting ?

Imani : because I have a date

Me : mxm , call me tomorrow

She laughs

Imani : you're so bitter , get out
of bed and go to work

Me : mhm , bye

Imani : you're so sour

Me : all thanks to you

Imani : you're welcome

Me : kiss my boys for me ,
before you go kissing men

She burst out , I chuckle
dropping the call

I shake my head getting out of
bed

We're in a good space now

And I never thought we would
get here

After that hospital ordeal , I
knew I had to get my shit
together

I signed the divorce papers , we
agreed on visitations with the
boys

I resigned from the company ,
after she got the job

I started my own business , a
hotel restaurant

It's just over a year , and it's
doing well

We have a great co parenting
relationship , we get along

To a point that we can actually
call each other , and just talk
even if it's not about the boys

I've put dating on hold , it just
didn't work out for me

Because I kept looking for Imani
in every woman I met

So I ditched that , and kept on
to just fucking around

So far so good , and I don't want
to ruin anything

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Mvelo

I place my car keys on the table

It's too quiet

And it's like I'm lost in a house I
don't know

It definitely cannot be this quite
in my house

Me : auntie

I say walking in the kitchen

She looks at me

Me : where are they ?

Auntie : in their room , I'm making them snacks just something light . So they won't be trouble before dinner

Me : okay thank you

I walk upstairs , even in their room it's so quite

I open the door slowly , and they're laying down on the floor

I peek through , and they have
their mothers tablet

I shake my head

Me : uzonishaya (she's going to
hit you)

They turn rattled looking at me

MJ : baba (daddy)

His sister smiles

Me : girl , I love you . But I'm
not dying for you tonight

I laugh walking out , and you
think they'll get up and put the
tablet away

No !

I peek through , and they're
back on the floor again

I chuckle taking my phone
making a call

Phakeme : nduna (boss)

Me : can you talk ?

I hear him moving away from
the noise

Phakeme : I don't know if it's fulfilling , or even half of what you hoped to find

I sigh

He's not giving me much hope right now

Me : what did you find ?

Phakeme : I found a guy , but
he's in Lesotho

Me : I'm listening

I get to our bedroom sitting
down

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INSERT 36

Karabo

I walk in , taking my heels off

I place them next to door on the
floor

I look up , and the way it's so
quite

One wouldn't believe there's
someone in this house

And why is Mvelo's son holding
my expensive remote in his
hand

Brother man is watching TV in
silence , like lord !

Honestly I don't believe that
these kids of his are normal

I don't care what he says

They're only two , but they act
like they're old

It just doesn't make sense

Me : MJ uphi ubabakho ?
(where is your father?)

He looks at me , and saying
nothing he turns sliding down
the couch

I look at his feet , and sigh in
relief

At least there are no tiny
sneakers on my rug

He's just in socks

MJ : sabona mama ka baba
(hello daddy's mommy)

I smile , lazily laughing

Me : sawubona Phakade (hello)

I lean down giving him a kiss

Me : uphi ubabakho ? (Where is
your father)

MJ : uno nana (he's with the baby)

I nod , feeling defeated

He walks back to the couch

Me : of course he's with the baby , and I don't know what you are

I wonder if he looks at his sister
, and sees her as a baby

And he looks at himself , and
sees what?

I mean are they not the same
age , and height ?

I wish I can be one of them ,
even just for a day

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Mvelo

She places the plates down

I can see she's tired

I don't understand why she
overworks herself like this

Me : come here

She walks over , I take her hand

Me : let's go to bed

Karabo : you going to give me a rub ?

I laugh

Me : yes

I can see she's tired , so I do my part where I can . She should rest , especially in her condition

Me : can you take a few days off work ?

She smiles

Karabo : mhm.....why ?

She asks so curiously

Me : because I want us to go to Lesotho , with the twins

She frowns

Karabo : what ?

Me : you need the break

Karabo : yes in Paris

I chuckle

Karabo : baby , who do you
know in Lesotho ?

Me : no one

Karabo : why Lesotho and not even KZN ?

Me : who do you know in Paris ?

Karabo : probably no one , but that's not the point

Me : there's tons of other Africans in Lesotho , trust me you'll enjoy yourself . The time will do you good , the Maluti mountains are therapeutic . And Maseru is a very nice place

Karabo : nice place....just listen to yourself . People use horses there as means of transportation , and they wear blankets and boots in the heat .

Like what....are you trying to
traumatize my kids

I laugh

I have never met a woman
dramatic as mine

Me : mama , can you get those
days ?

Karabo : yeah , but yhoh ! For
Lesotho

I laugh

Karabo : I need to tell you
something

I pull her closer leaning down ,
taking her lips into mine

Karabo : we're pregnant again

She mumbles through the kiss

Me : I know

Karabo : it's too soon , and we didn't plan.....wait what ?

She pulls out of the kiss looking into my eyes

Me : I said I know

Karabo : yeah but like
how....cause I didn't..

She sighs

Me : I nudded in there , so I
know

Karabo : Mvelo did you get me
pregnant deliberately ?

I chuckle

Me : no

As if I would ever admit to that

Me : we're both just fertile

Karabo : too fertile we make
babies in doubles , I so hope it's
one this time around

I wouldn't mind there's two
again

Me : let's go sleep , we'll go see
a doctor

I carry her into my arms ,
walking upstairs

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Karabo

After a few rings she answers

Imani : good morning

Me : it's a good one

She laughs

Me : I am going to bother you ,
I'm coming in late

Imani : okay

Me : just read my emails now , I see the meeting went well . So big ups on that , keep it up and you'll score yourself a promotion woman

We laugh

Imani : well I am just learning from the best

At this pace , she will be my
second in command

And we'll take Phakade legacy
to new heights

We're doing this for our kids

Phakade sons couldn't , even
though their father had laid out
the foundation for them

We'll do it for ours

Me : we're going to the doctor

She laughs

Imani : you finally told him ?

Me : last night , but of course
he knew

Imani : nothing ever passes that
man of yours

Me : I think I need to make
peace with that , I'll relieve you
when I come in . Three hours
max will do

Imani : not a problem , I'll knock
off earlier . Yanga asked to meet

I laugh

Me : don't give him the coochie

We laugh

Imani : we're so not there , he doesn't even seem keen on bringing the boys a step mother any time soon

Me : that's not happening as long as he's still hung up on you

Imani : too bad for him

Mvelo walks down , placing a
kiss on my cheek

Me : we'll talk later

Imani : bye

We hang up

Mvelo : you ready ?

I nod

Mvelo : let's go

Me : were you serious about
Lesotho ?

He chuckles

Mvelo : yes , we'll get those two
passports after seeing the
doctor

I thought this would be some
bad joke

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INSERT 37

Yanga

She puts her glass of wine down

She's in bum shorts , and a vest
walking barefoot

Me : you look good

She smiles , pulling the chair
besides me she sits down

Imani : how's the business ?

Me : good that's why I asked we
meet

Imani : I thought you said it's
about the boys

I chuckle

Me : it is , I've generated enough . And I want to increase the maintenance money with R3 000

Imani : oh ? But I'm not complaining about the 5K

Me : I know , I could settle for the 5K because I was busy doing something else . Now that it's finished , I can spare the money

and contribute it to something
else

Imani : wow , thank you . The 8K
will be more than enough

Me : so I bought a house

She smiles

Imani : what....that's like
amazing

Me : it's not for me , I'm still staying at my apartment . It's for them

Imani : them ?

I sigh with a nod

Me : I failed to give our kids a home when we were still together , honestly I don't know

what I was thinking . That we'll stay in my parents house , until we're all old . But now I want to fix all of that , for them . The deed of the house is in their names , you can move in with them . I just want them to have a home they can call their own , because in case you get married and have other kids . I don't want them to feel somehow , that they don't have a home they can call their own

She gets all emotional

And I feel like the man I'm
working on being right now

Is the kind of a husband she
wanted , and looked for all
these years

And I failed her , I couldn't be
that husband

It surely didn't need a lot , just
to act right and I would still
have my family

Imani : they'll be so happy , I
know I'm happy for them . And I
get to live rent free

We laugh

I shake my head slowly

Me : here are the keys , I don't knowyou'll change if there's something you don't like

She gets up walking to my side

Imani : get up , give me a hug don't be so uptight

I get up , we hug

Imani : thank you so much , our kids are blessed to have a father like you

If only I could turn the hands of time

Imani : Karabo said I shouldn't give you the coochie , let's not get too comfortable

She laughs pulling out of the hug

Me : uMaPhakade is always against me , now she's pussy blocking me

She laughs hitting my chest

Me : where is your ring ?

She walks over taking her glass
of wine taking a sip

Imani : I've never seen you
taken that ring off

Me : heyI asked you a
question

Imani : dude I sold it

What the fuck !

Something is definitely wrong
with women

Me : for how much ?

Imani : like 45K

Me : what ? That ring was 95K

She laughs

Imani : I know , the guy robbed me

Me : we should go get change

I grab my keys

Imani : or just get my ring back

I turn laughing

Me : for what ? You just love
hurting me

She laughs

Imani : bye , thank you for
buying us a house

Me : it's not yours

I shout from the lounge , going
out I get into my car

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Mvelo

Me : how are you holding up ?

He chuckles

Dad : I'm okay

He puts MJ down

Dad : your kids are very strange

Me : ey....not your too , my wife will flip . But she always says the same thing , I think they're fine though . They're normal , like there's nothing wrong with them . They don't just like acting like kids , or being babied

He laughs

We sit down

Dad : they're kids , they're supposed to be babied . And what's a kid not acting like a kid ?

Me : give it up ndoda , they're just like that

He chuckles

Dad : when last did you speak to your brother ?

Me : a few days ago , last month
he wanted me hooking him up
with an estate agent

Dad : for what ?

Me : said he's buying his boys a
house

He nods with a smile

And I can see he's pleased

Me : he's stepping up

Dad : if I knew all it would take ,
was you manhandling that boy
to get his act together . I would
have long told you to do it , it
would have saved us so much
drama

I laugh

Me : you're a mean father
ndoda

Dad : is he not doing good now
?

Me : he is

Dad : now where is my lie ?

I shake my head

Me : I'm taking my wife and the kids to Lesotho in a few days

He frowns

Me : stop with that , I swear it's like you fathered that wife of mine

He's about to act on me right now I know

Dad : why Lesotho ? Is there no place you can take your family to ? Like maybe Namibia

Me : what ?

Dad : I'm just saying

I sigh

Me : I have a reason why I'm taking them there , and we better all hope my wife doesn't kill me

Dad : what are you up to ?

Me : let her kill me first , and if all goes well we'll tell you

Dad : as long as it's not another woman , you'll be fine

I chuckle

Me : I can fuck up , do them all
but not that . Especially now
that we're expecting again

Dad : what ?

I nod

Dad : I swear you don't shoot
blanks

We laugh

Me : that's just awkward !

Dad : your kids are only two

Me : I know that , I made them

Dad : and by the time they're 4 ,
you'll be having another one . If
it's not yet another set

Me : mhm , I don't mind
another set . But the doctor said
it's one , and she's almost 10
weeks

Dad : you're a very busy man ,
but please don't tire Karabo
with kids

Me : says a man with 5

Dad : boy shut up ! what do you know

Me : there could be an explanation to why we had twins , and it was a shock to everyone . Because there's never been twins in this family

Dad : that thing is hereditary

Me : yeah so you say , but we'll know soon

Dad : now you're making me curious , when are you leaving ?

Me : the day after tomorrow

Dad : well , have fun before you annoy Karabo . Even though I

don't know what fun in a
country like Lesotho

These people are just bitter ,
and fancy

There's nothing wrong with
Lesotho

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INSERT 38

Karabo

We're in Maseru

And well , it's a beautiful place I
can't lie

The hotel we're in , is beautiful

I love that it's also child friendly

Mvelo : they're sleeping , I
guess they're that tired

I also yawn , I am tired too

Mvelo : and I guess everyone is
tired

He chuckles sitting down ,
taking my shoes

Me : they'll be hungry when
they wake up

He places my feet on his lap ,
giving them a rub

Me : and we can't wake them
up , cause I can't deal with their
grumpiness

He slightly laughs

Mvelo : I'll order food just in case , and don't worry . I'll check on them , and make sure they eat when they wake up

Me : thank you baby

Mvelo : don't fall asleep here please , go to bed

I laugh

Me : you'll carry me

He chuckles

Me : some of us married well

The mocking laughter that
comes

Mvelo sometimes can be such a bore

Me : did you hear your brother is doing all things right , just ticking the right boxes ?

We laugh

Mvelo : he's working extra to win Imani over

Me : she's a strong woman , I
sure applaud her . If it was me ,
I wouldn't be able to resist you .
I swear I would have even long
suggested that we fix our family
back

It goes quite , I lift my head and
he's silently laughing

Me : no like you're annoying me

Mvelo : mama , I really don't understand you like at all

Me : come on , I believe in second chances . And you can't tell me they don't love each other anymore

Mvelo : Yanga is going to die loving that woman , he's not even trying to move on

Me : exactly , and I know Imani is charmed . I mean , Yanga is the kind of a husband she ordered . But I guess she's just like , he's too late

Mvelo : they'll figure it out , but she'll lose it when he finally moves on . Because he would have taken the time needed , and gotten her out of his system . So he won't even want

to look back , or work on
anything then

Me : and you laughed at me

Mvelo : I just didn't expect you
to say that

Me : this is life , and not the
movies alright . She'll be bitter ,
and hate the woman . Because
she will be getting the husband

, she longed for in him all those years they were married and together

Mvelo : you're right , but don't play cupid . She has a boyfriend , and if she decides to take Yanga back it better be a decision she makes herself . Just in case things don't work out , so she has no one to blame but herself

Me : understood

Mvelo : let's go sleep

He gets up , helping me up . We
walk to the bedroom . He
checks on the twins first , then
comes to bed

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Yanga

Me : and ?

Imani : the house is beautiful , I
love the playground . They'll
have fun in there

Me : I'm glad you like it

She smiles

Me : I'm

My phone rings , I look at the caller and smile

Me : I have to take this

She nods , moving her eyes quite a lot

Me : hey

I turn away from her , walking a bit further

Phindi : am I not disturbing ?

I laugh

Me : disturbing what and who ?

Phindi : well , I am around . So
any chance to see you ? I heard
you moved

Me : mhm I did

Phindi : I leave for whatand
when I come back things are no
longer the same

Me : stop talking nonsense ,
when am I seeing you ?

Phindi : tonight

Me : great , book an expensive
restaurant

Phindi : I love that it's your money we'll be spending , and maybe I can pull a night cap at your place

I laugh

Imani clears her throat , I turn looking at her she looks down rubbing her head

Me : let's see each other later

Phindi : can't wait

I drop the call

Me : I have to get going

Imani : oh

She looks at me and smiles

Me : can I please have the boys
on weekend ? I'd like to take
them somewhere

Imani : they'll be sleeping over ?

Me : if it's okay with you

Imani : and you'll manage ?

I laugh

Me : yes

Imani : o-kay

Me : thanks , I'll pick them on
Saturday morning

She nods

Me : uhm bye

I turn

Imani : important date ?

I chuckle turning back looking at
her

Me : what ?

Imani : the call

Me : no

She nods , and we just stare at each other for a bit

Me : bye

Imani : mhm , use a condom
don't make any kids yet

I laugh

Me : I'm not making any kids ,
until we agree on having a
daughter

She smiles , I give her a wink she
laughs

Imani : leave

Me : now I'm getting kicked out

Imani : you were leaving

I shake my head smiling walking
out

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INSERT 39

Karabo

We had a busy beautiful day

Just going around the city , and
exploring

Mvelo had some activities , that
we could do with the twins

So it was really just a beautiful
day

And they're worn out

Mvelo : let's go eat

Me : are you ordering in ?

Mvelo : no , we're going to eat
in the restaurant

I look at him , he chuckles

Me : those kids are tired

Mvelo : and this one is tired

He rubs my tummy , I laugh

Mvelo : we're just going to eat ,
and we'll come back and rest

Me : okay

We kiss , and he pulls back as
MJ walks in pulling more like
dragging his jacket on the floor

It takes everything in me to
calm down

He looks at his father and
frowns

Mvelo chuckles

Mvelo : I don't understand why this boy always looks at me like he wants to murder me , every time I give my own wife affection

I laugh

Me : leave him alone , buya (come here)

He walks over , I pick him up

Me : ukwatelene ? (Why are you angry)

He shakes his head

Mvelo : are we going ?

I laugh , taking the jacket putting it on him

Me : yeah let's go

I get up , with MJ laying his
head on my chest

Mvelo takes his sister , and we
walk out of the room going
down to the restaurant

We find a table , and sit down

Me : please order something light for them , maybe they can share pizza

His kids are a problem , if they eat a lot they become too much

And if they eat less , they get grumpy

I've never met such human beings as Mvelo's kids

And they're the same and the
one

A waiter walks over to us , I take
out my phone checking my
emails as Mvelo talks to him

But there's something about his
voice , that just catches my
attention

I lift my eyes , looking at him

And is this some kind of a
dream ?

I look at Mvelo and he's also
staring at this guy

He walks away with a smile
after taking our order

Mvelo : uhm....mama are you
okay ?

I just stare at him , asking
myself like what the hell did I
just see ?

Mvelo : that.....

He sighs shaking his head

I dart my eyes , looking around

And at some point I catch a
glimpse of the guy

And my eyes just stay with him ,
until he moves from the table
and disappears

I look down feeling my heart
pumping so hard

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Yanga

We hug for a brief moment

Phindi : still as handsome as
ever

I laugh , we pull out sitting
down

Me : still got taste I see

Phindi : oh well , what can I say

Me : it's good seeing you

Phindi : and you have grown ,
also I see a lot has changed

Me : heard

She laughs

Me : you're seeing nothing , but
you heard

Phindi : don't rub it in sir , but I see you still have your ring on so

She shrugs

Me : yeah , whatever you heard you heard . And best believe you won't see the same thing

Phindi : you're not at the company anymore

I nod with a chuckle

Me : well that's true

Phindi : and you moved out of
the house

Me : well....true too

She laughs

Phindi : so the only lie , is that
you're still with your wife

I look at her intensely , rolling
my ring with my thumb

Me : well that's

My phone rings

Me : sorry

Phindi : go ahead , let me order
us drinks

I take my phone out of the
pocket , answering

Me : hello

She just sighs

Me : what's wrong ?

Imani : it's....

Another sigh

I know it can't be about the kids
, she would have just straight
out said it

Me : should I come over ?

Imani : still on your date ?

Women !

I did not deny nor confirm that
I'm going on a date

Me : yes

She sighs , and it sounds a bit
broken somehow

Imani : okay , I'm sorry to
disturb . Enjoy , bye

She drops the call

I look at Phindi , she smiles

Phindi : everything okay ?

Me : it's my wife , she's not well
so rain check ?

She nods a bit disappointed

Me : look

I get up

Me : have dinner a couple of
wine glasses , I'll settle the bill
don't worry

Phindi : it's okay really , some
women are really just lucky .

Men drop at their feet

I don't even want to comment
on that

Me : it was nice seeing you
again

She nods with a sad smile

I walk out , getting into my car

I drive over to the house

And I have an extra gate remote
in my car , I drive in

I look at the unfamiliar car , and
sigh shaking my head

Feeling slight pain , I take a
moment just looking at the car .
And I'm certain I don't know it

I left to come home to this ?

Can she really bring her
boyfriend over to our kids home
?

Serves me right for being stupid
!

When will I fucken learn ?

I get out of the car , heading to
the door

I take a deep breath knocking,
after a few seconds the door
opens and it's her

She's in her silky gown

She looks at me shocked , tying
her gown

Imani : uhm....I thought you
were on your date ?

She swallows , I just look at her
my heart breaking

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INSERT 40

Yanga

Me : you.....

My throat gets blocked , I just
look at her

Imani : it's cold , get in

I shake my head

Imani : hayhiii ! I'm not getting
into an argument with you ,
come in

I heave a sigh , walking in . She closes the door

Imani : I'm sorry I called on you like that

Me : why did you call Imani ?

I ask a bit annoyed now

Me : like you seem fine to me

Imani : why are you angry ?

Me : angry ?

I chuckle

Me : like you're seriously asking
me that ?

Imani : okay Yanga I'm sorry ,
but if I did something then tell
me what I did

Me : why did you call me ? Tell
me so I can leave , because I left
coming here and for what ?

She looks at me and smile

Imani : you.... You left your date
for me ?

Me : and that's amusing you ?

She slightly laughs

Imani : it's just cute

I shake my head heaving a sigh

Imani : come let's have hot
chocolate , the boys are already
in bed . Then we can talk

Okay , so now she's going to ignore whatever is going on here ?

Me : who's car is that outside ?

Imani : that's Lindi's car

Me : who's that ?

Imani : you're too fast to forget
, the receptionist at the
company

Me : what's her car doing here ?

Imani : she came over to bring
those documents for Karabo ,
she's out of the country . So I'm
doing most of her workload

I look over the small coffee table , and I see the papers

Me : still not answering my question

Imani : well her husband called her , asking they go out . And hearing she's here and not home , he asked to pick her up here since he was close by . So they can go to the restaurant

together , she'll come get it in
the morning

I sigh

Imani : that.....wait

She laughs

Imani : you thought I'm
cheating ? That some man is
here

She claps her hands still
laughing

Me : cheating ?

Imani : leave me alone ,
honestly you thought I would
bring a man to our kids home ?
Yanga what's wrong with you ?

Me : I'll take that cup of hot
chocolate

She shakes her head , wiping
her tears

Me : I really don't understand
what's funny

Imani : your jealousy is , nothing
else

She walks to the kitchen and I follow her

Imani : still taking it the same way ?

She asks holding a mug

I nod , pulling a chair I sit down

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Mvelo

I could have just told her , and
been up front

But right now , just how things
happened

I don't know if it's wise to admit
I know anything about this

Or the reason why I brought us
here

But I also learnt from the past ,
that it's never a good idea
keeping things

I look at her , and she's staring
outside the window

The twins are watching TV ,
they seem to be taken by these
men in blankets and boots
they're watching

Me : mama

I hug her from behind

Karabo : baby please tell me I'm
not insane

She didn't sleep well last night

Me : mhm

Karabo : that waiter from last night , did you see how after he saw me he didn't come back to our table but we were attended by someone else

Me : yeah

She turns facing me

Karabo : Mvelo tell me that guy did not look like an exact replica

of me , just that he's a man and
I'm a woman

Her eyes glisten with tears

Me : don't kill me

She bites her lower lip

Me : there's a reason why I
brought us here , please lets sit
down

I take her hand , and we sit
down on the couch

Me : I....I probably shouldn't
have done this , well at least
maybe I should have asked you
first

Karabo : done what ?

Me : I know we're not short of anything , and we're growing our family now . Mama , I see how my kids are growing . My father is constantly there , even if he were to die but they'll still have that slight memory of him . But then , they'll never know anyone from their mothers family

She looks down

I place my hand on her back ,
rubbing her

Me : I....I know you were just
left at an orphanage as a baby ,
and from there as you grew up
you lived with foster parents .
Until Thabo came along

I watch as she fiddles with her
fingers

Me : I tried accessing your records , and with the little I had I got what I could get . And I found out that your father's details were not even on your birth certificate , but of course your mother's were there . And I ran a check on her , it showed that there were two babies . And I found his records as well , and that's how I was able to find him . You were both dropped at the same orphanage

, on the same day . You were barely even a week old .
Fortunately for him you can say , he was adopted a month later by a couple from Lesotho . And that's how you got separated , because he was brought here .
He....that guy you saw last night , is your brother . His name is Karabelo Mosia , he also kept a surname of the people who adopted him . Your ...your mother died of cancer , she

died of cancer giving birth to
the both of you . And it's not
really there as to who was the
woman , who placed you two at
the orphanage

She just turns and holds tight on
me crying

I hold her back

Me : I'm sorry , I should have told you . But I didn't know how to , so I thought maybe in this way you can see him and meet . Then you can decide if you want him or not , but knowing that he's there

She says nothing , just crying

I just hope she doesn't hate me after this

I really thought I'm helping , the
best way I could have thought

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INSERT 41

Karabo

It took him forever to get me to
calm down

And when he did , I just slept

Like the way I cried so much , I
worn myself out

And if felt like my head was
spinning after hearing all of that

I don't know what's the time
now

And trust me , it's not nice
waking up and finding small
eyes staring at you

I'm sure I look bad , maybe my
eyes are all puffy

I must just be a funny sight

MJ : mama ka baba , yakhala ?
(Daddy's mommy , are you
crying)

Mvelo's baby is strange , he has
no emotion at all

And it makes me wonder how
long he's been standing here
staring at me

I shake my head no

MJ : isungu ? (Is it painful)

I'm sure he's just asking
innocently

But I am in pain , my heart is in
pain

Like for 28 years , I've thought
I'm all alone in this earth

And only to find out that I have
a brother , not only that but
he's my twin

Now it explains the set of twins
that we have

Because people were shocked ,
and it was said it the Phakade
family there has never been
twins

Apparently it's very rare for twins to be born into a family , that has never had twins before

And since we knew nothing about me , or where I come from

We just concluded that we're the first , we're the ones coming with the twins gene

And I remember we made jokes
about it many nights

I said we're having twins , a boy
and a girl because I didn't want
a girl coming to take my
husband

Me : iza (come)

I hold my hands out , and pick
him up

He lays down next to me

Me : ngi right (I'm alright)

He says nothing , but snuggles
closer to me , like he's giving
me some comfort

I hold him , with a slight smile

Me : you're mommy's gentle
man

I place a kiss on top of his head ,
closing my eyes

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Yanga

She looks at me and smiles

I chuckle , leaning over

Placing a kiss on her lips

Me : I should get going before
those guys wake up

She smiles

Imani : you're not having
breakfast ?

I pull off , getting off the bed

I grab my shirt from the floor ,
placing my pants on the bed

Me : what are we doing ?

She giggles

Imani : I want my family back

I chuckle , leaning down placing
a kiss on her lips

While I button my shirt

Me : you have no idea how long
I've waited to hear these words

Imani : you were on a date last
night

I laugh , pulling back putting on
my pants

Me : with Phindi

Imani : oh , I thought it was a
real date

Me : mhm , I knew you were
jealous

She laughs

I sit down on the bed putting on
my socks and shoes

Imani : just because I want you back , it doesn't mean I want to go back to being a house wife

Me : what house wife ? We're divorced , you're my girlfriend . I'll only give you an allowance , when I can spare change after paying maintenance

She laughs

Imani : why are you mean ?

Me : I'm not , and while we're
at it . Best believe I shall not buy
you another ring ever again ,
because you sold your ring

She frowns

Me : I'll call you , maybe we can
do lunch and talk things out .

We can't just agree to get back together , and leave skeletons behind . I don't need to be in a relationship where my woman won't trust me , where you'll constantly call me 24/7 wanting to know where I am who I'm with and what I'm doing . Just because of my cheating past , if you can't take me for me right now as I am . We won't make it work , especially if you'll still be

looking for a Yanga who'll fuck
you over and cheat

She sighs

Me : it's a date ?

Imani : lunch

I chuckle

Me : I love you

I trail closer to her

Me : I've never stopped loving
you

I place my hand behind her back
, bringing her face closer

Imani : I love you

She closes her eyes , bringing
her lips over to mine and we
kiss

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Karabo

Mvelo : I spoke to Karabelo

I look at him

Mvelo : I told him everything I
told you

I don't know what to say ,
because I don't even know
when he went to speak with
him

Mvelo : I mean the man is not
blind , he saw how you two just
look alike . And he said he knew

Me : what ?

Mvelo : his adoptive parents are dead , his father passed on 5 years ago and the mother just last year . And he said before the mother passed on , she told him he wasn't alone at the orphanage . There was a girl , but they couldn't take them both so they only took him because the father wanted an heir . He doesn't know much either , like your name or

anything like that . Because
that's the only thing he was told

I sigh , not knowing what to say

Mvelo : will you be willing to
see him ?

Me : what will I say to him ?

Mvelo : anything

I shake my head

Mvelo : well , I told him he can't
see you unless you agree to see
him

I smile

I know all this is crazy , and it's
nothing to smile about

But in all this , my husband still cares about my well being and mental state

Me : you're very brave honestly , all my life I didn't have family until I got married and had my own family . Now that I've found my brother , what if we get along . And I don't want to leave him ? What if I want to stay here in Lesotho with him ?

He laughs , making me laugh
too

Mvelo : we're dragging his ass
back to South Africa , that's
where his sister and niece and
nephew are at . No one is
staying in Lesotho

I laugh

Me : and brother in-law

He frowns

Me : are you not ?

Mvelo : it'll be best to just leave
me alone

I got dealt one of a kind

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INSERT 42

Karabo

I open the door

And I don't know , if I'll ever get
used to seeing myself when I
look at someone else's face

Karabelo : Karabo right ?

I nod , with a slight smile

Me : I'm sorry ...come in

I move out of the way , making
way for him to walk in

Me : my husband did say that
he asked you to come

Karabelo : he said if only you
agree though , so I'm guessing
you did

Me : uhm.....

Nomvelo walks in , she just
gives me one look and walks to
Karabelo

Velo : sabona (hello)

Me : they speak Zulu , I don't
know if you know it

He smiles

Karabelo : I can make a
conversation

She raises her hands up , and
I'm thinking he'll be hesitant

But no , he picks her up

She looks at him , and her head
moves a lot like it can't be
stable and stay still

It's funny though , the way she makes it . Because you'll swear it's like , she's still a two months baby

Velo : mama (mommy)

She's looking at him though and not me

Me : mhm.

She turns her head and looks at me blinking , then she looks back at him then me

Velo : mama (mommy)

Me : MaPhakade

She looks at him and laughs

I don't blame this child , she's seeing her mother twice

Me : please lets....let's sit

He walks over to the couch with her

Me : I'm surprised she walked over to you like that , she's not like her brother . She's very sceptical of people she doesn't know

Karabelo : I guess blood is blood

I smile

Me : uhm....do you have any
kids ?

Karabelo : no , not yet . Kids are
just a very personal choice to
me

Me : oh

Karabelo : like if I'm to have kids , I would like them to carry my surname . The surname of which I was born in , and not the Mosia one . Already I feel like a man lost , I've never done any ancestral ceremonies . Because I cannot call upon ancestors of a surname , that's not mine . Because at the end of the day , blood is blood . I'll die , and come back to bother

my kids saying I can't enter the Mosia kraal , because those people don't know me . I mean , I wasn't even introduced to their ancestors . So bringing kids into such

He shakes his head slowly

I didn't think he'll go that deep , but I do understand him

It's funny just how Nomvelo is looking at him so intensely

Like she's hearing what he's saying

Me : uhm....I don't know , this is just overwhelming for me . I didn't even know anything until yesterday , and it's just a lot to process

Karabelo : I know , and it'll take time to adjust and all . I mean , I wasn't myself after seeing you the other night . And a part of me , kind of like just knew it's you . Because my adoptive mother told me , I wasn't alone at the orphanage .

I nod

Karabelo : it's.....if I had the means and all to find you , I

would have tried . Cause she passed away last year , I was still working on that . Because honestly after they adopted me , I've never been out of the country . And now that they're gone , I'm trying to find my feet . The man had left his things to me , like all their estate . After the mother passed away , their family came through . And they demanded their things , told me I'm not their blood and all . As

much as I was left everything , I didn't want to fight them over things I knew I wasn't entitled to . So I gave them everything , and started afresh .

Me : so you work here ?

Karabelo : yes , I just started a few months ago . After struggling with finding work , with my media degree . I settled for anything , that pays the bills

I sigh

Me : I am probably crazy right now , and I know you have a life here . It doesn't matter where you would be in the world , but having you in my life I would still appreciate it . I'm sure you have a life here , and you wouldn't just up and go . But would you be willing to relocate , and come with us to South

Africa ? Like on my side , that's something I would need to discuss with my husband .

He looks at me

Me : of course I'm not saying do it , but hearing everything you said . And there's nothing wrong with holding a waitressing job , at the end of the day it's a job . But I know , we would help you get on your

feet there . We will find each other , get to know one another better . You'll also be closer to your nice and nephew , and there's another one coming

He smiles

Karabelo : like now ?

I nod with a smile

Karabelo : wow , so there's a whole family there

Me : exactly , these three people are my family and yours . Me and you only have each other , and I hear our mother is no more . I don't even care to know about the man , clearly he wasn't in the picture . Or maybe he didn't want us , because she died giving birth to us . Men can carry such grudges with them

Karabelo : you'll talk to your husband and tell me what he says , I'll just be erupting myself and no one else

I smile , just getting all emotional

Me : now I can't even give you a hug , because you've been taken away

He laughs

Karabelo : I have broad
shoulders , come here

I get up sitting next to them ,
and he side hugs me

I lay my head on his chest , just
tears burning my eyes

He places a kiss on my head

Velo : mama (mommy)

I look at her with a smile , she
laughs placing her tiny hand on
my arm

I don't know what man would
move mountains , and go out of
his way

Just to bring his wife the last
family member she has

And didn't even know that
they're there

Honestly I don't know what I did
to deserve Mvelo , but I'm very
much grateful

And I don't think I appreciate
him enough

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Mvelo

MJ : baba (daddy)

I look at him

He stands next to me , and why
he's wearing one sneaker beats
me

MJ : bani lona ? (Who is that)

I chuckle

Me : umalume wakho (it's your
uncle)

MJ : oh

Aibo !

I can't help but laugh

He walks away , going to where they're sitting

He stands in front of them , I see Karabo moving her head off Karabelo's chest

He leans down picking MJ up

She turns and looks at me with a smile

My wife is happy , I'm not dying

Fuck !

I did well

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INSERT 43

Mvelo

She trails her hand on my chest

Me : what's on your mind ?

She sighs

Karabo : I don't know how to
thank you for what you have
done

I smile , placing a kiss on her
forehead

Me : what did I do ?

Karabo : finding my brother ,
and reuniting us

Me : anything for you mama ,
I'd go to the ends of the world if
it ever comes to it

Karabo : I'm one blessed and
lucky woman

Me : some of you married well

She laughs

Karabo : there's something I need us to talk about , and I don't want it to come across anyhow . You've already done enough , and if this is where it ends . Just know I appreciate you baby , and I'm very much thankful

Me : let's hear it , and chances are you'll get it . Cause I just got some crazy praises

She giggles

Karabo : as we were talking , he told me he doesn't have a wife or child here . The Mosia family took away whatever he got from the adoptive parents , he holds a degree in media . And he works here as a waiter

Me : struggles of a graduate

Karabo : you know how it is

Me : so let me guess , we're
dragging umalume to Joburg

She lifts her head with a smile
looking at me

Karabo : he's willing , told him I
need to ask you first .

Well....more like talk to you

Me : well I appreciate this talk ,
but you know I won't have a
problem at all

Karabo : so he can come ?

Me : without a doubt , our place
is big enough . He'll stay there ,
until he's on his feet . Then he
can move out , and find his own
place . Because I don't want
girlfriends in and out of our
house

She laughs

Me : Velo will love to have
umalume closer to them , and it
wouldn't make sense that we
came here saw him and then
we left him . They'll keep asking
us where is malume like
everyday

She places a few pecks on my
lips

Karabo : you deserve everything
and more

I pull her in for a much deeper
kiss , trailing my hand down to
her bare ass

She lifts up , I slide my dick in
slowly

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Karabo

Me : what ?

She laughs

Me : like child ! What is wrong with you ? Like seriously all it took , was some stupid fake date to get the coochie and you gave it up ?

She burst out

Yanga : I'm listening you know ,
and I think it's very awkward
you're saying such things about
me to my girlfriend

Idiot !

Me : Imani you're weak ! Bye

I drop the call

Mvelo laughs

Mvelo : that didn't take long ,
already they're fucking

Me : euwwww !

I frown

Mvelo : come on ! We knew it was going to happen , like we called it

Me : mxm , I hate it that we're always right and just spot on

Mvelo : we married right

He passes by placing a kiss on my cheek

Mvelo : finish packing

Me : shouldn't you be helping me ?

Mvelo : I packed two bags , all alone

I pout

Me : Mvelo I didn't know we were counting

Mvelo : don't do that

He shakes his head with a smile
walking out

Lord !

I can just lay down on this bed ,
he'll walk back in here

And I know he won't leave me
in Lesotho by myself

We're leaving today , but I'm so
lazy to pack

I wish I had an extra pair of
hands

I'm glad we're going back home
, I'll get back to work

The most happiest thing , is that
my brother is coming with

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Yanga

She looks at me with a smile

Me : they're asleep

Imani : will you end up moving
in here ?

Me : for who and for what ?

Imani : two days in row , and
you're sleeping over

Me : bruhI can leave if that's
what you want

Imani : did you just call
me.....waitYanga is
everything okay with you ? Like
on the real

I laugh getting into bed

Me : it's awkward just how you and MaPhakade became besties , you're even telling her how I got the coochie . Like when did that get there ?

Imani : it just did

Me : insane ! Does she tell you about Mvelo ?

Imani : are you crazy ? I
wouldn't even want to know ,
cause I would never be able to
look at bhuti Mvelo again

I chuckle

Me : he's no beast

Imani : yeah , that's what you
saying . I don't know

I face her , placing a kiss on her
lips

Me : I'm glad we talked things
out , and we're agreeing to take
this one day at a time . Learning
each other better , knowing
how to treat and be better for
one another

Imani : no rushing anything

Me : don't worry , I won't be on
one knee tomorrow asking you
to marry me

She laughs

Imani : actually that would be....

Me : insane

Imani : Romantic , cause wow !

Me : well , it's not happening .
I'm in no hurry to get married

She frowns , I laugh

Me : babe I love you , can I
sleep now ?

Imani : mxm ! Whatever

Me : at least I do love you

Imani : you don't have a choice
dude

I place my arm over her

Me : look at me

She laughs lifting her eyes ,
meeting mine

Imani : okay I'm sorry , I love
you baby

He brings her face forward ,
capturing my lips into hers

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INSERT 44

THREE MONTHS LATER

Mvelo

He looks at me with a smile

Me : what the fuck are you smiling about ?

He chuckles

Karabelo : I hope your pockets are just like packed and filled....

Me : don't you dare

He laughs looking around

Karabelo : look , I want bride price . And in Sesotho culture , we want 19 cows and a horse

Sabelo laughs

Me : the fuck....boy ! You think this is that horses country you coming from ?

Karabelo : and I want three cows for every child , there's three we're already counting this one coming

I squint my eyes , yet again he smiles

Karabelo : and I want two cows for getting her pregnant

Yanga : this is unheard of

Vika has his head bowed down ,
and he's dying of laughter

And one thing I've learnt about
this boy , living with him for just
two months

Is that he's very serious , don't
let his smile fool you

Sabelo : and how much is one cow ?

Karabelo : bare in mind , there are no discounts here . And I won't negotiate anything , I don't want to hear your cries . Cows are not the same , so out of the 30 cows I want I'll give price's in batches

Me : what ?

Karabelo : the lowest cow , will
be R5000

Vika coughs , and finally gets his
head up

And his eyes are red , he's been
dying with laughter since we got
here

Honestly , I don't know what's wrong with this boy

I'm here trying to do right by my wife , and him as the only family she has

I'm giving her a traditional wedding today

And of course , we have to finalize the negotiations

And this boy , is not kidding
with us

Mind you , it's us the 4 brothers
and Phakeme along with my
father

And he's just one man

Yeah this is insane

Sabelo : okay , so R5000 will be
how many cows ?

Karabelo : just the two of
getting her pregnant

Wow !

Sabelo : alright , you can
continue

Why is he talking like he's going to help me with this money ?

Karabelo : R7000 for three cows of the kids , and R8 500 for the other three then R9 000 for the last three

Yanga : that's like R83 000

Karabelo : yeah , that's correct

Phakeme : were you born at the bank ?

He clears his throat , my father chuckles

Karabelo : your comments are getting me feel like I'm being a bit insulted , and my good man I can make you pay a fine for that

Whatever demon that
possessed me , when I went
over the border looking for this
boy

Sabelo : okay , we apologize .
Please do forgive us

Karabelo : mhm

He lifts his head , staring at
Sabelo

And I swear , he's never had any other man look at him like this

Sabelo : well.....

He takes a deep breath looking down

I don't get how he's alone , and yet he seems to have everyone in here on his palm

Phakeme : he has strong Muti
from Maloti (herbs , Maluti)

He whispers , as if he read my
thoughts

Me : it's Maluti you idiot

Phakeme : same thing

Sabelo : please continue , the
bride price cows

Karabelo : the 19 bride price
cows , it's R12 000 for 9

Yanga : for like one cow ? It's
R12 000 one cow all 9 ?

He asks a bit shocked

Karabelo : yes , you cannot get
9 cows for R12 000 all that's
just impossible you know

Mhm

He can mock too

I swear , whatever situation that
can put me in a position to
punch his face

I'm so definitely gonna use it

Karabelo : and R10 000 for 5
cows , then R9 500 for the last 5
COWS

There's just sighs

Karabelo : let's not forget the
horse

Sabelo : mhm

Karabelo : it's R6 500

Yanga : that's....whoa !

Karabelo : it's R295 500

I look at him , and he has on
that annoying smile of his

Karabelo : that's the amount to
pay , unless you have the cows

walking in their feet . Then I will
also , gladly accept them

Phakeme : do you have a kraal ?

Karabelo : oh , if you have my
cows . I can have it right now

Me : we....will pay in cash

Karabelo : I love it when things
just come together

I get up with Yanga and
Phakeme following me outside

Yanga : let's call MaPhakade
and ask her to talk sense into
that brother of hers

I chuckle

Me : we're not bothering my wife , I'm sure she's stressing enough where she is

Yanga : but that much money , like where have you ever heard of such ?

Phakeme : and you can't access that kind of money , without putting notice in

Me : there's two black bags , in
the car I came with

They walk to the car , I stand
looking around

It's a beautiful , I love how his
neighbours came in numbers
just for this day

You can never miss anything in
the township

No wonder he decided to settle
in Soweto , he said he's a
peoples person

And he doesn't want to live in
the suburbs , they'll just ruin
him

The two come back with the
bags

Phakeme : all this food I'm
seeing is making me hungry

I chuckle

Me : let's go marry my wife and
kids , then you can come and
eat

We walk back inside , closing
the door

I place the money on the table ,
taking out the stacks and just
laying them

Me : there you go malume ,
that's R295 500 . It's all there ,
you can count it if you don't
believe

Karabelo : I counted with you ,
it saves us time

I survived this , I swear I'll live to
tell this tale

Me : I'll keep my change

And it's just two stacks

Karabelo : let me call your bride
for you , and the festivities can
begin

He puts the money back in the bags , and he takes them with him

There's laughter

I end up laughing myself ,
because what the fuck !

Dad : where the hell did you
find that child ?

Me : why don't you ask me ,
why did I even go to find him to
begin with ?

Like I had my wife , everything
was fine

She wasn't even asking me for a
wedding

Damn ! I got served

Or rather , I shot myself in the
foot

They walk in , and my wife is
stunning in her blue and white
seshweshwe dress

Fuck !

She does look like a real Makoti
today

Through the craziness , the ups
and downs . I just want to say ,
it was all fucking worth it

Karabelo : oPhakade , I give to
you your bride . Uma ka Mvelo
(Mvelo's mother)

This idiot of a brother in law I
have

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Karabo

He holds my hand , placing his hand on my tummy

Me : so did Yanga really have to gossip with his girlfriend baby mama ex wife , about what Karabelo did to you people in there ?

He laughs

Me : baby !

Mvelo : your brother is full of
shit , and he showed it to us all
in the

And to think , I was sweating
and almost loosing my mind in
that bedroom

Wondering if things were
coming well or what

Mvelo : but you know what's
the good thing about all of that
?

Me : that you got your wife

He smiles , placing a kiss on my
lips

Mvelo : that's the most
important thing , and the fact

that I did right by you our kids
and their uncle .

Me : indulge me

He smiles

Mvelo : the good thing is that ,
all of us in that room knew he's
not greedy . And we all knew ,
he just did that to annoy me .
And he fucking did

I laugh

Voice : you even regretted
fetching me

I can't stop laughing , and he
has both his babies on his arms

Mvelo : I did , and you best get
away from me right now

Karabelo : come on !

Mvelo : give me my kids and
leave

Karabelo : unfortunately I can't ,
because your wife wants to
show you something

Mvelo looks at me , I look at
Karabelo so excited

Me : it's here ?

He nods , I'm on my feet in
seconds

Me : babe come with me

Mvelo : what.....

Me : come ask questions later

He gives me his hand , I take it
and walk in a rush towards the
gate

Mvelo : what's the hurry for ?
Mama , you just ate you'll give
my baby heartburn

Yhuh

He and his baby can wait

Me : oh my god !

Again somebody remind me ,
why I'm so excited like it's mine

Mvelo : what's....

He looks at me , and the smile
just finishes me off before he
even says anything

Me : I don't care who says what , I've never cared from the first day I became your wife . I was all for you , and I knew there wasn't anything I wouldn't do for you . I knew there wasn't anyone I wouldn't stand up for you from , absolutely no one . You have been amazing , you've given me the best almost three years of my life . And I don't know how to appreciate you , or thank you . If only I could

open my heart , for you to see .
Because sometimes even saying
I love you , it doesn't feel
enough . I know how lucky and
blessed those three are , and
you better believe they'll grow
up knowing they were fathered
well . This is probably nothing I
know but....

He chuckles , hugging the life
out of me

Mvelo : some of us married well

I laugh through my tears

Me : enjoy it

We pull out of the hug , he just
gives me a kiss

Not even caring that there's
people here

I hand him the keys from
Karabelo

Me : it's all yours

Mvelo : you've set the
standards

Yanga : wow okay , so what
stage is this when wives buy
their husbands like the latest
Bentley cars ?

People laugh

Imani : you're so far from even getting a KIA so please sit down

Lord Jesus !

Vika : you have set the bar high , at this rate I I'll die single .

Because I won't date nor marry

a woman , who can't buy me a Bentley

Mvelo : my woman is a CEO of a multi millionaire company , just aim there and you might lucky

Vika : lucky bastard

It's just the laughter that's going around , and I know my day was

the best wedding day I could
have ever asked for

Mvelo picks MJ up , and they
walk towards the car

Velo : mama ya hamba ?
(Mommy are they leaving)

Me : balandele (follow them)

You think she'll get down , no
she pulls her uncle by his t-shirt
so they go together

Mvelo : man , I have had
enough of you for one day . Stay
away from my car

Karabelo : we're a package

Mvelo shakes his head ,
Karabelo laughs

I don't know , but what more
could a wife ask for ?

I don't feel like I'm a Phakade
just by name today

And just looking at this man and
his son's , right here at my
brother's house

All here to celebrate us

I will steer their legacy to even
more greater heights , and now
I won't just do it for my owns
kids

But for all of these Phakade
men here

Not all hope is lost , sometimes
when suits and ties fails . You
learn power is not by that

You just need a pair of stilettos

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THE END